



MEMO is produced by the [Scottish Council of Jewish Communities \(SCoJeC\)](#) in partnership with [BEMIS – empowering Scotland's ethnic and cultural minority communities](#). It provides an overview of information of interest to minority ethnic communities in Scotland, including parliamentary activity at Holyrood and Westminster, new publications, consultations, forthcoming conferences, and news reports.

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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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Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-16970 Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat): LGBT Syrian Legal Campaign – That the Parliament understands that 15 LGBT Syrian refugees launched a legal campaign on 15 April 2019 against the Home Office on the basis that they are still waiting to be taken to safety two years after applying for the scheme; believes that many are now living in hiding in Turkey as a result of the delay; notes that the LGBT refugees have reported homophobic discrimination and attacks in Turkey, including being pelted by rocks; recognises that resettlement schemes are seen as the pinnacle of sanctuary options with people being accepted in small numbers to the UK; commends Scotland's history of welcoming refugees and asylum seekers from across the globe; acknowledges that, across Scotland, over 2,500 refugees have been welcomed through the Syrian and vulnerable children's resettlement scheme, and hopes that the Home Office will take action

to ensure the safety of individuals by finding suitable placements.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-16970>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: Aberdeen

Kirsty Blackman (SNP) [242856] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people with AB postcodes have been seen at UKVCAS centres broken down by (a) month and (b) UKVCAS centre.

Kirsty Blackman (Aberdeen) [242857] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many appointment slots are available each week at the UK Visa and Citizenship Application Services Centre in Aberdeen; and how many of those appointment slots are filled each week.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Data on the number of people seen at UK VCAS Centres from postcodes beginning AB are not published. This information could only be provided by interrogation of individual case records, which could only be achieved at disproportionate costs.

The UK Visa and Citizenship Application Service centre in Aberdeen, which provides enhanced services to customers, has 21 slots available per week. On average 87% of those slots have been filled from 3 December to 5 April. In response to an increase in demand for appointments at this service centre, UK Visas & Immigration's delivery partner, Sopra Steria Ltd have increased their appointment slots by >50% from 9 April.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-09/242856/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-09/242857/>

Visas: Iran

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [245911] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for visit visas his Department received from Iranian nationals in each of the last four years; and how many of those applications were refused.

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/2019-04-18/245911/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Visas: Palestinians

Emily Thornberry (Labour) [242755] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Tier 5 visas have been issued for Medical Training Initiative

applicants from the Occupied Palestinian Territories in each month since January 2018.
Emily Thornberry (Labour) [242756] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Tier 5 visas have been refused for Medical Training Initiative applicants from the Occupied Palestinian Territories in each month since January 2018.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Home Office does not hold the information requested. The information available related to total Tier 5 visa grants and refusals, published in the quarterly Immigration Statistics, Visas volume 1 table vi_01_q, latest edition at

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

Information on whether an individual is a Medical Training Initiative applicant is not required as part of entry clearance visa applications and not included in centrally collated statistical databases used to produce published statistics.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-09/242755/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-09/242756/>

Immigration: Windrush Generation

Afzal Khan (Labour) [245990] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Answers of 4 April 2019 to Questions 239289 and 239288 on Immigration: Windrush Generation, and with reference to page 8 of the December update submitted to the Home Affairs Select Committee on the work of the Department in connection with Windrush, if he will publish figures on the outcome of the over 1000 cases that are outstanding.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Pursuant to the Answers of 4 April 2019 to Questions 239289 and 239288, the Home Secretary will continue to provide the Home Affairs Select Committee with monthly updates on the work of the department in connection with Windrush.

The updates include information on all decisions made by the Taskforce, confirmation of status, grants of citizenship and NTL or ILR and refusals (page 8) and can be found at the following link, which includes 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/2019-04-18/245990/>

The answers referred to above can be read at

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

and

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

Immigration: EU Nationals

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [245763] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 28 March 2019 to Question 236486, how many and what proportion of applicants had received a refund as of 15 April 2019.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We have processed all relevant refunds through Home Office systems. We cannot advise on how many refunds have been received by customers, as this depends on the individual's bank/card issuer and whether the

payment has credited yet, and some will take longer than others. We have bespoke support arrangements in place for any customers who believe there is an issue with their refund. Further information on refunds can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/eu-settlement-scheme-application-fee-refunds>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-18/245763/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-25/236486/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Tom Brake (Liberal Democrat) [242659] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate his Department has made of the number of non-UK EU citizens in the UK eligible to apply for settled status; and how many applications for settled status have been submitted in each age group.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: An estimated 3.4m EEA nationals currently resident in the UK are eligible for the EU Settlement Scheme (based on Home Office internal analysis of ONS Annual Population Survey (APS) data for year October 2017 to September 2018).

The Impact Assessment for the EU Settlement Scheme was published in July 2018 (http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukia/2018/116/pdfs/ukia_20180116_en.pdf)

and an updated version was published in March 2019

(http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukia/2019/74/pdfs/ukia_20190074_en.pdf).

The Home Office has estimated that the total number of EEA citizens and their family members eligible to apply for the EU Settlement Scheme by the end of the planned implementation period on 31 December 2020 is likely to be between 3.5 million and 4.1 million. This estimate is based on a number of assumptions as to how the size of the eligible EEA population will change over the period. The range should be considered indicative as future migration flows can be affected by many factors and are difficult to predict.

Two reports on the private testing phases have already been published

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-private-beta-1> and

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-private-beta-2/eu-settlement-scheme-private-beta-testing-phase-2-report>)

Interim statistics on the public beta phases were also referenced in the Written Statement HCWS1387WS1387 of 7 March

(<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2019-03-07/HCWS1387/>)

We will publish further data on the operation of the EU Settlement Scheme in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-09/242659/>

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

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Tom Brake (Liberal Democrat) [245547] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent estimate he has made of the number of EU citizens in the UK who are eligible to apply for Settled Status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

Tom Brake (Liberal Democrat) [245548] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, what estimate he has made of the number of EU citizens in the UK who have applied for Settled Status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Over 400,000 EU Citizens have applied to the Scheme so far.

An estimated 3.4m EEA nationals currently resident in the UK are eligible for the EU Settlement Scheme (based on Home Office internal analysis of ONS Annual Population Survey (APS) data for year October 2017 to September 2018).

The Impact Assessment for the EU Settlement Scheme was published in July 2018 (http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukia/2018/116/pdfs/ukia_20180116_en.pdf)

and an updated version was published in March 2019

(http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukia/2019/74/pdfs/ukia_20190074_en.pdf).

The Home Office has estimated that the total number of EEA citizens and their family members eligible to apply for the EU Settlement Scheme by the end of the planned implementation period on 31 December 2020 is likely to be between 3.5 million and 4.1 million. This estimate is based on a number of assumptions as to how the size of the eligible EEA population will change over the period. The range should be considered indicative as future migration flows can be affected by many factors and are difficult to predict.

Two reports on the private testing phases have already been published

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-private-beta-1> and

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-private-beta-2/eu-settlement-scheme-private-beta-testing-phase-2-report>)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-18/245547/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-18/245548/>

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

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Keith Vaz (Labour) [244017] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications have been made to the EU Settled Status Scheme since its inception on 30 March 2019.

Keith Vaz (Labour) [244018] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many EU citizens have been granted settled status since the full opening of the Settled Status Scheme on 30 March 2019.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The latest figures that are available have been published in two separate reports on both private beta phases:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-private-beta-1>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-private-beta-2>

Interim statistics on the public beta phase was also referenced in the Written Statement HCWS1387WS1387 of 7 March:

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2019-03-07/HCWS1387/>

We will publish further data on the operation of the EU Settlement Scheme in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-11/244017/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-11/244018/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Jo Stevens (Labour) [243505] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many settled status applications have taken more than (a) 4 weeks and (b) 10 weeks for a decision in the latest period for which figures are available.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The latest figures that are available have been published in two separate re-ports on the both private beta phases and we have committed to provide further details in due course of the planned phased implementation of the scheme. We will continue to update Parliament as part of that process. Please see the private beta reports here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/752872/181031_PB1_Report_Final.pdf.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-private-beta-2/eu-settlement-scheme-private-beta-testing-phase-2-report>.

Currently the public beta report is being drafted, when this has been published the Home Office will prepare to publish regular statistical updates on the Settlement Scheme.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-10/243505/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Keith Vaz (Labour) [244019] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what representations he has received on the functioning of the EU Settled Status Scheme since 30 March 2019.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Since November 2017, we have held monthly meetings with representatives from user groups, EU27 consular officials, Local Authorities, community groups and employers to help on the design and development of the EU Settlement Scheme.

Feedback since the full launch of the scheme on 30 March 2019 has been very positive and we continue to work closely with these representatives and other partners to ensure that the scheme is accessible and that we are able to reach all prospective applicants.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-11/244019/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Patrick Grady (SNP) [244147] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much time the online EU Settlement Scheme platform has spent undergoing maintenance which prevents the completion of applications since that service was launched.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The EUSS fully launched on 30 March following almost 5 months of successful beta testing. The Scheme will remain open until 2021 so there is no rush to apply.

The Home Office is committed to continuously improving the application process based on applicant feedback. To this end, we have and will continue to make frequent upgrades to the service to ensure that the EU Settlement Scheme remains as user friendly and performant as possible.

We try to minimise the disruption to applicants by keeping maintenance windows as short as possible and by making changes during quiet periods, often during the night or early morning where there is little or no applicant activity. So far, applications to EUSS have been unavailable to applicants due to maintenance for

less than 2 hours in total since EUSS fully launched on 30 March.

Customers impacted by any disruption to their applications will be directed to the Settlement Resolution Centre to help resolve these issues

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-11/244147/>

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

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Patrick Grady (SNP) [242867] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the viability of an ID scanning location in Glasgow for applicants to the EU Settlement scheme.

Patrick Grady (SNP) [242868] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the cost of ID document scanning services is at facilities in (a) Cunmock, (b) Kilmarnock and (c) Edinburgh.

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.

There are multiple ways to have identity documents checked, including using the EU Exit: ID Document Check app or by posting identity documents to the Home Office. We have also opened 50 locations nationwide where applicants can have their passport scanned and verified.

The ID document scanning service is provided at the discretion of each local authority. The Home Office would encourage as many local authorities as possible to offer the service, and we continue to work with local government bodies across the UK to increase the provision of this service by local authorities.

The viability and cost of offering the ID document scanning service in each location is a matter for each local authority. Charges for using the service, payable directly to the local authority, can be set to cover the costs of providing the service.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-09/242867/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-09/242868/>

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

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Daniel Zeichner (Labour) [244133] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the availability of ID scanning centres for EU citizens applying for settled status who do not have Android mobile phones in (a) Cambridge, (b) the East of England and (c) across the country.

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.

There are multiple ways to have identity documents checked, including using the EU Exit: ID Document Check app or by posting identity documents to the Home Office. There are currently 50 locations nationwide where applicants can have their passport scanned and verified.

The ID document scanning service is provided at the discretion of each local authority. The Home Office would encourage as many local authorities as possible

to offer the service, and we continue to work with local government bodies across the UK to increase the provision of this service by local authorities, including in the East of England.

Details of the service and the locations where this service is available can be found on Gov.UK at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-id-document-scanner-locations>

The Home Secretary also announced that the EU Exit ID Document Check app will be available on iPhones by the end of the year.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-11/244133/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Luke Pollard (Labour Co-op) [246001] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he is taking to make the EU Settlement Scheme application available on operating systems other than Android.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: EU citizens make a huge contribution to our economy and society, and we want them to stay. The EU Settlement Scheme enables them to do so. The application process is short and user-friendly, and is accessible on any smartphone, tablet or computer with an internet browser, including Apple devices.

The 'EU Exit: Identity Document Check' app is an optional aspect of the service which allows applicants to prove their identity remotely

The Home Secretary confirmed at the start of April, that Apple will be making the necessary changes and the EU Exit: Identity Document Check' app will be working on their devices by the end of the year

Applicants can also post their document and have it returned immediately up-on inspection or visit one of 50 locations to have their document checked.

If a person wishes to use a family, friend or employer's Android device until the app is available on Apple then it is perfectly safe and secure for them to do so.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-18/246001/>

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

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Helen Hayes (Labour) [243533] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans his Department has to ensure that new immigration rules for EU nationals do not limit the recruitment of care workers.

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.

The White Paper is the start of a new conversation and we have launched a year-long engagement programme to take the views of a range of stake-holders across the UK, including the health and social care sector.

We are determined to ensure that the future immigration system is efficient and able to respond to users' needs.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-10/243533/>

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 ten questions all received the same answer

Immigration: EEA Nationals

Emma Lewell-Buck (Labour) [244111] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what safeguards are in place for looked after children or care leavers who are EEA nationals where parents retain parental rights but do not exercise their parental rights to apply for their children's leave under the EU Settlement Scheme.

Emma Lewell-Buck (Labour) [244112] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to his Department's document entitled EU Settlement Scheme: Looked After Children and Care Leavers. Local Authority and Health and Social Care Trusts Guidance, when applications are due under the scheme in the event of the UK leaving the EU without a deal; and what the status would be of children who are EEA citizens under care orders or care leavers in the event the UK leaves the EU without a deal.

Emma Lewell-Buck (Labour) [244113] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to prevent a situation in which EEA children in care who are only granted pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme and subsequently leave care and fall out of status.

Emma Lewell-Buck (Labour) [244114] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to monitor the number of looked-after children and care leavers unable to complete an application under the EU Settlement Scheme.

Emma Lewell-Buck (Labour) [244115] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reasons his Department's document entitled EU Settlement Scheme: Looked After Children and Care Leavers - Local Authority and Health and Social Care Trusts Guidance, does not include information about the Legal Aid Agency's ability to grant exceptional case funding; and what legal aid will be provided to the local authority and children under that scheme.

Emma Lewell-Buck (Labour) [244116] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much additional funding and support his Department has allocated to local authorities to implement the EU Settlement Scheme: Looked After Children and Care Leavers - Local Authority and Health and Social Care Trusts Guidance.

Emma Lewell-Buck (Labour) [244117] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment his Department has made of how much it will cost local authorities to implement his Department's document entitled EU Settlement Scheme: Looked After Children and Care Leavers. Local Authority and Health and Social Care Trusts Guidance.

Emma Lewell-Buck (Labour) [244119] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, who pays for ID that children might have to obtain to participate in the EU Settlement scheme for looked after children and care leavers.

British Nationality: Children

Emma Lewell-Buck (Labour) [244120] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the cost to local authorities of citizenship registration for children applying for British citizenship under the EU Settlement Scheme.

Immigration: Switzerland

Emma Lewell-Buck (Labour) [244121] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the status of children who are Swiss nationals and either in care orders or are care leavers.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office has put in place a comprehensive vulnerability strategy to ensure that the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) 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.

For England, Scotland and Wales local authorities (LAs) and for Northern Ireland Health and Social Care Trusts (HSCTs) will have responsibility in ensuring that applications are made on behalf of all looked after children for whom they have full parental responsibility and who are EEA citizens or family members and to assist with accessing services with status once granted.

If the child is cared for under shared care provisions, then it is LAs and HSCTs responsibility to ensure that the child, and their carers, are aware of the need to make an application to the EUSS, signposting and pointing them to practical support where needed.

LAs and HSCTs also have continuing duties to support care leavers and therefore have the responsibility to identify those eligible to apply to EUSS and to ensure that they make an application. Making an application to EUSS for those who are eligible and to keep an adequate record of applications and status granted should form part of the necessary pathway planning for care leavers ordinarily carried out by LAs and HSCTs in the discharge of their duties.

A child does not require consent from an adult in order to apply and can make their own application. However, children who have failed to make an application by the deadline as a result of a parent or guardian having failed to submit an application on their behalf would meet the criteria for being permissible to submit a late application.

It is not possible to apply for British citizenship under the EUSS. There is no requirement for any local authority to make an application for British citizenship on behalf of a looked after child: EEA and Swiss children, and the non-EEA children of EEA and Swiss citizens, can obtain the status they need to remain in the UK by making a free application to the EUSS. As there is no need for LAs or HSCTs to make applications for citizenship there is no reason why any of the costs of doing so should be incurred, unless the LA or HSCT voluntarily chooses to do so.

Obtaining identity documents should be a familiar process for LAs and HSCT due to these documents being required in other circumstances.

The Home Office has introduced a range of support including up to £9 mil-lion 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 eligible EEA children and family members in care.

The EUSS has been designed to be streamlined and user-friendly, and the majority of applicants will be able to apply without the need for general advice from a lawyer on rights to enter or remain required as a result of the Bill.

As the scheme is free to apply and simple to navigate, it is not anticipated that applicants will need legal aid but it will be available to some particularly vulnerable individuals. Legislation will also be introduced to bring immigration matters for separated migrant children into the scope of legal aid, meaning this group will get

support in securing their immigration rights. Legal aid may also be available through the Exceptional Case Funding scheme where a failure to provide legal aid would breach, or risk breaching, ECHR or enforceable EU law rights.

The Home Office has created and issued guidance about the EUSS to help LAs and HSCTs understand their responsibilities for supporting looked after children and care leavers and how to apply. The EUSS has been designed to be as simple as possible, but we have committed to working with applicants, and those supporting them, to ensure they obtain the status they need where required. The guidance is clear that where necessary, because of case complexity, or if there is any doubt about how to proceed, that the LA or HSCT may consider obtaining independent legal advice, in line with their own organisation's processes and policies. Some of the voluntary and community organisations who receive support from the grant funding will also be able to provide legal advice.

Swiss citizens continue to enjoy the same rights and status as EEA citizens while the UK remains a member of the EU. Like EEA citizens, they can protect those rights and obtain a permanent UK immigration status by applying to the EUSS by 31 December 2020.

In the event that the UK leaves the EU without a deal eligible EEA and Swiss citizens, and their family members, resident in the UK by the date that the UK leaves the EU, will have until 31 December 2020 to make an application to the EUSS. However, the Government has confirmed that it will take a proportionate approach to those that miss the deadline and make provision for those with a good reason for missing it to apply later. A child whose parent or guardian fail to make an application on their behalf would meet this criteria.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-11/244111/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-11/244112/>

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-11/244113/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-11/244114/>

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-11/244115/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-11/244116/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-11/244117/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-11/244119/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-11/244120/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-11/244121/>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

Refugees: National Insurance

Marion Fellows (SNP) [244159] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of his Department's policy on the criteria for awarding people awaiting a decision on their refugee status a national insurance number.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Asylum Seekers are provided with a National Insurance number if they have permission to work. The rules allow those asylum seekers who have been waiting for 12 months through no fault of their own to take up employment in Shortage Occupation list roles.

Asylum Seekers who are granted leave to remain are provided with a National Insurance number by DWP as quickly as possible after their grant. We have worked with DWP to ensure National Insurance numbers are issued on the BRP to enable those with a right to work.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-11/244159/>

Asylum: Sudan

Stephen Doughty (Labour Co-op) [243457] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will revise his country policy and information notes on (a) Sudan and (b) Khartoum as a safe site for internal relocation following reports of violence by government forces against protestors.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We are monitoring the situation in Sudan. Should we consider that it has a material impact on our assessment of the situation, we will update the respective country policy and information notes. Where additional information is needed, decision makers can ask for bespoke research to be undertaken on a case by case basis or we would issue an interim summary of the situation.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-10/243457/>

Asylum: Children

Emma Lewell-Buck (Labour) [244118] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what the timeline is for tabling an amendment to the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 which would grant legal aid to unaccompanied and separated children.

Reply from Lucy frazer: We have committed to lay legislation to bring non-asylum immigration matters into the scope of legal aid for separated migrant children. Subject to parliamentary time allowing we will be laying this legislation in the coming months.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-11/244118/>

Deportation: Kenya and Tanzania

Roger Godsiff (Labour) [245600] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Bajuni asylum seekers have been deported to (a) Kenya and (b) Tanzania in each of the last three years.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The number of enforced returns from the UK, country of nationality, destination (Home/EU/other), and whether the return is asylum-related is published in table rt_04 (returns data tables, volume 3). The number of returns from the UK by country of destination, and whether the return is asylum-related is published in table rt_05 (returns data tables, volume 5)

The latest data are available in 'Immigration Statistics, year ending December 2018', available from the GOV.uk website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-december-2018>.

The term 'deportations' refers to a legally-defined subset of returns which are enforced either following a criminal conviction or when it is judged that a person's removal from the UK is conducive to the public good. Information on those deported is not separately available and therefore the published statistics refer to all enforced returns.

Asylum-related returns relate to cases where there has been an asylum claim at some stage prior to the return. This will include asylum seekers whose asylum claims have been refused and who have exhausted any rights of appeal, those returned under third-country provisions, as well as those granted asylum/protection, but removed for other reasons (such as criminality).

Data on the number of Bajuni (or other ethnic groups) asylum seekers is not separately identifiable from the published statistics and would involve a manual review of individual cases to identify.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-18/245600/>

Slavery: Victims

Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru) [245917] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many potential victims of modern slavery referred to the National Referral Mechanism in 2018 have (a) been granted residency in the UK as a consequence of their exploitation and (b) agreed to return to their country of origin.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Identified victims of modern slavery may be eligible for discretionary leave in line with the Discretionary Leave Policy for victims of modern slavery:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/739436/dl-for-victims-of-modern-slavery-v2.pdf

The specific information you have requested is not readily available and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost. This is because a manual search through individual records would be required to identify victims of modern slavery who were granted protection-based leave or another form of leave more favourable than discretionary leave as a consequence of their exploitation.

As identified victims include EEA nationals who may be exercising treaty rights it is not possible to provide a complete figure for the number of victims who have agreed to return to their country of origin.

The National Crime Agency publishes statistics on referrals into the National Referral Mechanism on a quarterly basis. Further analysis is contained within the 2018 UK Annual Report on Modern Slavery. These reports are available via the following links:

<https://nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/who-we-are/publications/282-national-referral-mechanism-statistics-end-of-year-summary-2018>

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/749346/2018_UK_Annual_Report_on_Modern_Slavery.pdf

Migration statistics including the number of people granted residency and those leaving the UK are available via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-december-2018/summary-of-latest-statistics>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-18/245917/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Immigration: Community Sponsorship

Lord Paddick for Baroness Sheehan (Liberal Democrat): To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the progress of the community sponsorship scheme in supporting resettled refugees in the United Kingdom. ...

Reply from Baroness Barran: The Government's view is that community sponsorship is a success, thanks to the commitment and compassion of community groups directly welcoming and supporting resettled refugees in their communities. Since the scheme began in July 2016, 219 refugees have been resettled by community sponsor groups across the UK, and the number of community groups taking part continues to increase.

Lord Paddick: My Lords, based on the Canadian experience, allowing community groups to take responsibility for refugees should be an economical, efficient and effective way of integrating refugees into society. Yet, as the Minister said, only 219 refugees have been resettled through this route, despite the Home Office providing £1 million in funding to provide training and support for these community groups. What has gone wrong?

Reply from Baroness Barran: I thought the noble Lord was asking a very fair question until the last moment. I do not think anything has gone wrong; we are seeing a significant acceleration in the number of groups at different stages of the process. Just over 50 groups have gone through the whole community sponsorship process. The work done by Reset and other civil society groups around the country has addressed some of the blocks that meant we got off to a slow start. The application process has been significantly simplified, the training is now available on the Reset website, and groups are starting to share their successes. There are now over 100 groups in the process of application, so we can be confident of seeing a strong increase next year.

Lord Dubs (Labour): My Lords, many people who welcome the idea of community sponsorship have said to me that the scheme in this country is too bureaucratic and that we just cannot get it organised. Is there any way in which the Government could look at this and cut through the red tape so that local people can get on with it and provide the sponsorship support they want to?

Reply from Baroness Barran: I thank the noble Lord for his question. At the risk of repeating myself, there really has been a visible acceleration in the number of groups applying. It was just a handful in the first 18 months or so of the programme, and it is now accelerating quite quickly. A good conversation is going on between community groups. If the noble Lord has specific examples, I am happy to share them with those responsible.

Baroness Berridge (Conservative): My Lords, it is good to hear that there is now an acceleration in the number of groups applying to be community sponsors, but—as I understand it—community sponsorship is currently available only to refugees who come through the various vulnerable people schemes. At the moment it is not being used as a model for those who apply for asylum in the UK and are successful in being granted refugee status. Can my noble friend outline whether there are any proposals to make sure that this model is used in future for those granted refugee status in the UK? If not, we run the risk of a two-tier system.

Reply from Baroness Barran: My noble friend makes a good point. There are currently no plans to expand this scheme to those granted refugee status through the in-country asylum process. Having spoken to a number of groups working in this area, the line of support offered by community groups is not tightly defined by the refugees' original status—whether they were resettled or in-country applicants—so a lot of in-country asylum seekers and refugees are receiving support from their local community groups.

The Lord Bishop of Durham: My Lords, I declare an interest as a trustee of Reset. Thanks to the work of Reset, the Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative and others, community sponsorship is now being taken up more rapidly, as the Minister said, and explored in communities across the world. This growth underlines the importance of measuring and learning from the outcomes on sponsored refugees and the sponsoring community. What data does the Government collect? Will they make it public so that community sponsorship can keep growing in number and quality?

Reply from Baroness Barran: I thank the right reverend Prelate for his question and commend him on his work in this area. The Home Office has commissioned an independent evaluation that is being carried out by the University of Birmingham, which will be published this summer. I can give some early insight from that research, which talks about the, “ability to count on emotional and practical support from a network of local people”, providing, “refugees with an excellent source of social capital that is critical to their integration”.

It is obviously crucial that we work in the most intelligent way with those refugees who have been selected for their vulnerability. If the House will indulge me, it would be poignant to listen to a quote from the young Syrian refugee Amineh Abou Kerech—forgive my pronunciation—who won the Betjeman prize for her poem “Lament for Syria”. In it she says: “Can anyone teach me how to make a homeland?”

Let us hope that all these schemes can do just that.

Baroness Janke (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, due to their poor English skills, many refugees find great barriers to finding jobs, getting housing and opening bank accounts, yet over the past 10 years, services providing English language teaching to speakers of other languages have been cut by 55%. What plans do the Government have properly to resource English language teaching and make it available to all those who need it?

Reply from Baroness Barran: I thank the noble Baroness for her question. The Government recently published the *Integrated Communities Action Plan*, which specifically cites working with government and civil society organisations in areas such as English as a second language, employment, mental health and other elements critical for integration.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-04-25/debates/8420B4F8-4BF0-4707-AC10-07E4D476D75F/ImmigrationCommunitySponsorship>

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

The poem referred to above can be read at

<https://www.betjemanpoetryprize.co.uk/2017-winner>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Immigration Controls

Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench) [HL15088] To ask Her Majesty's Government what restrictions are in place to prevent people who incite hatred against minority groups from travelling to the UK; and what plans they have, if any, to introduce new restrictions.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Secretary has the power to exclude from the UK individuals who engage in unacceptable behaviour, including those who express or encourage views which may foster hatred and lead to inter-community violence in the UK.

The Immigration Rules also provide for the refusal of entry clearance or leave to enter at the border if someone's character, conduct or associations mean it is

undesirable to grant them entry to the United Kingdom.

There are no plans to introduce further powers to prevent people who incite hatred against minority groups from travelling to the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-04-08/HL15088/>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Lord Lexdon (Conservative) [HL15105] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to reconsider the requirement that independent educational institutions which establish new sixth forms must wait two years before accepting students from countries outside the EU under the Home Office's Tier 4 visa arrangements.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: All education institutions which want to recruit international students must demonstrate both a strong record of immigration compliance, by gaining Tier 4 Sponsor status, and a high educational quality, by undergoing an assessment of their educational standards by an independent inspectorate.

This independent educational oversight ensures that only genuine high-quality institutions can sponsor students under the Tier 4 visa arrangements, protecting the UK's international reputation for excellent educational standards.

A private education provider must have been continuously teaching a course of study that meets Tier 4 requirements to UK or EEA students for two years prior to its inspection. This ensures that such providers receive a meaningful inspection of their teaching provision, and that only genuine private education providers can become Tier 4 sponsors.

The two-year requirement does not apply to other types of Tier 4 sponsor, because they are subject to different statutory inspection arrangements. In the case of independent schools, these include consideration of the institution's ability to safeguard children. These requirements ensure that international students continue to receive a high-quality education in the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-04-08/HL15105/>

Afghanistan: Immigration

Baroness Coussins (Crossbench) [HL15092] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many former Afghan interpreters to the UK Armed Forces in Afghanistan have been relocated to the UK under the Locally Employed Staff Ex-Gratia Scheme.

Reply from Earl Howe: As of 12 April 2019, 438 former Afghan Locally Employed Staff have been relocated to the UK. This figure includes former FCO and DFID staff and a small number who, although not interpreters, were deemed to have served outside the wire on the front line for 12 consecutive months and were made redundant, and were therefore eligible for relocation.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-04-08/HL15092/>

Afghanistan: Immigration

Baroness Coussins (Crossbench) [HL15093] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many family members of former Afghan interpreters to the UK Armed Forces in Afghanistan have been relocated to the UK under the Locally Employed Staff Ex-Gratia Scheme.

Reply from Earl Howe: As of 12 April 2019, 845 family members of former Locally Employed Staff (LES) have been relocated to the UK. This figure includes the family members of former FCO and DFID LES and the family members of a small number who, although not interpreters, were deemed to have served outside the wire on

the front line for 12 consecutive months and were made redundant and were therefore eligible for relocation.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-04-08/HL15093/>

Afghanistan: Immigration

Baroness Coussins (Crossbench) [HL15094] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many (1) Afghan interpreters, and (2) members of their immediate family are currently awaiting (a) a decision on their relocation to the UK under the Locally Employed Staff Ex-Gratia Scheme, and (b) implementation of the decision that they may relocate to the UK under that scheme.

Reply from Earl Howe: The Department is currently examining the cases of seven former Locally Employed Staff (LES) to establish their eligibility under the Ex-Gratia Scheme, all of which are expected to be resolved by the end of April.

If the former LES member is found to be eligible then the relocation process can begin immediately. As no decision has been reached, no family details have been obtained and I am therefore unable to give numbers of family members.

There are five former LES and twenty-eight family members waiting to relocate to the UK. Three are scheduled to be relocated within the next three months and two have requested that their relocation be temporarily suspended for personal reasons.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-04-08/HL15094/>

Afghanistan: Immigration

Baroness Coussins (Crossbench) [HL15095] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Afghan interpreters who have been relocated to the UK under the Locally Employed Staff Ex-Gratia Scheme are currently waiting for members of their family to be able to join them; for how long they have been waiting; and when they expect the family members to arrive in the UK.

Reply from Earl Howe: Under the original terms of the Ex-Gratia Scheme, Former Locally Employed Staff (LES) who were deemed eligible for relocation to the UK were required to bring their family members with them at the same time as they themselves were relocated. For a variety of reasons, not all of them did so. 138 former LES were relocated to the UK on their own, but it is not known how many of them may have left behind family members who were eligible for relocation related to the Ex-Gratia Scheme. To join them subsequently, those family members still in Afghanistan were required to meet applicable Home Office immigration rules independently of the Ex-Gratia Scheme.

The Home Office amended the immigration rules related to the Ex-Gratia Scheme earlier this year and those changes came into effect on 6 April 2019. As of 12 April 2019, the Department has received a single application, though it is estimated that the family members of 30 former LES will be eligible. Applications will be processed as quickly as possible. Ministry of Defence officials expect the majority of family members to arrive within six months of their application.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-04-08/HL15095/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Alison Thewlis (SNP) (2331) Amnesty International's Football Welcomes Campaign
– That this House notes that Amnesty International's Football Welcomes weekend of

action will take place on 27 and 28 April 2019; recognises that the purpose of the campaign is to highlight the contribution that refugees have made to football both in the UK and around the world, while also encouraging clubs, communities and people around the country to make refugees and asylum seekers feel welcome by participating in sport to build social inclusion; appreciates 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 160 football clubs from across the UK, including from the Scottish Premiership, Premier League, Women's Super League, non-league and grassroots teams 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; congratulates football clubs across the country on their involvement in the campaign; hopes that even more clubs will get involved in future years; and encourages all hon. Members to engage with and support the Football Welcomes campaign.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/52854/amnesty-internationals-football-welcomes-campaign>

Press Releases

Rural Scotland and EU citizens

<https://www.gov.scot/news/rural-scotland-and-eu-citizens/>

Extension of free tuition for EU students

<https://www.gov.scot/news/extension-of-free-tuition-for-eu-students/>

Scots living abroad face uncertainty over their return

<https://www.gov.scot/news/scots-living-abroad-face-uncertainty-over-their-return/>

Supporting Refugees in Scotland

<http://www.sfar.org.uk/supporting-refugees-in-scotland/>

Funding awarded to support vulnerable EU citizens apply for settled status

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/funding-awarded-to-support-vulnerable-eu-citizens-apply-for-settled-status>

Apply for a permanent residence document if you're from the EU, EEA or Switzerland

<https://www.gov.uk/permanent-residence-document-eu-eea>

Residence documents for foreign nationals in the UK

<https://www.gov.uk/residence-documents-foreign-nationals-uk>

DNA evidence in immigration applications: review information

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/dna-evidence-in-immigration-applications-review-information>

Young refugees should receive additional temporary support after the age of 18, recommends the Committee of Ministers

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/young-refugees-should-receive-additional-temporary-support-after-the-age-of-18-recommends-the-committee-of-ministers>

Asylum applicants considered to be unaccompanied minors Almost 20,000 unaccompanied minors among asylum seekers registered in the EU in 2018
http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STAT-19-2290_en.htm

EU Member States granted protection to more than 300 000 asylum seekers in 2018
<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/9747530/3-25042019-BP-EN.pdf/22635b8a-4b9c-4ba9-a5c8-934ca02de496>

New Publications

Scottish Government: EU citizens staying in Scotland: package of support: A toolkit to support EU citizens who wish to stay in Scotland

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

Supporting EU citizens to Stay in Scotland – a guide for EU citizens

<https://tinyurl.com/y6z5xsqu>

Supporting EU Citizens to Stay in Scotland – a guide for employers

<https://tinyurl.com/y3tvmkfp>

Stay in Scotland Factsheet

<https://tinyurl.com/y5wvux5a>

EU citizens in Scotland – leaflet

<https://tinyurl.com/yyjia7st>

EU citizens in Scotland – poster

<https://tinyurl.com/y544h9jn>

Additional materials, including short films: “EU citizens information about Staying in Scotland” and “EU citizens how to stay in Scotland”

<https://tinyurl.com/y4vmqr9q>

Letter from Baroness Williams of Trafford regarding questions raised during the debate following the Oral Statement on the Windrush compensation scheme

http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2019-0492/Bns_Williams_to_Lord_Paddick_on_Windrush_Compensation_Scheme.pdf

Report on an unannounced inspection of Colnbrook Immigration Removal Centre

<https://www.justiceinspectores.gov.uk/hmiprisons/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2019/04/Colnbrook-web-2018.pdf>

Human rights aspects of immigrant and refugee integration policies

<https://rm.coe.int/168093de2c>

News

Migrants lift population to new high

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-04-26/scotland/migrants-lift-population-to-new-high-76vvdzk3p>

Student visa cheat claims 'putting our lives on hold'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-48050176>

Bid to clear names over visa test cheat claims

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-47815104>

Home Office investigated over English test cheating claims

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/apr/27/home-office-investigated-over-english-test-cheating-claims>

Sajid Javid urged to act in immigration scandal 'bigger than Windrush'

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/apr/23/toeic-english-test-sajid-javid-urged-to-act-in-immigration-scandal-bigger-than-windrush>

English test scandal: 'Eight years pretty much destroyed'

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/apr/23/english-test-scandal-eight-years-pretty-much-destroyed>

EU students to get free university tuition in Scotland until 2024 while English pay up to £9,250 a year

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/04/19/eu-students-get-free-university-tuition-scotland-2024-english/>

Skilled workers policy 'will keep migration levels high'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-04-19/news/skilled-workers-policy-will-keep-migration-levels-high-fs7rw0235>

Theresa May warned her post-Brexit immigration strategy could close quarter of NHS services

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/04/22/theresa-may-warned-post-brexit-immigration-strategy-could-close/>

Shame on the Home Office for using the tax form to target migrants

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/apr/17/home-office-tax-form-migrants-justice>

Home Office 'too ready to find dishonesty' in immigration applications, court rules

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-court-appeal-highly-skilled-migrants-tax-amendments-a8872816.html>

How Home Office used terror-related law on highly skilled migrants

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/apr/16/how-home-office-used-terror-law-on-highly-skilled-migrants>

Court castigates Home Office over misuse of immigration law

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/apr/16/court-says-home-office-use-immigration-rule-legally-flawed>

Asylum requests plummet after Home Office insists all claimants must travel to Liverpool

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-seeker-claims-home-office-journey-miles-uk-charities-a8881481.html>

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>

Call to scrap visa fees for Commonwealth veterans of UK forces

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/apr/24/scrap-uk-visa-fees-commonwealth-veterans-mps-urge>

Upfront fees 'detering immigrants from seeking NHS care'

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/apr/18/upfront-fees-detering-immigrants-from-seeking-nhs-care>

Catholic churches at risk as foreign priests are denied visas

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-04-20/news/catholic-churches-at-risk-as-foreign-priests-are-denied-visas-q2k7wdzk5>

15 LGBT refugees say UK Home Office has 'abandoned' them to danger in Turkey

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/apr/15/15-syria-lgbt-refugees-say-uk-home-office-has-abandoned-them-to-danger-in-turkey>

Bureaucratic glitch: UK suspends visa enrolment for American citizens

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/apr/16/bureaucratic-glitch-uk-suspends-visa-enrollment-for-american-citizens>

Surge in child refugees in Calais as conditions reach 'breaking point'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/child-refugees-calais-france-border-immigration-home-office-a8876391.html>

Thousands of non-British women who have experienced domestic abuse in UK refused help

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/domestic-abuse-non-british-women-refused-help-no-recourse-to-public-funds-a8877041.html>

Tony Blair: migrants should be forced to integrate more to combat far right

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/apr/20/tony-blair-says-migrants-must-integrate-to-combat-far-right>

Talk of integration is a sideshow in a society where many feel unheard

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/apr/28/talk-of-intergation-is-a-sideshow-when-many-feel-unheard>

Integrate, migrants are told. But can they ever be good enough for the likes of Blair?

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/apr/24/migrants-tony-blair-british-racism-victims>

'I'm struggling': Windrush victims say little has changed one year on

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/apr/15/windrush-scandal-one-year-on-victims-little-has-changed>

Minister apologises to couple wrongly accused of sham marriage

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/apr/15/minister-apologises-to-couple-wrongly-accused-of-sham-marriage>

Let overseas students work for two years, urge cross-party MPs

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-04-26/news/let-overseas-students-work-for-two-years-urge-cross-party-mps-psbf6d58p>

London-born baby with British-resident parents denied UK status

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/baby-citizenship-uk-status-child-immigration-home-office-parents-america-a8878421.html>

UK-born baby of parents with right to remain given six-month tourist stamp

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/apr/20/uk-born-baby-of-parents-with-right-to-remain-given-six-month-tourist-stamp>

The teenagers who translate for their parents

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-47982494/the-teenagers-who-translate-for-their-parents>

TOP

Community Relations

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-16943 Bob Doris (SNP): Commending the Contribution of Andy Chung and Glasgow's Chinese People – That the Parliament commends the longstanding efforts of Chinese people in north Glasgow and across the city to celebrate the Chinese New Year in an inclusive, engaging, enthusiastic and fun way; believes that such efforts are important in strengthening the vibrant and significant cultural contribution that Chinese people make to Glasgow and Scotland; further believes that these events allow communities to celebrate their cultural heritage and pass this on to future generations; commends Andy Chung, who, since 2015 and in partnership with ng homes, has been instrumental in securing annual civic receptions in Glasgow City Chambers for the Chinese community and in organising New Year celebration events for the wider public in Glasgow's George Square; notes that Andy has made several valuable contributions to the Chinese community over the years, including by helping to establish the Chinese Cultural and Welfare Society Scotland and the Glasgow Chinese Recreation Centre; further notes his charitable work, including his efforts with the Lodging House Mission to provide meals for homeless people; thanks Andy for his efforts, and wishes him every success for many years to come.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-16943>

News

My faith makes me no less Scottish - Stephen Kerr MP

<https://www.scotsman.com/my-faith-makes-me-no-less-scottish-stephen-kerr-mp-1-4912543>

Christian sect claims Koran is satanic lie from a false religion

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-04-16/scotland/christian-sect-claims-koran-is-satanic-lie-from-a-false-religion-35x97kbd7>

TOP

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer

Maternal Mortality: Ethnic Groups

Anneliese Dodds (Labour Co-op) [245968] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to reduce maternal mortality among BAME women.

Anneliese Dodds (Labour Co-op) [245969] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, for what reason maternal mortality rates are higher among BAME women.

Reply from Jackie Doyle-Price: The higher rates of maternal mortality experienced by black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) women is a complex and serious issue. The Department has commissioned the Policy Research Unit in Maternal and Neonatal Health and Care at Oxford University to undertake a research project in 2019-20 to investigate the factors associated with excess perinatal and maternal mortality. The Department will use findings from research to inform future maternity policies. Current plans to reduce inequalities are set out in the NHS Long Term Plan, we aim to tackle maternal mortality inequality through the introduction of an enhanced continuity of carer model. By 2024, 75% of women from BAME communities and other vulnerable women will receive continuity of care from their midwife. This will also help reduce pre-term births, hospital admissions, and the need for intervention during labour.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-18/245968/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-18/245969/>

The Long Term Plan referred to above can be read at

<https://www.longtermplan.nhs.uk/>

Homelessness: Sikhs

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [242925] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the Answer of 8 April 2019 to Question 240066 on Homelessness: Sikhs, what steps her Department is taking to determine how many homeless people are Sikh.

Reply from Rishi Sunak: My Department has no current plans to collect information on the number of homeless people who are Sikh.

In April 2018 the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government introduced a new case-level data collection called H-CLIC (Homelessness Case Level Information Collection). This gives local authorities and Government more information regarding homelessness and those presenting as homeless, including demographic information.

The Government is committed to reducing homelessness and rough sleeping. No one should ever have to sleep rough. That is why last summer we published the cross-government Rough Sleeping Strategy. This sets out an ambitious £100 million package to help people who sleep rough now, but also puts in place the structures that will end rough sleeping once and for all. The Government has now committed over £1.2 billion to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping over the spending review period.

In its first year, our Rough Sleeping Initiative provided over 1,750 new bed spaces and 500 staff.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-09/242925/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-02/240066/>

The strategy referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/733421/Rough-Sleeping-Strategy_WEB.pdf

The following two questions both received the same answer

Travellers: Caravan Sites

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [244190] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 7 March 2019 to Question 226712, what steps his Department is taking to give due consideration to the Public Sector Equality Duty in terms of the effect on Gypsy and Traveller communities during the review into how to criminalise the act of trespassing when setting up an unauthorised encampment.

Laura Pidcock (Labour) [245985] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 7 March 2019 to Question 226712 on Travellers: Caravan Sites, what steps his Department is taking during that review to assess the effect of criminalising the act of trespassing when setting up an unauthorised encampment on compliance with legislation on the rights of the child.

Reply from Nick Hurd: Acting on the findings of the last year's Government consultation on powers for dealing with unauthorised development and encampments, where the majority of respondents believed that the Government should consider criminalising unauthorised encampments, the Home Office launched a review into whether this could be achieved.

All government departments have an ongoing responsibility to meet the Public Sector Equalities Duty (PSED) under the Equality Act 2010. As such, when formulating any policy changes following the consultation, ministers must have due regard to the three limbs of the PSED: (1) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act, (2) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not, and (3) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-11/244190/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-18/245985/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-27/226712/>

New Publication

Gypsy/Traveller Sites in Scotland

<https://tinyurl.com/yxt4n3k2>

News

Council elections: 'Not enough' women and minorities stand

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-47947867>

Portsmouth and Brighton among 'least representative councils for BAME people'

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/apr/26/portsmouth-and-brighton-among-least-representative-councils-for-bame-people>

Black chief constable hope for Wiltshire Police's 'vindicated' officer

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-wiltshire-47749994>

Scotland's first female Sikh DJ?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-scotland-48073617/scotland-s-first-female-sikh-dj>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Islamophobia (Definition)

Anas Sarwar (Labour): Today, we welcome to the Scottish Parliament Baroness Sayeeda Warsi and Wes Streeting MP, who are officers of the all-party parliamentary group on British Muslims. The group's landmark "Islamophobia Defined" report, which I as convener of the cross-party group on tackling Islamophobia and our secretary, Professor Peter Hopkins, who has done 10 years of extensive research on Islamophobia in Scotland, contributed to, sets out a definition of Islamophobia that hundreds of organisations, academics and communities across the country have adopted.

While the United Kingdom Government continues to dodge and dither on the issue, we have a chance to show leadership in Scotland. I hope that the definition will be adopted by organisations in Scotland, all the Scottish political parties and—crucially—the Scottish Government. Will the First Minister make that commitment today so that we can focus not on whether Islamophobia exists, what it means or how it manifests itself but on what we as policy makers can do to challenge and defeat it?

Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon): I agree with that. All organisations should sign up to the accepted definition of Islamophobia, as they should sign up to the accepted definition of antisemitism. I am happy to give the update on the Scottish Government's position that I certainly want the Scottish Government to do that.

I, too, welcome members of the all-party group to the Scottish Parliament, and I commend the work that Anas Sarwar and my colleague Humza Yousaf have done to tackle Islamophobia. However, it should not be down to Muslim members of the Parliament to lead the fight on their own; every one of us should be shoulder to shoulder with every Muslim across our country in tackling Islamophobia. As First Minister, I am more than prepared to lead from the front in that battle.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12056&i=109090#ScotParlOR>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/599c3d2febbd1a90cffdd8a9/t/5bfd1ea3352f531a6170ceee/1543315109493/Islamophobia+Defined.pdf>

Marches (Local Authority Powers)

John Mason (SNP): I think that the First Minister is aware of the issue of marches in my constituency and, in particular, the recent proposed one by the Apprentice Boys of Derry past a couple of Roman Catholic churches on Easter Sunday. Does she think that the current legal arrangements are satisfactory, or does Glasgow City Council need more powers to reduce or restrict such marches?

Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon): We are always happy to talk to councils about the range of powers that are at their disposal. We have faith in Police Scotland to ensure the safety of members of the public and people who participate in marches. Police Scotland works closely with councils to ensure that adequate safety measures are in place, and will take appropriate and proportionate action in the event that problems arise.

I was absolutely appalled—as, I am sure, was everybody in the chamber—by the incident that took place outside St Alphonsus church last year. This is an opportunity for all of us to reiterate that nobody should ever be a target for hatred simply because of their faith. The Scottish Government will always be very clear on that point.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12056&i=109086#ScotParlOR>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Prime Minister's Questions

John Mann (Labour): When last month a football referee in Nottinghamshire had to flee a game, lock himself in the car and call the police, the Football Association responded with a six-match ban and a £50 fine. If we bear in mind what is happening to Raheem Sterling and Danny Rose, who have called for a national forum, and the growth of racism at every level in football, is it not clear that without our help and Government help the football authorities are not capable of getting on top of the problem of racism in football? Will the Government take a lead, just as the Prime Minister did on Hillsborough, and help to convene, using their auspices, such a forum as Mr Sterling and others have requested this summer? Perhaps, Mr Speaker, you might offer this location as an appropriate venue for such a forum. [910501]

Reply from the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office (David Lidington) on behalf of the Prime Minister: Every Member of this House will condemn without reservation the behaviour to which the hon. Gentleman referred; it should be regarded as completely beyond the bounds of acceptability in our society. My hon. Friend the Sport Minister will want to sit down with the hon. Gentleman and any other colleagues in the House who make this issue a priority, to discuss what more might be done.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-04-24/debates/E28966A7-C207-4233-B8A6-621967520E3A/Engagements#contribution-9B45776E-6D79-4B9B-9E20-BB1AB956AC8C>

Topical Questions: Women and Equalities

Dawn Butler (Labour): On 22 April, we marked the very first National Stephen Lawrence Day. It has been 26 years since his tragic racist murder. Sadly, as the Prime Minister acknowledged, racism and racial discrimination are still very prevalent in our society. In 2018, the UN special rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance stated that any measure that directly or indirectly targets and undermines the rights of marginalised groups must be understood as breaking international human rights law. This Government have presided over an immigration enforcement system in which people are being unfairly racially profiled; refused to allow

people to bring forward discrimination claims based on more than one aspect of their identity; introduced voter ID, which will disenfranchise marginalised communities; failed to act on the results of their own racial disparity audit; and introduced hostile-environment policies. Will the Minister inform the House whether, as well as breaking the UN's human rights law, her Government are institutionally racist or just do not care?

Reply from Penny Mordaunt: The hon. Lady raises some very important issues. I am sorry about the tone of her question, because I do not recognise the attitude that she implies among my colleagues, including the Prime Minister, who has done some groundbreaking work in this area. What I would say to her and other hon. Members who rightly are concerned about these issues is that part of the motivation for moving the Government Equalities Office into the Cabinet Office, so that it can sit alongside the race disparity team, is to look at these things in the round. As well as the issues that she identified, individuals in this country face multiple discrimination. For example, an enormous number of people sleeping on the streets in London are young, gay, black men. Only by working together and looking at the disaggregated data will we really understand how we can improve lives for everyone in this country.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-04-25/debates/84E4D3C9-A2F3-4599-98D8-1BAF6F0594D6/TopicalQuestions#contribution-A058D4E1-42D0-4434-A941-A515B4F715F8>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Religious Hatred: Crimes of Violence

Jo Stevens (Labour) [244143] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of religiously motivated hate crimes that involved violence against a person resulted in (a) charge, (b) conviction or (c) a custodial sentence in 2018.

Reply from Nick Hurd: Official statistics on charges for racially or religiously aggravated violent offences are restricted to the offences of assault with injury, assault without injury and harassment. These are routinely published by the Home Office. The latest available information relates to the 12 months ending September 2018 and can be found in the Open Data tables available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-recorded-crime-open-data-tables>

Statistics for the whole of 2018 are due to be released on 25th April 2019.

The latest published figures are for the 2017 calendar year and statistics for the 2018 calendar year are due to be published on 16th May 2019.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-11/244143/>

Religious Hatred: Islam

Jo Stevens (Labour) [244144] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what assessment his Department has made of the reasons for the increase in Islamophobic hate crimes after the 2016 EU referendum.

Reply from Heather Wheeler: Police recorded hate crime across all strands, including those targeting Muslims, has increased despite a backdrop of a longer-term downward trend in the experience of hate crime overall according to the Crime Survey of England and Wales. We know that there have been trigger events for increases in hate crime, such as the EU Referendum and the terror attacks in 2017, though data shows that these have been temporary. A significant driver of this overall increase is general improvements in police recording, and through our work with the National Police Chiefs' Council and third party services such as Tell MAMA, police are better at identifying whether a crime is a hate crime and victims may be more willing to come forward.

The Government has a comprehensive plan to tackle hate crime in all its forms, as set out in the refreshed Hate Crime Action Plan published in October 2018, which sets out a programme of work across Government and by the police. We are clear that Britain leaving the EU cannot be a reason to target groups or individuals because of their faith or background. We will not tolerate efforts to create division in our communities, against EU citizens or people of any other race, faith or background.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-11/244144/>

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

Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group

Rupa Huq (Labour) [242904] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what the annual budget is for the Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group; and whether members of that group receive remuneration.

Reply from Rishi Sunak: The Working Group has not had an operational budget since its inception however going forward it will be supported to undertake some of its activities in working with communities. Members do not receive remuneration and undertake their roles on a voluntary basis.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-09/242904/>

Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group

Rupa Huq (Labour) [242905] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, how many women have applied to become members of Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group (a) since it was first set up and (b) in the last 12 months.

Reply from Rishi Sunak: The AMHWG was set up in 2012. In 2018 we launched the first open recruitment process to appoint members. During this process 24 women applied to be independent members. The Working Group is led by Ms Akeela Ahmed OBE, founder of a civil society platform dedicated to amplifying women's voices, and we have appointed Ms Asma Ali, Data Protection Officer and Solicitor for the Police Service of Scotland. Ms Iman Abou Atta is an ex-officio member, as Director of Tell MAMA.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-09/242905/>

Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group

Rupa Huq (Labour) [242906] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, whether an independent body is involved in the process of appointing new members of the Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group.

Reply from Rishi Sunak: The process of appointing new members was managed by the Ministry of Housing, Communities, and Local Government.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-09/242906/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Religious Buildings: Islam

Thelma Walker (Labour) [243562] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of allocating funding to mosques for security on a risk-assessed basis.

Religious Buildings: Security

Thelma Walker (Labour) [243563] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the level of threat to places of worship by far-right politically motivated violence in the UK; and what plans he has to support those places of worship.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The threat to places of worship from far-right violence is considered independently of government by the police and Joint Terrorism Assessment Centre (JTAC) and the police consider appropriate action to be taken in light of these assessments.

The Places of Worship Protective Security Funding Scheme is a key Home Office commitment in the Hate Crime Action Plan to respond to concerns about faith-based hate crime. The scheme is open to Christian, Muslim, Sikh and Hindu faiths and provides funding for physical security measures at places which are vulnerable to hate crime.

Decisions on funding are based on eligibility criteria set out in the Home Office guidance to applicants and the recommendations of the multi-faith independent advisory panel (with security expertise), this process therefore includes an assessment of vulnerability to hate crime. Last month, we announced an uplift of funding for the 2019/20 Places of Worship scheme to £1.6 million. This is double the amount awarded in 2018/19.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-10/243562/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-10/243563/>

Information about the Places of Worship Security Funding Scheme can be read at

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

The Hate Crime Action Plan referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/543679/Action_Against_Hate_-_UK_Government_s_Plan_to_Tackle_Hate_Crime_2016.pdf

The announcement referred to above can be read at

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

The following two questions both received the same answer

Religious Buildings: Security

Thelma Walker (Labour) [243564] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent representations he has received from community faith groups on the security of places of worship.

Thelma Walker (Labour) [243565] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 2 April 2019 to Question 236388 on Religious Buildings: Security, what plans are in place to enable his Department to consult communities on the security of places of worship.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Places of Worship Protective Security Fund (POW) is a key commitment in the Hate Crime Action Plan published in 2016. The scheme has been running for three years, and we ensure we continuously listen to feedback from faith communities on the scheme, including the independent panel to the scheme made up of representatives across faith groups. This feedback has resulted in improvements being made for each year of the scheme.

In March the Home Secretary announced an increase in the amount of funding for the POW scheme to £1.6m, for 2019-20. We are working urgently to make commercial improvements to the scheme to make it easier for places of worship to

apply, reducing the administrative burden and widening the eligibility criteria. More widely, following the events in Christchurch, the Home Secretary committed to consulting with faith communities to understand what more could and should be done to help protect faith communities at their places of worship. We will be working with groups such as the Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group, Tell Mama and those representing other faiths as part of this consultation. This engagement with communities is starting immediately with opportunities for wider consultation, including from people feeding in on individual basis, following thereafter. We will be outlining how to engage on Gov.UK shortly

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-10/243564/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-10/243565/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

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

Information about the Places of Worship Security Funding Scheme can be read at

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

The Hate Crime Action Plan referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/543679/Action_Against_Hate_-_UK_Government_s_Plan_to_Tackle_Hate_Crime_2016.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

Matthew Pennycook (Labour) [245914] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the oral contribution of the Minister for Security and Economic Crime on 18 March 2019, Official Report, column 793, whether he has reviewed the funding for protected security measures for mosques.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: On 19 March 2019, 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 (including for Mosques). This is double the amount awarded in 2018/19. £5 million over three years has also been committed to providing security training to places of worship in England and Wales. This will enable staff and volunteers to develop the security understanding necessary to make physical security measures work effectively.

In addition to this, the Home Office announced on 19 April 2019 that it is supporting Faith Associates to provide security training and advice to Muslim places of worship in advance of Ramadan. This short-term, two-month project sits alongside the wider £5m fund for security training.

More widely, the Home Secretary has committed to consulting with faith communities to understand what more could and should be done to help protect faith communities at their places of worship. We are working with groups such as the Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group, Tell Mama and those representing other faiths as part of this consultation.

This increase in funding marks a significant change in our funding for protective security for Mosques and other places of worship. 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/2019-04-18/245914/>

The oral contribution referred to above can be read at <https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-03-18/debates/B29813B9-4628-4720-A661-BBB855102C55/Far-RightViolenceAndOnlineExtremism>

Information about the Places of Worship Security Funding Scheme 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>

UK Parliament, Home Affairs Committee

Evidence Session: Inquiry into Hate crime and its violent consequences

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/home-affairs-committee/hate-crime-and-its-violent-consequences/oral/100660.html>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Catherine West (Labour) (2303) Tackling Islamophobia and Religious Hate Crimes –

That this House remains deeply concerned by the rise of Islamophobia and other hate crimes within communities; stands in solidarity with the victims of such crimes and with the wider Muslim community in both the London Borough of Haringey and across the UK; supports the Metropolitan Police in their actions to tackle such crimes; recognises the important contribution the Muslim community makes to society in the UK; reaffirms the need to protect religious groups from such acts of hatred; and calls on the Government to condemn acts of Islamophobia and to bring forward tighter regulation to tackle this and other forms of religious and racial discrimination.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/52829/tackling-islamophobia-and-religious-hate-crimes>

Press Release

National Mosques Security Panel

<https://tellmamauk.org/national-mosques-security-panel/>

News

Scottish Government urged to adopt Islamophobia definition to help tackle 'bigotry blind spot'

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17598101.scottish-government-urged-to-define-islamophobia-to-help-tackle-bigotry-blind-spot/>

Islamophobia: Tory chairman won't reveal complaint numbers

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-48083415>

Labour hopes for delay over antisemitism

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-04-22/news/labour-hopes-for-delay-over-antisemitism-mhfx7b0jn>

Anti-Semitism row: Jeremy Corbyn concerned evidence 'ignored'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-47924025>

Equalities watchdog has the evidence to act on 'anti-semitic' Labour

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/equalities-watchdog-has-the-evidence-to-act-on-anti-semitic-labour-6cqn3pmxz>

Antisemitism is threat to Labour at the ballot box, says inquiry head

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-04-15/news/antisemitism-is-threat-to-labour-at-the-ballot-box-says-inquiry-head-7kcvbd8hn>

I resigned as a Labour councillor after accusations of antisemitism. This is what I learned by facing my prejudices

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/labour-antisemitism-councillor-resigns-twitter-islamophobia-aysegul-gurbuz-a8876316.html>

Labour candidate 'spread antisemitic hatred online'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/04/19/labour-candidate-spread-antisemitic-hatred-online/>

Labour MEP candidate 'regrets' saying antisemitism was 'manufactured'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/labour-antisemitism-mep-european-elections-corbyn-martin-mayer-a8879911.html>

Labour activist who claimed Israeli lobby 'manufactured' anti-Semitism crisis selected as MEP candidate

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/04/20/labour-activist-claimed-israeli-lobby-manufactured-anti-semitism/>

Man jailed for sending threatening and racially aggravated emails to seven MPs

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/thames-and-chiltern/news/man-jailed-sending-threatening-and-racially-aggravated-emails-seven>

Brexit supporter jailed for sending MPs death threats and racist abuse

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/brexit-jailed-mps-abuse-death-threats-lammy-traitors-a8877016.html>

Ukipper who taught dog to make Nazi salute is election candidate

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-04-18/news/ukipper-who-taught-dog-to-make-nazi-salute-is-election-candidate-k6zp7zlm>

Ukip leader endorses Change UK candidate accused of Islamophobia

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/change-uk-islamophobia-nora-mulready-gerard-batten-eu-elections-a8887251.html>

Leave.EU accused of faking videos and images of 'migrant' crimes

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/brexit-leave-eu-faking-forging-videos-images-illegal-migrants-violent-crime-aaron-banks-a8873461.html>

National Action: Factions of neo-Nazi terrorist group active more than two years after government ban

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/national-action-neo-nazi-terrorist-far-right-uk-ban-a8878466.html>

Man who revealed neo-Nazi plot to murder MP 'at risk of being killed'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/national-action-neo-nazi-plot-robbie-mullen-jack-renshaw-rosie-cooper-a8879801.html>

Teenage neo-Nazi admits terror offences

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-48027056>

Facebook bans UK far right groups and leaders

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-47974579>

Facebook Bans EDL, Britain First And BNP From Social Network

<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/gadgets-and-tech/news/facebook-ban-edl-britain-first-bnp-far-right-racist-immigration-islamophobic-a8876036.html>

Facebook bans right wing groups including BNP and EDL

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-04-18/news/facebook-bans-rightwing-extremists-8g6kqg3x5>

How Facebook became one of the far-right's biggest recruitment tools

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/facebook-ban-edl-britain-first-tommy-robinson-farright-recruitment-a8876866.html>

Stephen Lawrence Day: Doreen Lawrence calls for schools to tackle racism

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-48011198>

We must teach tolerance, says Stephen Lawrence's mother

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/apr/22/we-must-teach-tolerance-says-stephen-lawrences-mother>

Why Scots children should learn about Stephen Lawrence's murder

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/why-scots-children-should-learn-about-stephen-lawrence-s-murder-martyn-mclaughlin-1-4913833>

Preston mosque: Police appeal over hate crime graffiti - 'I am absolutely disgusted'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/preston-mosque-graffiti-preston-police-racism-lancashire-a8878721.html>

PC who said Adolf Hitler had 'never done him any harm' because they never met is dismissed from force

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/04/19/pc-said-adolf-hitler-had-never-done-harm-never-met-dismissed/>

Churches and mosques offered share of £1.6m security fund

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/apr/19/churches-and-mosques-offered-share-of-16m-security-fund>

Ethnic minority champion insults Jewish Bristol University student

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-04-22/news/ethnic-minority-champion-insults-jewish-bristol-university-student-s0w6bd5mv>

Neo-Nazi linked to group who said Prince Harry was a race traitor for marrying Meghan pleads guilty

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/04/23/neo-nazi-linked-group-said-prince-harry-race-traitor-marrying/>

Vanguard Bears join protest against 'Protestant discrimination' by Glasgow City Council

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17583393.vanguard-bears-join-protest-against-protestant-discrimination-by-glasgow-city-council/>

PFA social media boycott: Premier League stars to stay off platforms for 24 hours in protest at racist abuse

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/news-and-comment/pfa-social-media-ban-twitter-facebook-instagram-racism-in-football-a8877426.html>

Racist abuse directed at players supporting #Enough campaign

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/news-and-comment/enough-campaign-social-media-footballers-racist-abuse-pfa-a8879341.html>

Raheem Sterling: 'I didn't expect what I said about racism to get so much attention'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/sport/2019/04/25/dame-tessa-jowell-hailed-enduring-impact-british-sport-award/>

Footballers supporting Enough campaign subjected to racist abuse

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2019/apr/20/pfa-footballers-enough-campaign-subjected-to-racist-abuse>

Wayne Hennessey 'desperate' to learn about Nazis - Crystal Palace boss Roy Hodgson

<https://www.bbc.com/sport/football/47996638>

Aberdeen manager Derek McInnes sent off for reacting to sectarian abuse

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/sport/17573226.aberdeen-manager-derek-mcinnnes-sent-off-for-reacting-to-sectarian-abuse/>

Celtic set to escape SFA rap over sectarian chanting at semi-final after holding Green Brigade talks

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/sport/17578245.celtic-set-to-escape-sfa-rap-over-sectarian-chanting-at-semi-final-after-holding-green-brigade-talks/>

Amateur football match in Aberdeen abandoned over 'racial slur'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-4802221>

'We're judged for being black'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-47978904/we-re-judged-for-being-black>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Releases

Scotland's Future

<https://www.gov.scot/news/scotlands-future-1/>

Easter message from the First Minister

<https://firstminister.gov.scot/easter-message-from-the-first-minister/>

Scottish Parliament Apprenticeship Programme 2019

The Scottish Parliament is launching its 2019 Apprenticeship programme on 31 May. The Apprenticeship programme has been a great success in increasing the diversity of the Scottish Parliament workforce, and they want to continue with bringing in people who would not necessarily see the Parliament as a place for them to work. We recognise some groups are under-represented within the Parliament including Black and Minority Ethnic groups, disabled people, and people from lower socio-economic backgrounds. To this end the Scottish Parliament has made a commitment to promote their apprenticeship opportunities to young people from diverse backgrounds. For full details and to apply see <https://www.parliament.scot/abouttheparliament/apprenticeships.aspx>

Volunteering for all

<https://www.gov.scot/news/volunteering-for-all/>

New Publication

Volunteering for All: national framework

<https://tinyurl.com/y2h85xb6>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Electoral Registration: EU Citizens

Catherine West (Labour): To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will please make a statement on the electoral registration process for EU citizens for the 2019 European elections.

Reply from the Minister without Portfolio (Brandon Lewis): ... It is important that we ensure that everyone is aware of what they can do to ensure they are able to exercise their right to vote, should that opportunity arise. We have been clear on our intention as a Government that we want to leave the EU as soon as possible and not have to hold these elections.

Electoral registration officers have a statutory duty to ensure that people who are eligible to vote in relevant elections have the opportunity to do so. With regard to the potential European parliamentary elections, that includes ensuring that EU citizens from other member states who are resident in the UK and registered to vote are aware that they need to complete a declaration, commonly referred to as a UC1 or EC6 form, in order to do so. I will place a copy of that form in the Library of the House today. To vote in the UK, citizens of other EU member states need to be registered to vote, and to complete the declaration form stating their wish to vote in the UK, by Tuesday 7 May 2019. This form is accessible on the Electoral Commission website and on local authority websites. This is to ensure that EU citizens do not vote twice—here and in their member state of origin—because it is obviously illegal to vote twice in the same election.

The Electoral Commission has issued advice on what action to take on this, and it was circulated to all local authority electoral officers on 4 April. The Electoral

Commission's guidance advises that, while the law does not require electoral registration officers to send the form out to all EU citizens, it has in previous years advised that EROs should identify those local government electors who are EU citizens and send them a UC1 form, to help to ensure that they understand their options and are able to exercise their right to vote, should they wish to do so. It further advises that, if the date of the poll is confirmed, electoral registration officers be encouraged to take other steps to raise awareness, such as through social media channels and elsewhere. The Electoral Commission said that it was also looking to support EROs in this and to work with partners to spread the message more widely. The commission's advice is that EROs

"should think about how you can make EU citizens clear of the options available to them: the information on the UC1 form should help you to do this".

While the Government support the work to encourage electoral registration, the legal process of registration is obviously the responsibility of electoral registration officers rather than the Government. Prior to the extension of article 50, we had already encouraged EU citizens to vote in their home countries in the 2019 European parliamentary elections. We expect that most EU citizens in the UK will have followed previous advice to ensure that they can vote in their member state of citizenship.

Catherine West: I am concerned that EU citizens living in the UK have to undergo a two-stage process to vote in the European elections. Even if they are already registered to vote in the local elections next Thursday, they are separately required, unlike UK nationals, to complete an additional form to vote in the European elections three weeks later. That added layer of administration is rightly designed to prevent EU citizens from voting twice. However, the Cabinet Office has also inferred that preferential status must not be conferred to EU citizens in the process. That scenario only really applies when the EU registers are open, but there is no uniformity among EU member states. Indeed, the majority of EU registers have now closed.

Under normal circumstances, had the Brexit shambles not taken over, councils would have written to EU citizens in January, when all EU registers were open, to confirm the UK register in good time. They would have sent out reminders and issued polling cards to electors who are already on the register for the local elections, but we are not in normal circumstances. Our participation in the European elections was confirmed by the Prime Minister very late in the day, and the additional EC6 process is largely superfluous given that the majority of EU registers have already closed.

Far from giving preference to EU citizens, these unusual circumstances and the Government's lack of action have helped to create an artificial barrier to the enfranchisement of EU citizens. Indeed, we are already hearing reports of a formal legal challenge to the Government. This is yet another Brexit mistake. In July 2018, the integrity of our democracy was questioned when Vote Leave was found guilty of breaking electoral law. Today, our democracy faces another threat: Government-sanctioned barriers that could prevent EU citizens from registering to vote.

There are now 13 days until the voter registration deadline. Given the shortness of time, and the late hour at which local authorities were informed of this major U-turn in Government policy on participation in the European elections, can the Minister answer one clear question? Will he confirm that local authorities will be permitted to register automatically EU citizens who are already registered to vote in next week's local elections, on 2 May, so that they can participate in the European elections a mere 21 days later?

Reply from Brandon Lewis: ... local elections are different, because residents can vote more than once, in different places where they pay council tax. ... Things are different in European elections, and it is right that we do what we can to ensure that people vote only once.

As for the process, if colleagues look at the UC1 form ... they will see that it probably

takes 30 seconds to a minute to complete. The same process was used in the 2014 European elections ...

Jo Platt (Labour Co-op): ... Given the shortness of time and the late hour at which local authorities were informed of this major U-turn, we have four demands of the Government. Will they give EU citizens more time to return their declaration forms by extending the deadline from 7 May to 15 May? Will they provide EU citizens with more chances to be aware of their options by ensuring electors are handed a copy of the declaration form when they vote in local elections? Will they pay for all costs associated with maximising participation in the European elections by EU citizens, given the short notice and therefore the higher cost of getting people to sign up? And will they make the registration process easier by confirming that scanned or photographed forms are acceptable?

It is unacceptable that European citizens living here risk being denied their right to vote because of the Government's incompetent approach to Brexit. This chaos must end.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: ... the Electoral Commission is the body responsible for ensuring that these processes are followed through legally, and I am sure it will be listening and looking at what she has outlined.

We have been very clear about advising EU citizens over the last year to make sure that, for the European elections, those who wish to vote are registered in their home member state. As I said in my opening remarks, we expect that many will have done that, but there is the opportunity, if they wish to vote in the UK should we hold these potential elections, for them to do so by filling in a UC1 form. ...

To continue reading the very lengthy question and answer session see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-04-25/debates/3DF4E527-0B33-4DBA-BEF6-828F4575CA3F/ElectoralRegistrationEUCitizens>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer

Organs: Donors

Steve Reed (Labour Co-op) [245805] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if he will make an assessment of the merits of the conclusions of the London Assembly Health Committee report on organ donation in London's ethnic minority communities for his Department.

Steve Reed (Labour Co-op) [245806] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to increase rates of organ donation among black, Asian and minority ethnic Londoners.

Reply from Jackie Doyle-Price: The Department welcomes the London Assembly Health Committee's recent report, and recommendations, on organ donation in London's ethnic minority communities (March 2019).

Shortages of organs for transplant are relevant to people from all backgrounds but are particularly acute for black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) patients, who are more likely to need an organ transplant. The Department launched a campaign in July 2018, delivered by NHS Blood and Transplant, with support from the National Black, Asian, Mixed Race and Minority Ethnic Transplant Alliance, to increase donation rates by raising awareness and breaking down barriers to donation within these communities. A toolkit is available at the following link:

<http://bit.ly/bameODtoolkit>

As part of the campaign, funding was made available for a Community Investment Scheme and in January 2019, 25 projects were successful in sharing £140,000 in funding to break down myths and barriers and increase support for organ donation among BAME communities. Organisations representing Jain, Sikh, Hindu, Muslim, Swahili, black and Asian Christians, black African and Caribbean and multi-faith

groups received funding for their projects, including 12 focusing on the London region.

In addition, the Organ Donation (Deemed Consent Act) 2019 will be introducing a new system of consent for organ and tissue donation in England, from 2020, to help increase the number of donors. In April, NHS Blood and Transplant launched a 12-month communication campaign before the law comes into force, to raise awareness of the changes and the options available under the new system. The campaign will target BAME communities and campaign materials have been developed to resonate with different audiences and communities across London. NHS Blood and Transplant also plans to translate the leaflet containing details of the new law into different languages. NHS Blood and Transplant will be seeking the support of various BAME communities and faith and belief organisations to spread the campaign message.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-18/245805/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-18/245806/>

The report referred to above can be read at

https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/london_assembly_health_committee_-_bame_donor_report.pdf

and the associated survey results can be read at

https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/bame_londoners_views_on_organ_donation_-_final_report-191218.pdf

Female Genital Mutilation

Neil Coyle (Labour) [244128] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the mandatory reporting duty for female genital mutilation on access to healthcare.

Reply from Jackie Doyle-Price: The decision by a patient to disclose female genital mutilation (FGM) to a healthcare professional is complex. The FGM Mandatory Reporting duty (which applies only when the patient is under 18) is just one aspect of this.

The Home Office amended the police Annual Data Requirement (ADR) to allow police forces the opportunity from April 2018 to record, on a voluntary basis, offences of FGM which were initially reported to the police under the FGM Mandatory Reporting Duty. Subject to data quality checks, we expect the first dataset under this new voluntary ADR collection to be published later this year. From April 2019, recording of this data under the ADR is mandatory.

With this information in combination with the FGM Enhanced Dataset, published by NHS Digital, we will be able to consider whether there is evidence of impact of the FGM Mandatory Reporting duty.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-11/244128/>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Female Genital Mutilation

Neil Coyle (Labour) [244129] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to improve the evidence base for understanding the levels and risks of female genital mutilation in the UK.

Neil Coyle (Labour) [244130] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how his Department measures the efficacy of funding to prevent and protect girls and

young women from female genital mutilation.

Neil Coyle (Labour) [244131] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how his Department plans to advise local authorities on the targeting of funding for tackling female genital mutilation across the UK.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a crime and it is child abuse. The Government is clear that we will not tolerate a practice that can cause extreme and lifelong suffering to women and girls.

In March 2019, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government allocated £375,000 for 37 local authority areas to fund locally-driven out-reach, engagement and communications on the practice of FGM. It is for Local Authorities to determine how best to utilise funding to combat the practice of FGM in their areas. Data on FGM includes a 2015 City University and Equality Now study, part funded by the Home Office, which estimated that 137,000 women and girls who had migrated to England and Wales were living with the consequences of FGM, and approximately 60,000 girls aged 0-14 were born in England and Wales to mothers who had undergone FGM. The study also provides a breakdown of FGM prevalence estimates by local authority area which is available online at

<http://openaccess.city.ac.uk/12382/>.

In addition, NHS Digital publishes data on the prevalence of FGM within the NHS in England. The most recent quarterly statistics were published in February 2019. A detailed breakdown of these statistics, including by local authority and age, is available online at

<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/female-genital-mutilation>.

To improve understanding of the prevalence of so-called 'Honour Based Abuse' (HBA), we introduced a mandatory HBA collection to the Annual Data Requirement (ADR) of police forces in England and Wales. This requires police forces to record where a crime has been committed in the context of preserving the honour of a family or community. This new collection is also capturing police recorded offences of FGM which were initially reported to the police under the mandatory reporting duty

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mandatory-reporting-of-female-genital-mutilation-procedural-information>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-11/244129/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-11/244130/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-11/244131/>

Meat: Overseas Trade

David Drew (Labour Co-op) [215075] To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether all current trade agreements that include the export of meat specify that animals have to be stunned before slaughter; and if he will make a statement.

David Rutley: Through membership of the EU, the UK currently participates in around 40 free trade agreements. These do not specify that animals have to be stunned before slaughter.

However, all slaughter of animals for export from the UK – whether stunned or non-stunned – must strictly comply with EU and the UK regulations on animal welfare at the time of killing and additional welfare at slaughter rules apply to animals subject to non-

stun slaughter.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-31/215075/>

Press Releases

Lord Ahmad's Easter message

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/lord-ahmads-easter-message>

Jeremy Hunt celebrates Passover at Westminster Synagogue

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/jeremy-hunt-celebrates-passover-at-westminster-synagogue>

Places of worship scheme open for expressions of interest ahead of religious holidays

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/places-of-worship-scheme-open-for-expressions-of-interest-ahead-of-religious-holidays>

News

Theresa May says UK will stand up for religious freedom

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-47999795>

UK will stand up for religious freedom, Theresa May vows in Easter message

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17587918.uk-will-stand-up-for-religious-freedom-theresa-may-vows-in-easter-message/>

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Other News

Updated guidance on charity accounting

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/news/updated-guidance-on-charity-accounting/>

FGM survivor: 'I was held down until I passed - I woke up bleeding. Another girl died'

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17580856.fgm-survivor-i-was-held-down-until-i-passed-i-woke-up-bleeding-another-girl-died/>

Imtiaz Dharker, the Pakistani Scottish Calvinist Muslim tipped to be next poet laureate

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/imtiaz-dharker-the-pakistani-scottish-calvinist-muslim-tipped-to-be-next-poet-laureate-kmbrqpqhc>

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

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>

SPICe Briefing: Consideration prior to Stage 3

<https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdnp.azureedge.net/published/2019/4/25/Vulnerable-Witnesses--Criminal-Evidence---Scotland--Bill--Consideration-prior-to-Stage-3/SB%2019-24.pdf>

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>

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>

**** Improving Disability Assistance** (closing date 28 May 2019)

<https://consult.gov.scot/social-security/improving-disability-assistance/>

Online Harms White Paper (closing date 1 July 2019)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/online-harms-white-paper>

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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Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

Diversity Week Activity Fund – Fife

Closing date not stated

Fife Centre for Equalities funding of up to £100 for groups hosting a one-off activity that will take place during Fife Centre for Equalities Diversity Week 2-8 September 2019, and will encourage people to celebrate the diverse population in Fife. For information and to apply see <https://tinyurl.com/y45jmk92>

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals

30 April 2019 in Edinburgh (9.30-12.30)

14 May 2019 in Glasgow (9.30-12.30)

28 May 2019 in Stirling (9.30-12.30)

Positive Action in Housing course to provide information on fundamental issues of housing, employment, and welfare entitlements of EEA nationals and explore how service users might prepare themselves to avoid possible threats of Brexit. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training>

**** this week**

Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

30 April 2019 in Edinburgh (1.30-4.30)

14 May 2019 in Glasgow (1.30-4.30)

28 May 2019 in Stirling (1.30-4.30)

Positive Action in Housing course to provide information about rights of refugees and asylum seekers in the UK, explore how the asylum system works from the perspective of a claimant and the process involved in making a claim for asylum, and explore the barriers faced by both refugees and asylum seekers building a new life in Scotland and their respective entitlement to services. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training>

**** this week!**

Outside In: Transforming Hate in Youth Settings

30 April 2019 in Glasgow (1.30-4.30)

Interfaith Scotland event to disseminate key findings from the “Outside In” project to transform hate speech in settings with young people. For information see

<https://tinyurl.com/y2q83btc>

**** this week!**

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

Action on Prejudice Live

8 May 2019 in Aberdeen (10.00-4.00)

Action on Prejudice event for youth workers and other practitioners working in diverse communities to hear from professionals about the tools and services available to address hate crime and prejudice. For information see <https://actiononprejudice.info/events/aop-live-aberdeen/>

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

**** Faith to Faith: Persecution and Difficult Histories**

12 May 2019 in Glasgow (2.00-4.00)

Interfaith dialogue event to explore the theme of difficult histories, persecution, and their legacy. Two speakers from the Sikh and Baha'i communities will be followed by discussions on how to recognise, speak about, and respond to painful pasts as well as ongoing issues of persecution. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y6eqwcf8>

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

**** BME Women's Experiences of Gender Based Violence**

30 May 2019 in Edinburgh (10.00-4.00)

Scottish Women's Aid training to raise awareness and broaden understanding of the varied issues for BME women and their children experiencing domestic abuse, forced marriage and other types of gender based violence. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y2lp7pfz>

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/>

**** No Recourse to Public Funds**

11 June 2019 in Glasgow

Positive Action in Housing course to help frontline workers identify a tenant's current immigration status, clarify what this means in terms of access to public funds and plan effective support to maintain tenancies where difficulties arise. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training/>

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/>

We Are One – Citizenfest

9-10 August 2019 in Glasgow

Festival asserting and celebrating diversity and equality with a programme of events in a variety of city centre venues: celebrating our rights – ethnic, political, minority, and common human rights – through music, seminars, food, drama, talks, art, and much more. For information see <https://www.facebook.com/citizenfestweareone>

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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