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Note that some weblinks, particularly of newspaper articles, are only valid for a short period of time, usually around a month, and that the Scottish and UK Parliament and Government websites have been redesigned, so that links published in previous issues of MEMO may no longer work. To find archive material on these websites, copy details from MEMO into the relevant search facility.

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The Scottish Parliament is in recess until 22 April 2019 but may be recalled early to discuss Brexit.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Motions

S5M-16746 Keith Brown (SNP): Scrap Visa Fees for Commonwealth Veterans – That the Parliament thanks all service personnel for their service to the country; acknowledges the sacrifices that their service entails; welcomes veterans from throughout the Commonwealth who choose to settle in the Clackmannanshire and Dunblane constituency and across Scotland after serving in the British Armed Forces; understands that the costs to apply for indefinite leave to remain upon completing at least four years of service have risen by 127% since 2014, and notes the calls on the UK Government to scrap the visa fees of £2,389 per person, which it understands means that it costs a family of four £9,556

to choose to live in Scotland.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-16746>

S5M-16809 Fulton MacGregor (SNP): Amnesty International's Football Welcomes Weekend – That the Parliament notes Amnesty International's Football Welcomes weekend of action, which will take place on 27-28 April 2019; recognises that the purpose of the campaign is to highlight the contribution that refugees have made to football in Scotland and the UK, while encouraging clubs, communities and people around the country to make refugees and asylum seekers feel welcome by participating in sport to build social inclusion; notes that Football Welcomes is part of Amnesty International's "I Welcome" campaign, which calls for a better international response to the refugee crisis, and encourages communities to welcome and support people fleeing conflict and persecution; understands that football clubs from across Scotland, including from the Scottish Premiership, non-league and grassroots will take part in the weekend by organising a range of activities, including inviting refugees and asylum seekers to a game and hosting stadium tours and matches at their grounds, and congratulates football clubs across the country on their involvement in the campaign.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-16809>

UK Parliament, Ministerial Statement

Windrush Compensation Scheme

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Sajid Javid) [HCWS1481] I have today announced the details of the Windrush compensation scheme. The Government deeply regret what has happened to some members of the Windrush generation and when I became Home Secretary I made clear that responding to this was a priority. The compensation scheme being launched today is a key part of righting the wrongs experienced by some members of the Windrush generation, under successive Governments.

A public consultation opened on 19 July 2018 seeking views on proposals for a Windrush compensation scheme. Since the consultation closed on 16 November, careful consideration has been given to the 1,435 responses that were received from people and organisations, as well as the feedback from the focus groups. These views have been considered in addition to the 650 responses to the call for evidence which preceded the consultation. Martin Forde QC, who was appointed to give independent advice on the compensation scheme, has attended events across the country to hear the stories of those affected, and his findings have contributed to the final design. I would like to extend particular thanks to Martin: I have met him to discuss his views on the scheme and his advice has been invaluable.

The Government have listened carefully and I believe the proposals are in line with what the majority of respondents wanted to see in the scheme. I am pleased that Martin has concluded the scheme is accessible and fairly compensates those who have suffered. The scheme will ensure that those who have been affected are able to claim for the losses they faced and receive appropriate compensation. It is important that the scheme works well for those who have suffered a loss, so we are making it accessible and fair, with guidance available to help people understand what compensation they might be entitled to and how they submit a claim.

Detailed information about the compensation scheme, with the forms and guidance that people need to make a claim, are available from today online at: www.gov.uk/windrush-compensation. Our free phone helpline is also open now 0800 678 1925 for those wishing

to receive printed copies of the claim form or for any other queries. Copies of the response to the consultation (CP 81) are available from the Vote Office and will also be online at: www.gov.uk.

The Home Office is committed to raising awareness of the scheme, and to encouraging eligible people of all nationalities to submit a claim. Eligibility for compensation goes beyond members of the Caribbean Commonwealth, and we are putting in place a programme of events with key stakeholders, faith and community organisations to communicate the detail of the scheme and give everyone who is potentially eligible, the opportunity to hear about the scheme and to apply.

I would again like to thank all those who responded to the consultation and who took part in the wider engagement during the development of the scheme. The views and experiences that have been shared have proved crucial in shaping the Government's policy, ensuring it addresses the matters raised by those affected.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-04-03/debates/19040326000008/WindrushCompensationScheme>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Ministerial Statement and Q&A

Windrush Compensation Scheme

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Sajid Javid): ... The United Kingdom has a proud history of welcoming arrivals from around the world. We have long held open the door to those who want to come and help build a better country, including my parents, for example, or indeed the parents of the shadow Home Secretary, and we have all benefited as a result, with the UK emerging as a stronger, broader, more vibrant and successful nation. We would not be the country we are today without the men and women who crossed oceans to come here legally, to make their homes, to work hard, to pay taxes and to raise their families, and we all know it, which is why the whole country was shocked by the unacceptable treatment experienced by some members of the Windrush generation. People who have built their lives in this country, people who have done so much for this country, people who have every right to be in this country were told they were not welcome. It was a terrible mistake and it should never have happened, and that it did is a matter of profound regret to me, to my Department and to the Government.

That is why just under a year ago one of my first acts as Home Secretary was to stand at this Dispatch Box and say sorry on behalf of successive Governments: sorry to the parents and grandparents who suffered the trauma of being incorrectly ordered to leave the country they love; sorry to those who had paid taxes here for decades only to be denied the NHS care to which they were perfectly entitled; sorry to hard-working men and women who were unfairly refused the right to work, and even refused the dignity of a roof over their head. However, I know that words alone are not enough, which is why, 11 months ago, I did not just say sorry to members of the Windrush generation; I also vowed to right the wrongs that had been done to them. I sincerely hope that the compensation scheme being unveiled today goes some way to doing that. It has taken longer than I would have liked, but if we are to deliver justice for the Windrush generation and their families it is vital that we get this right.

Today's scheme is the product of many months of work with affected individuals and their representatives, including well over 2,000 responses to our call for evidence and the consultation. We are also indebted to Martin Forde QC, who has provided us with invaluable independent advice and met with a great many of the individuals who were directly affected. His findings have contributed hugely to the final design of the scheme and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Martin for his work.

As a result of this meticulous approach, I am confident that the proposals for the scheme are closely aligned with what affected communities wanted to see: namely, that it is simple,

accessible and, above all, fair. Full information is now available online and via a free telephone hotline number. Guidance is being provided to help people to understand what compensation they might be entitled to and how to submit a claim, and the application process itself is as simple and clear as possible.

It is also important to note that the scheme is open not only to those of Caribbean origin. The Government propose broadly to align eligibility with the Commonwealth citizens taskforce. This means that Commonwealth citizens settled in the UK before 1973, along with certain children and grandchildren of theirs, are eligible to apply if they have losses to claim for. Other eligible groups include those of any nationality who have a right of abode or settled status or are now British citizens who arrived to live in the UK before 31 December 1988.

Of course the historical nature of the wrongs done means that some of those who have been affected throughout the years are, sadly, not alive to see justice being done. Where this is the case we propose to accept claims from the estates of individuals who would themselves have been eligible had they not passed away and from close family members of an eligible person.

However, justice will not be done if people do not know about the scheme, or for any reason are afraid to engage with it. So in addition to today's media coverage we will launch an extensive programme of events with key stakeholders, community groups and faith organisations so that people across the country and overseas know about the compensation they can apply for.

On 22 June, we will be marking the second annual Windrush Day, a celebration of everything that the Windrush generation and their descendants have contributed to the UK, and later this evening I will be welcoming community group leaders to Parliament, alongside some of those who have suffered and their families. It will be an opportunity to reflect not only on the mistakes of successive Governments that brought us to this point but on what we as a country can do to ensure such mistakes are never repeated.

Wendy Williams' review will explore how members of the Windrush generation came to be treated like illegal migrants, and I look forward to receiving her recommendations, but there is no doubt that the roots lie in a historical policy that saw people given settled status without also being given the ability to prove it. Nothing we say or do will ever wipe away the hurt, the trauma and the loss that should never have been suffered by the men and women of the Windrush generation, but together we can begin to right the wrongs of Windrush. We can begin to turn the page on this sad chapter in our history and we can do justice by people who have contributed immeasurably to our country.

When the UK called out for help, thousands of people from the Caribbean and across the Commonwealth stepped up to help to get us back on our feet. Now it is time for us to step up and do what is right by those whom we have failed. ...

Diane Abbott (Labour): We have to remember in this House how much pride the Windrush generation took in being British. We have to remember that they came here in good faith under passports which indicated to them that they were indeed British. There are all the material challenges they faced as part of the Windrush scandal but, above all, having to spoken to numbers of these people, there was the humiliation of being told year on year by the British state that somehow they were not British, they were not worthy, they were not deserving and services they had paid into for years and years were not available to them. ...

On this side of the House, we welcome the fact that the compensation scheme will be open to the estates of deceased Windrush generation persons and also to their relatives. They were an ageing cohort, and it is only fair that their relatives should be able to claim. We also welcome the fact that the Home Secretary accepts that this is not just about persons from the Caribbean. The Windrush generation is so called because of that emblematic symbol, the Empire Windrush, but it actually involves anyone from a Commonwealth

country who came to this country between 1948 and 1972. I believe that many more persons will need to come forward if we are really going to clear up this scandal.

Will the Home Secretary say a little about the hardship fund, which was set up in response to pressure from my hon. Friends to deal with the immediate issues faced by the Windrush generation? How much is available to the hardship fund as a whole? Is it true that thus far only two people have had payments from the fund? ... Is [the Home Secretary] willing to comment on the fact that the scheme will not compensate those who may have gone back to the Caribbean or elsewhere in the Commonwealth for a holiday or a funeral and who were not allowed to get back on the plane? The document states that it is difficult to ascertain "whether inability to return to the UK is a loss".

Of course it is a loss. That is an extraordinary thing to say. We know that people were wrongly prevented from returning to their home here. The Home Secretary admits that. One of the reasons was that they were unable to provide documentary proof of their status. Now the Home Secretary proposes to exclude them from compensation. These people were British citizens, yet they were unable to return to their home here and in some cases they were separated from their families. This is not ending the scandal; it continues it. ...

Reply from Sajid Javid: ... [Diane Abbott] started by saying that this should never have happened. I absolutely agree with her and always have. I think the whole House agrees on that. Of course none of the people who were caught up were here illegally; they had every right to be here. ...

It is precisely because of the lessons of Windrush that we need a scheme that cannot just be declaratory in approach. We need to ensure that our EU friends who are here in this country are properly documented. The abiding lesson from Windrush is the lack of proper documentation. She has rightly talked about those who want to have UK citizenship, and she knows that we have set up a special route for that. Approximately 4,000 people have taken advantage of that, at no cost to themselves. She is also right to say that the scheme is not just open to people of Caribbean origin, and I am glad we agree on that. She asked about the urgent exceptional payments fund. This is not just another compensation scheme; it is supposed to deal just with urgent exceptional payments. It is not capped, and I understand that nine payments have been made so far.

The right hon. Lady also asked about the compensation scheme, and how much it was likely to cost. There is no cap on the scheme, so no one knows what the eventual cost will be. It will be based on people's needs and the claims that are made by eligible people, but the baseline estimate from my Department is that it will be approximately £200 million. She also referred to legal fees and private healthcare costs. I can tell her that in both those cases, although there is a tariff structure, both allow for actuals being paid in certain circumstances where proof is provided. ...

Stuart C McDonald (SNP): ... Of course, it is imperative that the victims of the Windrush scandal are compensated justly for their outrageous and disgraceful treatment. If the scheme delivers some sort of justice, that will be welcome, but we need more information before we can finalise our judgment. I welcome what the Home Secretary says about there being no cap on the scheme, because the needs of victims, not the choices of the Treasury, must drive the total amount of compensation.

Will the Home Secretary explain exactly what the Home Office will be compensating? Is it only financial losses, or will the devastating impact on health, wellbeing, family relationships and other aspects of life that so many have suffered also be considered? Can he tell us whether claiming compensation will preclude victims from seeking other forms of redress from the Home Office, including through the courts, and will the nine people who have been able to claim from the hardship fund also be able to claim under the compensation scheme? It is welcome that the compensation scheme is not restricted to Caribbean countries, but why is the Department not undertaking work to find victims of

the scandal from all Commonwealth countries, rather than restricting case reviews just to Caribbean countries? The Home Office has ruined the lives of citizens from all around the Commonwealth, so it should be taking steps to fix and compensate all those cases. ...

Reply from Sajid Javid: I reiterate again that, for all the right reasons, there is no cap on this scheme. He asked whether only financial losses will be considered, but if other detriment has been suffered—people may have been wrongly detained, for example—the scheme will consider that. He also asked whether people who have used the urgent payment fund will be eligible to apply under scheme. Absolutely, if they meet the eligibility criteria, and depending on the claim, there is no link between the two schemes.

The hon. Gentleman welcomed the fact that the scheme is not limited to Commonwealth citizens of Caribbean origin; it is broader than that. It is right that we have focused on those whom all the evidence suggested are more likely to have suffered detriment, but it is also right that the scheme is not limited to Commonwealth citizens of Caribbean origin. ...

To read the very lengthy question and answer session in full see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-04-03/debates/658F3B7A-3D4C-49E0-9432-3568019D1D16/WindrushCompensationScheme>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Ministerial Statement and Q&A

Windrush Compensation Scheme

Baroness Williams of Trafford read the statement made by the Home Secretary in the House of Commons which has been included above.

Lord Kennedy of Southwark (Labour): ... I agree that what happened to the Windrush generation was a shocking, unacceptable outrage. People who had every right to be here, who were working hard and paying their taxes, were treated in a shabby, disgraceful way. The noble Baroness refers to the scheme, but it will be helpful to the House if she could outline briefly what the scheme will look like and how it will work. I welcome the proposal to accept claims from the estates of individuals who have, sadly, passed away. However, could the noble Baroness set out what she means by “close family members” in respect of claims submitted for compensation? Is that children, grandchildren or cousins? It would be good to be clear on that point as soon as possible. ...

Lord Paddick (Liberal Democrat): ... This is a shameful episode in our country’s history, where those who came here to help the UK were wrongly denied the right to remain. ... It is sad that this scandal casts a shadow over what is meant to be a celebration of everything the Windrush generation and their descendants have contributed to the UK. It is difficult to see how the wrongs of unlawful deportation, where some of those affected have died in poverty overseas, can be made right. Rather than accepting claims from the estate of those who have passed away and from close family members, will the Government’s approach those affected and proactively offer compensation? ...

Can the Minister also explain why Windrush generation individuals who received settled status without being given the ability to prove it are now being asked to prove that they are of “good character” and that, if they fail to do so, they could be refused right of abode, settlement or citizenship? On page 14 of 19, the Windrush scheme application form states: “Please give any other information which will help us decide whether you are of good character. Please use an additional sheet if necessary”.

I thought those who had a right of abode in the UK would automatically be given the right to remain. Perhaps the Minister can explain what is going on.

The Government accept that the roots of the Windrush scandal lie in a policy that saw people receive settled status without giving them the ability to prove it. Will they therefore

accept the Liberal Democrat amendments to the Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill currently before the other place, so that EEA and Swiss nationals and their family members who are granted settled or pre-settled status under the EU settlement scheme are provided with physical documented proof of that status, so that they can prove it?

A compensation scheme is one thing. Government action to prove they have learned lessons is quite another.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Turning first to the question of the noble Lord, Lord Kennedy, about exactly how the scheme will work, ... I refer him to the complete guide to the Windrush compensation scheme ...

The FCO is also working to promote the scheme overseas because we want as many eligible people as possible to claim. ... We are placing adverts for the scheme and the events in core publications. Here in the UK, we will write to those who have already been supported through the task force to let them know about the compensation launch, as well as to those who have signed up for updates on Windrush. The onus is on us all to go through the channels we know to publicise the launch of the scheme.

The noble Lord, Lord Kennedy, also asked about the definition of “close family members”. They include a mother, a father, a child, a brother or sister, a wife or husband, a civil partner and unmarried long-term partners living together. All fall within the remit; if someone has been affected by some of the detriment relating to the Windrush generation, in turn their close family members will also have been affected. ...

There has always been a good character test for a reason. Clearly, if someone fails it through criminality, that needs to be brought to the fore. ...

The Lord Bishop of Peterborough: ... We have recently seen publicity about very poor decisions on immigration made in the Home Office, suggesting that decisions are being made by staff who are perhaps too junior or not adequately trained. Can we be assured that there will be enough staff working on this scheme who are of sufficient seniority and adequately trained?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: ... Yes, we have to learn lessons from the sorry Windrush episode and make more consistent and proper decisions as we go forward. ...

To read the lengthy question and answer session in full see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-04-03/debates/AA8E3DD3-8386-447C-9063-CDE82A0278C4/WindrushCompensationScheme>

The Guidance to the Compensation Scheme, referred to above, can be read at
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/windrush-compensation-scheme>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Visas: Family members

Wera Hobhouse (Liberal Democrat): Over a third of my constituents do not earn enough to sponsor a visa for a family member from outside the EEA. Will the Minister consider revising the minimum income requirement, to provide a pathway for minimum wage employees to be reunited with family members?

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The minimum income threshold was set after consideration of advice from the independent Migration Advisory Committee. The Supreme Court has endorsed the lawfulness of that approach and agrees that the minimum income requirement strikes a fair balance between the interests of UK citizens wishing to sponsor a non-EEA spouse and of the community in general.

EU Settlement Scheme

Damien Moore (Conservative): What support he is providing to EU citizens applying to the EU settlement scheme. [910128]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Caroline Nokes): The Government's approach has been informed by extensive, regular engagement with external stakeholders representing the needs of a broad range of people, to ensure that the EU settlement scheme is accessible to all. The Home Office has introduced a range of support, including £9 million of grant funding for voluntary and community organisations, and support via the EU Settlement Scheme Resolution Centre.

Damien Moore: I welcome the Government's honest and transparent approach, which I know gives EU citizens living in my constituency the reassurance that they need. What steps is the Minister taking to give EU citizens as much reassurance as possible throughout the whole process?

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The EU settlement scheme opened fully on Saturday, and we have worked with EU citizens to make it as simple and straightforward as possible. Last week, we launched a £3.75 million programme of communications that provides both information and the underlying message that EU citizens are our friends, our colleagues and our neighbours, and we want them to stay.

Jess Phillips (Labour): I have met the Minister to discuss this, but will she tell the House what assurances she can give those who are not citizens of the European economic area but are married to EEA citizens? Under the current system, they have to obtain the permission of those EEA citizens to secure their settled status, regardless of whether or not they are victims of domestic violence.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: I thank the hon. Lady for that question. It is not correct that people have to get the permission of somebody who may well be a perpetrator of domestic violence, but it is important that, through our £9 million of grant funding, we work with groups and support the most vulnerable in the community so that they can help evidence their time in the UK and be granted status through the channels that we have put in place.

Theresa Villiers (Conservative): In the light of contact I have had with a constituent who is undergoing cancer treatment, may I urge the Minister to state in the clearest terms that EU nationals living in this country will continue to be entitled to NHS treatment?

Reply from Caroline Nokes: That is absolutely correct. There will be no loss of entitlement to NHS services and treatment, and I thank my right hon. Friend for her assistance in conveying the message to her constituents that we want our EU friends and neighbours to be able to stay and access the services and benefits to which they are entitled. That is important.

Joanna Cherry (SNP): As the Minister says, the EU settled status scheme opened at the weekend, but the Government have not introduced a right of appeal to a tribunal against a decision under it. So in the event of a dispute about whether a person qualifies, the only means of independent redress is judicial review, which can be expensive and time-consuming. Does the Minister agree that that is not satisfactory? Will she commit to introducing a proper right of appeal?

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Of course, the hon. and learned Lady will know that an entire package of citizens' rights for EU citizens is planned as part of the withdrawal agreement. That will provide the route, and her party might consider voting for it.

Joanna Cherry: As always, the Minister does not answer the question. It seems to me that there is no intention of introducing an independent right of appeal. Perhaps she can answer this question: the Costa amendment required the Government to ring-fence what

had already been agreed for EU citizens' rights; what progress has been made on securing that ring-fencing? Will the Prime Minister raise the matter at the EU Council on 10 April?

Reply from Caroline Nokes: I thought my response was quite clear. I reiterate to the hon. and learned Lady that the best way to ring-fence citizens' rights is to vote for the deal.

Afzal Khan (Labour): As of 30 March, the EU settlement scheme is fully open. Efforts to promote the EU settled status scheme are too little, too late. No matter how well the Government advertise, there will be people who fail to apply before the deadline. Even if that is just a small percentage, hundreds of thousands of people will be stripped of their rights and subjected to the hostile environment. Will the Government accept proposals for a declaratory scheme—the only way to avoid a repeat of Windrush for EU citizens?

Reply from Caroline Nokes: I thank the hon. Gentleman for his question. He will of course know that the first three phases of the scheme were in testing mode, and it opened publicly for the first time on Saturday. That was designed to coincide with a widespread communications campaign, on which the Government are spending £3.75 million. He well knows that we debated the issues about a declaratory scheme in the Committee stage of the Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill. We are very conscious of the fact that we want people to have status that they can evidence. That is why we put the scheme in place. They will have digital status, which will provide them with the ability to share just the information that is required for landlords and employers. I encourage all hon. Members to ensure that EU citizens living in their constituencies take part in the scheme.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-04-01/debates/C8A76374-5EAE-42FB-9565-DE1060399F73/EUSettlementScheme>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at
<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families?step-by-step-nav=0c79b832-75de-4854-8154-d62774a8dfb8>

EU Settlement Scheme

Steve Reed (Labour Co-op): Local authorities are formally responsible for applying to the EU settlement scheme on behalf of looked-after children, but it is not clear what support is available for vulnerable adults such as elderly people with dementia. With potentially just 11 days left until we leave the EU, will the Minister now confirm what support will be made available to help vulnerable adults secure their status before the UK leaves? [910157]

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government have made available £9 million of grant funding to charities and other organisations to support vulnerable people, including vulnerable adults in the care sector, through this process. We have already, through the test phase, been working closely with a number of local authorities, and there has been an extensive engagement process with the LGA and other local government bodies to make sure that we get this right.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-04-01/debates/9A562887-5EF2-4FE4-AFB5-11EF72C1DB09/TopicalQuestions#contribution-B836B2D3-0773-45D2-A88C-39DA03049A6B>

Local Authorities: Children of EU Nationals

Teresa Pearce (Labour): What steps [is the Minister] taking to ensure that local authorities settle the status of the children of EU nationals in their care. [910138]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Caroline Nokes): The Home Office's comprehensive vulnerability strategy ensures that the EU settlement scheme is accessible for all, including children in care. The Home Office is engaged with the Department for Education, the Local Government Association and the Association

of Directors of Children's Services to assess the needs of this group and ensure that they are met. I have welcomed their ongoing contribution to the development of the scheme.

Teresa Pearce: The Home Office's testing of the EU settlement scheme has highlighted real challenges for this group of vulnerable children. Across five authorities, only 16 children have secured settled status. Does she agree that, as corporate parents to these vulnerable children, we should be giving automatic settled status, and that those eligible for citizenship should have their fee waived to avoid any risk of them becoming undocumented and causing a second Windrush scandal?

Reply from Caroline Nokes: As the hon. Lady knows, five local authorities took part in the private test phase, making applications on behalf of children for whom they had full parental responsibility. They reported that the process was quick and easy for them to use. As I have said previously, we have a comprehensive vulnerability strategy and are working hard to make sure that the scheme is accessible and handles all those who are marginalised or at risk with the sensitivity that is required.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-04-01/debates/E6A4FD79-C6B4-4191-A159-56E7E8EA6A52/LocalAuthoritiesChildrenOfEUNationals>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families?step-by-step-nav=0c79b832-75de-4854-8154-d62774a8dfb8>

Asylum: Christianity

Edward Leigh (Conservative): The Secretary of State will be aware of the case of the Iranian Christian whose asylum application was turned down by the Home Office because—I quote a Home Office official—“violent passages” in the Bible contradicted his claim that Christianity is a “peaceful” religion. Will my right hon. Friend acknowledge that some of his officials may be so worried about being accused of Islamophobia or antisemitism that they overcompensate by becoming Christian-critical and do not understand that Christianity is the cornerstone of all our freedoms?

Reply from Sajid Javid: I have seen the letter to which my right hon. Friend refers. I found it totally unacceptable, and it is not in any way in accordance with policies at the Home Office. I have ordered an urgent investigation and not ruled out any further action.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-04-01/debates/9A562887-5EF2-4FE4-AFB5-11EF72C1DB09/TopicalQuestions#contribution-1B904A84-4F87-4E0F-AA6F-492C30C3551B>

Trafficking

Chris Elphicke (Conservative): With more arrivals by small boats across the English channel, will the Minister update the House on progress with aerial surveillance and gaining the agreement of France for migrants to be returned, to most effectively deter the people traffickers behind the migrant crisis? [910153]

Reply from Caroline Nokes: My hon. Friend is right to emphasise that it absolutely is people traffickers and organised crime gangs who are encouraging people to make this extremely perilous crossing. We deploy aerial surveillance, but the House will appreciate that I will not be able to discuss our covert assets in detail. He is right to emphasise that we are working with a number of member states, including France, to facilitate returns. About 20 individuals who have crossed via small boat have been returned to date, and further returns are in progress.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-04-01/debates/9A562887-5EF2-4FE4-AFB5-11EF72C1DB09/TopicalQuestions#contribution-5147AC79-1CD1-49EA-A0E6-3E2AB6CB136D>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Immigration

Henry Bellingham (Conservative) [910147] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans he has for the UK's future immigration system.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: In December 2018, the Government set out its proposals for a future immigration system in its White Paper "The UK's future Skills-based Immigration System."

The new system will be focused on those with the skills this country needs, who will bring the most benefit to the United Kingdom. The system will support the UK economy, and our public services, while enabling us to control migration.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-27/910147/>

The White Paper referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/766465/The-UKs-future-skills-based-immigration-system-print-ready.pdf

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration

Caroline Lucas (Green) [238318] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the timetable is for his Department to (a) publish the findings from the engagement programme on the immigration White Paper and (b) make decisions in response to that engagement; and if he will make a statement.

Migrant Workers: NHS and Social Workers

Caroline Lucas (Green) [238319] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will make it his policy to add the NHS and Social Care as an advisory group policy area under the UK's future skills-based immigration system: engagement programme; and for what reasons that area is not currently listed.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government published the White Paper, 'The UK's future skills-based immigration system' (Cm 9722) on 19 December 2018. The White Paper is the start of a new conversation and we have launched a year-long engagement programme to take the views of stakeholders across the UK to hear their priorities, concerns and ideas before policies and processes are finalised and the new system comes into force from January 2021. We are determined to ensure that the future system is efficient and able to respond to users' needs.

We have already delivered around 30 events reaching well over 500 stakeholders, including representatives from the health and social care sector.

As part of this engagement, we have established a range of advisory groups to enable detailed discussions with private, public and voluntary sector employers and industry representatives. Membership details of these groups will be published on gov.uk shortly.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-28/238318/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-28/238319/>

The White Paper referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/766465/The-UKs-future-skills-based-immigration-system-print-ready.pdf

Immigration

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [239230] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, pursuant to the oral contribution of the Immigration Minister of 26 February 2019, Official Report column 222, whether he plans to introduce an immigration Bill following consultation on the White Paper entitled The UK's future skills-based immigration system.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: As we have made clear, we will end free movement through the Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill and implement most of the arrangements for the future border and immigration system in UK Immigration Rules as is the case now. If primary legislation is required to implement any details of the future system, we will bring forward that legislation when Parliamentary time allows.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-01/239230/>

It is unclear to what oral contribution Paul Blomfield is referring, since the discussion at the reference given in the above question does not relate to immigration.

The White Paper referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/766465/The-UKs-future-skills-based-immigration-system-print-ready.pdf

Immigration: Applications

Carol Monaghan (SNP) [237789] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the affordability of the Indefinite Leave to Remain application fee.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: An assessment of the impact of all border, immigration and citizenship (BIC) fees was published as an associated document to the Immigration and Nationality Fees (Regulations) 2018. Whilst the assessment doesn't focus on affordability, which would be a very subjective matter, it does include estimates of price elasticity.

The relevant information can be found via the following link:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukia/2018/59/pdfs/ukia_20180059_en.pdf

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-27/237789/>

Immigration: Afghanistan

Carol Monaghan (SNP) [237790] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reasons a waiver from Indefinite Leave to Remain fees was granted to the 150 Afghan Interpreters who aided the British Army during Operation Herrick.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: In May 2018, the Home Secretary announced that Afghan interpreters, who worked alongside British Forces in Afghanistan, and their family members who relocate to the UK can apply for settlement free of charge after five years' residence here.

It was never our intention to expect Afghan local staff who relocated to the UK to return to Afghanistan. The changes to the Immigration Rules provide reassurance that they can continue to build their lives and future in the UK. In addition, given the risks that Afghan interpreters faced, including threats to safety, as a direct result of their work alongside UK forces on the front line, we believe it was appropriate to provide a fee exemption.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-27/237790/>

Immigration: Families

Wera Hobhouse (Liberal Democrat) [910144] What assessment his Department has made of the effect on low-paid workers of the minimum income requirements for non-EEA

residents to bring family members to the UK.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The level of the minimum income threshold was set after considering advice from the independent Migration Advisory Committee. The Supreme Court has endorsed the lawfulness of this approach and agrees that the minimum income requirement strikes a fair balance between the interests of UK citizens wishing to sponsor a non-EEA spouse and of the community in general.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-01/910144/>

Visas: Families

Ian Lavery (Labour) [238642] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many family settlement visas which were initially turned down due to the financial threshold criteria were subsequently turned down on reapplication for a different reason.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: All UK visa applications are considered on their individual merits and in line with UK immigration rules and guidance.

The latest data on refused family visas can be found in Table vi_01_q (visas tables volume 1) in the Immigration Statistics, year ending December 2018 release with the data tables available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-december-2018/list-of-tables#visas>

However, information on the reasons for refusals are not published.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-29/238642/>

Visas

Adam Afriyie (Conservative) [239922] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he has made an estimate of the average salary of a person who has been granted a Tier 5 Exceptional Talent visa.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Tier 1 (Exceptional Talent) route is designed for internationally recognised leaders and promising future leaders in the digital technology, science and research, arts, humanities and culture sectors. There is no minimum salary requirement for applying for a visa on this route and the Home Office does not collect salary data.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-02/239922/>

Immigration: Ghana

Stephen Timms (Labour) [236989] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps he is taking to ensure that out-of-country appeals from Ghana are conducted fairly and without prejudice to an appellant's case; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Lucy Frazer: Proceedings in the First-tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) are managed in accordance with the Chamber Rules which provide flexibility for dealing with individual cases. The Rules give the Tribunal Judge wide case management powers in order to ensure that cases are dealt with fairly and justly whether in country or out of country.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-26/236989/>

Visas: Tanzania

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [236363] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the refusal rate has been for applications for visitor visas from Tanzania in each of the last three (a) years and (b) months.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Applications for visit visas are considered against

Appendix V of the Immigration Rules and on a case by case basis. Detailed information on how UK Visas and Immigration makes decisions on visitor cases is published at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visit-guidance>

Information on total entry clearance visas (the majority of which are visitor visas) broken down by nationality and outcome (grants, refusals, withdrawals, lapsed) is published in the quarterly Immigration Statistics Visas volume 1 table vi_02_q at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-december-2018/list-of-tables>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-25/236363/>

Visas: Overseas Visitors

Zac Goldsmith (Conservative) [238332] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether caring responsibilities for grandchildren constitutes unpaid work for the purposes of Visit Visa applications under the Home Office Immigration Rules Appendix V (V4.2-4.10).

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Visit Guidance makes clear that where a family member is coming to look after a child in the UK, this is permitted provided it is for a short visit and does not amount to the relative being employed as a childminder. The decision maker must be satisfied that the visit is of a short duration, the relative is a genuine visitor and will not live in the UK for extended periods through frequent or successive visits.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-28/238332/>

Migrant Workers: Scotland

Angela Crawley (SNP) [237118] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the 18 per cent reduction in the number of National Insurance registrations in Scotland by overseas workers between 2015 and 2018, what steps his Department is taking to encourage overseas workers to Scotland.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Immigration is a reserved matter and the Government's immigration policy applies to the whole of the United Kingdom. We consider the needs of the UK as a whole and are committed to developing an immigration system that serves the national interest.

We have set out our proposals for the future border and immigration system that would operate after 2021, in a White Paper published in December. As set out in the White Paper, we will provide for a single, global immigration system that will be based on skills rather than on where someone comes from – and is designed to attract international talent and work in the best interests of the UK economy as a whole.

Scotland's particular circumstances and needs for skilled labour continue to be accounted for through the Scotland-specific Shortage Occupation List which allows immigration to address the gaps in Scotland's labour market. The list broadly reflects the wider UK Shortage Occupation List, suggesting that Scotland's skills needs are largely aligned with the rest of the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-26/237118/>

The White Paper referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/766465/The-UKs-future-skills-based-immigration-system-print-ready.pdf

Migrant Workers

Kirstene Hair (Conservative) [237763] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions his Department has had with representatives from the (a) hospitality sector, (b) agriculture sector and (c) health sector on the immigration White Paper.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government published the White Paper; The UK's future skills-based immigration system (Cm 9722) on 19 December 2018. The White Paper is the start of a new conversation and we have launched a year-long engagement programme to take the views of stakeholders across the UK to hear their priorities, concerns and ideas before policies and processes are finalised and the new system comes into force from January 2021. We are determined to ensure that the future system is efficient and able to respond to users' needs.

We have already delivered around 30 events reaching well over 500 stakeholders, for example, business and employer representatives, including the Confederation of Business Industry, the Federation of Small Businesses, as well as those from the health and social care sector, the hospitality industry and the construction and automotive industries. We are holding discussions with sectors and also across the UK, and have already held events in Scotland and Northern Ireland, with events in Wales being scheduled for April. This is in addition to our continued engagement and negotiations with the EU and international partners.

As part of this engagement, we have established a range of advisory groups to enable detailed discussions with private, public and voluntary sector employers and industry representatives. Membership details of these groups will be published on gov.uk shortly.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-27/237763/>

The White Paper referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/766465/The-UKs-future-skills-based-immigration-system-print-ready.pdf

Ministers of Religion: Migrant Workers

Kate Green (Labour) [237680] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions his Department has held with representatives of faith communities on (a) the application of immigration rules to religious workers under Tier 5 and (b) the reassignment of ministers of religion from Tier 5 to Tier 2, with particular regard to definitions of preaching and teaching.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government recognises the contributions religious workers and Ministers of Religion make to our communities in the UK. Home Office officials maintain regular contact with faith groups and their representatives, with regards to our immigration provisions and to address specific concerns individual groups may have.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-27/237680/>

Ministers of Religion: Migrant Workers

Kate Green (Labour) [237681] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions his Department has had with representatives of faith communities on the qualifications which will be recognised in order for an individual to be recognised as a minister of religion under immigration rules.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Immigration Rules include a definition of a Minister of Religion. Officials ensure that published guidance provides the necessary direction for sponsors and migrants wishing to come to the UK, to ensure

they select the appropriate visa category. All guidance documents are subject to review, both as a matter of routine and in response to feedback from users.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-27/237681/>

The definition referred to above can be read at para 31.1 of

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/792725/Tier-2-5-sponsor-guidance_Mar-2019_v1.0_FINAL.PDF

The following five questions all received the same answer

Migrant Workers: Nurses

Barry Sheerman (Labour Co-op) [236334] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the salary exemption for nurses under Tier 2 visas will remain in force after the UK leaves the EU; and whether that exemption will be extended to EEA citizens.

Lyn Brown (Labour) [236398] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he plans to extend the Tier 2 visa salary exemption for nurses to EEA nationals in the event that the UK leaves the EU.

Kevin Brennan (Labour) [237011] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the salary exemption for nurses under Tier 2 visa rules will apply to EEA citizens after the UK leaves the EU.

Catherine West (Labour) [238671] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the salary exemption for nurses under Tier 2 visas announced last week will remain Government policy after the UK leaves the EU and be extended to EEA citizens.

Visas: Nurses

Wera Hobhouse (Liberal Democrat) [236576] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his Department plans to extend the the salary exemption for international nurses under the Tier 2 visa process to citizens of the EEA in the event of the UK leaving the EU.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We have been clear that we want all EU nationals, including those working in the NHS and the care sector, to stay in the UK after we leave the EU.

In their report, EEA migration in the UK, the independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) recommended maintaining the existing system of salary thresholds.

The Government has been clear that we will undertake an extensive programme of engagement with a wide range of stakeholders across the UK, including with the private, public and voluntary sector and local government, as well as industry representatives and individual businesses before taking a final decision on the level of salary thresholds.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-25/236334/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-25/236398/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-26/237011/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-29/238671/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-25/236576/>

The report referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/741926/Final_EEA_report.PDF

Migrant Workers: Nurses

Steve McCabe (Labour) [236987] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the salary exemption announced for nurses under Tier 2 visas will be (a) maintained after the UK leaves the EU and (b) extended to EEA citizens; and what further steps the Government is taking to ensure effective recruitment from EU and non-EU countries to meet demand for NHS and social care staff after the UK leaves the EU.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We have been clear that we want all EU nationals, including those working in the NHS and the care sector, to stay in the UK after we leave the EU.

In December 2018, the Government set out its proposals in “the UK’s future Skills-based Immigration System” White Paper. In line with the independent Migration Advisory Committee’s (MAC) recommendations the White Paper proposes a new route for skilled workers, which will be open to occupations at RQF level 3 and above. The MAC also recommended maintaining the existing system of salary thresholds.

The Government has been clear that we will undertake an extensive programme of engagement with a wide range of stakeholders across the UK, including with the private, public and voluntary sector and local government, as well as industry representatives and individual businesses before taking a final decision on the level of salary thresholds.

The White Paper also includes a transitional route for temporary workers which will be open to anyone from qualifying countries, wishing to fill positions at any skill level, for up to 12 months. We do not intend to impose a cap on the number of people wishing to use the route.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-26/236987/>

The White Paper referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/766465/The-UKs-future-skills-based-immigration-system-print-ready.pdf

Migrant Workers: Nurses

Catherine McKinnell (Labour) [237687] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the salary exemption for nurses working in the UK under Tier 2 visas will continue after the UK has left the EU; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: In their report, EEA migration in the UK, the independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) recommended maintaining the existing system of salary thresholds. The Government has been clear that we will undertake an extensive programme of engagement with a wide range of stakeholders across the UK, including with the private, public and voluntary sector and local government, as well as industry representatives and individual businesses before taking a final decision on the level of salary thresholds.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-27/237687/>

The report referred to above can be read at

The following three questions all received the same answer

Visas: Skilled Workers

Caroline Lucas (Green) [238320] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will publish the timeframe for (a) deciding on and (b) implementing the salary threshold proposals for Tier 2 visas set out in the immigration White Paper.

Migrant Workers: Nurses

Caroline Lucas (Green) [238321] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether nurses will be exempt from the salary threshold for Tier 2 Visas under the future immigration system set out in the Immigration White Paper.

Migrant Workers: NHS and Social Workers

Caroline Lucas (Green) [238322] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the potential effect of immigration proposals detailed in the Immigration White Paper on the (a) social care and (b) NHS workforce; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We have been clear that we want all EU nationals, including those working in the NHS and the care sector, to stay in the UK after we leave the EU.

In their report, EEA migration in the UK, the independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) recommended maintaining the existing system of salary thresholds.

The Government has been clear that we will undertake an extensive programme of engagement with a wide range of stakeholders across the UK, including with the private, public and voluntary sector and local government, as well as industry representatives and individual businesses before taking a final decision on the level of salary thresholds.

The proposals in the immigration White Paper, the UK's Future Skills-Based Immigration System, were accompanied by a full economic appraisal.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-28/238320/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-28/238321/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-28/238322/>

The White Paper referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/766465/The-UKs-future-skills-based-immigration-system-print-ready.pdf

The report referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/741926/Final_EEA_report.PDF

Migrant Workers: Social Workers

Kevin Brennan (Labour) [237058] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he is taking to ensure that care assistants will continue to be able to come and work in the UK after the UK leaves the EU.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: In December 2018, the Government set out its proposals in "the UK's future Skills-based Immigration System" White Paper. The White Paper proposals include a new route for skilled workers which will be open

to anyone at RQF level 3 and above, irrespective of where they are applying from. This route will not be capped allowing all of those who meet our requirements to come to the UK.

The White Paper also includes a transitional route for temporary workers which will be open to anyone from qualifying countries, wishing to fill positions at any skill level, for up to 12 months. We do not intend to impose a cap on the number of people wishing to use the route.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-26/237058/>

The White Paper referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/766465/The-UKs-future-skills-based-immigration-system-print-ready.pdf

Architecture: Migrant Workers

Stephen Timms (Labour) [237576] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he has plans to meet with representatives of the architecture profession to discuss architects' concerns on the Immigration White Paper.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government published the White Paper ;The UK's future skills-based immigration system (Cm 9722) on 19 December 2018. The White Paper is the start of a new conversation and we have launched a year-long engagement programme to take the views of stakeholders across the UK to hear their priorities, concerns and ideas before policies and processes are finalised and the new system comes into force from January 2021. We are determined to ensure that the future system is efficient and able to respond to users' needs.

We have already delivered around 30 events reaching well over 500 stakeholders, for example, business and employer representatives, including the Confederation of Business Industry, the Federation of Small Businesses, as well as those from the health and social care sector, the hospitality industry and the construction and automotive industries. We are holding discussions with sectors and also across the UK, and have already held events in Scotland and Northern Ireland, with events in Wales being scheduled for April This is in addition to our continued engagement and negotiations with the EU and international partners.

As part of this engagement, we have established a range of advisory groups to enable detailed discussions with private, public and voluntary sector employers and industry representatives. Membership details of these groups will be published on gov.uk shortly.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-27/237576/>

The White Paper referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/766465/The-UKs-future-skills-based-immigration-system-print-ready.pdf

Immigration: Commonwealth

Rosena Allin-Khan (Labour) [237146] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what representations he has received on the increases in the per person visa fees for Commonwealth UK Armed Forces personnel applying for Indefinite Leave to Remain.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: All immigration and nationality fees are set within strict financial limits agreed with HM Treasury and Parliament, and are also aligned with clear principles that balance a number of complex factors, including the benefits likely to be accrued.

Officials from the Home Office liaise regularly with counterparts in MOD and the

Armed Forces Families Federations on various issues regarding armed forces migration, including immigration fees for foreign and Commonwealth former service personnel. We are aware of the current campaign by Royal British Legion to waive settlement fees for Commonwealth national personnel, and I have responded to their letter on this issue.

The Home Office reviews fees on a yearly basis and income from fees charged for immigration and nationality applications plays a vital role in our ability to run a sustainable immigration and nationality system, and minimize the burden on the taxpayer. Application fees in general have increased in recent years to support this aim.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-26/237146/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: Windrush Generation

Afzal Khan (Labour) [239288] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many cases under the Windrush Scheme remain outstanding.

Afzal Khan (Labour) [239289] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many of the Windrush Scheme cases that were outstanding as of 31 October 2018 were (a) refused, (b) accepted and what the outcome was and (c) remain outstanding.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Secretary provides the Home Affairs Select Committee with monthly updates on the work of the department in connection with Windrush. This includes information on decisions made by the Taskforce, including refusals under the Windrush Scheme. The monthly updates can be found at the following link, including the most recent letter to the Chair of HASC sent in March 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/correspondence-on-the-work-of-the-home-office-windrush>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-01/239288/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-01/239289/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Keith Vaz (Labour) [236269] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of establishing identity scanner locations to process applications for the EU settlement scheme.

Keith Vaz (Labour) [236270] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many identity scanner locations (a) have been and (b) are planned to be opened for the EU settlement scheme.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The application process for the EU Settlement Scheme is straightforward and user-friendly, and it is accessible on any smartphone, tablet or computer using internet browsers.

Additionally, as of 26 March, there are 40 locations across the UK where applicants can have their passport scanned and verified, if they choose to do so.

This is an entirely voluntary test phase and once the EU Settlement Scheme is fully open by 30 March, use of the EU Exit: Identity Document Check app will be optional. Applicants will be able to post their identity document to the Home Office to be checked and returned quickly. There will also be over 50 locations across the UK where applicants can have their passport scanned and verified to provide further options for applicants.

There is a charge for using the service, payable to the local authority, which is set to cover the costs of providing the service.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-25/236269/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-25/236270/>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families?step-by-step-nav=0c79b832-75de-4854-8154-d62774a8dfb8>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Helen Hayes (Labour) [236501] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Coram Children's Legal Centre's report entitled Making Brexit work for children, what assessment he has made of the potential merits for his policies of that report's recommendations on settlement status of EU national children in the UK.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government has either already implemented, or intends to implement, the majority of Coram Children's Legal Centre's report on "Making Brexit Work for Children" recommendations on the settlement status of EU National Children in the UK.

For example, when the EU Settlement Scheme fully opens there will be no application fee. We are also developing guidance for local authorities applying on behalf of looked after children; and developing age-appropriate communications content and material for children.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-25/236501/>

The report referred to above can be read at

https://www.childrenslegalcentre.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Brexit_Discussion_Paper_FINAL.pdf

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families?step-by-step-nav=0c79b832-75de-4854-8154-d62774a8dfb8>

Children in Care: EU Nationals

Paul Farrelly (Labour) [239191] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of support for EU children in care that will need to apply to stay under the EU settlement scheme.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office has put in place a comprehensive vulnerability strategy to ensure that the EU Settlement Scheme is accessible for all, including children in care.

The Home Office has been engaging with relevant stakeholders such as the Department for Education, Local Government Association and Association of Directors of Children's Services to assess the needs of this group and ensure they are supported.

Specific guidance and resources for local authorities and community leaders is being produced to inform vulnerable groups about the application process and the need to apply.

The Home Office has introduced a range of support including up to £9 million grant funding for voluntary and community organisations, assisted digital support and support via the EU Settlement Scheme Resolution Centre.

A New Burdens Assessment has also been produced in collaboration with key stakeholders representing local authorities and children's social services to ensure

they are funded to identify and support EU children in care.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-01/239191/>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families?step-by-step-nav=0c79b832-75de-4854-8154-d62774a8dfb8>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Patrick Grady (SNP) [237707] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of issuing settled status documentation as proof of status to successful applicants of the EU settlement scheme.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office will not issue a physical document to EU citizens granted status under the EU Settlement Scheme. Those granted status under the scheme will be given a digital status, as part of moving the UK immigration system to digital by default. The future border and immigration system will make use of the latest digital technology to improve customer experience, increase security and detect abuse.

EU citizens granted status under the scheme can access information about their immigration status and entitlements via a secure online service. Individuals will control who they wish to share this with to demonstrate their status and to exercise their rights under the Withdrawal Agreement. With online services, we can ensure that checkers see only the information that is relevant and proportionate to their need. Using a physical document as evidence of status, as has been the practice to date, does none of this.

It can also cause significant problems when documents are lost, stolen, damaged, expired or in the process of being renewed. Physical documents are also far more open to forgery and fraud, something we must seek avoid. Additionally, there are individuals whose documents are controlled by others – for examples, in cases of domestic violence, modern slavery and human trafficking. Moving to an online status is a step forward in tackling those who seek to control others. A digital status is also much easier to use for visually impaired and dyslexic users who may have difficulty reading a physical document.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-27/237707/>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families?step-by-step-nav=0c79b832-75de-4854-8154-d62774a8dfb8>

Health Services: Refugees

Dan Carden (Labour) [238413] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, pursuant to the Answer of 14 March 2019 to Question 232640, what steps he is taking to ensure that refugees who don't speak English are able to access statutory support for interpreters; and what steps he is taking to recruit additional interpreters.

Reply from Jackie Doyle-Price: The Government believes that it is right for commissioners locally to ensure they secure the best possible care and services, balancing demand with supply, for the benefit of their patients and local populations. This is in addition to NHS England's guidance for commissioners 'Interpreting and Translation Services in Primary Care'. Public Health England is working to improve healthcare professionals' awareness of the needs of refugees. The Government is also developing a new strategy this year for English for speakers of other languages, following publication of the Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-28/238413/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-14/232640/>

Asylum: Community Relations

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [236364] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government is taking to help ensure the (a) integration and (b) assimilation of settled asylum seekers.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: This Government is committed to ensuring that refugees can take positive steps towards integration as they rebuild their lives in the UK.

Refugees can access mainstream benefits and services, which enable integration. This includes healthcare, education, English language tuition and Job Centre work coaches. The Home Office is working with other Government departments to ensure these services meet the needs of refugees.

The Government response to the consultation on the Integrated Communities Strategy (ICS) and action plan was published on GOV.UK on 9th February. We have committed to work with civil society partners and others to improve integration support for all refugees in the UK. The action plan sets out measures we are taking forward to support refugees with English language, employment, mental health, and cultural orientation to life in the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-25/236364/>

The Action Plan referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/778045/Integrated_Communities_Strategy_Govt_Action_Plan.pdf

Asylum: Religion

Crispin Blunt (Conservative) [236243] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what progress his Department has made on the (a) production and (b) rollout of compulsory training on religion or belief claims for all asylum assessors, announced in October 2018.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office have worked closely with the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for International Freedom of Religion or Belief and the Asylum Advocacy Group (AAG) for many years, to help improve their approach to religious based claims and have recently worked with them to develop and produce a specialist training package.

The aim of this course is to ensure that where religion or belief is raised in an asylum claim, asylum decision makers appropriately consider all the available evidence in accordance International, European & Domestic law and Home Office Asylum Policy, when interviewing asylum applicants and making decisions on their claims. The course will be rolled out to Asylum Senior Caseworkers and Technical Specialists in April 2019 and all asylum Decision Makers over the course of the subsequent three months.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-25/236243/>

Social Security Benefits: Refugees

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [237692] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what discussions she has had with the Home Secretary on collaboration

between the Home Office and her Department to ensure that refugees are able to access the employment support and social security benefits that they are entitled to.

Reply from Will Quince: The Department for Work and Pensions is working in partnership with the Home Office to improve processes for refugees claiming benefits. In order to achieve this aim we have set up the Post Grant Appointment Scheme (PGAS).

The scheme involves contacting persons at the point when they are granted refugee status to see if they wish to apply for benefits and require assistance to do so. If they say they do, an appointment at a local DWP office is arranged for them.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-27/237692/>

Refugees: Families

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [237690] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans he has to lengthen the time a refugee family reunion visa is valid for.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government issues a 30-day visa to all non-EEA nationals coming from overseas to stay in the UK for more than six months to enable them to collect their biometric residence permit from the Post Office, following their arrival in the UK. When a family reunion application is made, individuals can specify within a 90-day window when they would like the visa to be valid from. This is to take account of their need to make the necessary travel arrangements. The Government considers that the existing time periods for family reunion visas remain appropriate and we have no plans to review it.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-27/237690/>

Asylum

Paul Farrelly (Labour) [239193] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that it meets its international obligations under the Dublin III regulation.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Dublin III Regulation is a long-standing mechanism between EU Member States to determine which single State has responsibility for examining an asylum claim, whilst at the same time recognising family ties as a factor to unite whilst an asylum claim is considered. We will be bound by the Dublin III Regulation as long as we remain a member of the EU; and in the event of a deal, we will continue to meet our obligations under it throughout the Implementation Period.

The Government is fully committed to the timely and efficient operation of the Dublin III Regulation including the family reunification provisions. The UK continues to process requests from other Member States to transfer individuals to the UK to have their asylum claims assessed.

The UK has taken a number of actions to strengthen Dublin processes. As part of the Sandhurst Treaty, signed between the UK and France on 18 January 2018, we agreed a comprehensive package to support unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children. This includes a £3.6 million development fund to support eligible children through the Dublin process and ensures that those without any prospect for transferring to the UK are informed of their options. We have also agreed shorter timescales for the acceptance and transfer of cases under the Dublin process and have deployed a UK asylum liaison officer to France to support this process.

We are working to secure a comprehensive returns agreement with the EU that replaces our obligations under Dublin once we leave the EU, post Implementation Period. Furthermore, as set out in section 17 of the Withdrawal Act, the UK will seek

to negotiate an agreement with the EU to continue to provide a legal route for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children to be reunited with family members in the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-01/239193/>

Detainees: Emergency Travel Documents

Afzal Khan (Labour) [237135] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the time taken was for each emergency travel document application to be secured for a person in immigration detention in 2018.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The information requested is not in a reportable format and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

The Home Office continues to work closely with diplomatic missions in the United Kingdom and representatives of receiving countries for the timely issuing of travel documentation to support the return of their nationals. Travel document applications are dependent on the receiving country and take a range of time to complete for reasons outside of our control

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-26/237135/>

Detention Centres: Minimum Wage

Chris Ruane (Labour) [238277] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the merits of revising policies which exempt detention centres from minimum wage legislation.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Individuals detained in immigration removal centres are exempt from national minimum wage requirements by virtue of section 153A of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 and section 45B of the National Minimum Wage Act 1998. There are no current plans to change the law.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-28/238277/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Immigration Detention

Baroness Whitaker (Labour): To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to implement the recommendations of the report of the Joint Committee on Human Rights, *Immigration Detention* (HL Paper 279), published on 7 February, in particular those related to indefinite detention.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford): My Lords, we are carefully considering the recommendations made in the JCHR report alongside those in the recent Home Affairs Select Committee report, and will respond to both in due course. On indefinite detention specifically, the law simply does not allow this. However, we recognise the importance of these matters in informing how we can have a detention system that is fair, upholds our immigration policies and acts as a deterrent to those who might seek to frustrate those policies.

Baroness Whitaker: My Lords, I am almost heartened by the Minister's response. However, is she aware that, of the over 2,200 people detained without any limit being given and without review, appeal or any consideration of vulnerability—some for over three years—some were released back into the community, after all that? This causes untold damage to family life and they had clearly been wrongly sentenced. The recommended limit of 28 days is surely long enough. Can HMG not undertake to implement at least that?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: In terms of review, we are now

trialling immigration bail at two months rather than four, which we did previously. The overall picture is that 92% of people leave immigration detention within four months and 69% within 29 days. We have improved the system by not detaining people for longer than needed and fewer people are now spending time in detention than ever before.

Lord Morris of Handsworth (Labour): My Lords, is the Minister aware that children are also detained in some detention centres? Can she tell the House how the education needs of those children are provided for?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Not only have the overall detention figures gone right down—they are lower than since the collation of figures began in 2009—but the number of children in detention has gone down drastically. The safeguards have also improved since those times. The noble Lord is absolutely right to ask this, because the safeguards and the well-being of children are absolutely paramount, whether a child is in detention or not.

Lord Paddick (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, with consistently more detainees being released into the community from immigration detention than are being removed from the UK, does the Minister accept that this suggests that the initial decisions to detain frequently lack rigorous assessment of why detention is necessary and justified?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: As I said, the figure of 92% of people being released from detention, who have been there perhaps for immigration bail or other forms of review, is the result of our not wanting to keep people in detention and doing so only to remove them.

Lord Singh of Wimbledon (Crossbench): My Lords, while the checking of documentation and control of numbers can be justified, does the Minister agree that indefinite detention and a callous, dismissive attitude to would-be immigrants or asylum seekers, including the elderly and infirm, as detailed in the report, can never be justified? This is a Christian country. In Leviticus 19:33-34, the Bible reminds us: “When a stranger resides with you in your land, you shall not wrong him ... you shall love him as yourself”.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: ... The noble Lord is absolutely right that the law does not allow indefinite detention. The purpose of detention is to remove someone, and in as short a time as possible. He raises a good point about vulnerable people. It might help him to know that we are currently piloting a scheme to manage a number of vulnerable women in the community who would otherwise have been detained at Yarl’s Wood. With the input of a medical expert, we are looking to differentiate more strongly between vulnerable cases to ensure that the most complex get the attention that they need.

The Lord Bishop of Durham: My Lords, the Joint Committee’s report recommends that initial detention decisions be reviewed by a judge within 72 hours. Can the Minister explain why the usual standards of British justice should not apply here?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The right reverend Prelate will be comforted to know that all decisions on detention benefit from the oversight of the independent detention gatekeeper. On the analogy with the criminal justice system, that system is different. Custody is in place to establish a criminal investigation, but detention has already established that the person needs to be removed.

Lord Dubs (Labour): My Lords, is there ever a case for keeping a child in detention?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: It is very unfortunate if a child ends up in detention. The decision is balanced on the need of that child to be, perhaps, with its parents. As I told the noble Lord, Lord Morris of Handsworth, the number of children in detention has drastically reduced since 2009.

Lord Green of Deddington (Crossbench): My Lords, does the Minister accept that there has to be some balance in this debate? If there is a specific time limit, especially a short one, it is all too easy for someone to spin out the proceedings—perhaps, in some circumstances, by making a false claim—until he or she has to be released and can then

disappear. There has to be some balance and there has to be an ability to detain people until their cases are sorted.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The noble Lord is absolutely right. Anyone who wishes to frustrate the system could do so through a time-limited detention. The Government are clear: we want to limit time in detention, but actually placing a time limit on it has the effect that he describes.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-04-03/debates/18FE74A6-2BB5-44D1-A3B8-D681218CD478/ImmigrationDetention>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/jt201719/jtselect/jtrights/1484/1484.pdf>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Immigration: Internet

Lord Storey (Liberal Democrat) [HL14710] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that those applying for settled status who do not have a device capable of accessing the internet are still able to apply.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The application process for the EU Settlement Scheme is straightforward and user-friendly, and it is accessible on any smartphone, tablet or computer using internet browsers.

Ensuring that applicants are supported to obtain their status is a core element in the delivery of the Settlement Scheme. A range of direct support has been put in place by the Home Office including an Assisted Digital service for those who do not have the access, skills or confidence to complete the online form.

Support can be provided over the phone, at a local centre or in home with a trained tutor. As of the 21st March there are over 150 centres across the UK supplemented by a network of over 40 tutors.

For those who are unable to access the support mechanisms in place including Assisted Digital, a paper application form will be made available. A triage process will ensure paper application forms are given to those with specific needs and that they are restricted to the individual requesting them.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-20/HL14710/>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families?step-by-step-nav=0c79b832-75de-4854-8154-d62774a8dfb8>

Refugees: Children

Baroness Stroud (Conservative) [HL14715] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many children transferred to the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 have now received section 67 leave to remain since its creation in June 2018.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: In June 2018 we announced a new route to settlement for those children transferred under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 who do not qualify for international protection.

Over 220 unaccompanied children have been transferred to the UK under section 67, and transfers of eligible children are ongoing. We will not provide a running commentary on numbers and will publish the details, including the specific form of leave granted, once all children are in the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-20/HL14715/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Children

Baroness Stroud (Conservative) [HL14716] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many unaccompanied children seeking asylum who have not yet received a decision on their case have been waiting for a decision for (1) over two years, (2) 18 months to two years, (3) one year to 18 months, and (4) six months to one year.

Baroness Stroud (Conservative) [HL14717] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many unaccompanied children seeking asylum who have received a decision on their case in the last 18 months were waiting for a decision for (1) over two years, (2) 18 months to two years, (3) one year to 18 months, and (4) six months to one year.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office does not publish this data in the format requested, however we are committed to publishing more detailed figures in future data releases.

We are able to provide a breakdown of total applications pending by duration (± 6 months), but we can't separately identify UASC's in the dataset. The table has been reproduced below:

Pending Duration (Initial Decision)	Main applicants	Main + dependants
More than 6 months	12,213	16,555
Less than 6 months	15,043	19,300
Total	27,256	35,855

Children and unaccompanied children seeking asylum, like anyone else claiming asylum in the UK, can claim in two ways; either at port of entry or at one of the national intake units.

The Home Office takes its responsibility for the welfare of children very seriously, including ensuring that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration in every decision taken in respect of the child. There are stringent statutory and policy safeguards in place in the asylum process for unaccompanied children, in recognition of their additional needs.

While in the UK, unaccompanied asylum-seeking children are looked after by local authorities who have a statutory duty to ensure that they safeguard and promote the welfare of all children, regardless of their immigration status or nationality. Under these arrangements, children are assessed with regard to their individual needs and provided with access to education, accommodation and health services, as would be provided to any other looked after child in the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-20/HL14716/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-20/HL14717/>

Asylum: Christianity

Baroness Cox (Crossbench) [HL14728] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that the Home Office refused asylum applications because of (1) quotations used by applicants from the Bible which "are inconsistent with your [the applicant's] claim that you converted to Christianity after discovering it is a 'peaceful' religion..."; and (2) a candidate "affirmed in your Asylum Interview Record that Jesus is your saviour, but then claimed He would not be able to save you from the Iranian regime. It is therefore considered that you have no conviction in your faith and your belief in Jesus is half-hearted".

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We are urgently investigating reports which indicate that some asylum decisions were not drafted in accordance with our policy.

Published Home Office policy guidance contains detailed instructions on how asylum decision makers are expected to approach religious based claims. Our policy makes clear that when assessing such claims, decision makers are expected to ask appropriate and sensitive questions based on an understanding of religious concepts, philosophical viewpoints and forms of persecution a person may suffer due to their religion, belief or lack of belief.

Where credibility of a conversion to a faith needs to be established, an interview should be far more an exploration of a claimant's personal experiences and journey to their new faith, both in their country and in the UK, rather than a test of religious facts.

The Home Office have worked closely with the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for International Freedom of Religion or Belief and the Asylum Advocacy Group (AAG) for many years, to help improve their approach to religious based claims and have recently worked with them to develop and produce a specialist training package.

The aim of this course is to ensure that where religion or belief is raised in an asylum claim, asylum decision makers appropriately consider all the available evidence in accordance International, European & Domestic law and Home Office Asylum Policy, when interviewing asylum applicants and making decisions on their claims. The course will be rolled out to Asylum Senior Caseworkers and Technical Specialists in April 2019 and all asylum Decision Makers over the course of the subsequent three months.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-21/HL14728/>

Asylum: Religion

Baroness Cox (Crossbench) [HL14729] To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures are in place to ensure that officials assessing asylum applications have sufficient theological information to interrogate claims made by those seeking refuge from persecution on account of their faith.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The UK has a proud history of providing protection to those who need it, in accordance with our international obligations under the Refugee Convention and European Convention on Human Rights.

Asylum decision-makers carefully assess protection needs following an interview by considering all available evidence provided by the claimant in light of published country information. They receive extensive training on considering asylum claims and must follow published Home Office policy guidance. Guidance on interviewing and decision making are provided in published policy instructions on gov.uk:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/asylum-decision-making-guidance-asylum-instructions> and

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/considering-asylum-claims-and-assessing-credibility-instruction>

The Home Office have worked closely with the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for International Freedom of Religion or Belief and the Asylum Advocacy Group (AAG) for many years, to help improve their approach to religious based claims and have recently worked with them to develop and produce a specialist training package.

The aim of this course is to ensure that where religion or belief is raised in an asylum claim, asylum decision makers appropriately consider all the available evidence in accordance International, European & Domestic law and Home Office Asylum Policy, when interviewing asylum applicants and making decisions on their claims. The course will be rolled out to Asylum Senior Caseworkers and Technical

Specialists in April 2019 and all asylum Decision Makers over the course of the subsequent three months.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-21/HL14729/>

Asylum: Religion

Baroness Sherlock (Labour) [HL14748] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they provide religious literacy training to staff who decide asylum applications.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office have worked closely with the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for International Freedom of Religion or Belief and the Asylum Advocacy Group (AAG) for many years, to help improve their approach to religious based claims and have recently worked with them to develop and produce a specialist training package.

The aim of this course is to ensure that where religion or belief is raised in an asylum claim, asylum decision makers appropriately consider all the available evidence in accordance with International, European & Domestic law and Home Office Asylum Policy, when interviewing asylum applicants and making decisions on their claims. The Asylum Learning and Development Team (AL&D) also delivers the Foundation Training Programme (FTP) to all new asylum decision makers. This intensive five-week course provides staff with training on all aspects of asylum decision making, including religious-based claims, religious conversion and has been endorsed by the UNHCR. During the course, trainees consider case studies involving religion or belief-based persecution. This course is followed by a period of mentoring.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-21/HL14748/>

Slavery

Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat) [HL14849] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether UK Visas and Immigration considers a person's (1) past immigration records, (2) pending immigration cases, and (3) rule 35 report statements, in addition to the information provided on their National Referral Mechanism referral form, when making reasonable grounds decisions in respect of foreign nationals (a) in immigration detention, and (b) outside immigration detention.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Reasonable Grounds decisions for foreign nationals in immigration detention are made by trained Competent Authority decision makers. As part of the decision making process information held within the immigration database is considered alongside the information provided by the First Responder in the National Referral Mechanism referral form. Further information is sought from the First Responder where there is insufficient information contained within the referral form.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-27/HL14849/>

Human Trafficking

Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat) [HL14850] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether potential victims of trafficking who have been released from immigration detention and are awaiting a conclusive grounds decision are required to report to the Home Office.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Potential victims of trafficking who are released from immigration detention and awaiting a conclusive grounds decision are granted immigration bail and are therefore subject to at least one condition of bail. This can include a condition to report to the Home Office.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-27/HL14850/>

Slavery

Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat) [HL14852] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many victims of trafficking or modern slavery who have received a positive conclusive grounds decision have been removed from the UK in the last period of twelve months for which figures are available.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office record the number of individuals that have received a positive Conclusive Grounds decision and this information is published Quarterly by the National Crime Agency.

As NRM referrals, Reasonable Grounds and Conclusive Grounds decisions are considered separately from immigration enforcement action, there is no central record of those who have received a positive Conclusive Grounds decision and later removed. The Home Office therefore does not collate or publish the data requested.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-27/HL14852/>

Press Releases

Stay in Scotland

<https://www.gov.scot/news/stay-in-scotland/>

EU citizens staying in Scotland: package of support

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/eu-citizens-staying-in-scotland-package-of-support/>

Home Secretary launches Windrush Compensation Scheme

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-launches-windrush-compensation-scheme>

Over 50,000 applications to the EU Settlement Scheme on opening weekend

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/over-50000-applications-to-the-eu-settlement-scheme-on-opening-weekend>

Employing EU, EEA and Swiss citizens and their family members after Brexit

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/employing-eu-eea-and-swiss-citizens-and-their-family-members-after-brexit>

New Publications

First Minister's letter to EU citizens in Scotland

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/first-ministers-letter-to-eu-citizens-in-scotland/>

New Scots refugee integration strategy 2018-2022: first year progress report

<http://tinyurl.com/yxqk6us3>

The UK Government's EU Settlement Scheme

<https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdnep.azureedge.net/published/2019/4/3/The-UK-Government-s-EU-Settlement-Scheme/SB%2019-16.pdf>

Guidance: EU Settlement Scheme Family Permit

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/793356/EUSS-family-permit-v1.0ext.pdf

Windrush Compensation: Government Response to Consultation

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/792225/Windrush_Response_to_Consultation_PRINT.pdf

Guidance: Windrush compensation scheme

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/windrush-compensation-scheme>

Updated: Skilled Workers and Students (Dependants) - Policy Guidance

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/791595/SWS_Dependant_Guidance_03-2019.pdf

Updated: Registration as British citizen: children of British parents

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/791596/Reg_as_British_citizen_-_children_of_British_parents_v4.0.pdf

Visas for non-EEA citizens working in the UK fishing industry

<https://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CDP-2019-0090>

A Best Practice Guide for Social Workers in Wales supporting Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-04/child-first-looking-after-unaccompanied-asylum-seeking-children-in-wales.pdf>

A Guide to Being Looked After for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children in Wales

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-04/child-first-a-guide-to-being-looked-after-for-unaccompanied-asylum-seeking-children.pdf>

Information about rights and entitlements if you've come to Wales without your family and you're under 18

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-04/child-first-a-guide-to-rights-and-entitlements-for-unaccompanied-asylum-seeking-children.pdf>

A Guide to Applying to Stay in Wales for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-04/child-first-a-guide-for-unaccompanied-children-seeking-asylum.pdf>

Information for foster carers about fostering unaccompanied asylum seeking children in Wales

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-04/child-first-looking-after-asylum-seeking-children-in-wales-foster-carers.pdf>

News

Nicola Sturgeon's letter to EU citizens in Scotland revealed as she says 'this is your home'

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/nicola-sturgeons-letter-eu-citizens-14238146>

Nicola Sturgeon tells EU citizens in Scotland: 'You are welcome here'

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/apr/05/nicola-sturgeon-tells-brexit-eu-citizens-in-scotland-you-are-welcome-here>

Nicola Sturgeon lays on charm for EU residents

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/sturgeon-lays-on-charm-for-eu-residents-ksztl852d>

Windrush scandal: 'No cap' on compensation claims

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-47802125>

Windrush scandal to cost up to £310 million in compensation to victims, Sajid Javid reveals

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/04/03/windrush-scandal-cost-310-million-compensation-victims-sajid/>

UK to pay up to £200m in compensation to Windrush victims

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/apr/03/uk-pay-windrush-victims-200m-compensation-lives-damaged-hostile-environment-policy>

Windrush victims will finally receive compensation – but payouts will be ‘surprisingly low’, campaigners warn

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/windrush-victims-compensation-money-payouts-sajid-javid-a8853186.html>

Home Office condemned over decision to exclude scores of Windrush victims from compensation scheme launch

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/windrush-scandal-home-office-compensation-sajid-javid-commons-a8850596.html>

Payouts to Windrush victims could reach £310m, says Javid

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-04-03/news/windrush-compensation-fund-is-limitless-says-sajid-javid-g5n0xf9sf>

Unfair Windrush payouts will lead to lawsuits, warn lawyers

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/unfair-windrush-payouts-will-lead-to-lawsuits-warn-lawyers-r75vgjvkk>

Windrush victims’ compensation could prove ‘peanuts’, say lawyers

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/apr/04/windrush-victims-compensation-could-prove-peanuts-say-lawyers>

Settled status scheme for EU citizens risks being next Windrush

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/eu-citizens-settled-status-scheme-risks-being-the-next-windrush-scandal-l333p567v>

More than 70% of UK immigration fee waiver requests by destitute are rejected

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/apr/04/over-70-of-uk-immigration-fee-waiver-requests-by-destitute-are-rejected>

UK urged to end unfair fees for child citizenship applicants

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/apr/04/uk-urged-to-end-unfair-fees-for-child-citizenship-applicants>

Unfair citizenship charges for children are damaging Britain’s reputation

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/apr/04/unfair-citizenship-charges-for-children-are-damaging-britains-reputation>

Why are UK child citizenship fees so much higher than the rest of Europe?

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-child-citizenship-british-fees-debt-uk-a8855471.html>

Home Office makes £2m a month from child citizenship fees as parents driven into debt
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-child-citizenship-british-fees-debt-uk-a8855316.html>

Ministers accused of cover-up over migrant health reports
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/apr/03/ministers-accused-of-cover-up-over-migrant-health-reports-nhs>

Calais child refugees waiting 10 times longer to join family in UK
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/apr/01/calais-child-refugees-waiting-10-times-longer-to-join-family-in-uk>

Unaccompanied children driven to suicide due to 'gaps in support' from UK, charities warn
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/unaccompanied-minors-home-office-children-lone-charities-unicef-ecpat-childrens-society-sajid-javid-a8857276.html>

Migrants deny visa test cheating claims
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-47815104>

The Home Office's lack of religious literacy beggars belief
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/the-home-office-s-lack-of-religious-literacy-beggars-belief-358fzwjdr>

Concerns rise over safety of vulnerable immigration centre detainees
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/apr/07/immigration-centre-detainees-safety-concerns-hospitalised>

Life as a Yarl's Wood immigration detainee 'like hell'
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-47802425>

Alternatives to the detention of migrants: how we can make it work
<https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/alternatives-to-the-detention-of-migrants-how-we-can-make-it-work>

EU migrants won't take advantage of the NHS because they don't want it
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/nhs-eu-migrants-immigration-healthcare-a8841736.html>

'Miracle' Oldham baby faces Malawi deportation battle
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-47817760>

Kitti Horváth: 'I was scared to talk because I thought I would be mocked'
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17554555.i-was-scared-to-talk-because-i-thought-i-would-be-mocked/>

Man who fled to UK as child has deportation to DRC halted
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/apr/06/im-so-scared-man-who-fled-congo-for-uk-as-child-to-be-deported>

Scots communities 'will disappear' if they can't attract foreign workers
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17552310.scots-communities-will-disappear-if-they-cant-attract-foreign-workers/>

Some Scots communities might 'no longer exist' under migration cuts

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/some-scots-communities-might-no-longer-exist-under-migration-cuts-1-4901638>

My Brexit nightmare': readers on how the uncertainty is affecting their lives

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/apr/06/my-brexite-nightmare-readers-on-how-the-uncertainty-is-affecting-their-lives>

From Calais to Westminster: five young refugees win parliament award

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/apr/02/from-calais-to-westminster-five-young-asylum-seekers-win-parliament-award>

How can I help out at Refugee Festival Scotland 2019?

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/blogs/3428_how_can_i_help_out_at_refugee_festival_scotland_2019

TOP

Community Relations

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Stop and Search: Ethnic Groups

Harriett Harman (Labour) [236982] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the impact of Stop and Search on the relationship between police officers and young BAME people.

Reply from Nick Hurd: The impact of stop and search on relations between officers and those searched, including those from BAME communities, is a priority for this Government. Reforms introduced by the Government and delivered by the police have led to significant improvements in this regard.

Code A of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, which governs conduct around searches, clearly states that officers must show "courtesy, consideration and respect" when carrying out searches, and that grounds for suspicion must be explained. Introduced in 2014, the Government's "Best Use of Stop and Search" scheme also requires forces to adopt public observation schemes and complaints policies, so that individuals can observe stop and search in action and issues in the conduct of searches can be raised.

These reforms have worked. The arrest rate for searches is now the highest on record, and reports from HMICFRS show significant improvements in the conduct of searches in the last 5 years. We do, however, remain aware of concerns related to the impact of searches on communities, and will continue to work with the police to embed improvements, including around professionalism and community trust.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-26/236982/>

News

British Muslim artists showcased in new Peterborough gallery

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cambridgeshire-47734574>

TOP

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Crown Courts: Equality

Yasmin Qureshi (Labour) [235744] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, with reference to his Department's report, Tackling Racial Disparity in the Criminal Justice System: 2018 Update, published in October 2018, what assessment his Department has made of the feasibility of implementing recommendation 13 on publishing all sentencing remarks in the Crown Court in audio and/or written form.

Reply from Edward Argar: We welcomed David Lammy MP's Review into the treatment of, and outcomes for, Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority individuals in the Criminal Justice System when it was published in 2017. We remain committed to taking each recommendation from that review forward in some way.

Ensuring that the courts are both transparent and comprehensible is essential, and publishing sentencing remarks would enable greater public understanding of sentencing decisions. We continue to consider how recommendation 13 could be taken forward. We are considering how the HMCTS Court Reform Programme and continuing developments in technology could provide new, cost-effective options for taking this forward.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-22/235744/>

The report referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/747335/tackling-racial-disparity-criminal-justice-system-2018-update-web.pdf

The Lammy review, referred to above, can be read at

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/643001/lammy-review-final-report.pdf

Judiciary: Ethnic Groups

Yasmin Qureshi (Labour) [238315] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps the Government is taking to achieve a representative judiciary; and how many judges are (a) BAME, (b) women and (c) BAME women.

Reply from Lucy Frazer: In recent years, there has been progress in achieving a more representative judiciary but we acknowledge there is more to do. As at 1 April 2018, BAME judges made up 7% of judges in the courts in England and Wales and 11% in UK tribunals. Women made up 29% of judges in the courts in England and Wales and 46% in UK tribunals. In courts in England and Wales, as at 1 April 2018, 8% of female judges were BAME, and in UK tribunals 13% of female judges were BAME.

The Ministry of Justice is continuing to work closely with the Lord Chief Justice, Chair of the Judicial Appointments Commission and other members of the Judicial Diversity Forum, including the legal professions, to increase the diversity of our world-renowned judiciary. MoJ is funding the pre-application judicial education programme (PAJE), which will launch later this month. This is a Judicial Diversity Forum initiative, to support and encourage lawyers interested in a judicial career and will target lawyers from underrepresented groups including BAME and women lawyers, to help them prepare for a judicial career.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-28/238315/>

Magistrates: Ethnic Groups

Yasmin Qureshi (Labour) [238316] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps the Government is taking to achieve a representative magistracy; and how many magistrates are (a) BAME, (b) women and (c) BAME women.

Reply from Lucy Frazer: Magistrates play a vital role in our justice system and the latest statistics show there has been progress in achieving a more representative magistracy. As at 1 April 2018, 12% of serving magistrates declared themselves as BAME, broadly in line with the general population, and 55% of magistrates were women. Of the female magistrates appointed as at 1 April 2018, 11% were BAME. We remain committed to increasing *diversity* even further and are working closely with Judicial Office and HMCTS to review the attraction, recruitment and retention of magistrates.

We have been building working relationships with a number of organisations, such as Operation Black Vote, with the aim of launching targeted campaigns for more BAME magistrates. Working groups have also been established and promotional materials developed to raise the profile of the magistracy particularly amongst employers.

We are also implementing a national end-to-end recruitment process that will ensure every applicant to the magistracy is treated equally.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-28/238316/>

Press Releases

Councils pledge local leadership on Gypsy/Travellers rights

<http://www.cosla.gov.uk/news/2019/02/councils-pledge-%E2%80%99local-leadership%E2%80%99-gypsytravellers%E2%80%99-rights>

More targeted measures needed to support Roma women

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2019/more-targeted-measures-needed-support-roma-women>

International Roma Day: Statement by First Vice-President Frans Timmermans and Commissioners Johannes Hahn, Marianne Thyssen, Věra Jourová, Corina Crețu

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-19-1956_en.htm

New Publications

Tackling inequalities faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmwomeq/360/360.pdf>

Second European Union Minorities and Discrimination Survey – Roma women in nine EU Member States

https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2019-eu-minorities-survey-roma-women_en.pdf

News

Is it time for businesses to adopt ethnicity quotas?

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2019/04/02/time-businesses-adopt-ethnicity-quotas/>

Government has comprehensively failed Gypsies, say MPs

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/apr/04/government-has-comprehensively-failed-gypsies-say-mps>

New £50 note should feature 'more diverse' figure, Tory MP says

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/new-50-note-should-feature-more-diverse-figure-tory-mp-says-1-4900139>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Prime Minister's Questions

Afzal Khan (Labour): This afternoon there will be a reception in Parliament to honour the 51 Muslims killed in Christchurch. In the wake of that horrific terror attack, mosques were targeted in Birmingham and Newcastle. There is a global rise in Islamophobia, including in the ranks of the Tory party. In an article for *The Times* this week, their party chairman could not even utter the word "Islamophobia". How can they deal with a problem they cannot even name? I ask the Prime Minister, for the third time, when will the Conservative party conduct an inquiry and adopt the all-party parliamentary group on British Muslims definition of Islamophobia? [910197]

Reply from the Prime Minister: As I believe I have said to the hon. Gentleman before, when any allegations of Islamophobia are made, against elected Conservatives or members of the Conservative party, we take them very seriously and action is taken in relation to those individuals. He referred to the attacks on mosques. I absolutely condemn any attacks against mosques, or indeed against any place of worship. I am pleased to say that my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has increased the funding available to help protect places of worship against attacks. This has no place in our society and we should all be working to ensure that people can go to their place of worship and feel safe and secure in this country.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-04-03/debates/1CB635BC-0163-4565-AC03-A0F62066442A/Engagements#contribution-D7425400-B3F5-4D8B-B1D3-5B92880DE22A>

Right-wing Extremism

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op): What discussions he has had with Cabinet colleagues on the increase in right-wing extremism. [910127]

Reply from the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Sajid Javid): As Home Secretary, I have been clear that far-right extremism has no place in Britain. The Government take this issue very seriously, and it is routinely discussed by Ministers. Earlier this month, the inter-ministerial group on safe and integrated communities, which I chair along with the Communities Secretary, discussed the threat we faced from extremism, including the far right.

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op): On Friday, outside many of our offices, on a specially erected stage, Stephen Yaxley-Lennon addressed crowds, while many parliamentary staff were trying to get home. Staff were told to leave but at times that put them directly into that crowd. At the rally, there were Generation Identity activists and organisations that had received money from the Christchurch killer and a convicted leader of the Ulster Defence Association, and the media were physically attacked. Will the Home Secretary urgently investigate with the Met police how a convicted far-right leader and such groups were

allowed to whip up hate right outside Parliament?

Reply from Sajid Javie: Sadly, as the hon. Gentleman points to, there have been many instances of abuse and intimidation of Members, especially in recent weeks. All Members should be able to go about their business with complete confidence—[Hon. Members: “Staff.”] Of course, all staff as well—everyone who works in the cradle of our democracy. It is important that the police, both the Met police and local police forces, and the House authorities work together, which they are doing. I had a meeting just last week with police, officials and others to see what more we could do.

Michael Fabricant (Conservative): Extremism in all its forms is often whipped up by social media. To what extent can the Home Office engage with social media to try to counter that?

Reply from Sajid Javid: We are already engaging with social media companies, especially the US giants that dominate the sector. I have met their representatives both here and abroad to discuss, in particular, terrorists and terrorism-related extremist content. However, the Government recognise that more needs to be done, which is why we will shortly publish the online harms White Paper.

Diane Abbott (Labour): The Home Secretary will be aware of recent reports that right-wing extremists are gaining access to ISIS-related terrorist training materials. The House should be aware that just as there is a terrorist threat from supporters of grotesque organisations such as ISIS and al-Qaeda, there is also a growing threat from the far right, which includes the threat of acts of terrorism. It has been reported that senior Home Office officials, Scotland Yard and the security agencies have met senior representatives of both the Muslim and Jewish communities. Will the Home Secretary confirm that those meetings have taken place, and will he tell us what reassurances he was able to provide?

As my hon. Friends have said, there is grave concern in the Muslim community in the light of the Christchurch massacre and the subsequent attacks on mosques in Birmingham. Can the Home Secretary assure us that funds will be available for the security of mosques and other Muslim places of worship, in the same way as they are available through the Community Security Trust for the security of synagogues? Is he aware that there are many Muslim community centres like my own North London Muslim Community Centre, which is next door to the mosque and forms part of the same complex of buildings? The people there feel very threatened. Is the Home Secretary prepared to consider helping them with funds for their necessary security?

Reply from Sajid Javid: I share the concerns that the right hon. Lady has expressed. Everyone in the House will understand why there are heightened concerns in our British Muslim communities, and why we need to do more. Soon after the Christchurch massacre, I sent “Dear colleague” messages to all Members about the immediate action that we are taking in increasing the funding for places of worship. The right hon. Lady rightly raised the issue of Muslim community centres. I want to work with Muslim community leaders and others and to listen to what they say about what needs to be done. I think that all Members are united in their wish to ensure that our Muslim community in Britain, whom we cherish, feel hugely valued and receive the protection that they deserve. No one should feel intimidated in any way whatsoever.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-04-01/debates/FF17565D-F1BE-4665-974D-A22A81FE48A8/Right-WingExtremism>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Community Relations: Islam

Yasmin Qureshi (Labour) [237675] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing,

Communities and Local Government, what steps he is taking to implement the commitment in the integration communities action plan to support the anti-muslim hatred working group to work with IPSO to develop guidance for (a) editors and (b) journalists to tackle the negative portrayal of muslims in the media.

Reply from Heather Wheeler: Members of the Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group (AMHWG) continue to engage with the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO) on the development of guidance for editors and journalists on the reporting of Muslims in the media. Members are currently working with IPSO to develop and refine the guidance. This work is an important contribution towards commitments set out in the Integrated Communities Action Plan and Government's Hate Crime Action Plan refresh.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-27/237675/>

Radicalism

Rosena Allin-Khan (Labour) [239282] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department has taken to tackle far right politically motivated violence in the UK following the March 2019 attacks in Birmingham and in Christchurch in New Zealand; and what meetings he has had with Cabinet colleagues on that issue.

Reply from Ben Wallace: The Home Secretary has been clear: the far right has absolutely no place in Britain. The British people overwhelmingly reject the prejudiced rhetoric of the far right, which is the antithesis of the values that this country represents: decency, tolerance and respect. Our counter terrorism strategy, CONTEST, works to reduce the risk from all forms of terrorism, irrespective of the ideology that inspires them.

Since Christchurch the government has put in place a number of measures to reassure communities of all faiths across the UK who may feel worried about their safety. In the first instance, the Police have implemented additional patrols around mosques and other places of worship and are working with communities to help enhance safety and reassure the public.

We have committed to funding a fourth round of the Places of Worship Scheme in 2019/20 as part of the Hate Crime Action Plan refresh, this follows the success of the initial three years of funding. On 19 March 2019 the Home Secretary announced double the amount of funding awarded last year would be available for this year's scheme; uplifting funding to £1.6 million for 2019/20

The Government has also announced a new £5 million fund over 3 years to provide security training for Places of Worship. We will be working closely with communities and faith leaders to develop this new scheme and will, as soon as possible, be opening a competitive process.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-01/239282/>

The Action Plan referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/748175/Hate_crime_refresh_2018_FINAL_WEB.PDF

The announcement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/places-of-worship-to-get-security-funding-boost>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Hate Crime

The Lord Bishop of St Albans [HL14708] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many

people have been arrested as a result of a speech they have made in each year since 2010; in each case, what were those individuals' (1) religious, and (2) political affiliations; and how many such arrests resulted in a successful prosecution.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office does not hold centrally the information requested.

The Home Office collects and publishes data on the number of arrests for notifiable offences on a financial year basis, however, specific details about the offence are not collected so it is not possible to separately identify those made as a result of a speech.

Data on the number of arrests, by offence group, are published in the 'Police Powers and Procedures, England and Wales' statistical bulletin, which can be accessed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/police-powers-and-procedures-england-and-wales>

The Home Office does not hold information on the political affiliation or religious beliefs of those arrested.

Information on prosecutions and convictions is the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice.

[Police Powers and Procedures Eng & Wales](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-20/HL14708/)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-20/HL14708/>

Racial Discrimination

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL14838] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to produce a definition of (1) Islamophobia, and (2) other forms of racism.

Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The Cross-Government Working Group to Tackle Anti-Muslim Hatred will be undertaking a programme of work to consider a definition following consultation, which effectively tackles prejudice and hatred. Government is clear that all forms of hate crime, including race-related hate crime, are unacceptable and there is legislation in place to deal with perpetrators of hateful acts. We have asked the Law Commission to undertake a review of the current hate crime legislation.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-26/HL14838/>

General Practitioners: Travellers

Baroness Whitaker (Labour) [HL14762] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps have been taken to address concerns raised by the UN Committee on the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination, the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, that Gypsy, Traveller and Roma communities are frequently refused registration at GP practices.

Reply from Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford: Registering with and access to primary medical care services is the same for all patients, whether they are gypsies, travellers, homeless or vulnerable migrants. People do not need to provide proof of address to register with a general practice (GP). NHS England is working with a range of community groups to redesign the patient registration leaflet so that people are aware of this when registering. The free NHS 111 service can assist anyone who has faced difficulty finding a GP or accessing other services in their local area.

NHS England is aware of difficulties some individuals have faced when trying to register with a GP and is taking steps to address shortcomings with individual practices, working in partnership with the voluntary sector.

The Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Health and Wellbeing Alliance is

a partnership arrangement with the aim to facilitate integrated working between the voluntary and statutory sectors, to promote equality and reduce health inequalities. It receives £1.2 million for core work from the Department, with each member receiving funding of up to £60,000. Friends, Families and Travellers is a member of the Alliance and has supported the Department on a range of work to date including the Inclusion Health Audit Tool, on maternal health, mental health, end of life care and dementia.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-21/HL14762/>

Press Releases

East London brothers jailed over racist attack

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/london-north/news/east-london-brothers-jailed-over-racist-attack>

European states must demonstrate resolve for lasting and concrete change for Roma people

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/commissioner/-/european-states-must-demonstrate-resolve-for-lasting-and-concrete-change-for-roma-people>

New Publication

Briefing: UN International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CDP-2019-0088/CDP-2019-0088.pdf>

News

May's failure to tackle Tory Islamophobia sends a dangerous message

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/apr/01/theresa-may-tory-islamophobia-anti-muslim-sentiment>

Labour's hate files expose Jeremy Corbyn's anti-semite army

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/labour-s-hate-files-expose-corbyn-s-anti-semite-army-9zzl0xpv>

Vile anti-semitic taunts met with 'a slap on the wrist'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/vile-anti-semitism-met-with-a-slap-on-the-wrist-at-most-b38v7z9jd>

Half of complaints made by MPs unresolved

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/half-of-complaints-made-by-mps-unresolved-k2vqqnb6m>

Gordon Brown: Labour 'let the Jewish community down'

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17541685.gordon-brown-labour-let-the-jewish-community-down/>

Gordon Brown: Labour Party has 'let Jewish community down'

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/gordon-brown-labour-party-has-let-jewish-community-down-1-4899312>

Gordon Brown says Labour has let Jewish people down

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-04-02/scotland/gordon-brown-says-labour-has-let-jewish-people-down-xfcg6zrdz>

Labour can't sweep this anti-semitism under the carpet

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/comment/labour-can-t-sweep-this-anti-semitism-under-the-carpet-rxwnf0d3c>

Efforts to stem Labour's antisemitism crisis go nowhere near far enough

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/efforts-to-stem-labour-s-antisemitism-crisis-go-nowhere-near-far-enough-sqfm6mmqg>

Schools urged to tackle Brexit-related rise in racist bullying

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17554488.schools-urged-to-tackle-brexit-related-rise-in-racist-bullying/>

Muslims and Jews face a common threat from white supremacists. We must fight it together

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/apr/03/muslims-jews-white-supremacists>

'Holocaust fatigue' a risk at British schools because pupils are not taught anything else about anti-Semitism, says Sir Simon Schama

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/03/31/holocaust-fatigue-risk-british-schools-pupils-not-taught-anything/>

White supremacy feeds on mainstream encouragement. That has to stop

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/apr/05/white-supremacy>

School apologises for requesting 'white British' taxi driver for pupil

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/taxi-driver-white-british-wakefield-highfield-school-student-a8856441.html>

Man arrested after Muslim woman's hijab 'ripped off' on London Tube platform

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/hijab-tube-attack-arrest-muslim-woman-turnpike-lane-london-a8850601.html>

I do all I can to blend in at Oxford University – even then I endure racism on a daily basis

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/oxford-university-racism-clothing-stash-roy-celaire-a8856266.html>

'You're a Gypsy - are you going to leave school?'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-47802038>

Inside life of gypsy mum with 10 kids and how abuse she faces is 'another type of racism'

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/gypsy-mum-10-reveals-troubles-14243806>

Saturday Vase final abandoned after fan's 'racist abuse' of player Linford Harris

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-04-05/news/saturday-vase-final-abandoned-after-fan-s-racist-abuse-of-player-linford-harris-dszt67w8j>

Troy Deeney praises 'torchbearer' Raheem Sterling in fight against racism

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/football/2019/04/05/troy-deeney-praises-torchbearer-raheem-sterling-fight-against/>

Danny Rose 'can't wait to see the back' of football because of racism

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2019/apr/04/danny-rose-football-racism-england-tottenham>

Danny Rose wanting out is a warning that football cannot neglect its racism problem any longer

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/football/2019/04/05/danny-rose-wanting-warning-football-cannot-neglect-racism-problem/>

Danny Rose: Why we should stop acting like racism in English football is surprising

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/premier-league/danny-rose-racism-tottenham-raheem-sterling-england-football-callum-hudson-odoi-epl-a8855891.html>

Wilfried Zaha: Crystal Palace star calls out racist fan after instances of abuse in the Championship

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/premier-league/wilfried-zaha-crystal-palace-derby-championship-wigan-brentford-moise-kean-raheem-sterling-a8858566.html>

Brentford fan arrested while Wigan report vile message to police as racist abuse allegations mar Championship

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/football-league/championship-racist-abuse-brentford-derby-wigan-duane-holmes-nathan-byrne-a8858401.html>

Referees to be given greater power to stop matches after FA admits not doing enough to tackle racism

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/football/2019/04/02/referees-given-greater-power-stop-matches-fa-admits-not-enough/>

Anti-bigotry charity wants midweek Old Firm games

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-04-04/scotland/anti-bigotry-charity-wants-midweek-old-firm-games-t70m8m5fz>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Releases

Her Majesty The Queen to address Scottish Parliament

<https://www.parliament.scot/newsandmediacentre/111634.aspx>

Take a virtual tour of Holyrood from anywhere in the world

<https://www.parliament.scot/newsandmediacentre/111593.aspx>

Parliament launches search for 1 July babies

<https://www.parliament.scot/111588.aspx>

New Publications

Virtual 360° video tours of the Scottish Parliament building

<https://www.visitparliament.scot/immersive-tour/>

Other UK Parliament and Government

Debate

Non-stun Slaughter of Animals

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-04-03/debates/A6B3FD52-7243-4573-9580-48CD6C9A110A/Non-StunSlaughterOfAnimals>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Religious Buildings: Security

Stephen Doughty (Labour Co-op) [235771] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the adequacy of advice his Department provides on safety protocols to maintain public safety and security at places of worship.

Reply from Ben Wallace: The police routinely monitor the threats faced by all communities and ensure that there are appropriate protective security measures in place to keep people safe.

In addition, as places of worship are recognised as crowded places there is a range of protective security advice and guidance, which is regularly reviewed and revised, from the National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO), a unit within Counter Terrorism Policing. This is developed and assured through engagement with policing experts, academia and the Centre for the Protection National Infrastructure (CPNI). It is internationally recognised and many organisations in the UK and overseas reference or replicate the advice for the protection of their crowded places.

There is a range of awareness raising and communications activities undertaken by Counter Terrorism Policing, such as 'Run, Hide, Tell' which has been created to outline the key steps for keeping safe in the event of a firearms or weapons attack. We have also recently announced an increase in funding for the Places of Worship Protective Security Fund to £1.6 million for 2019-20. This is double the amount awarded last year. In addition, we have committed £5 million over three years for the provision of security training to places of worship. We will be consulting with communities and faith groups to develop and deliver this new scheme as well as review what more should be done.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-22/235771/>

The Guidance referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/701910/170614_crowded-places-guidance_v1a.pdf

The announcement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/places-of-worship-to-get-security-funding-boost>

Religious Buildings: Security

Yasmin Qureshi (Labour) [236388] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of bringing the funding

for the protection for mosques in line with that provided for the protection of synagogues via the grant administered by the Community Security Trust.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Jewish Community Protective Security Grant was introduced in 2015 following a series of terrorist attacks against Jews and Jewish locations across Europe and the West, including Paris, Copenhagen, Brussels and Marseilles.

International terrorist propaganda, particularly by Daesh has repeatedly highlighted Jews as targets for terrorist attacks. The grant mainly funds security guarding at Jewish schools, nurseries and some synagogues

The Places of Worship Protective Security Funding Scheme is specifically for the provision of protective security measures such as access control, fencing and lighting for places of worship that are vulnerable to hate crime attacks.

The Home Secretary announced a boost in funding for the hate crime Places of Worship Protective Security Funding Scheme to £1.6 million for 2019/20. This is double the amount awarded in 2018/19. In addition, £5 million over three years has been committed to providing security training to places of worship in England and Wales.

This funding marks a significant change in our funding for protective security for places of worship. We also committed to consult with communities on what more can and should be done to protect faith communities. If the threat changes or there is a sense that more money is needed, we will always look at how we should respond.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-25/236388/>

Information about the Places of Worship Protective Security Funding Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/places-of-worship-security-funding-scheme>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/places-of-worship-to-get-security-funding-boost>

Religious Buildings: Security

Yasmin Qureshi (Labour) [237670] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what policing budget funds have been allocated to the protection of mosques.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Police and Crime Commissioners are responsible for setting local priorities and allocating budgets accordingly. Therefore, this information is not collected centrally

However, we know the Police and Crime Commissioner and their Chief Constables continue to place a high priority on protecting places of worship as part of their core activity particularly in relation to hate crime. Following the attacks in New Zealand local police have increased patrolling and security measures around mosques and other places of worship to enhance safety and reassure the public

In addition, protective security advice is provided by the National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO), and the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI). NaCTSO have published sector specific protective security advice and guidance for owners and operators of crowded places sites such as places of worship, to allow them to identify key risks and consider what steps to take.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-27/237670/>

The Guidance referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/701910/170614_crowded-places-guidance_v1a.pdf

Religious Buildings: Security

Yasmin Qureshi (Labour) [237671] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much Government funding is allocated to the protection of (a) mosques, (b) synagogues, (c) churches, (d) Hindu Temples, (e) Gurdwaras and (f) other places of worship.

Victoria Atkins: Under the 2016 Hate Crime Action Plan, we committed £2.4m over three years to the Places of Worship Protective Security Funding Scheme to provide protective security measures to places of worship who have been victim of or are vulnerable to hate crime attacks. Last week, we announced an uplift of funding for 2019/20 of the scheme to £1.6 million. This is double the amount awarded in 2018/19. Following the Finsbury Park terror attack in June 2017, we also announced a one year £1m fund to protect vulnerable faith institutions.

Both the Places of Worship Protective Security Funding Scheme and the Vulnerable Faith Institution Scheme are/were open to Christian, Muslim, Sikh and Hindu faiths. There are no specific allocations of funding per faith group, with decisions on funding being based on eligibility criteria and the recommendations of the multi-faith independent advisory panel (with security expertise).

We provide funding for the security of Jewish sites separately through the Jewish Community Protective Security (JCPS) Grant, which is delivered by the Community Security Trust. Funding to synagogues is allocated on a risk assessed basis, and is as follows:

2015-16 - approx. £800k

2016-17 - approx. £900K

2017-18 - approx. £1.3m

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-27/237671/>

News

Parents in revolt as councils issue schools with transgender toolkits

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/parents-in-revolt-as-councils-issue-schools-with-transgender-toolkits-j2tzk3kq0>

The law that promotes teaching tolerance also protects religious freedom

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/the-law-that-promotes-teaching-tolerance-also-protects-religious-freedom-xhxz38bqm>

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New Publication

Volunteers' Week Scot Resource Pack

<https://www.volunteersweek.scot/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Volunteers-Week-Scot-Resource-Pack-2019.pdf>

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Other News

MPs want to tackle forced marriage by raising the legal age you can wed – here's why it won't work

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/forced-marriage-wedding-legal-age-home-office-honour-violence-a8849376.html>

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Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Scotland) Bill

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/108681.aspx>

Vulnerable Witnesses (Criminal Evidence) (Scotland) Bill

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/108702.aspx>

UK Parliament

Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/asylumseekerspermissiontowork.html>

Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) (No. 2)

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/asylumseekerspermissiontoworkno2.html>

**** Banknote Diversity**

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/banknotediversity.html>

First Reading, House of Commons

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-04-02/debates/770E0A7A-F9C7-4836-8569-2BA2A105A9F8/BanknoteDiversity>

Border Control Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/bordercontrol.html>

Children Act 1989 (Amendment) (Female Genital Mutilation) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/childrenact1989amendmentfemalegenitalmutilation.html>

EEA Nationals (Indefinite Leave to Remain) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/eeanationalsindefiniteleavetoremain.html>

Gypsy and Traveller Communities (Housing, Planning and Education)

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/gypsyandtravellercommunitieshousingplanningandeducation.html>

Holocaust (Return of Cultural Objects) (Amendment) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/holocaustreturnofculturalobjectsamendment.html>

Human Trafficking (Child Protection) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/humantraffickingchildprotection.html>

Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/immigrationandsocialsecuritycoordinationeuwithdrawal.html>

Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/humantraffickingchildprotection.html>

Immigration (Time Limit on Detention) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/immigrationtimelimitondetention.html>

Modern Slavery (Transparency in Supply Chains) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/modernslaverytransparencyinsupplychains.html>

Modern Slavery (Victim Support) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/modernslaveryvictimsupport.html>

Online Forums Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/onlineforums.html>

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/refugeesfamilyreunionbill.html>

Refugees (Family Reunion) (No. 2) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/refugeesfamilyreunionno2.html>

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (Legal Advice and Appeals) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/unaccompaniedasylumseekingchildrenlegaladviceandappeals.html>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

The Law of Succession (closing date 10 May 2019)

<https://consult.gov.scot/justice/law-of-succession-2019/>

Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act (closing date 10 May 2019)

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/111249.aspx>

Experiences of Islamophobia (closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/amina-islamophobia>

Raising skills and standards of supporters of refugees and asylum seekers

(closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/3R8SDYN>

Police Scotland: Your view counts (open all year)

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/decision-making/public-consultation/local-policing-consultation>

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Job Opportunities

[Click here](#) to find out about job opportunities.

[Click here](#) to find out about Graduate, Modern, and Foundation Apprenticeship opportunities.

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Scottish Parliament Family Day

13 April 2019 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh (10.00-4.00)

Scottish Parliament free drop-in science activity days in partnership with the University of Edinburgh. For information see <https://www.visitparliament.scot/family-days/>

**** this week!**

Interfaith Youth Conference: What is Justice

13 April 2019 in St Andrews (11.00-4.00)

St Andrews Coexistence Initiative conference with Interfaith Scotland conference. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y4lmggyw>

Inclusion Cultivation

16 April 2019 in Kirkcaldy (9.30-4.00)

Fife Centre for Equalities workshop to help those aspire to be equality trainers to learn the techniques in designing and conducting a programme of activities, approaches you can adopt in your promotional strategy, and confidence to lead discussions on fairness and equality. For more information see <https://tinyurl.com/yb6anztx>

BAME Disabled People Peer Group

17 April 2019 in Glasgow (10.30-3.30)

Glasgow Disability Alliance peer group for people from minority ethnic communities who are disabled or living with a long term condition. For information see <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/D1xnCROW0AEavwf.jpg> or contact 0141 556 7103 / text: 07958 299 496 / info@gdaonline.co.uk

Working with Interpreters

24 April 2019 in Glasgow

8 October 2019 in Glasgow

28 November 2019 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to train service providers in the processes of using an interpreter, examine the pitfalls – and consequences – of this aspect of service provision, looking at confidentiality, professional boundaries, including appropriate behaviour and standards, and evaluation processes. Reduced fees available for relevant organisations. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/jt93fog> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Working with unaccompanied refugee children

1 May 2019 in Glasgow

26 September 2019 in Glasgow

6 November 2019 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to enable service providers to better understand separated children, and how you can help them in their journey. Reduced fees available. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y7mz5uuv> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Age assessment awareness

9 May 2019 in Glasgow

13 November 2019 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to give social workers and other relevant staff an awareness of the components that are used to build a picture of a person's age. It draws on a variety of existing Age Assessment practice guidelines and demonstrates how these apply in Scotland. Reduced fees available. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y8f2z7p4> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Meet the Charity Regulator

14 May 2019 in Srathpeffer (9.30-12.15)

29 May 2019 in Aberdeen (1.15-4.00)

25 June 2019 in Troon (1.15-4.00)

28 August 2019 in Dunfermline (1.15-4.00)

25 September 2019 in Glasgow (1.15-4.00)

1 October 2019 in Fort William (9.30-12.15)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator events to give charity trustees and staff the opportunity to hear about latest developments, meet OSCR staff and board and ask questions. For information see <https://www.oscr.org.uk/news/meet-the-scottish-charity-regulator-2019/>

Working with refugees and the asylum process

15 May 2019 in Glasgow

18 September 2019 in Glasgow

31 October 2019 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to examine why people might need to flee their own country, how they seek asylum in the UK, and what opportunities exist for rebuilding their lives here in Scotland. Reduced fees available for relevant organisations. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/z68a5k8> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Refugee community sponsorship

21 May 2019 in Glasgow

11 December 2019 in Glasgow

For information see http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/what_we_do/training or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Working with refugees and VPRS resettlement

23 May 2019 in Glasgow

2 October 2019 in Glasgow

21 November 2019 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to examine the issues facing Syrian refugees as they move from countries around Syria to the UK, and highlight the challenges and opportunities they face as they build new lives in Scotland. Reduced fees available. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/zy436gr> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

**** Volunteers' Week Scotland 2019**

1-7 June 2019 (Scotland-wide)

Volunteers' Week is a time to say thank you for the fantastic contribution volunteers make, and recognise their invaluable and diverse contribution to the UK. For information see <https://www.volunteersweek.scot/>

**** Refugee Festival Scotland**

20-30 June 2019 (Scotland-wide)

Refugee Festival Scotland celebrates the contribution refugees make to life in Scotland, and offers people from different backgrounds the chance to meet and celebrate together. For information see <https://www.refugeefestivalscotland.co.uk/about/>

Refugee rights to housing

7 November 2019 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course identifying the different groups of asylum seekers and refugees most likely to seek housing in Scotland, their legal rights, and the duties and obligations on local authorities and other housing organisations towards them. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y9pvpl5r> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Engaging with seldom heard voices

5 December 2019 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course looking at the various approaches, tools and techniques we can adopt to reach out to people who are seldom heard. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y8tg2x4k> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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Useful Links

Scottish Parliament <http://www.parliament.scot/>

Scottish Government <https://www.gov.scot/>

UK Parliament <http://www.parliament.uk/>

GovUK (links to UK Government Departments) <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations>

European Parliament <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/portal/en>

One Scotland <http://onescotland.org/>

Scottish Refugee Council <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk>

Interfaith Scotland <https://interfaithscotland.org/>

Equality and Human Rights Commission <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en>

Equality Advisory Support Service <http://www.equalityadvisoryservice.com/>

Scottish Human Rights Commission <http://www.scottishhumanrights.com/>

ACAS <http://www.acas.org.uk/>

SCVO <https://scvo.org.uk/>

Volunteer Scotland <https://www.volunteerscotland.net/>

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) <https://www.oscr.org.uk/>

Scottish Fundraising Standards Panel <https://www.goodfundraising.scot/>

Disclosure Scotland <https://www.mygov.scot/working-jobs/finding-a-job/disclosure/>

Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services
<https://www.volunteerscotland.net/for-organisations/disclosure-services/>

BBC News <https://www.bbc.com/news>

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The **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC)** is the representative body of all the Jewish communities in Scotland. It advances public understanding about the Jewish religion, culture and community, and also works in partnership with other organisations to promote good relations and understanding among community groups and to promote equality. (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC029438) <https://www.scojec.org/>



BEMIS is the Scottish national Ethnic Minorities led umbrella body, supporting, empowering, and building the capacity of minority third sector community organisations. As a strategic partner with Government, it is proactive in influencing the development of race equality policy in Scotland, and helps develop and progress multicultural Scotland, active citizenship, democracy, and Human Rights Education at the Scottish, UK, and European levels. (Scottish Charity, no. SC027692) <http://www.bemis.org.uk/>



The **Scottish Government** is committed to promoting equality of opportunity and social justice for all those who live in Scotland. **One Scotland** is the Scottish Government campaign designed to tackle racism. It aims to raise awareness of racist attitudes, highlight its negative impact and recognise the valuable contributions that other cultures have made to our society – and make Scotland no place for racism. <http://www.gov.scot/>

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