



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.

Contents

Immigration and Asylum	Other News
Community Relations	Bills in Progress
Equality	Consultations
Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination	Job Opportunities
Other Scottish Parliament and Government	Funding Opportunities
Other UK Parliament and Government	Events, Conferences, and Training
Local Elections (England and N Ireland)	Useful Links
Other Publications	

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.

Please send information for inclusion in MEMO to MEMO@scojec.org and [click here](#) to be added to the mailing list.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Immigration (Social and Economic Impacts)

Stuart McMillan (SNP): To ask the First Minister what the social and economic impacts are of immigration. (S5F-03299)

Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon): All of Scotland's future population growth is projected to come from migration, which is essential for our future prosperity and the delivery of our public services. All of us have a duty to dispel the many myths that exist about migration. People who come to live and work in Scotland typically contribute more through tax revenues than they consume in public services. Research that Oxford Economics published last year found that people who arrived in the United Kingdom in 2016 were projected to make a total

net positive contribution of just under £27 billion to the UK's public finances over their entire stay. We should be proud that people have chosen to make Scotland their home and we should welcome the ways in which they shape our culture, our communities and our country.

Stuart McMillan: Hundreds of European Union nationals have chosen to make my Greenock and Inverclyde constituency their home, which enriches the community. Does the First Minister agree that it is incumbent on every Scottish politician to stand up for migrants in our communities and highlight the huge contribution that they make not only culturally but economically, as the statistics that the Federation of Small Businesses provided this morning show? Does she also agree that the upcoming EU elections provide an opportunity to show that Scotland is open and welcoming by ensuring that anti-immigration parties such as the UK Independence Party, the Brexit Party and the Tories do not represent Scotland in Europe?

The Presiding Officer: I encourage members not to actively campaign for the European elections when they are imminent.

Reply from the First Minister: I agree with everything that Stuart McMillan said. The statistics that the Federation of Small Businesses released today show that one in 10 businesses in Scotland are led by a migrant entrepreneur; those firms contribute more than £13 billion to the Scottish economy and provide more than 100,000 jobs.

Those statistics bring into sharp focus the catastrophic effect of the UK Government's obsession with ending free movement, and the effect that that could have on small businesses and our general economic wellbeing. It is now vital and urgent for the Parliament to have the additional powers we need to enable the design of migration policies that meet the needs of Scottish businesses, communities and public services and to send a clear message, wherever we choose to send it, that the Tories' hostile immigration environment is not welcome in Scotland and it is time for it to end.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12071&i=109223#ScotParlOR>

European Parliament Elections (European Union Citizens)

Sandra White (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with the Electoral Commission regarding encouraging European Union citizens living in Scotland to register to vote in the forthcoming European Parliament elections. (S5O-03179)

Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Government Business and Constitutional Relations (Michael Russell): I wrote to David Lidington, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, on 3 April 2019 to express my concerns that citizens of EU member states might not have sufficient time to complete the UC1 form that will allow them to vote at the European Parliament elections in the United Kingdom. If EU citizens do not have time to complete and return that form, they will be disenfranchised and will not be able to vote on 23 May.

I am pleased to note that electoral registration officers in Scotland have now contacted all registered EU citizens to encourage them to complete the forms. Scottish Government officials are participating in weekly meetings of the Electoral Commission advisory board, where planning for the European Parliament elections is discussed. The Electoral Commission's public awareness campaign will encourage all eligible electors, including EU citizens, to register to vote by the 7 May deadline in order to take part in the elections. I encourage all citizens to ensure that they are registered by 7 May.

Sandra White: EU citizens living in Scotland make a huge and positive contribution economically, culturally and academically. As I have the University of Glasgow in my constituency, I know how much they contribute academically there. Does the minister

agree that the shambles at Westminster makes an essential case for an independent Scotland, where we welcome and value those who choose to make Scotland their home? Does he also agree that the forthcoming European Parliament elections offer the opportunity for everyone living in Scotland to reject Brexit again and that it is therefore imperative that those who are eligible to vote register to vote by 7 May?

Reply from Michael Russell: Since the result of the EU referendum, the Scottish Government has made it very clear that EU citizens are welcome in Scotland. They contribute an enormous amount, we want them to stay and we will support them to stay.

One of the great advantages of independence will be the ability to tailor immigration policy for Scotland's needs and do away with the UK Government's deplorable hostile environment approach. As Sandra White said, she represents the University of Glasgow's constituency. In our university sector, 25 per cent of staff on the research side are from other EU countries. In, for example, the abattoir industry, 60 per cent of employees and 95 per cent of vets are from other EU countries. I could go through a whole range of sectors—I know that you would rather that I did not do so, Presiding Officer—that demonstrate the dependence on EU labour. In rural Scotland the dependence is particularly great.

It is an appalling thing to be pleased that freedom of movement is coming to an end and it will be very damaging for Scotland if that is allowed to happen.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12071&i=109205#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

EU Settlement Scheme

S5W-22474 Donald Cameron (Conservative): To ask the Scottish Government how many EU Settlement Scheme application fees it has reimbursed.

Reply from Ben Macpherson: Following extensive lobbying by the Scottish Government, the 3Million group and other partners, on 21 January the Prime Minister finally announced the abolition of the proposed fee of £65 for EU citizens to obtain settled status. The UK Government has stated that those who paid a fee when applying to the EU Settlement Scheme will automatically be refunded, however it is unclear how many reimbursements have been issued to date.

Dropping the fee is a small concession from the UK Government and does not change the fact that EU citizens are being made to apply simply to retain the rights that they already have to live, work and study in Scotland. The Scottish Government has been clear that we will do all we can to support EU citizens to stay in Scotland and recently announced the 'Stay in Scotland' package of support to help EU citizens through the UK Government's EU Settlement Scheme. This is over and above any support provided by the UK Government, and they must now go much further and provide what EU citizens in this country urgently need: reassurance, support and clarity regarding their future rights.

Having dropped their fee for Settled Status, it is the UK Government who is responsible for reimbursing application fees for the EU Settlement Scheme.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-22474>

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

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

The announcement referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-01-21/debates/0FBF8F8F-E4B4-47A2-BD0A-958EFC89BD7E/LeavingTheEU#contribution-99B39557-ED82-420D-B124-FF83FC72F686>

The package of support referred to above can be read at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/eu-citizens-staying-in-scotland-package-of-support/>

“No recourse to public funds”

S5W-22745 Patrick Harvie (Green): To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide a summary of its legal understanding of "no recourse to public funds" in the UK Immigration Rules.

Reply from Ben Macpherson: Immigration is reserved to the UK Government. The UK Government has published guidance on how it makes decisions about what public funds third country nationals can claim and which benefits count as public funds for the purposes of the UK Immigration Rules:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-funds--2/public-funds>

The Scottish Government has funded an update to the Scottish guidance on No Recourse to Public Funds following a recommendation by the Scottish Parliament's Equalities and Human Rights Committee in 2017. The new guidance was commissioned by COSLA and provides information for local authorities to allow them to understand the complex legal frameworks that shape eligibility for public services, and the obligations of local authorities in relation to legislation and human rights duties:

<http://www.migrationscotland.org.uk/migrants-rights-entitlements/introduction/1-1-how-use-guidance>.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-22745>

UK Parliament Debate

Migration Advisory Committee

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-04-30/debates/A69A29F2-3BBA-4FCA-865F-2CD4C291EE87/MigrationAdvisoryCommittee>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Overseas Students: English Language Tests

... **The Minister for Immigration (Caroline Nokes):** Test centres operated on behalf of the Educational Testing Service were the subject of a BBC “Panorama” programme in February 2014 that aired footage of the systematic cheating in English language tests at a number of its UK test centres. Further investigation demonstrated just how widespread this was, and the scale is shown by the fact that 25 people involved in organising and facilitating language test fraud have received criminal convictions. They have been sentenced to a total of over 70 years’ imprisonment, and further criminal investigations are ongoing.

There was also a strong link to wider abuse of the student visa route. A National Audit Office report in 2012 made it clear that abuse of that route was rife and estimated that in 2009—its first year of operation—up to 50,000 people used the tier 4 student route to work, not study. Most students who were linked to this fraud were sponsored by private colleges, many of which the Home Office had significant concerns about before the BBC investigation. Indeed, 400 colleges that had sponsored students linked to the ETS had already had their licences revoked before 2014.

Over the course of 2014, the ETS systematically analysed all tests taken in the UK dating back to 2011—more than 58,000 tests. Analysis of the test results identified 33,725 invalid results and 22,694 questionable results. Those with questionable results were given the

chance to re-sit a test or attend an interview before any action was taken. People who used invalid ETS certificates to obtain immigration leave have had action taken against them.

The courts have consistently found that the evidence for invalid cases created a reasonable suspicion of fraud and was enough for the Home Office to act upon. It is then up to individuals to refute this, either through appeals or judicial reviews. Despite this, concerns have been expressed about whether innocent people could have been caught up in this. The Home Secretary has listened to the apprehensions of some Members, including the right hon. Member for East Ham (Stephen Timms), and has asked officials for further advice. The National Audit Office is also currently in the process of concluding an investigation into the handling of these issues, and this is expected to be published next month. Obviously, the Home Secretary has taken a close interest in the issue and will be reviewing the conclusions of the National Audit Office, and he will make a statement to the House once he has had time to consider the matter in full.

Stephen Timms (Labour): ... On his first day in the post, I asked [the Home Secretary] to take a careful look at this issue, and he said that he would. On 1 April this year, I asked him for an update. He said: "We had a further meeting to make some final decisions just last week, and I will be in touch with him shortly."—[[Official Report, 1 April 2019; Vol. 657, c. 799.](#)]

But in the month since, nothing has been announced. Many students face desperate hardship and need urgently to know the decision, because their future depends on it.

As the Minister said, the Home Office cancelled the visas of those who ETS claimed, from its analysis, had definitely cheated. The claim by ETS that almost 97% of those who sat their test had cheated seems completely implausible, but we will let that pass. Colleges had to expel those who had their visas cancelled. By the end of 2016, there had been more than 35,870 refusal, curtailment and removal decisions in ETS cases and more than 4,600 removals and departures. One estimate is that at least 2,000 of those denied visas are still in the UK.

In-country appeals were not allowed, but some have got cases to court. A growing number have convinced the courts that they did not cheat. One showed that he never actually took a TOEIC test, and yet he had his visa cancelled because it was alleged that he had cheated in one. It has proved extraordinarily hard for students to obtain from ETS the recordings said to be of them taking the test. One computer expert told the Appeal Court that ETS's evidence is worthless. The Appeal Court has criticised the Home Office's evidence and said in 2017 that it was unlawful to force students to leave the country in order to appeal. Many of those affected speak excellent English so had no motive at all to pay someone else to take the test for them.

Thrown off their courses and denied any refund of their fees, the students cannot study or work. Some invested their families' life savings to obtain a British degree. The savings have gone. They have no qualification and no income. They depend on kindly friends but say they could not endure the shame of going home with nothing, having apparently been convicted of cheating in the UK. Understandably, mental health problems are rife. Does the Minister agree that those who lost their visas on TOEIC grounds but remain in the UK should have the opportunity to sit a new test and, if they pass, obtain a visa in order to complete their studies and clear their names?

Reply from Caroline Nokes: ... The Home Office has been working closely with the NAO to provide information and evidence, and it is right that the Home Secretary has the opportunity to reflect on the report, consider its findings and come back to the House with a statement.

The right hon. Gentleman spoke about the court cases that have happened. Under the appeals framework, which is set by Parliament, and the Immigration Act 2014, there are no in-country appeals in the student route, through which these visas

were issued, but the Home Office is taking a pragmatic approach. It is important to reflect that we are talking about fraud perpetrated back in 2014, and many people who have ongoing ETS litigation will potentially now have the right to bring a human rights claim. If they are refused under the human rights route, they will then generally have an in-country right of appeal.

There were an enormous number of cases where fraud was found, and matching showed that a number of individuals had taken repeat tests on behalf of thousands of people. There was a criminal trial at the start of this month, which saw a further five convictions. While I appreciate the strongly held beliefs of the right hon. Gentleman, it is important that we reflect that this was fraud on an industrial scale, and we should react responsibly. ...

Afzal Khan (Labour): The Government's treatment of innocent students has been unacceptable. Driven by the hostile environment and net migration target, about 34,000 students' visas have been cancelled. Can the Minister tell us how many of those cases are ongoing? Are any of these students currently in immigration detention? What steps is she taking to identify and compensate students who were wrongfully removed?

The TOEIC visa scandal has been rumbling for years. The Government have lost case after case in the courts. My right hon. Friend the Member for East Ham (Stephen Timms) has been raising the issue in Parliament for over a year, and students have been protesting outside Parliament. The Home Secretary told Parliament a year ago that he would look carefully at the issue, but no concrete action has been taken. Does the Minister appreciate the urgency of this issue? Thousands of students are living in limbo, unable to work or study while they attempt to clear their names.

The Windrush scandal exposed a culture of disbelief in the Home Office, motivated by removal targets rather than careful consideration of cases. We were promised a culture change, yet the Home Office is again being investigated by the National Audit Office for its cruel and ineffective handling of immigration cases. Does the Minister accept that the years of suffering these students have endured is a result of the coalition Government's decision to remove legal aid and appeal rights?

We need a swift resolution to all outstanding TOEIC visa cases. The students have asked to be allowed to re-sit the English language tests, and that is a sensible suggestion. The UK's reputation as a welcoming place for international students is suffering tremendously. International students are vital to our universities. They enhance the experience of UK students and further our soft power abroad, not to mention subsidising the fees of home students, but reports over the weekend suggested that EU students will be required to pay international fees, which the Minister could not confirm or deny yesterday. We now have the TOEIC visa scandal. What will be next?

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The hon. Gentleman has chosen to focus on a very small number of students who may have had incorrect results. What we know, and what the evidence shows, is that our response back in 2014 was driven by systematic fraud that was perpetrated in colleges and has seen significant criminal convictions and sentences of 70 years. We are working with the NAO and through the courts. As I said, the Home Office has taken a pragmatic approach to the judicial reviews and appeals coming through the courts, recognising that many of these individuals have been in the country for a significant period. Of course, the ability to speak English in 2019 does not necessarily mean that an individual did not cheat in 2014 or could speak English to the required level then.

I would like to comment more on what we are doing for international students. The UK has a proud track record of attracting an increasing number of students to this country. I am sure that the hon. Gentleman will welcome the commitment in the White Paper to continue to have no cap on the number of foreign students coming here and to make a more generous offer for post-study work arrangements for students who choose to come here. It is important that we support our world-class

institutions and celebrate the fact that we have five British universities in the top 20 universities globally, and that we saw over the course of the past year a 10% increase in the number of tier 4 visas being applied for. ...

To continue reading the very lengthy question and answer session in full see
<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-04-30/debates/FFC41354-07E9-47E3-BFF0-5DE7E1D9F6FD/OverseasStudentsEnglishLanguageTests>

Prime Minister's Questions: Visas

Paul Masterton (Conservative): A number of faith leaders and individuals across East Renfrewshire, particularly from the Catholic community, have raised concerns about recent changes to the immigration rules for preachers coming to the UK on short-term supply placements. The new tier 2 visa is double the cost, making it unaffordable for many parishes. Given the huge benefits that congregations and wider communities derive from these placements, can the Prime Minister look again to make sure that we are not putting up unnecessary barriers to continuing these long-standing and very positive opportunities? [910628]

Reply from the Prime Minister: I agree with my hon. Friend in his recognition of the valuable part that ministers of religion from all faiths play in their local communities. We want to continue to be able to welcome those who want to come to the UK in accordance with our immigration rules. I understand that, as part of its extensive programme of engagement around the future borders and immigration system, the Home Office will talk to representatives of a range of faiths and community groups, and those discussions will include the future visa arrangements for ministers of religion.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-05-01/debates/4E0CBE7C-4573-4382-A2FB-62B096213653/Engagements#contribution-7130DDCF-88F9-4043-9500-E4E5FE6AC0A6>

Business of the House: Visas

Patrick Grady (SNP): The Leader of the House values the contribution that faith communities make to our society, so will she arrange for a Home Office Minister to urgently come to the House and explain why recent changes to the tier 5 visa system will make it more difficult for churches and temples to bring in supply ministers over the summer? Catholic churches in my constituency are very concerned—the issue is on the front page of the archdiocesan newspaper—and she will know that the hon. Member for East Renfrewshire (Paul Masterton) raised this matter with the Prime Minister. When will a Minister come and explain this unnecessary and unexplained change of policy?

Reply from Andrea Leadsom: I certainly recall my hon. Friend the Member for East Renfrewshire raising the matter at Prime Minister's questions. If I recall, the Prime Minister said that she would ensure that it was considered. I will also take steps to ensure that the Home Office are aware of this particular concern. If the hon. Gentleman wants to write to me with any specific examples, that would be helpful.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-05-02/debates/15D696DD-72D7-47DA-BDCF-E2EDE3741317/BusinessOfTheHouse#contribution-E0FD7561-EE1E-44C1-8989-E64B2DD5F09C>

Topical Questions: Department for International Development: Visas

Patrick Grady (SNP): Is the Secretary of State proud of the fact that the Home Office has denied a visa to the father of the chief executive of the Scottish Refugee Council, which means that he cannot travel from Afghanistan to see his son receive an honorary doctorate at the University of Glasgow? What message is sent to developing countries and developing democracies when the UK routinely denies visas to people who want to contribute to our society and tackle poverty around the world? [910659]

Reply from Penny Mordaunt: If the hon. Gentleman would like to give me the

details of the case I should be happy to look into it—I think it is often possible to resolve such cases by talking to the relevant Minister.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-05-01/debates/7E38BD20-6501-4F1D-B428-288B38018FA3/TopicalQuestions#contribution-03C0247E-1287-47F5-A0AF-B42C9F30D406>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

UK Visas and Immigration: Training

Chi Onwurah (Labour) [244082] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what standard training and assessments UKVI Entry Clearance Officers receive (a) before they begin their role and (b) after they have started their role.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: All UKVI Decision Makers, including Entry Clearance Officers, attend a training course, before they take up their positions.

Performance is managed through feedback and formal appraisal meetings with line managers, with any areas for development jointly agreed. They also receive further practical operational support to refine their training to deliver a high standard in decision making and consider applications on their own merits and in line with the Immigration Rules, which are applied impartially. Decisions are also reviewed by peers and managers.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-11/244082/>

British Nationality: Applications

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [242859] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he is taking to (a) correct information distributed by email by UK Visas and Immigration on 22 March 2019 that stated that specified nationality applications must be made online; (b) inform recipients of those emails that the information was incorrect; (c) ensure that application submitted that were not made online are treated as valid; and (d) to make available on the gov.uk website the relevant paper forms.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We are unable to comment on a specific email without specific details of the communication.

UK Visas and Immigration accepts all nationality applications received if the customer has provided the required level of information and the appropriate fee. No applications which have met these conditions would be rejected.

UK Visas and Immigration does not require applications for British nationality to be made online. It is still acceptable for customers to apply using the paper forms. However, customers are encouraged to use the intuitive online application service wherever possible and assisted digital support is made available to those who would otherwise struggle to make an online application.

Information on GOV.UK will be revised to ensure that the form is available and how to apply is clear to applicants.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-09/242859/>

Visas: Applications

Afzal Khan (Labour) [246576] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, on how many days has no appointment with the UK Visa and Citizenship Applications Service been available outside of London since November 2018.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Sopra Steria pledge to offer applicants the option to arrange an appointment within five days at any of our core service points, located in Croydon, Cardiff, Birmingham, Manchester, Glasgow and Belfast. UKVI continue to work closely with Sopra Steria to review appointment availability across all

locations.

Data on the number of days that no appointments have been available in UK Visa and citizenship applications service centres outside of London since November 2018 is not readily available. This information could only be provided by interrogation of individual service centres on a day by day basis, which could only be achieved at disproportionate costs.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-23/246576/>

Visas: Applications

Afzal Khan (Labour) [246577] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the effect is on an immigration application of the applicant being unable to book a mandatory appointment with the UK Visa and Citizenship Applications Service as a result of no available appointments within a reasonable distance.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: UK Visa and Citizenship Application Service Centres are run by Sopra Steria Ltd (SSL) on behalf of UK Visas & Immigration (UKVI). There are six core sites across the UK at which enrolment services must be offered and beyond that, SSL offer a range of enhanced services, expanding biometric enrolment services to 51 other locations in line with their assessment of customer demand. SSL aims to offer all customers an appointment at their chosen location within five working days.

New appointments are released by SSL on a daily basis and UKVI continue to work with SSL to increase the number of appointments available to its customers through opening new service points and increasing the number of appointments available at its existing service points experiencing high demand.

Where an applicant in the UK who at the time of making an application has leave to enter or remain and the application to extend or vary is not decided before the person's existing leave expires, section 3C extends the person's existing leave until the application is decided (or withdrawn). Therefore, any delay in obtaining an appointment date will not affect an in-time application if biometrics are enrolled.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-23/246577/>

Visas: Commonwealth

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [247139] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if his Department will remove visa charges for Commonwealth UK Armed Forces personnel and their immediate families when applying for Indefinite Leave to Remain.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: There are no plans to remove visa fees for Commonwealth armed forces personnel, or their immediate family members.

Fee concessions on the grounds of nationality are only available to meet legal or international convention obligations. It would be unfair if certain applicants or routes benefited from free applications or reduced fees, at the expense of others.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-24/247139/>

Visas: Clergy

Matthew Offord (Conservative) [247671] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will make an assessment of the potential merits on introducing a specific category of visa for recognised religious clergy.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We recognise the value Ministers of Religion and Religious Workers bring to our communities. This is reflected in our dedicated routes under Tier 2 and Tier 5 of the Points Based System.

In December 2018, we published a White Paper on the future immigration system.

This sets out our intention to continue to attract those who bring a range of skills, including those who make valuable contributions to the enjoyment of faith and community across the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-25/247671/>

Visas: Religious Persons

Ronnie Cowan (SNP) [248722] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent discussions his Department has had with faith leaders regarding the Tier 5 religious worker visa.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government wrote to faith leaders in December, setting out the detail of the changes made to the Tier 5 religious worker visa.

We are embarking on an extensive programme of engagement, in connection with the future immigration system, and will be talking to representatives from a range of faith and community groups. Officials also remain in regular contact with their representatives.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-29/248722/>

Visas: Married People

Ronnie Cowan (SNP) [248723] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that people receive prompt repayment of the NHS Health surcharge for failed spousal visa applications.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office will usually refund immigration health surcharge payments in respect of refused immigration applications, including for spousal visas, within six weeks of the decision. Refunds may take longer where the customer details have changed between payment and refund or where the applicant appeals or seeks an administrative review of the decision.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-29/248723/>

Immigration: Appeals

Rushanara Ali (Labour) [247072] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many refused immigration cases in 2018 appealed to the First-tier Tribunal.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Statistics on appeals that have been lodged following an immigration decision are published by HM Courts and Tribunals Service on a quarterly basis. The most recent edition (Tribunals and gender recognitions certificates statistics quarterly: October to December 2018) is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/tribunals-and-gender-recognition-certificate-statistics-quarterly-october-to-december-2018>.

Table FIA_1 contains the requested data.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-24/247072/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: Appeals

Rushanara Ali (Labour) [247073] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what the average timescale is for an immigration case to be heard at the First Tier Tribunal in the most recent period for which figures are available.

Rushanara Ali (Labour) [247076] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many appeals to the Upper Tribunal have been successful in the most recent period for which figures are available.

Reply from Lucy Frazer: The average waiting time from the receipt of an appeal

to the hearing in the First-tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) October 2018 to December 2018 was 39 weeks, 11 weeks shorter compared to the same period a year ago.

Between October 2018 and December 2018 34% of the 1,153 appeals determined by the Upper Tribunal were successful. This figure includes appeals brought by both individual appellants and the Home Office on a point of law.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-24/247073/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-24/247076/>

Immigration: Appeals

Rushanara Ali (Labour) [247074] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average response time is for an immigration case which raises issues relating to the Human Rights Act 1998 in the most recent period for which figures are available.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We do not publish data on average timescales to consider applications which raise issues relating to the Human Rights Act. However, data regarding UK Visas and Immigration's temporary and permanent migration activities, processed within service standards, is published on the GOV.UK website. The latest edition is available at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/in-country-migration-data-february-2019>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-24/247074/>

Immigration: Appeals

Rushanara Ali (Labour) [247075] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, following a successful appeal to the First-tier Tribunal, what the average timescale is for the Home Office to review and implement the tribunals' decision in cases where his Department does not submit further challenges.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Where the appeal has been allowed in favour of the appellant, the Home Office undertakes careful consideration of the judge's determination in order to conclude whether to submit an application for permission to appeal within the time limits set by the Tribunal Procedure Committee.

The information on the average length of time taken to implement allowed appeals that we do not challenge is not readily available and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost through the examination of individual case files. Statistics on appeals that have been determined by HM Courts and Tribunals Service are published quarterly. The most recent edition (Tribunals and gender recognitions certificates statistics quarterly: October to December 2018) is available at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/tribunals-and-gender-recognition-certificate-statistics-quarterly-october-to-december-2018>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-24/247075/>

Overseas Visitors

Rushanara Ali (Labour) [247077] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how his Department decides the frequency of reporting appointments at reporting centres, police stations or other locations for people who do not have permission to stay in the UK.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The frequency of reporting is decided by the local reporting manager on a case-by-case basis, except for deportation cases, where the frequency is determined by the caseworker. Consideration is given to specific

facts of an individual's case, progress to removability, level of harm assessment, risk, and or if the person is vulnerable.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-24/247077/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Hilary Benn (Labour) [246929] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the evidence given by the Minister for Immigration to the Exiting the EU Committee on 11 July 2018, Qq2302-2303, what performance indicators his Department will publish on the EU Settled Status scheme; and how regularly they will be published.

Hilary Benn (Labour) [246930] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what data on EU Settled Status applications will be published in the quarterly release of Home Office immigration statistics.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We have committed to publishing quarterly statistical reports on the EU Settlement Scheme as a whole, alongside our Immigration Statistics from August 2019. Home Office statisticians are currently considering the content and will be taking into account the views of statistics users.

The Home Office publishes estimated processing times for EU Settlement Scheme applications at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-application-processing-times/eu-settlement-scheme-pilot-current-expected-processing-times-for-applications>, giving applicants a guide to the current level of service.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-24/246929/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-24/246930/>

The evidence referred to above can be read at

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/exiting-the-european-union-committee/the-progress-of-the-uks-negotiations-on-eu-withdrawal/oral/86687.html>

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

Jessica Morden (Labour) [247656] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate he has made of the number of EU citizens in (a) the UK, (b) Wales and (c) Newport East constituency who are eligible to apply for settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

Jessica Morden (Labour) [247657] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many EU citizens in (a) the UK, (b) Wales and (c) Newport East constituency have applied for settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

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>

So far more than 400,000 people have applied to the EU Settlement Scheme.

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/2019-04-25/247656/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-25/247657/>

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

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

The following four questions all received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Jessica Morden (Labour) [248018] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been granted settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme in (a) the UK, (b) Wales and (c) Newport East constituency.

Jessica Morden (Labour) [248019] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme have been refused in (a) the UK, (b) Wales and (c) Newport East constituency; and what the reasons were for refusal.

Vicky Foxcroft (Labour) [248726] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme have been refused in (a) the UK, (b) England, (c) London and (d) Lewisham borough; and what the reasons for those refusals were.

Vicky Foxcroft (Labour) [248727] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been granted settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme in (a) the UK, (b) England, (c) London and (d) Lewisham borough.

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

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>.

We will publish further details on application outcomes in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-26/248018/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-26/248019/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-29/248726/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-29/248727/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Hilary Benn (Labour) [246931] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans his Department has to issue guidance to staff in the Department of Work and Pensions on EU citizens with settled status and their entitlement to social security.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office has introduced the EU Settlement Scheme to enable resident EEA and Swiss citizens, and their family members, to obtain an immigration status in the UK.

This status will protect, and enable individuals to demonstrate, their rights to work, education, healthcare, and other benefits and services in the UK after it has left the EU in both a 'deal' and 'no deal' scenario. This means that EEA and Swiss nationals who obtain status will retain their current entitlement to healthcare, education, benefits and social housing.

Guidance for decision makers can be found in the Decision Makers' Guide (DMG) and Advice for Decision Making Guide (ADM) available online at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/decision-makers-guide-staff-guide> and <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/advice-for-decision-making-staff-guide>.

Departmental guidance is supplemented with updates when legal and procedural changes are introduced, and the HO continues to work across Government to provide information as appropriate.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-24/246931/>

Health Services: EU Nationals

Hilary Benn (Labour) [246932] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what plans his Department has to issue guidance to NHS staff on EU citizens with settled status and access to NHS care.

Reply from Stephen Hammond: The Government has made clear that the rights of European Union citizens in the United Kingdom on exit day will be protected, and this includes being able to access National Health Service care without charge. It should be noted that EU citizens already living in the UK on exit day have up until 31 December 2020 to apply for Settled Status, but their access to healthcare will remain the same regardless of whether they apply for Settled Status up to then. The Department has already updated operational guidance and websites with the latest information for both EU citizens who wish to access NHS healthcare upon exiting the EU to EU citizens who are NHS staff. Further guidance and information will be published in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-24/246932/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Jessica Morden (Labour) [248623] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his Department has advertised the EU settlement scheme in languages other than English; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: It is vital that the over three million non-UK EU citizens and their family members living in the UK understand how and when to apply under the EU Settlement Scheme. At the end of March, the Home Office launched a new national marketing campaign to encourage EU citizens to apply.

The Home Office has translated advertising and communications materials into 25 European languages and Welsh. This includes the applicant guidance, poster, factsheet and videos. These materials are all available by visiting www.gov.uk/eusettlementscheme

Translated communications and engagement materials will continue to be available throughout the lifetime of the scheme.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-29/248623/>

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

Jessica Morden (Labour) [248624] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when local authorities will be able to access funding for services to support residents applying to the EU Settlement Scheme.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The EU Settlement Scheme has been designed to be straightforward, easy and accessible to make the application process as simple as possible. Even so, the Home Office will allocate grant funding of up to £9 million for voluntary and community sector organisation to support vulnerable EU citizens who might need additional help when applying for the Settlement Scheme.

The Home Office has also implemented a range of free direct support to meet the varying needs of EU Citizens such as an increased Assisted Digital service across the UK to help those with limited digital confidence or access; a contact centre to provide information and assistance for EU Citizens and translated communications and publications.

The Home Office has developed a community toolkit which includes communications materials and specific guidance on the EU Settlement Scheme for local authorities to download to help support individuals.

Local authorities that are providing the ID document scanning service do so by making a charge for using the service, payable directly to the local authority. The viability and cost of offering the ID document scanning service in each location is a matter for each local authority.

A New Burdens Assessment has been produced in collaboration with key stakeholders representing local authorities and children's social services to ensure they are adequately funded to support looked after children and care leavers who are eligible to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-29/248624/>

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

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

The toolkit referred to above can be read at

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

Refugees

Alex Norris (Labour Co-op) [246569] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans he has to announce the future of the UK's refugee resettlement programmes ahead of the conclusion of the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme in 2020; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We are making positive progress in our work with key stakeholders and international organisations on our future Asylum and Resettlement Strategy. This includes consideration of the UK's resettlement offer beyond 2020.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-23/246569/>

Refugees: Syria

Rebecca Pow (Conservative) [248738] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans he has to extend funding for the Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement Scheme beyond 2020.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We are making positive progress in our work with key stakeholders and international organisations on our future Asylum and Resettlement Strategy. This includes consideration of the UK's resettlement offer, and how it is funded, beyond 2020.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-29/248738/>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Refugees: Families

Afzal Khan (Labour) [246573] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to Q13 of the oral contribution of the Minister of State for Immigration to the EU Home Affairs Sub-Committee on 13 March 2019, what steps he has taken to review refugee family reunion for adult dependent children.

Afzal Khan (Labour) [246574] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to Q13 of the oral contribution of the Minister of State for Immigration to the EU Home Affairs Sub-Committee on 13 March 2019, what recent discussions he has had with representative of third sector organisations working with refugees on adult dependent children.

Afzal Khan (Labour) [246575] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the effect of separation from adult dependent children on the integration of refugee families.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government provides a safe and legal route to bring families together through its family reunion policy. This allows a partner and children under 18 of those granted protection in the UK to join them here, if they formed part of the family unit before the sponsor fled their country. Our policy makes clear there is discretion to grant visas outside the Immigration Rules, which caters for extended family members in exceptional circumstances – including young adult sons or daughters who are dependent on family here and living in dangerous situations.

The Government is listening carefully to calls to extend family reunion and we will continue our productive discussions with key partners on this complex and sensitive issue.

Family connections are an important enabler of integration. However, we must also ensure we do not create incentives for more people, particularly children, to leave their homes and risk dangerous journeys hoping relatives can join them later. Those who need protection must claim in the first safe country they reach – that is the fastest route to safety.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-23/246573/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-23/246574/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-23/246575/>

The oral contribution referred to above can be read at

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/eu-home-affairs-subcommittee/brexit-future-eu-migration-to-the-uk-for-work/oral/98088.html>

Asylum: Libya

Dan Carden (Labour) [248762] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will increase the number of vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers from Libya receiving resettlement in the UK.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Refugee resettlement demonstrates the UK's proud tradition of providing protection to those who need it; and of our commitment to supporting UNHCR's global effort to provide durable solutions to the plight of refugees.

The UK has committed to resettle a number of vulnerable refugees who have been evacuated by UNHCR from Libya to Niger. There are no plans to increase this commitment at the current time.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-29/248762/>

Asylum: Applications

David Lammy (Labour) [247574] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have provided further submissions for their asylum claims after initially having their claim refused in each of the last five years.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Home Office records report that, between 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2018, a total of 28,953 people lodged Further Submissions after initially having their asylum claim refused. A breakdown for each year is provided in the table below.

Since March 2015, the Home Office has required non-detained refused asylum seekers to lodge Further Submissions by appointment at the Further Submissions Unit based in Liverpool.

The figures in the table note how many people lodged a Further Submission at the Further Submissions Unit, and how many people lodged their submission by a different route, including cases where a Further Submission was raised in detention and cases where a Further Submission is raised during the Family Returns Process.

Table showing breakdown of people who made Further Submissions following refusal of asylum between 2014 and 2018

Year	Submission not made in person in Liverpool	Submission made in person at Further Submissions Unit in Liverpool	(Total)
2014	-	-	4,521
2015	1,971	2,124	4,095
2016	1,420	3,324	4,744
2017	1,546	5,053	6,599
2018	1,618	7,376	8,994
(Total)	6,555	17,877	28,953

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-25/247574/>

Asylum: Scholarships

Barry Sheerman (Labour Co-op) [245632] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether he plans to further increase the number of scholarships available to refugees, asylum seekers and forced immigrants.

Reply from Chris Skidmore: Last year the government invested £5 million to expand the Queen Elizabeth Commonwealth Scholarships, allowing 150 students to benefit from a scholarship by 2025. These Masters scholarships for study in low and middle income Commonwealth countries are open to Commonwealth citizens, including those who hold refugee status in a Commonwealth country.

Most higher education providers, as independent and autonomous organisations, provide support direct to their students through scholarships and bursaries. Such support is available to refugees and asylum seekers. Organisations such as the Refugee Support Network and the Student Action for Refugees provide information to students on the availability of such support.

Asylum seekers and refugee children in the UK are entitled to a school place and must be considered for admission in the same way as local residents.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-18/245632/>

Slavery: Airports and Ports

Vernon Coaker (Labour) [246926] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he is taking to tackle human trafficking and modern slavery at (a) airports and (b) seaports; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office is committed to protecting the vulnerable and modern slavery remains a top priority for Border Force and its operational partners.

Border Force has a network of specially trained Safeguarding and Modern Slavery (SAMS) teams based in all regions. SAMS officers are operational and readily available to ensure children and vulnerable people, including potential victims of modern slavery are dealt with effectively.

All frontline officers undertake mandatory training in SAMS related issues including keeping children safe, recognising trafficking indicators, the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

Border Force also participates in multi-agency anti trafficking operations, engaging with airlines and port operators to provide training in modern slavery detection.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-24/246926/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Slavery: Victims

Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru) [245916] 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 continue to be safeguarded.

Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru) [245918] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will publish the outcomes of the potential victims of modern slavery referred to the National Referral Mechanism in 2018.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Government is committed to identifying and supporting victims of modern slavery. When a potential victim is referred to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and the competent authority finds reasonable grounds to believe they are victim, that person becomes entitled to support. Potential victims are entitled to support for a minimum of 45 days for recovery and reflection, or until they receive a conclusive grounds decision confirming their victim status. Since 1st February confirmed victims receive a further 45 days of move-on support to help them transition to the next phase of their lives.

Child victims of modern slavery are supported by local authorities under existing statutory child protection arrangements.

The National Crime Agency regularly publishes NRM data, including the “National

Referral Mechanism Statistics End of Year Summary 2018” which was published on 20th March 2019. The number of potential victims referred into the NRM for 2018 is available online here:

<https://nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/component/finder/search?q=national+referral+mechanism+end+of+year+2018&Search=>

The statistics also show the outcomes of conclusive grounds decisions.

Responsibility for NRM data will pass to the Home Office when the new Single Competent Authority for NRM decision making goes live later this month. We will then review what data we publish going forward.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-18/245916/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-18/245918/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Overseas Students: TOEIC Tests

Baroness Williams of Trafford (Minister of State, Home Office) repeated the statement made by the Immigration Minister in the House of Commons (see “House of Commons Oral Questions” above).

Lord Rosser (Labour): ... In his first appearance in that capacity in the Commons about a year ago, the Home Secretary gave an assurance that he would investigate the Test of English for International Communication scandal. Why are we still awaiting a decision when about 34,000 student visas have been cancelled? The delay cannot be laid at the door of the NAO, as the Answer to the UQ appears to suggest. Is the Home Secretary aware of the damage, distress and loss caused to international students wrongly accused of cheating in their English language test, some of whom have had to end their studies and some of whom have been wrongly deported?

Is the Secretary of State continuing to rely on evidence from Educational Testing Services as to the alleged scale of cheating—evidence which has been discredited by both expert opinion and, repeatedly, in the courts? What was the financial settlement reached by the Home Office and ETS after its licence was revoked? ETS thinks that just about everyone who sat the test either cheated or had questionable results, a figure that was as unbelievable as ETS itself appears to be. How many appeals have been heard against revocation, refusal or curtailment of student visas on TOEIC grounds, and how many have been won by the applicants?

Finally, what lessons has the Home Office learned from this debacle about English language tests and its hostile environment policy, which is obviously still in play? If I cannot have full answers to these questions today, I should be grateful for a written response.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I thank the noble Lord and welcome him back to his place on the Front Bench. He asked several questions, the first being “Why the delay?” This is an issue of widespread fraud—setting up and using these test centres and colleges—that took place over several years. He will know that, under this Government and indeed under the coalition Government, we have now closed more than 900 such colleges since 2011.

On those who may be wrongly accused, the noble Lord will recall the report by Professor Peter French, which concluded that the number of false matches was likely to be very small and that the system would give people the benefit of the doubt, so the number of people wrongly accused was likely to be extremely low. The courts have always said, even when finding against the Home Office on

individual facts of case, that sufficient evidence should be there to make an accusation of fraud, but it is up to the individual then to rebut it. However, we recognise the concerns; we do not refute the concerns raised by a Member of the other place. That is why the Home Secretary has now asked for further advice and why the NAO is also investigating, and the Home Secretary will respond when he has sight of both that advice and the NAO's findings.

The noble Lord asked whether a settlement was reached. It was. For reasons of commercial confidentiality, I cannot discuss that, but I will see whether I can find out more for him.

The noble Lord also talked about the hostile environment. This is not about being hostile to people who want to work or study in this country. To use a study visa in order to work is to try to game the system, which is exactly what was going on here and why we closed down so many of those colleges.

Lord Paddick (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, Fatema Chowdhury came to the UK from Bangladesh in 2010 and finished her law degree in 2014 at the University of London. She was at one stage detained for a week after being accused after being accused of cheating in the English test, which she denies. I appreciate that the Minister cannot comment on individual cases, but can she say how likely it is that an individual had to cheat in an English language test but then went on to successfully complete a double degree at the University of London? Why is the hostile environment towards immigrants created by the Home Office still alive and kicking?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, the issue at the heart of this was not the questioning of people's competence in English but the fact that a fraud was committed. I cannot say to the noble Lord how many people found themselves in detention, because we do not disaggregate those sorts of figures. Of course, as for individual cases, I am not at liberty to discuss them.

Lord Hannay of Chiswick (Crossbench): My Lords, I am entirely prepared to await the reports now under consideration which the Minister says will be the object of Statements in both Houses when their conclusions are reached, but could we please not elide the action taken quite correctly by the coalition Government to close down a huge number of dodgy language schools—which all of us strongly supported and where we believe a good job was done—with what is going now? Let us start a little bit later than that and see what is being done now. For example—perhaps the Minister could reply to this, too—it is not sensible to create the impression that a huge number of people on education visas are overstaying. We now have statistical evidence that it is a tiny number, yet for years Home Office Ministers stood at the Dispatch Box saying that it was a huge number. The interest of our universities, which are a major national asset, was not well served by stories of the sort that we are hearing now. As I said, it is perfectly reasonable for the Minister to say, "Wait, please, till the NAO has reported; wait till the Home Secretary has had a glance at that", but can we not rake over all these old stories when we come to the report but start from somewhere a little nearer the present time?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I am grateful to the noble Lord for making that point, because we need to start from where we are now. The system in place was a very old one and, as he said, the coalition Government did much to close down those dodgy colleges, as he called them. The same NAO found that well over 97% of students are compliant with their visas, which is very good news. We would not want to conflate our welcome for those coming to this country to study with what was a very dodgy process—fraudulent, in fact. I welcome what the noble Lord said, and I would not want to conflate what happened then with a very good news story now: a 28% increase in the number of international students since 2010 and a 10% increase in only the past 12 months.

Baroness Blackstone (Independent Labour): My Lords, can the Minister reassure the House that, in those cases where after further investigation it is discovered that individual

students have not cheated nor committed any kind of fraud, they are properly compensated for the fees that they paid, the loss of their courses and a loss of income in employment?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I thank the noble Baroness for making that point. Of course, it will be in the light of the NAO report and the additional advice of the Home Secretary that next steps will be able to be articulated to both Houses.

Lord Dholakia (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, what is being done to change the culture within the Home Office in how it deals with these applications? A number of immigration investigations conducted in the past provide examples of people who were eligible to come to this country having to go through a process which is devised to keep people out. A fundamental change in the way we look at students in this country is required. What is being done to improve on that?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I know the House's feeling on this subject. I have said many times at this Dispatch Box that there is no cap on the number of international students who can come to this country to study. Going back to the point made by the noble Lord, Lord Hannay, that matter should not be conflated with the people who will use a route simply to get into this country. Those colleges were therefore rightly closed down under the previous coalition Government. On the culture of the Home Office, I think that it acted rightly in closing down bogus colleges, but we should never lose sight of the contribution made by international students to this country and its education system.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-04-30/debates/4A63C54F-2DA6-4E71-B673-953075EDBFBD/OverseasStudentsTOEICTests>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

British Nationality

Baroness Berridge (Conservative) [HL15214] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the "best interests of the children test" pursuant to section 55 of the Borders, Citizens and Immigration Act 2009 was applied in the cases where those having their citizenship revoked had British children in their care.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The duty in Section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009 to have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children who are in the United Kingdom, applies to all immigration and nationality decisions.

This includes decisions taken to deprive an individual of British citizenship where it is conducive to the public good. Where a child is outside of the UK, the Home Secretary applies the spirit of the Act and therefore still takes into account the best interests of the child when making decisions which affect them.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-04-11/HL15214/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Lord Greaves (Liberal Democrat) [HL15295] To ask Her Majesty's Government how the UK leaving the EU will change the rights, responsibilities and status of European citizens resident in the UK with granted settled status.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office has introduced the EU Settlement Scheme to enable all qualifying EEA and Swiss citizens, and their family members, to obtain an immigration status in the UK.

Obtaining settled status (indefinite leave to remain) under the scheme will ensure EEA and Swiss citizens and their family members have no immigration conditions placed on their residence in the UK, provided they remain resident here. This status will protect, and enable them to demonstrate, their rights to work, education,

healthcare, and access to benefits and public services in the UK in line with UK nationals. Where individuals have obtained settled status before the UK leaves the EU, that immigration status will continue to have effect and will not change when we leave.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-04-24/HL15295/>

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

Slavery

Lord Kennedy of Southwark (Labour) [HL15240] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the research published by the Cooperative Group on 1 March that said that 18 per cent of the British public were unaware of modern slavery; and what plans they have to increase public awareness of modern slavery.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Tackling modern slavery remains a top priority for this Government. We are aware of the Cooperative Group's research. We are committed to collaborating with business, civil society organisations and the public sector to improve the evidence about the nature and scale of modern slavery. We continue to take action to raise awareness to encourage reporting and to prevent this crime from happening in the first place.

For example;

- In March 2019, the Home Office worked closely with the Cabinet Office to launch a targeted pilot communications campaign focusing on labour exploitation in the West Midlands, West Yorkshire and Cambridgeshire. We are working with frontline professionals in the banking, healthcare and job centre sectors to improve how they spot the signs of modern slavery and encourage greater reporting.
- In January 2018, the National Crime Agency launched the Invisible People campaign, a touring photographic exhibition which portrayed the signs of slavery and exploitation to raise awareness across the country
- In 2018, we piloted a targeted, localised communications activity in Manchester, Barking and Dagenham focused on particular types of modern slavery. We worked with communities to co-create and pilot communications activity designed to help spot the signs of domestic servitude and encourage reporting
- Following the introduction of Anti-Slavery Day (18 October), in 2018 we launched a week long social media campaign to raise awareness of modern slavery across the UK.
- Border Force continue to work with port operators across the country to encourage display of anti-modern slavery messaging. This includes communications materials visible in all UK ports, such as Heathrow airport who collaborated with A21 to produce and display the 'can you see me' posters at its terminals. Border Force is also working with the NGO Unseen to ensure that information about the Modern Slavery Helpline is displayed at arrival points in the UK.
- Prosecutions for Modern Slavery continue to receive extensive media coverage which is increasing public awareness of these crimes. For example, the 2018 trial of British citizen Josephine Iyamu who was the first ever convicted cross border sex-trafficker under the Modern Slavery Act 2015, receiving an 18-year sentence. This highlights that any crimes relating to modern slavery, will not be tolerated.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-04-11/HL15240/>

The research referred to above is not currently available online.

UK Parliament Early Day Motions

Patrick Grady (SNP) (2362) Tier 5 visas for Ministers of Religion – That this House notes with concern the decision of the Home Office to remove Ministers of Religion from the eligibility criteria for tier 5 entry visas to the UK; further notes the widespread disappointment about this decision felt by Churches and other faith communities which have previously been able to invite religious ministers from overseas, and particularly developing countries, to provide supply cover for religious services over the coming months; believes this will have a negative effect on the ability of priests and ministers in the UK to take a break over the summer, on faith communities who may experience reduced worship schedules, and on the supply ministers who have used the opportunity to gain experience in the UK and earn some additional income before returning to their home country; and calls on the Home Secretary to meet with representatives of faith communities to listen to their concerns and urgently review his Department's policy decision.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/52889/tier-5-visas-for-ministers-of-religion>

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) (2358) Changes to visa requirements for religious workers – That this House is concerned that changes to the immigration rules regarding religious workers, announced in December 2018, are having a negative impact on the ability of churches and other religious organisations to carry out their work and worship; notes in particular that these changes introduce additional costs, a lengthy cooling-off period and language tests even for religious workers who have extensive experience of working in the UK, making it difficult for parishes and other religious bodies to secure the return of individuals with whom they have a long standing relationship; and calls on the Home Office to suspend implementation of these changes and to consult with religious organisations about how a fairer system can be introduced that better supports their work.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/52887/changes-to-visa-requirements-for-religious-workers>

Press Releases

Home Office publishes report on EU Settlement Scheme public beta test phase

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-office-publishes-report-on-eu-settlement-scheme-public-beta-test-phase>

Home Secretary hears from Scottish businesses on skills-based immigration

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-hears-from-scottish-businesses-on-skills-based-immigration>

New Immigration Services Commissioner appointed

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-immigration-services-commissioner-appointed>

New Publications

Letter from Caroline Nokes MP to Yvette Cooper MP regarding the public beta test phase of the EU Settlement Scheme

http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2019-0521/Letter_Caroline_Nooks_to_HASC_Chair_on_EUSS.pdf

EU Settlement Scheme public beta testing phase report

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

Response to an inspection of the EU Settlement Scheme

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/799414/EUSS_Formal_Response.pdf

News

Scottish Refugee Council: new live chat service

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/3436_new_live_chat_service

Nicola Sturgeon: Migration will secure population growth

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17606599.nicola-sturgeon-migration-will-secure-population-growth/>

Immigration won't solve all Scotland's problems

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/immigration-won-t-solve-all-scotland-s-problems-brian-wilson-1-4920221>

Sajid Javid: Immigration is vital so UK must be 'truly welcoming'

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/sajid-javid-immigration-is-vital-so-uk-must-be-truly-welcoming-1-4920687>

More than 600,000 EU citizens apply for UK settled status

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/may/02/more-than-600000-eu-citizens-apply-uk-settled-status>

Windrush scandal: MPs refer Home Office to equalities watchdog

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-48107957>

Home Office referred to equalities watchdog over Windrush scandal

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/windrush-scandal-home-office-hostile-environment-ehrc-david-lammy-a8894026.html>

MPs refer Home Office to equalities watchdog over Windrush scandal

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/may/01/mps-refer-home-office-to-equalities-watchdog-windrush-scandal-hostile-environment-institutional-racism>

Home Office investigated over student visa cheat claims

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-48076192>

Accused of cheating: another immigration scandal?

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/audio/2019/may/01/accused-of-cheating-another-immigration-scandal>

Home Office criticised over Glasgow asylum seeker lock-change 'obligation'

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17610106.home-office-criticised-over-glasgow-asylum-seeker-lock-change-obligation/>

Asylum seeker to appeal against eviction ruling

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17611515.asylum-seeker-to-appeal-against-eviction-ruling/>

Home Office stopped thousands of Britons for immigration checks

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/may/02/home-office-stopped-thousands-of-britons-for-immigration-checks>

Poll reveals sharp rise in opposition to immigration

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/poll-reveals-sharp-rise-in-opposition-to-immigration-bwqsxj8tj>

Britons most positive in Europe on benefits of immigration

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/may/02/britons-more-sold-on-immigration-benefits-than-other-europeans>

Immigrants' businesses worth £13bn

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-05-02/scotland/immigrants-businesses-worth-13bn-hs0bw3xs8>

Refugees missing out on jobs in UK, say humanitarian groups

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/may/02/refugees-are-missing-out-on-jobs-in-uk-charities-warn>

Somerset candidate suspended over anti-immigrant posts

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-somerset-48090430>

UK to deport Iraqi man who brought in baby niece for medical care

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/apr/29/uk-to-deport-iraqi-man-who-brought-in-baby-niece-for-medical-care>

TOP

Community Relations

UK Parliament Debates

Sikhs: Contribution to the UK

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-04-30/debates/1D8A9453-C2DA-4757-9248-6F5BC3130BDF/SikhsContributionToTheUK>

Jain Community: Contribution to the UK

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-05-01/debates/93A69D0F-11C9-4428-857E-097031BC4B98/JainCommunityContributionToTheUK>

New Publications

House of Commons Library Briefing: Contribution of Sikhs to the UK

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CDP-2019-0101/CDP-2019-0101.pdf>

British Sikh Report 2019

<http://www.britishsikhreport.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/British-Sikh-Report-2019-Online.pdf>

News

British streets split by race, Farage tells US audience

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/british-streets-split-by-race-farage-tells-us-audience-hgqrb60dc>

TOP

Equality

New Publications

Scottish Government Equality Outcomes and Mainstreaming Report 2019

<https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/publication/2019/04/equality-outcomes-mainstreaming-report-2019/documents/equality-outcomes-mainstreaming-report-2019/equality-outcomes-mainstreaming-report-2019/govscot%3Adocument>

Skills Development Scotland Equality & Diversity Mainstreaming Report 2019 – 2021

<https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/media/45597/equality-diversity-mainstreaming-report-2019.pdf>

News

Universities told to tackle race attainment gap

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-48121840>

Universities told to publish 'ethnic gap'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-05-02/news/universities-told-to-publish-ethnic-gap-mhqngsfwn>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Places of Worship (Vandalism)

Sandra White (SNP): The First Minister will be aware of the mindless acts of vandalism that were carried out this week on St Simon's Roman Catholic church in Partick in my constituency. The shrine to Our Lady of Czestochowa, which has been part of the church

since the 1940s and is much loved by the Polish congregation, was desecrated. Can the First Minister offer guidance on what the Scottish Government can provide places of worship with to deter these senseless acts of vandalism?

Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon): The vandalism of St Simon's church is absolutely appalling and a complete outrage, and I am sure that everybody is of that view. Although it is for the police to investigate such incidents, including any motivation for them, we should all be clear that such anti-Catholic—and, in this case, possibly anti-Polish—discrimination must not be tolerated. Just like antisemitism or Islamophobia, anti-Catholic discrimination is a scourge on our society, and it must be eradicated. All places of worship, whether they be Christian churches, mosques, synagogues or temples, must be places of peace and sanctuary, and that is why the justice secretary and I have committed to exploring further what the Scottish Government can do to ensure safety and security for all faith communities and their places of worship.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12071&i=109216#ScotParlOR>

UK Parliament Debate

Online Abuse

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-04-29/debates/65420802-6952-4830-9CF3-1B4001FFE0EA/OnlineAbuse>

Online Harms White Paper

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-04-30/debates/A8EE53D6-D377-4C74-8802-3BB2480405DE/OnlineHarmsWhitePaper>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Religious Hatred

Jo Stevens (Labour) [247111] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what assessment his Department has made of the reasons for the 415 per cent increase in religious hate crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales since 2011-12.

Reply from Heather Wheeler: Police recorded religiously motivated hate crime has increased in recent years 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 considerable driver for 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 the Community Security Trust and 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.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-24/247111/>

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

Religious Buildings: Security

Stephen Doughty (Labour Co-op) [248689] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the recently announced funding for protecting places of worship has been allocated.

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. 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. This increase in funding marks a significant change in our funding for protective security for places of worship.

The Places of Worship Protective Security Funding Scheme has been running for three years, and we continuously listen to feedback. We are now working urgently to make commercial improvements to the 2019/20 scheme to make it more effective and easier for places of worship to apply. The application process for the scheme will go live in July 2019 with allocations being made thereafter.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-29/248689/>

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>

Armed Forces: Ethnic Groups

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [247631] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether his Department has made an assessment of the effect of discrimination on trends in the level of people from ethnic minorities in the armed forces.

Reply from Tobias Ellwood: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is committed to preventing all forms of discrimination and is very clear that unacceptable behaviour of any kind will not be tolerated and action will be taken against anyone found to be engaging in such behaviour. All personnel have the right to work in an environment which is free from discrimination and unacceptable behaviour of any form. Personnel should be confident that any allegations will be taken very seriously, and action will be taken to deal with it. The Defence Diversity and Inclusion Strategy, published in October 2018, is based on achieving a vision that reflects our recognition that the recruitment, and retention of individuals with diverse skills, perspectives and backgrounds will bring real strength to Defence and wider society. The Strategy is available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/defence-diversity-and-inclusion-strategy-2018-to-2030-a-force-for-inclusion>

The MOD has no single formal mechanism to measure the effect of discrimination, however the Armed Forces have developed multiple methods of understanding the lived experience of our people, including Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) personnel, through a climate assessment regime. This approach includes BAME focus groups and regular engagement with our BAME employee networks. This provides the MOD with a vital feedback loop which informs behaviours and discipline training and policy.

Representation of people from BAME backgrounds in the Armed Forces continues to rise. The MOD publishes Biannual Diversity Statistics (available at the link below) which present information relating to the gender, ethnicity, nationality, religion and age of Service personnel.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-biannual-diversity-statistics-2018>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-25/247631/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Sports Competitors: Racial Discrimination

Jo Stevens (Labour) [248711] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps his Department is taking to assess the level of racism directed at sports players by spectators.

Sports: Racial Discrimination

Jo Stevens (Labour) [248712] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps his Department is taking to prevent race-related crime at sports fixtures.

Reply from Mims Davies: There is absolutely no place for racism and race related crime in sport or anywhere in society. We have seen some worrying instances of discriminatory behaviour recently, most notably in football. Following the summit I chaired with football leaders on 25th February 2019, Government is working with key groups to deliver clear, tangible actions to tackle racism at all levels of football. The intention is to announce these interventions, in partnership with football, later in the year.

It is vital that the atmosphere and environment in which sport and physical activity takes place in our communities - be it grassroots or at the elite level - is safe, supportive and free of discrimination. Sport clubs and fans must continue to embrace diversity and tackle racism whenever they encounter it.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-29/248711/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-29/248712/>

Football: Racial Discrimination

Matthew Offord (Conservative) [247007] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps his Department is taking to tackle racism in amateur football.

Reply from Mims Davies: Following my summit on Feb 25th, Government is working with key groups to deliver clear, tangible actions to tackle racism at all levels of football. As per my statement to the house on 11th April, my intention is to announce these interventions, in partnership with football, before the end of the summer.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-24/247007/>

New Publication

What is being done to tackle racism in Wales?

<https://seneddresearch.blog/2019/05/03/what-is-being-done-to-tackle-racism-in-wales/>

News

First Minister: Anti-Catholic discrimination 'a scourge on society'

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17614192.first-minister-anti-catholic-discrimination-a-scourge-on-society/>

Anas Sarwar slams Labour complaints process

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-48105247>

Anas Sarwar 'barred' from giving evidence to Labour racism probe

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/anas-sarwar-barred-from-giving-evidence-to-labour-racism-probe-1-4917723>

Claims Labour councillor made racist remarks to Anas Sarwar MSP thrown out by party

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17605391.claims-labour-councillor-made-racist-remarks-to-anas-sarwar-msp-thrown-out-by-party/>

Anas Sarwar 'disappointed' after Labour councillor cleared of making racist remark to him

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/anas-sarwar-disappointed-after-labour-councillor-cleared-of-making-racist-remark-to-him-1-4917478>

Richard Leonard: Labour complaints procedure flawed

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-05-02/scotland/richard-leonard-labour-complaints-procedure-flawed-9xl78sjr8>

Scottish Labour condemned by MSP over racism investigation

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-05-01/scotland/anas-sanwar-accuses-scottish-labour-in-new-racism-row-dcwh3pkf2>

Labour racism probe comes to Kafkaesque end

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/labour-racism-probe-comes-to-kafkaesque-end-leader-comment-1-4918250>

Interview with Labour councillor David McLachlan: Anas Sarwar owes me an apology

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17619551.interview-with-labour-councillor-david-mclachlan-anas-sarwar-owes-me-an-apology/>

Corbyn criticised over book anti-Semitism row

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-48117744>

Jeremy Corbyn in new anti-Semitism row over century-old book

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17609962.jeremy-corbyn-in-new-anti-semitism-row-over-century-old-book/>

Corbyn saw antisemitism in history book but did not mention it in foreword

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-05-02/news/corbyn-noticed-book-s-antisemitism-but-didn-t-think-it-worth-mentioning-fjkg6bf9z>

Jeremy Corbyn endorsed book about Jews controlling banks and the press

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-04-30/news/corbyn-endorsed-book-about-jews-controlling-banks-and-the-press-x6nd73jrj>

Corbyn in fresh antisemitism row over endorsement of book suggesting banks controlled by Jews

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/corbyn-antisemitism-book-ja-hobson-imperialism-jewish-labour-a8894086.html>

Why is Labour finding it so difficult to shake off accusations of antisemitism?

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/corbyn-antisemitism-labour-racism-finkelstein-a8894991.html>

In Labour's warped world view, anti-Semitism is an acceptable form of racism

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/05/02/labours-warped-world-view-anti-semitism-acceptable-form-racism/>

Islamophobia: Tory chairman won't reveal complaint numbers

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

Ukip candidate, Mark Meechan, banned from online platform after racial slur

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-05-01/scotland/ukip-candidate-mark-meechan-banned-from-online-platform-after-racial-slur-zdp5lqmf>

Antisemitism worst for years as Brexit and Labour taint politics

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-05-02/news/antisemitism-worst-for-years-as-brexit-and-labour-taint-politics-xxcnmxh7c>

Muslim advisers hit by anti-semitism row

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/muslim-advisers-face-hit-by-anti-semitism-row-82t30g90l>

New definition of Islamophobia 'risks helping terrorists'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/new-definition-of-islamophobia-risks-helping-terrorists-xfnj2rbr>

Met police officers scrutinised over claims of violence and racism

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/apr/30/ten-police-investigated-in-london-over-claims-of-violence-exploitation-and-racism>

Sheku Bayoh's family: Racism has denied us justice

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/crime/sheku-bayoh-s-family-racism-has-denied-us-justice-1-4919999>

Six years after my dad was killed by a racist, I tried to understand how a Muslim genocide took place on Britain's doorstep

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/srebrenica-islam-murder-europe-muslim-serbia-a8891051.html>

Black students at Cambridge told me how its colonial past damaged them – this slavery study must be the start of something far bigger

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/cambridge-university-slavery-colonial-race-students-people-colour-racism-a8894256.html>

Cambridge University launches inquiry into slave trade links and historic racism

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/2019/04/29/cambridge-university-launches-inquiry-slave-trade-links-historic/>

Britain's legacy is not benign - the Cambridge slavery inquiry will show we have plenty to feel guilty for

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/cambridge-slavery-inquiry-racism-britain-colonialism-james-ramsay-a8898836.html>

Cambridge University inquiry into slave trade connections is 'virtue signalling on steroids', Trevor Phillips says

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/04/30/cambridge-university-inquiry-slave-trade-connections-virtue/>

One in 20 British adults does not believe the Holocaust happened - will this help them to remember?

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/family/life/one-20-british-adults-does-not-believe-holocaust-happened/>

Racist thug who called West Lothian shop keeper "a Jihadi b***d" jailed**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/crime/racist-thug-who-called-west-lothian-shop-keeper-a-jihadi-b-d-jailed-1-4917621>

Listen to footballers: no amount of money can protect from the devastating effects of racism

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/racism-football-raheem-sterling-van-dijk-koulibaly-abuse-a8896056.html>

TOP

Other Scottish Parliament and Government

News

Kezia Dugdale quitting politics for post at Glasgow University

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17604630.kezia-dugdale-quitting-politics-for-post-at-glasgow-university/>

Former Labour leader Kezia Dugdale to quit Scottish Parliament in July

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/former-labour-leader-kezia-dugdale-to-quit-scottish-parliament-in-july-1-4916970>

Kezia Dugdale: As I quit as an MSP, I'm inspired by words of John Smith

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/kezia-dugdale-as-i-quit-as-an-msp-i-m-inspired-by-words-of-john-smith-1-4917502>

Scottish Parliament at 20: How Holyrood found the power to make a difference

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/scottish-parliament-at-20-how-holyrood-found-the-power-to-make-a-difference-1-4920997>

Holyrood's vote of confidence: poll results hail the positive effect of devolution

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/holyroods-vote-of-confidence-poll-results-hail-the-positive-effect-of-devolution-98pttrspb>

Early buzz may have gone, but Holyrood is still a source of Scottish pride

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/john-boothman-early-buzz-may-have-gone-but-holyrood-is-still-a-source-of-scottish-pride-kiskmnxxq>

Holyrood has raised political bar over the past 20 years

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/kevin-pringle-holyrood-has-raised-political-bar-over-the-past-20-years-35ft6z7qt>

TOP

Other UK Parliament and Government

Debate

Sharia Law Courts

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-05-02/debates/201F2DB0-FCE5-412F-AAB8-83CAA66F308A/ShariaLawCourts>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Slaughterhouses: Animal Welfare

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [247644] To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what recent assessment he has made of the welfare standards of animals that are not stunned before slaughter in the UK; and if he will make a statement.

David Rutley: The Government encourages the highest standards of animal welfare and would prefer all animals to be stunned before slaughter, but respects the rights of Jews and Muslims to eat meat prepared in accordance with their beliefs.

EC Regulation 1099/2009 sets down the welfare standards for animals at the time of killing, including regulations specifically concerned with animals which are slaughtered without stunning. In addition to these EU-level requirements, the Government has adopted stricter national regulations for animals that are slaughtered without stunning, which provide them with more extensive protections than the EU Regulation. These are set down in The Welfare of Animals at Time of Killing (England) Regulations 2015.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-25/247644/>

Homicide: Ethnic Groups

Philip Davies (Conservative) [246972] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, from which ethnic group each offender convicted of murder came from in the last three years.

Reply from Rory Stewart: Data on convictions for murder, up to 31 December 2017, can be found in the principle offence proceedings and outcomes by offence code data tool, available at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/738814/HO-Code-Tool-2017.xlsx

In the pivot table, select 'Ethnicity' from the 'Ethnicity filter' and select '1 Murder' from the 'Offence' filter: The number of murder convictions for each year can be found in the 'Convicted' row (row 30).

Court proceedings data, including findings of guilt for the offence of murder for 2018,

are planned for publication on 16 May 2019.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-24/246972/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Exercise

Lord Pendry (Labour) [HL15315] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by Sport England Active Lives Adult Survey November 17/18 published on 11 April; and what steps they are taking to promote physical activity for (1) women, and (2) those from low income, black and South Asian backgrounds.

Reply from Lord Ashton of Hyde: We are clear that everyone, regardless of their age, background or level of ability, should feel able to engage in sport and physical activity.

The most recent Active Lives survey shows that 62.6% of the adult population of England) are active and hitting the Chief Medical Officer's guidelines for daily activity. That's an increase of 498,000 people (0.8%) compared to the previous 12 month period.

However, there are some inequalities which remain with lower levels of participation among certain groups, including women, some black and minority ethnic groups and those from a lower socio-economic background.

By 2021 Sport England will have invested around 25% of its income since 2017 (approximately £120m) specifically in programmes dedicated to tackling inactivity. This includes various targeted programmes, including the Tackling Inactivity and Economic Disadvantage Fund, and campaigns such as This Girl Can which has been developed to get women and girls moving, regardless of shape, size and ability.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-04-24/HL15315/>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.sportengland.org/media/13768/active-lives-adult-may-17-18-report.pdf>

Street Preachers

The Lord Bishop of St Albans [HL15288] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 3 April (HL14707), whether the Home Office provides any particular guidance to police officers in relation to freedom of speech and street preachers; whether police officers receive training on religious literacy; and if so, whether any such training is mandatory.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office has not issued guidance to the police in relation to freedom of speech and street preachers. The training of police officers is an operational matter for the police.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-04-24/HL15288/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Mike Gapes (Change UK – The Independent Group) (2357) Voting rights of EU citizens in European elections – That this House calls on the Government to take immediate steps to ensure that all EU citizens in the UK who wish to vote in the EU elections are able to do so by making the additional form that EU citizens need to complete

in order to declare they are not voting in another EU member state - the UC1 form - available at all polling stations on 23 May 2019, by instructing all local authorities to write by first-class mail to EU citizens who miss the 7 May deadline to inform them they will still be able to vote by filling in a UC1 form which will be available at polling stations and by directing local authorities to send polling cards to all EU citizens and not just those who have completed and returned the UC1 form.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/52886/voting-rights-of-eu-citizens-in-european-elections>

TOP

Local Elections (England and N Ireland)

News

Local elections: Results in maps and charts

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-48091592>

Election 2019: Northern Ireland results

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-politics-48133468>

Local elections: Conservatives lose more than 1,300 councillors

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-48142181>

TOP

New Publication

MEMO+ Voting in the European Parliament Elections

https://www.scojec.org/memo+/2019/19v_voting_in_the_eu_parliament_elections.pdf

TOP

Other News

Watch your eye health during Ramadan

<http://thirdforcenews.org.uk/tfn-news/watch-your-eye-health-during-ramadan>

A Life in the Day: the lord mayor of Sheffield, Magid Magid

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/magazine/the-sunday-times-magazine/a-life-in-the-day-the-lord-mayor-of-sheffield-magid-magid-dcl9kk8fn>

TOP

Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

**** Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Scotland) Bill**

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

Notice of amendments

[https://www.parliament.scot/S5_Bills/Human%20Tissue%20\(Authorisation\)%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBill32MLS052019.pdf](https://www.parliament.scot/S5_Bills/Human%20Tissue%20(Authorisation)%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBill32MLS052019.pdf)

Vulnerable Witnesses (Criminal Evidence) (Scotland) Bill

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

UK Parliament

Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) Bill

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

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

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

Banknote Diversity

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

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>

[TOP](#)

Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

The Law of Succession (closing date 10 May 2019)

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

**** closes this week!**

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/>

**** EU Settlement Scheme: Call for evidence** (closing date 31 May 2019)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/eu-settlement-scheme-call-for-evidence>

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>

TOP

Job Opportunities

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

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

TOP

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>

TOP

Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

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/>

**** this week!**

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

**** this week!**

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>

Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals

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>

Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

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>

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/>

**** Scotland Welcomes Refugees Gathering 2019**

15 June 2019 in Glasgow (10.00-4.30)

Scotland Welcomes Refugees Coalition event connecting welcome groups, grassroots movements, like-minded individuals, and refugees. It will be a family-friendly showcase of international art, music, storytelling, and much more, celebrating the variety of backgrounds that refugees bring to our communities. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y4q2hk57>

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/>

**** The Great Get Together**

21-23 June 2019 (Scotland wide)

The Great Get Together is inspired by Jo Cox, who was killed on 16 June 2016. The organisers believe there is a groundswell of people who reject divisive politics and simply want to bring our communities together and celebrate all that unites us. This is our chance. For information and resources see <http://www.greatgettogether.org/take-part/>

We Are One – Citizenfest

9-10 August 2019 in Glasgow

Festival celebrating diversity and equality and celebrating our rights – ethnic, political, minority, and human rights – through music, seminars, food, drama, talks, art. For information see <https://www.facebook.com/citizenfestweareone>

Working with unaccompanied refugee children

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

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

[TOP](#)

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>

TOP



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/>

The copyright of each article belongs to the publisher on whose website it appears, and it may only be copied or reproduced in accordance with the relevant terms and conditions. Full details of these, and the publisher's contact information, are available on each website.