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

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Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-17767 Keith Brown (SNP): Refugee Week – That the Parliament notes that 17 to 23 June 2019 is Refugee Week, which will have the theme "You, me and those who came before"; acknowledges that the awareness week was established in 1998 to challenge hostility to refugees and asylum seekers; notes that it now comprises a UK-wide programme of arts, cultural and educational events that celebrate the contribution made to Scotland and the rest of the UK by refugees and seeks to promote a better understanding of why people claim sanctuary; warmly welcomes refugees and asylum seekers; recognises how they can contribute and enrich communities, including in Clackmannanshire and Dunblane; believes that it is a human right to claim asylum; commends the organisers of Refugee Week on their efforts to give refugees and asylum seekers a platform to be seen, heard and valued; welcomes the work done by the Scottish

Government in relation to refugees, including extending the Best Start Grant Pregnancy and Baby Payment to young asylum seekers, taking what it sees is a fair and proportionate share of refugees as part of the Syrian resettlement programme, its work with unaccompanied children and the New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy, and reaffirms Scotland's commitment to offering sanctuary to the world's most vulnerable people.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-17767>

UK Parliament, Ministerial Statement

Immigration: DNA Evidence

The Minister for Immigration (Caroline Nokes) [HCWS1610] Today I am announcing the publication of the Home Office response to Darra Singh's review of the Home Office response to the mandating of DNA for immigration purposes. The Home Secretary commissioned this review to provide independent oversight of the effectiveness of remedial action taken by the Department when the incorrect mandating of DNA evidence came to light last year.

The review recognises the considerable efforts made by the Department, once the issue came to light, to assess the scale of the problem and prevent its recurrence, and to identify those affected and take remedial action, including reimbursing DNA testing costs where appropriate. The review acknowledges that good progress has been made to update guidance on DNA and to provide training on this issue.

While the review acknowledges the hard work behind the immediate response, it comments that the effective direction provided by the critical incident process could have been put in place at an earlier stage. The review also identifies areas where the Home Office's approach to sampling, data collection, and assurance in this instance could have been improved.

The Department accepts the recommendations made in the report and has already taken action on them. Furthermore, beyond this specific issue the Department is focused on meeting the individual needs of the public we serve by improving customer service, ensuring we better protect the vulnerable and focusing on becoming more of a listening organisation. ...

The Home Secretary and I would like to thank Darra Singh for his considerable effort in producing the report and its recommendations.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-06-10/debates/1906109000009/ImmigrationDNAEvidence>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Immigration System

Bill Grant (Conservative): What plans [does the Minister have] for the UK's future immigration system. [911213]

Reply from the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Sajid Javid): In December 2018 the Government set out their proposals for a future immigration system in a White Paper, "The UK's future skills-based immigration system". The new system will be focused on those with the skills that the country needs, who will bring the most benefit to the United Kingdom.

Bill Grant: My constituency needs migrant workers to support local industry—particularly, but not exclusively, in the health, hospitality, fishing and farming sectors. Will my right hon. Friend reassure my constituents that there will be sufficient flexibility in any post-Brexit immigration system to allow those sectors to flourish?

Reply from Sajid Javid: I am happy to give my hon. Friend that reassurance. We recognise that the future system must work for the valuable industries that make this nation great. We are working with many businesses and employers, including some in the sectors that my hon. Friend has listed, to ensure there is proper engagement which will achieve precisely what he has described.

Rosie Duffield (Labour): On Thursday night, a 17-year-old schoolboy visiting Canterbury from Germany was violently attacked in our city centre. He is now fighting for his life. I thank the Home Secretary for intervening personally to enable the boy's family to travel to be at his bedside, and I am extremely grateful for his—and his team's—rapid response, kindness and hard work over the weekend. In the light of this awful incident, will he please reassure me that he is listening carefully to the grave concerns that are being expressed about the dwindling number of police on our streets?

Reply from Sajid Javid: I was very concerned to hear about that case when the hon. Lady contacted me, and I am pleased that the young man's parents are now at his bedside. I can give her the assurance for which she has asked. We have a big police funding settlement this year, which is leading to the biggest increase in police numbers since 2010.

Stephen Crabb (Conservative): I thank the Home Secretary for the support that he has expressed for the amendment drafted by our hon. Friend the Member for Orpington (Joseph Johnson), which has the support of many colleagues on both sides of the House, and which seeks to ease post-study work restrictions on overseas students. Does my right hon. Friend agree that not only is this an economically sensible and useful thing to do, but it will enhance UK soft power as we build global Britain?

Reply from Sajid Javid: My right hon. Friend is absolutely right. As he will know, we have already announced steps in that direction in the White Paper, because we want to make it easier for those who come from abroad to study in our universities to stay and continue to lead their lives in the UK. I do believe that we can go further, both for our own economic benefit—indeed, I think, for our cultural benefit—and, certainly, for the benefit of our soft power.

Adrian Bailey (Labour Co-op): International students are vital not just for our exports, but for university funding and regional economies. Britain is lagging behind our main competitors in attracting the brightest and the best. What plans has the Home Secretary to add countries such as India to the list of states with fast-track access to tier 4 study permits to help to address that issue?

Reply from Sajid Javid: I very much agree with the hon. Gentleman about the importance of international students, including their importance as an export for our economy. He will be pleased to learn that there is no cap on the number of international students who can come to the UK, and that the number who came last year reached a record high. As for fast-track access for certain countries, we constantly keep that under review.

James Heapey (Conservative): My constituent Ken Macharia is under threat of removal back to Kenya, where he will not be able to live openly as a gay man. In the month of Pride, it cannot be right for us to deny him the right to be who he is. More importantly, however, does the Home Secretary agree that Ken's sexuality should not be the issue? He came here to qualify as a mechanical engineer, and he therefore has skills that we urgently need for our economy. Should we not be letting him stay for that reason, irrespective of his sexuality?

Reply from Sajid Javid: I understand why my hon. Friend has raised this case, and I can assure him that the Home Office is taking it very seriously. He will, perhaps, appreciate that I cannot comment on an individual case, especially if it involves an application for a judicial review, but I can reassure him that in cases of this type, at the heart of decision-making is the welfare of the individual concerned.

Joanna Cherry (SNP): As has already been pointed out, the Home Secretary has pledged

that if he becomes Prime Minister he will reintroduce the post-study work visa. The university sector in Scotland, business, and my colleagues in the Scottish Government have been calling for its reintroduction for some years. The right hon. Gentleman is already Home Secretary, and he has the power to reintroduce it with full effect for Scotland today if he wants to, so will he make a commitment to do so?

Reply from Sajid Javid: That is exactly why the proposal is in the White Paper I published earlier this year.

Joanna Cherry: I am disappointed that the Home Secretary does not feel able to make that commitment, but I hope he will maybe follow through on it if he becomes Prime Minister.

May I ask him about something else that is very important to Members in all parts of this House? A recent freedom of information request from one of my colleagues in the Scottish Parliament revealed that 19 children and six pregnant women have been held at the privately run Dungavel detention centre since 2016, and this is despite the Government committing to end the detention of children at Dungavel. Can the Secretary of State explain how this has been allowed to happen and will he commit to ending indefinite detention as part of his future plans for the UK's immigration system?

Reply from Sajid Javid: On the hon. and learned Lady's first question, it sounds as though she has not read the White Paper yet because it talks about increasing post-study work permits. On the question about detention, we have a comprehensive and detailed policy on adults at risk; we constantly keep it under review, and when there are specific cases we will look at them very carefully.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-06-10/debates/2D6908E1-CABA-47B2-BE42-CD4334CBA317/ImmigrationSystem>

The White Paper referred to above can be read at

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

Windrush Victims: Compensation

Jessica Morden (Labour): What steps [is the Minister] taking to compensate victims of the Windrush scandal. [911209]

Helen Hayes (Labour): What steps [is the Minister] taking to compensate victims of the Windrush scandal. [911212]

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour): What steps [is the Minister] taking to compensate victims of the Windrush scandal. [911217]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Caroline Nokes): On 3 April, my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary announced the opening of the Windrush compensation scheme. The forms, rules and guidance were published on the same day. The freephone helpline is available to answer any queries. The scheme will ensure that those who have been affected are able to claim for the losses they faced and receive appropriate compensation.

Jessica Morden: How will the Government compensate Windrush victims such as my constituent who could not work for eight years because of his lack of status, losing his NI contributions and his pension? Are Ministers making sure that in such complicated cases people get the advice they need to fill out the forms, so they are not victimised yet again?

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We worked very hard with the independent adviser, and indeed with victims of Windrush, to ensure the claim form was as accessible and as easily understood as possible. It is a complicated claim form, because there are 13 different heads of claims under which people are able to claim compensation, but we have set up a contract with Citizens Advice so they can get independent advice without having to resort to using lawyers.

Helen Hayes: Community organisations working with Windrush citizens, including the

Black Cultural Archives in my constituency, report that the compensation scheme simply is not working. The form is too complex, advice is neither accessible nor specialist enough, and the burden of proof is far too high. Will the Minister review the scheme, acknowledge that it is not working, and, as an absolute minimum, provide immediate funding for specialist legal advice to be available not only by phone but in person to every Windrush citizen who needs it?

Reply from Caroline Nokes: As I outlined, there is already a contract in place with Citizens Advice to provide that independent advice. There is an ongoing series of engagement events, with taskforce officials from the Home Office attending different community groups across the country, including in London. There have been two events in Newport. It is important that we get this right, which is why we worked with Martin Forde to have a scheme that gave us independent advice. It is important that we work through it. I know that at 18 pages the claim form is quite long, but of course individual claimants have to fill in only the components that are relevant to them, not every page.

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi: This gross injustice with respect to the Windrush scandal is not an accident or a one-off; it is a direct result of the Government's hostile environment policy. Have the Government considered how their hostile environment might affect migrants from India, Pakistan or Bangladesh now and in the future?

Reply from Caroline Nokes: It is important to reflect that roughly half the individuals affected by Windrush had a negative impact pre-2010 under the previous Labour Government. We are determined to put right all those wrongs and ensure that wherever people have come from—people from a wide variety of countries, not simply the Caribbean, have made contact with the Windrush taskforce—they are given the support to go through the process of getting the documentation they need. Well over 4,000 people have secured British citizenship as a result, and over 6,000 people have the documentation they need to prove their right to stay in the UK.

Diane Abbott (Labour): The Minister has to begin to acknowledge communities' grave concerns about the Windrush compensation scheme as it stands. They think that it is not working. She also needs to bear in mind that this is an ageing cohort, who will probably need more support on average than a cohort that is more mixed in age. The Home Secretary told the House in April last year that we "will do whatever it takes to put it right". He continued: "We have made it clear that a Commonwealth citizen who has remained in the UK since 1973 will be eligible to get the legal status that they deserve: British citizenship." [\[Official Report\]](#) What progress has been made on those promises?

Will the Minister reconsider some of the worst aspects of the current scheme? It will currently not compensate those who may have been wrongly deported. I quote from the document: "It is difficult to determine whether inability to return to the UK is a loss".

Of course, someone being deprived of their home, job, family and community is a loss. How can Ministers say that it is "difficult to determine" whether there is a loss?

Reply from Caroline Nokes: ... It is absolutely because we acknowledge that people have been wronged that, in the last week, I personally have attended two separate outreach events for people who wish to understand the compensation scheme. It is why there are dedicated helplines. It is why we have put in place the scheme with Citizens Advice, so that it can provide advice. I reiterate that 6,470 individuals have been granted some form of documentation and 4,281 have been granted citizenship. As I said, there are 13 different heads of claim, including not only deportation, but loss of ability to work, loss of benefits and so on. We are absolutely determined to make sure that we compensate the individuals affected in a timely manner.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-06-10/debates/64E0DBF0-4A2D-4AA6-8BDD-2BCD3B9BA0AD/WindrushVictimsCompensation>

The announcement referred to above can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-launches-windrush-compensation-scheme>

The Guidance referred to above can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/windrush-compensation-scheme> which also includes links to the application forms.

EU Settlement Scheme

Peter Grant (SNP): What steps [is the Minister's] Department is taking to promote the EU settlement scheme. [911221]

Reply from the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Sajid Javid): EU citizens are our friends, neighbours and colleagues, and we want them to stay. The EU settlement scheme enables them to do so, and we launched a £3.75 million marketing campaign in March to encourage them to apply.

Peter Grant: If these people genuinely are the Home Secretary's friends, colleagues and neighbours, perhaps the Government should start to treat them as such, instead of preparing to make them the victims of another Windrush-type scandal. The Home Affairs Committee recently reported that thousands of EU nationals in the UK run the risk of being left with an uncertain legal future. Does the Home Secretary not accept that it is time to get rid of the application and potential refusal system that they have just now and replace it with as a system of right to remain by declaration? That would leave the onus of proof on the Government if they think that someone should not be allowed to stay, instead of making the person prove that they can.

Reply from Sajid Javid: The settlement scheme is working incredibly well. To update the House, 800,000 applications have already been made since its launch, with almost 700,000 concluded. The hon. Gentleman mentions Windrush, and if he wants another Windrush, he should continue with the proposal that he just suggested.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-06-10/debates/1D914626-7B86-4DE3-B5B6-3621A4BB786F/EUSettlementScheme>

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

Refugee Family Reunion

Vince Cable (Liberal Democrat): Whether [the Minister] plans to extend the scope of his policy on refugee family reunion. [911211]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Caroline Nokes): The Government provide a safe and legal route for bringing families together through our existing family reunion policy. These provisions are consistent with our obligation to respect family life under article 8 of the European convention on human rights. We are listening to calls to extend this policy and will continue discussions with stakeholders.

Vince Cable: Ministers will recall that last July the other House passed the Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill overwhelmingly but that it was not introduced here because of lack of parliamentary time. Since parliamentary time no longer appears so scarce, will the Minister introduce it here to help reunite families, many of whom are divided by some very rigid and inflexible rules?

Reply from Caroline Nokes: As I said, we are listening to calls to extend family reunion and are watching the two private Members' Bills very closely. The right hon. Gentleman's question is of course one for business managers, who I am sure will heed his calls.

Andrew Bridgen (Conservative): Is my right hon. Friend as concerned as I am that in designing a refugee family reunion policy we do not create incentives that encourage even

more people to leave their homes and undertake an extremely dangerous journey in the hope they will bring the rest of their relatives to our country at a later date?

Reply from Caroline Nokes: My hon. Friend rightly raises the Government's concern that allowing children to sponsor close family members might create incentives for more children to be encouraged or even forced to leave their families and risk a hazardous journey to the UK in order to sponsor relatives at a later date. I am sure he agrees that we absolutely want to avoid that because it could play into the hands of criminal gangs already exploiting vulnerable people.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-06-10/debates/C6907CD1-3DF7-4059-8955-E1F5CFDD9C21/RefugeeFamilyReunion>

Asylum Application Process

Catherine West (Labour): What steps [is the Minister] taking to improve the asylum application process. [911227]

Reply from the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Sajid Javid): The Home Office is committed to ensuring that asylum claims are considered and protection is granted, where necessary, as soon as possible. We have ambitious plans to improve the system, including developing new service standards to ensure that cases with acute vulnerability are prioritised.

Catherine West: Last December, the Home Secretary said that he would look into lifting the ban on asylum seekers working. Will he please set out his view on whether or not asylum seekers should have the right to work after they have lodged their applications?

Reply from Sajid Javid: The hon. Lady will know that in certain circumstances asylum seekers can work: after a year and if the occupation is on the shortage occupation list. She is right: I have said that. We continue to look at how we can change this and how we can expand those rights potentially. That work is under review and we will report to the House in due course.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-06-10/debates/3ED19E09-255A-4772-98DD-FB4F08F671CD/AsylumApplicationProcess>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Migrant Workers: Scotland

Stephen Kerr (Conservative) [911216] What recent assessment he has made of the effect on Scotland of required income levels for skilled migrants.

Reply from Sajid Javid: Our future immigration system is designed to drive up wages and productivity across the UK and allow us to bring in the most talented while responding to public concerns about immigration.

We have been very clear that no decision on the levels at which salary thresholds should be set will be taken until we have completed the UK-wide engagement process that is currently underway.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-10/911216/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Migrant Workers: Fees and Charges

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [262354] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if he will publish the allocation of revenues from the Immigration Skills Charge in the last 12 months.

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [262355] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Immigration Skills Charge in increasing skills provision in England.

Reply from Anne Milton: In 2017-18, income from the Immigration Skills Charge

(ISC) contributed £75 million to the department's skills budget.

While the income raised is not additional funding for skills, the ISC is helping to maintain the department's existing skills budget and existing level of investment in skills in England. As such, it is not possible to provide a breakdown of how the department's ISC allocation is spent.

The ISC ensures that we can continue to invest in developing the skills that the country needs and also addresses skills gaps in the workforce. Similarly, it helps to maintain funding levels for each of the devolved administrations.

My letter of 17 January 2019 to the chairs of the Education and Home Affairs committees about the ISC, has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and is available to view at the following link:

www.parliament.uk/business/publications/business-papers/commons/deposited-papers/. An internal review of the ISC, based on Home Office data, was undertaken in the second quarter of 2018. We continue to keep this policy under review.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-10/262354/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-10/262355/>

Immigrants: Domestic Abuse

Dawn Butler (Labour) [262299] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that adequate safeguards will be included in the Domestic Abuse Bill to protect migrant survivors of domestic abuse.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: This Government is committed to tackling domestic abuse against all women, regardless of their background or nationality and that is why we published a draft Domestic Abuse Bill. This draft Bill is currently undergoing scrutiny by a Joint Parliamentary Committee.

For victims of domestic abuse who are married, or are partners of, British or settled sponsors, there is the option of applying for immediate crisis support under the Destitute Domestic Violence Concession (DDVC).

In the Government's response to its consultation on Domestic Abuse we committed to a number of further non-legislative measures in respect of migrant victims of domestic abuse. This included a commitment to consider widening the cohort of individuals eligible under the DDVC. The response is accessible via the following link:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/772202/CCS1218158068-Web_Accessible.pdf

We will carefully consider recommendations from the Joint Committee in respect of migrant women and look forward to seeing the report.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-10/262299/>

Department for International Development: Migrant Workers

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [259378] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what estimate he has made of the number of EU nationals employed by his Department by country.

Reply from Harriett Baldwin: The number of EU nationals employed by DFID, as at 31 May 2019, who have declared their nationality is broken down in the table below. It is not mandatory for staff to declare their nationality.

Nationality	Count of Staff
Austrian	Less than 5
British	2506

Bulgarian	Less than 5
Czech	Less than 5
Danish	7
Dutch	10
Finnish	Less than 5
French	19
German	23
Greek	Less than 5
Irish	31
Italian	28
Lithuanian	Less than 5
Polish	5
Portuguese	Less than 5
Romanian	Less than 5
Slovak	Less than 5
Spanish	Less than 5
Swedish	5
Undeclared	1076

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-03/259378/>

Entry Clearances: Ministers of Religion

Mhairi Black (SNP) [260037] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to engage with the views of religious groups on the new Tier 2 Minister of Religion visa route.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Tier 2 route for Ministers of Religion has been in place for several years. In January 2019 changes were made to the Immigration Rules governing the Tier 5 visa for religious workers. The Government wrote to faith leaders in December, setting out the detail and rationale behind those changes.

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/2019-06-04/260037/>

Visas

Jim Cunningham (Labour) [262234] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many academics have been refused visas to travel to the UK for work-related purposes by his Department in each of the last five years.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: UKVI does not publish statistics categorised by an applicant's profession or in this level of detail with regard to the purpose of visit.

The available statistics on grants and refusals by entry clearance visa category, including work and visitor visa routes, are published in the quarterly Immigration Statistics Visas volume 1 table vi_01_q, latest edition at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2019/list-of-tables#visas>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-10/262234/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [261209] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 22 May 2019 to Question 254812, whether staff at the Home Office and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs will access that data for the purposes of the EU Settlement Scheme exclusively.

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [261212] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 22 May 2019 to Question 254812 on Immigration: EU Nationals and with reference to page 14 of the Memorandum of Understanding on the EU Settlement Scheme between his Department and the Department for Work and Pensions, whether staff at the Department for Work and Pensions access to that data is restricted to the purposes of the EU Settlement Scheme.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs has full access to a person's tax records as per HMRC's statutory responsibilities and their access to tax records data is not limited to the EU Settlement Scheme.

Similarly, Department for Work and Pensions has full access to a person's benefit and pension records as per DWP's statutory responsibilities and their access to these records is not limited to the scheme. The Home Office processes a calculation of residence on based the data provided and does not retain access to the source data in an application to the EU Settlement Scheme as confirmed by the MOU.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-06/261209/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-06/261212/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-15/254812/>

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

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [261210] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the letter dated 1 May 2019 from the Minister of State for Immigration to the Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee, if his Department will include data on the responses received to the question of whether applicants have been continuously resident for less than five years, or more than five years, in relation to the outcome of the application in the monthly Official Statistics report on the EU Settlement Scheme.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The first official statistics on the operation of the 'EU Settlement Scheme Statistics, April 2019' were published on 30th May 2019 and can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements/eu-settlement-scheme-statistics-april-2019>

The Home Office is committed to publishing more detailed quarterly statistics 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 take into account the views of statistics users.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-06/261210/>

The letter referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-committees/home-affairs/Correspondence-17-19/19-05-02-Letter-from-Immigration-Minister-EU-Settlement-Scheme.pdf>

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

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [261211] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 20 May 2019 to Question 254186 and with reference to page 9 of the Memorandum of Understanding between his Department and the Department for Work and Pensions and to pages 12-13 of the Memorandum of Understanding between his Department and HMRC, for what reasons automated residency checks will not check applicants' records on working tax credit and child tax credit.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs advice indicated that receipt of working tax credit and child tax credit are not currently available as a data set that we can interrogate through the automated checks.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-06/261211/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-14/254186/>

The Memorandum of Understanding referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/790661/Home_Office_-_HMRC_API_EU_Exit_MoU.PDF

Refugees: Children

Stella Creasy (Labour Co-op) [262362] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the accuracy of statements reportedly made by the French authorities that the nine unaccompanied children who are being processed under the Dubs scheme will be the last children to be processed before the allocation for the Dubs scheme is reached.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We continue to work closely with participating States – France, Greece and Italy - to fulfil our commitments under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016. Over 220 children were transferred to the UK under section 67 when the Calais camp was cleared in late 2016.

The UK asked France to refer a further 100 unaccompanied children to the UK for transfer under section 67. Since then we have been making further progress with participating States to refer and transfer more eligible children to move closer to fulfilling the commitment to transfer 480 children.

We will publish further data on the transfers once we have fulfilled our commitments.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-10/262362/>

Asylum: Finance

Marion Fellows (SNP) [260049] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reason his Department decided to move the provision of financial support to asylum seekers from post offices to Aspen cards.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The functionality of the Aspen card was thoroughly tested prior to its rollout in May 2017 and there were a number of factors which influenced the decision to move to a payment card from Post Offices.

Primarily, the sub-contractual arrangements were coming to an end, and the Asylum Registration Card (ARC) used for identification and payment purposes was

being upgraded. Other factors included improved convenience and accessibility for service users, and a reduction in processing costs associated with reduced cash handling.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-04/260049/>

Asylum: Finance

Marion Fellows (SNP) [260050] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much financial support was paid to asylum seekers through post offices in each of the last five years.

Reply Caroline Nokes: Post May 2017 all funding for financial support was paid to asylum seekers via ASPEN cards and prior to that Home Office records do not indicate whether financial support was paid via a Post Office, a card or in cash/vouchers to asylum seekers.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-04/260050/>

Asylum: Finance

Marion Fellows (SNP) [260051] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when his Department's contract to provide financial support to asylum seekers through an Aspen card will expire.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office's contract to provide financial support to asylum seekers through an Aspen Card will expire on 27 November 2019 (with the option to extend for a further 6 months to 27 May 2020).

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-04/260051/>

Asylum: Finance

Marion Fellows (SNP) [260052] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the cost to the public purse is of the contract to provide financial support to asylum seekers through Aspen cards.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office does not publish data on the costs to the public purse for the contract to provide financial support to asylum seekers through Aspen cards.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-04/260052/>

Asylum: Translation Services

Chris Stephens (SNP) [262414] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what criteria his Department uses when assessing asylum applications in cases where a substantive interview with an applicant has not been able to take place due to the unavailability of a translator for that interview.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Where a translator is unavailable to carry out a substantive asylum interview, the Home Office will look to rebook the interview when a translator for the preferred language is next available.

On the rare occasion where we are unable to source a translator to carry out the substantive asylum interview, we would seek to use a detailed witness statement provided by the applicant, to decide the asylum claim.

The Home Office will continue to explore and act upon potential interpreter recruitment avenues, both regionally and nationally, for all languages. Alongside the ongoing recruitment campaign, we will continue to work with stakeholders in assessing demand and have in place contingencies to ensure the available national resource is utilised as effectively as possible.

The following six questions all received the same answer

Immigrants: Detainees

Lesley Laird (Labour) [261287] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people from Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath constituency have been held in (a) Dungavel and (b) other UK immigration removal centres since their inception.

Lesley Laird (Labour) [261288] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people from Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath constituency are being held in (a) Dungavel and (b) other immigration removal centres in the UK.

Lesley Laird (Labour) [261289] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many children from Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath constituency are being held in (a) Dungavel and (b) other UK immigration removal centres.

Lesley Laird (Labour) [261290] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average duration of stay is at (a) Dungavel and (b) other immigration detention centres in the UK in the most recent period for which figures are available.

Lesley Laird (Labour) [261291] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the weekly cost is to detain an individual from Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath constituency in (a) Dungavel and (b) other UK immigration removal centres.

Lesley Laird (Labour) [261292] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what education provision is provided to children detained at (a) Dungavel and (b) other UK immigration removal centres.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office does not hold the information requested on individual detainees from Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath constituency in a reportable format. The last known addresses of detainees are not included in the underlying datasets used to produce the Home Office's published detention figures and the information requested could only be supplied at disproportionate cost.

The median length of detention of people leaving the detention estate in Q1 2019 was between 8 and 14 days, and of people in the immigration detention estate as at 31 March 2019 between 15 and 28 days. Information on the length of detention of people leaving and in the detention estate is available in tables dt_06_q and dt_11_q of the detention tables in the latest releases of 'Immigration Statistics, year ending March 2019'.

The UK ended the routine detention of children in immigration removal centres in 2010, and enshrined this in law under the Immigration Act 2014. There remain limited circumstances where, very exceptionally, unaccompanied children may be detained in the absence of suitable alternatives.

A range of educational resources and other welfare services are provided to families with children in detention. The short time that families spend at the dedicated family accommodation near Gatwick means that formal education is not provided. The most recent Independent Monitoring Board report for the centre praised the learning equipment provided to children during their short stay.

The average cost to detain an individual in immigration detention is provided on a per day basis. The current daily cost per detainee is £88.68, which corresponds to an annual cost of £32,368 (£88.68 multiplied by 365 days). Data can be found at the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-enforcement-data-february-2019>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-06/261287/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-06/261288/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-06/261289/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-06/261290/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-06/261291/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-06/261292/>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Deportation: Democratic Republic of Congo

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [262356] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of whether it is safe to deport nationals of the Democratic Republic of Congo to that country.

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [262357] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the safety of nationals of the Democratic Republic of Congo who are returned to that country.

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [262358] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions his officials have had with officials in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on issuing advice on the safety of returning nationals of the Democratic Republic of Congo to that country.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We only return those who are without a legal right to remain in the UK, including foreign national offenders, when we and, where the individual has exercised a right of appeal, the courts deem it is safe to do so, on a case by case basis.

We are currently reviewing our assessment of risk faced by rejected asylum seekers and foreign national offenders on return to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). An updated country policy and information note setting out our position will be published in due course. The Home Office has regular discussions with the Foreign Office on a range of issues and has on a number of occasions discussed the subject of returns to the DRC to establish as full an assessment of the situation as possible.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-10/262356/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-10/262357/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-10/262358/>

Human Trafficking: Children

Lyn Brown (Labour) [259928] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the May 2019 final report of the independent review of the Modern Slavery Act, whether he plans to implement the recommendations on introducing one-to-one Independent Child Trafficking Advocates across England and Wales as soon as possible for trafficked children.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Government welcomes the findings of the Independent Review of the Modern Slavery Act, which has published its final report. <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/independent-review-of-the-modern-slavery-act>

We are carefully considering the recommendations of the Review, including the recommendations on the Independent Child Trafficking Advocate (ICTA) service, and will publish a formal response in summer 2019. The Government remains committed to rolling out the ICTA service nationally as soon as possible.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-04/259928/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Human Trafficking: Children

Caroline Lucas (Green) [259940] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to Article 16.2 of the EU Anti-Trafficking Directive 2011/36, what assessment he has made of adequacy of opportunities for child victims of trafficking living in the UK to secure a durable solution; and if he will make a statement.

Caroline Lucas (Green) [259941] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to Article 16.2 of the EU Anti-Trafficking Directive 2011/36, and recommendation 5.4 of 2015 UNICEF report, Achieving a durable solution for trafficked children, what steps he is taking to establish a multi-agency best interests decision-making process to find a durable solution for each child victim of trafficking living in the UK.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009 requires the Home Office to ensure that its immigration, asylum, nationality and customs functions are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children who are in the United Kingdom. This includes ensuring that the best interests of the child must be a primary consideration in every decision taken in respect of them

Unaccompanied child victims who are not granted refugee status or discretionary leave to remain are not required to leave the UK unless we are confident that there are safe and adequate reception arrangements in the country to which they will be returned. Instead, leave to remain is granted for 30 months or until they are 17½ years of age, whichever is the shorter period. Upon turning 18, they are expected to return to their home country or make a further application to the Home Office if they believe they have a lawful basis to remain.

If the child is a looked after child, local authority children's social care social workers and personal advisors will work with the child to develop a pathway plan for when they turn 18 - whether they have been granted permanent leave to stay, or are still awaiting a decision, or have been given temporary leave to stay until they turn 18. To ensure that they are prepared for the possibility that their asylum claim or immigration application is not successful their plan will need to include a focus on their return to their home country at 18 This holistic and informative approach gives children who do not have, or do not yet have, leave to remain in the UK long-term the best chance of achieving durable outcomes, whether in the UK or abroad.

In addition, Section 48 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, makes provisions for Independent Child Trafficking Advocates (ICTAs). The purpose of an ICTA is to advocate on behalf of the child to ensure their best interests are reflected in the decision-making processes undertaken by the public authorities who are involved in the child's care. Drawing on their knowledge and experience, ICTAs are able to represent the views of the child at multi-agency meetings and, where appropriate, suggest approaches that might not reflect the views of the child but represent the child's best interests.

The Government is committed to rolling out ICTAs nationally with the service

currently being available in one third of local authorities in England and Wales with the Government

The Independent Review of the Modern Slavery Act led by Frank Field, Baroness Butler-Sloss and Maria Miller has recently considered Section 48 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, which makes provisions for ICTAs. The Review's interim reports can be found [here](#). The Government is currently carefully considering the recommendations for ICTAs for national roll out.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-04/259940/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-04/259941/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Asylum Seekers

Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat): To ask Her Majesty's Government how they identify, support and track the applications of people seeking asylum on the grounds of gender identity or sexual orientation.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford):

My Lords, while the Government do not specifically track applications from asylum seekers based on their gender identity or sexual orientation, we remain focused on supporting all asylum seekers, including LGBT people and those who are vulnerable.

Lord Scriven: My Lords, as has just been said, the Home Office does not collate or collect central data on the journey of LGBT+ individuals seeking asylum on issues such as the accommodation they are granted, the length of time taken for each case or, if held in detention, how long they are there. So how can the Home Office, with any certainty or credibility, say that LGBT+ individuals seeking asylum do not suffer discrimination, either directly or indirectly, if it does not have the data to evidence that?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, it is important to consider that, for all people claiming asylum, if that claim is not granted, they are sent back to their country of origin. I understand the vulnerabilities of LGBT people in some countries. For that reason, we provide support in this country when people return to their country of origin. We give them various types of support, including long-term accommodation, legal and medical support, and family tracing, which is incredibly important for someone returning to their own country.

Lord Lexden (Conservative): Have the Government not committed to publishing annual data on the number of asylum claims based on sexual orientation? If they have, when will annual publication begin?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government collate data of asylum claims based on sexual orientation. I understand that almost 6,000 asylum applications lodged between 2015 and 2017 stated sexual orientation as the basis of their claim, although my noble friend will be aware that sexual orientation might not be the first basis for a claim.

Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, we have seen two very unhappy incidents of homophobia in this country in the last few days—at the theatre in Southampton and on the bus in Camden. Does the Minister agree that denying the dangers facing many asylum seekers, at best, displays a lack of understanding of minorities on the part of the Home Office and, at worst, amounts to real prejudice?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, the Home Office understands the dangers faced by LGBT people, and our hate crime action plan,

launched in 2016, acknowledged them. I know of the two cases that the noble Baroness is talking about, which are very disturbing indeed, so I reject any suggestion that we do not take vulnerabilities, particularly those related to hate crimes meted out on people because of their sexual orientation, very seriously.

Lord Rosser (Labour): It is my understanding—I am sure the Minister will correct me if I am wrong—that, in 2017, 1,900 applications were made on the grounds, in whole or in part, of sexual orientation. In that year, there were approximately 1,400 appeals, of which 487—nearly a third—were successful. The number of successful appeals was greater than the number of applications granted. I have two questions. First, of the 487 successful appeals involving sexual orientation, which were the top three countries, in terms of the number to which those who appealed successfully would have been returned had their appeals not been successful? Secondly, of those people whose asylum case applications were, in whole or in part, on sexual orientation grounds, were declined in 2017 and were then returned to their relevant country, how many have subsequently been the subject of persecution or discrimination in their relevant country, because of their sexual orientation? I assume the Government have some idea of the answer to both questions because, if they do not know the answer to the second, how do they know that asylum application declinations have proved correct?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, when determining asylum claims, the Government will take information from a variety of sources, including the FCO. I cannot answer all the noble Lord's questions just now, but I can say that of the top five countries for sexual orientation-based asylum claims by volume, the largest by far was Pakistan.

Lord Pannick (Crossbench): Does the Minister agree that asylum claims on the grounds of gender identity or sexual orientation raise specific difficulties and sensitivities? Is there a special unit in the Home Office containing individuals with particular expertise who look at asylum claims on such grounds and, if not, why not?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The answer to the noble Lord's question is: yes, absolutely, these claims are very sensitive, both when they are being determined and, if the individual in question finds themselves in detention, there are further sensitivities around the detention estate, particularly with those from certain countries. I acknowledge that. The training undergone by case workers both outside and inside the detention estate is specific to the issues mentioned by the noble Lord.

Lord Hayward (Conservative): My Lords, does my noble friend agree that a high proportion of the problems that arise from such asylum applications stem from the appalling human rights records of a number of members of the Commonwealth? Surely one solution to the problem—but only one—is for pressure to be brought to bear on those countries that fail to recognise any form of human rights. We must make progress not in the long run but in the short term.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My noble friend raises an important point. Certainly during CHOGM last year, the Prime Minister and others raised issues of human rights. The churches have a big presence in the Commonwealth and can bring some pressure to bear. I understand that the Kenyan Government are now committed to reviewing the penal code to align it with the constitution and to adopting an anti-discrimination law which provides protection irrespective of a person's sexual orientation or gender identity.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-06-10/debates/D5B513A2-EAC1-4815-9D93-E64758CAA1A6/AsylumSeekers>

The hate crime action plan referred to above can be read at

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

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat) (2485) Refugee resettlement schemes – That this House notes that there are an estimated 25 million refugees and 3 million asylum seekers around the world today; further notes that the Government committed to resettle 20,000 refugees in the UK by 2020 under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) and 3,000 more under the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme (VCRS) and that, as of 31 March 2019, 15,977 people had been resettled under the VPRS, including 7,966 children, and 1,410 under the VCRS, including 823 children; observes that the Government also committed to relocate 480 unaccompanied refugee children from elsewhere in Europe under Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 and that less than half that number have been relocated so far; believes that the UK must continue to provide safe, legal routes to sanctuary for refugees; and calls on the Government urgently to fulfil the rest of its commitment under Section 67, to guarantee the future of the VPRS after 2020 and to commit to resettling a further 10,000 refugee children in the UK over the next 10 years.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/53018/refugee-resettlement-schemes>

Press Releases

Communities Secretary writes to UK Immigration Minister after SERCO announces plans for lock change evictions in Glasgow

<https://www.gov.scot/news/communities-secretary-writes-to-uk-immigration-minister-after-serco-announces-plans-for-lock-change-evictions-in-glasgow/>

Ministers discuss new immigration system at tech industry summit

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ministers-discuss-new-immigration-system-at-tech-industry-summit>

So far in 2019, applications for asylum in the EU+ are 15 % higher than last year, especially for Turkish and Venezuelan nationals

<https://www.easo.europa.eu/news-events/so-far-2019-applications-asylum-eu-are-15-higher-last-year-especially-turkish-and>

New Publications

Tackling human trafficking and exploitation

<https://www.gov.scot/news/tackling-human-trafficking-and-exploitation/>

Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy: Second Annual Progress Report

<https://tinyurl.com/y3lje538>

Human trafficking research: summary of findings

<https://tinyurl.com/yxeotc8z>

Darra Singh: Independent review of the Home Office response to the mandating of DNA evidence for immigration purposes

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/807453/Independent_review_of_the_Home_Office_response_to_the_mandating_of_DNA_evidence.pdf

Home Office response to Darra Singh's review of Home Office response to mandating of DNA evidence

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/807980/HO_Report_-_DNA.pdf

Guidance: Windrush Day 2019

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/windrush-day-2019>

Guidance: Grenfell Tower: handling relatives' immigration cases

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/809074/grenfell-relatives-guidance-v5.0-ext.pdf

News

SNP makes new demand for immigration to be devolved as birth rate continues to fall

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/snp-makes-new-demand-for-immigration-to-be-devolved-as-birth-rate-continues-to-fall-1-4945797>

Tories warn against 'one size fits all' immigration system

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-06-10/scotland/tories-warn-against-one-size-fits-all-immigration-system-295mj9925>

More than half of immigration appeals now successful, figures show

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/immigration-appeals-home-office-success-rate-windrush-migrant-crisis-a8957166.html>

Sajid Javid makes personal apology to Windrush victims

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-06-11/news/javid-s-personal-apology-to-the-windrush-victims-t0rkxmqmv>

Channel migrants: Two boats intercepted off Kent coast

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-48649341>

France 'must do more to stop migrant boats crossing to UK'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-06-03/news/france-must-do-more-to-stop-migrant-boats-crossing-to-uk-pn769vqhx>

Glasgow threatens to pull out of UK's asylum dispersal system

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17701976.glasgow-threatens-to-pull-out-of-uks-asylum-dispersal-system/>

Sercos to restart asylum seeker lock-change evictions

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-48608323>

Hundreds of asylum seekers face new threat of eviction in Glasgow

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/hundreds-of-asylum-seekers-face-new-threat-of-eviction-in-glasgow-1-4945875>

Sercos to recommence lock-change eviction policy despite ongoing legal challenges

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/3449_serco_to_recommence_lock-change_eviction_policy_despite_ongoing_legal_challenges

Asylum seekers in Glasgow face eviction threat as Serco revives lock-change scheme

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/jun/12/asylum-seekers-in-glasgow-face-eviction-threat-as-serco-revives-lock-change-scheme>

Asylum seekers 'face destitution on streets' after housing lockout

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-06-12/scotland/hundreds-of-asylum-seekers-face-destitution-in-glasgow-p2wzf3ddn>

Positive Action in Housing Response to Serco press statement of June 12 2019

<http://www.paih.org/serco-press-statement/>

EU citizens in Scotland feel 'unwelcome' due to Brexit divide

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/eu-citizens-in-scotland-feel-unwelcome-due-to-brexit-divide-1-4946412>

Gurkha families among 1,350 migrants illegally forced to provide DNA to support bids to live in UK

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/06/10/gurkha-families-among-1350-migrants-illegally-forced-provide/>

Range of doormats to welcome refugees housed in Scotland

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/range-of-doormats-to-welcome-refugees-housed-in-scotland-1-4944082>

Remittances matter: 8 facts you don't know about the money migrants send back home

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/06/1040581>

Pressure grows on minister to let orphan remain in Scotland

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17708313.pressure-grows-on-minister-to-let-orphan-remain-in-scotland/>

Judge orders public inquiry into abuse claims at immigration removal centre

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/jun/14/public-inquiry-into-abuse-claims-at-immigration-removal-centre-g4s-brook-house>

Fresh plea for 'moral courage' to save orphan from deportation

https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/news/2019/fresh_plea_to_save_orphan_from_deportation

SNP calls on Javid to end detention of children at Dungavel

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/snp-calls-on-javid-to-end-detention-of-children-at-dungavel-1-4947849>

Migrant women protest in Westminster over controversial domestic abuse bill

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/domestic-abuse-bill-protest-migrant-women-parliament-a8957536.html>

Scottish Government seeks views on legislation to tackle human trafficking

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17709279.scottish-government-seeks-views-on-legislation-to-tackle-human-trafficking/>

Mother denied chance to clear her name of charge that will see entire family deported back to husband she fears

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asiya-gul-iram-abuse-husband-english-language-test-uk-home-office-pakistan-a8957061.html>

Man granted visa to see son collect doctorate says he is 'in a dream'

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/jun/12/man-granted-visa-see-son-collect-doctorate-in-a-dream-scotland>

TOP

Community Relations

UK Parliament Debate

Jewish Community: Contribution to the UK

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-06-13/debates/EAE3C409-8761-4044-90CC-B1A26085D755/JewishCommunityContributionToTheUK>

New Publication

House of Commons Library Briefing: The contribution of the Jewish Community to the UK

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CDP-2019-0149/CDP-2019-0149.pdf>

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Research and Science: Equality

Jim Shannon (DUP) [259219] To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what recent assessment she has made of (a) female and (b) BAME representation in senior science and research jobs.

Reply from Chris Skidmore: This is publicly available information.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) publish data on employment by occupation, which is available by gender:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/datasets/employmentbyoccupationemp04>

The Higher Education Statistics Authority (HESA) publish data on academic research staff in UK universities, broken down by seniority, sex and ethnicity through the Higher Education Staff Data, Detailed Tables 13 and 15:

<https://www.hesa.ac.uk/data-and-analysis/staff>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-03/259219/>

Press Releases

New National Taskforce to lead on human rights in Scotland

<https://www.gov.scot/news/new-national-taskforce-to-lead-on-human-rights-in-scotland/>

Scottish Human Rights Commission welcomes National Taskforce on Human Rights Leadership

<http://www.scottishhumanrights.com/news/commission-welcomes-national-taskforce-on-human-rights-leadership/>

New Publication

Equality and Human Rights Commission Strategic Plan 2019-22

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/strategic-plan-2019-22.pdf>

News

Austerity has fuelled racial inequality in the UK, says UN expert

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2019/jun/14/austerity-has-fuelled-racial-inequality-in-the-uk-says-un-expert>

'Outstanding' Jewish school downgraded over religious and gender segregation concerns

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/ofsted-jewish-school-manchester-outstanding-king-david-high-school-faith-gender-segregation-a8959946.html>

King David High School: Jewish school downgraded over religious segregation

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-06-15/news/king-david-high-school-jewish-school-downgraded-over-religious-segregation-l9xhztr9v>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Debate

Discrimination in Sport

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-06-12/debates/012867F0-9265-41A5-A046-BB3D17B41538/DiscriminationInSport>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Hate Crime Action Plan

Paul Blomfield (Labour): What discussions she has had with the Home Secretary on the timetable for the publication of the next four-year hate crime action plan. [911296]

Reply from the Minister for Women (Victoria Atkins): The current action plan runs from 2016 to 2020 and it was refreshed last year to ensure that it remained fit for purpose. The Government are delivering on these commitments, but we will of

course continue to review what needs to be done to tackle hate crime, including what will follow the current action plan.

Paul Blomfield: I thank the Minister for that reply. She will know that, disturbingly, the latest police figures record a 17% increase in hate crime. Does she accept that this is at least in part encouraged by the casual racism of some in public life, and does she agree that anyone who compares Muslim women with “letter boxes” and describes African children as “piccaninnies” is not fit to be Prime Minister?

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The hon. Gentleman is quite right to remind us all that our use of language is very, very important in public life. There are many examples across the House, it is fair to say, where, for example, people have liked Facebook pages which they then come to regret. I think there is a particular duty on all of us to ensure that the language we use is respectful, tolerant and reflects 21st-century Britain, which is a vibrant, multicultural, diverse country with much, much talent and potential among all our people.

Chris Bryant (Labour): Queer bashing is still a fact of life in modern Britain, depressingly, however we have changed the laws, and it is still a fact that young gay boys and girls are six times more likely to take their own lives than their straight counterparts. Does the Minister accept that every time somebody in public life—not necessarily an MP, but in the Church or wherever—spouts language that undermines the fundamental sense of respect that there should be for every different form of sexual identity in the UK, they increase the poison in the well and that leads to more queer bashing and more suicides?

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The hon. Gentleman is absolutely right to focus on this. Of course, recent events have shown just how despicably some people will behave when confronted with a relationship or situation with which they clearly do not feel comfortable. That is not what our country is about. Our country is a diverse, tolerant, welcoming country, and each and every one of us can play our part in making sure that that message is clear in the way we behave and speak and the words we use.

Naz Shah (Labour): First, can I ask or perhaps suggest that all this whataboutery is parked, because it does not suit this House? Perhaps my hon. Friend the Member for Sheffield Central (Paul Blomfield) had access to my question, because I would also like to ask the Minister this. As we are speaking about the hate crime action plan, will she distance herself from people whose comments directly lead to an increase in hate crime, such as her colleague who described gay people as “bumboys”, black people as “piccaninnies” with “watermelon smiles”, and Muslim women as “bank robbers” and “letter boxes”, which, according to the Government’s own funded reporting centre Tell MAMA, such led to an increase in attacks on Muslim women?

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Again, I am genuinely sorry because I am afraid I am not familiar with some of the instances the hon. Lady has just set out. *[Interruption.]* Really. But the point of the action plan is that it focuses on the five themes of preventing hate crime by challenging prejudicial beliefs and attitudes, responding to hate crime within our communities, increasing the reporting of hate crime, improving support for victims of hate crime and building our understanding of hate crime. Again, each and every one of us in this House and beyond can play our part in tackling the hate and showing that we are a modern, diverse and welcoming country for everyone.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-06-12/debates/AB077251-0A25-4D0A-9B74-DC60D535D621/HateCrimeActionPlan>

The action plan referred to above can be read at

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

and the “two years on refresh” 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

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Hate Crime

Chris Ruane (Labour) [262259] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate he has made of the number of recorded hate crimes by each protected characteristic defined in the Equality Act 2010 in each year since 2010.

Reply from Nick Hurd: The Home Office collects and publishes statistics on the number of hate crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales since 2011/12 in Table 2 of the Hate Crime data tables available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2017-to-2018>. Such data was not collected prior to 2011/12 and data for 2018/19 are due to be published later this year.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-10/262259/>

Armed Forces: Radicalism

Madeleine Moon (Labour) [261163] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many service personnel in the (a) Army, (b) Royal Navy and (c) the RAF have been (i) investigated by and (ii) discharged from the services as a result of (A) membership of national action (B) membership of a far right organisation, (C) anti-Semitic organisations and (D) Islamophobic organisations; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Tobias Ellwood: Since April 2007 (when offences started to be recorded on the Joint Personnel Administration system), no members of the Royal Navy or Royal Air Force have been investigated or discharged from Service as a result of membership of the named organisations.

During that time, less than five (this figure is rounded to avoid identification) members of the Army were investigated and discharged due to membership of National Action.

Extremist ideologies are completely at odds with the values and standards of the military. We have robust measures in place, including during the recruitment process, to ensure those exhibiting extremist views are neither tolerated nor permitted to serve.

We are working with the Home Office to implement the Prevent programme across the Armed Forces, including training personnel to ensure they are aware of what to do if they believe an individual is showing signs of radicalisation.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-06/261163/>

UK Parliament Home Affairs Committee

Inquiry into the Macpherson Report: Twenty Years On: evidence session

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/home-affairs-committee/the-macpherson-report-twenty-years-on/oral/103032.html>

Inquiry into Islamophobia: evidence session

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/home-affairs-committee/islamophobia/oral/103084.html>

Press Releases

Hate Crime in Scotland, 2018-19

<https://www.copfs.gov.uk/media-site/media-releases/1845-hate-crime-in-scotland-2018-19>

Lord Advocate welcomes publication of hate crime figures

<https://www.copfs.gov.uk/media-site/media-releases/1846-lord-advocate-welcomes-publication-of-hate-crime-figures-3>

Hate speech and xenophobic populism remained major concerns in Europe in 2018

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/european-commission-against-racism-and-intolerance/-/hate-speech-and-xenophobic-populism-remained-major-concerns-in-europe-in-2018>

United Kingdom: UN expert condemns entrenched racial discrimination and inequality

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24698&LangID=E>

New Publications

Hate Crime in Scotland 2018-19

<https://www.copfs.gov.uk/images/Hate%20Crime%20in%20Scotland%202018-19%20PDF.pdf>

Hate Crime in Scotland 2010-11 to 2017-18 (breakdown by Procurator Fiscal Office

<https://www.copfs.gov.uk/images/Hate%20Crime%20in%20Scotland%202010-11%20to%202017-18%20breakdown%20by%20Procurator%20Fiscal%20Office.pdf>

House of Commons Library Briefing: Incidence of Antisemitism Worldwide

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/LLN-2019-0075/LLN-2019-0075.pdf>

Annual Report on European Commission for Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) activities covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2018

<https://rm.coe.int/annual-report-2018/168094d6fe>

Visit to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: Report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G19/148/21/PDF/G1914821.pdf?OpenElement>

News

No 10: Sajid Javid's Trump banquet snub not Islamophobic

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/jun/13/sajid-javid-says-not-being-invited-to-trump-banquet-was-odd>

Conservative Party accused of 'fundamental failure' over Islamophobia

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-48601134>

Number of racist hate crimes in Scotland falls but homophobic incidents on the rise

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/number-of-racist-hate-crimes-in-scotland-falls-but-homophobic-incidents-on-the-rise-1-4947530>

SNP Government in secrecy row over football sectarianism report

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17709354.snp-government-in-secrecy-row-over-football-sectarianism-report/>

Hiding sectarianism statistics makes football fans less safe

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17709268.hiding-sectarianism-statistics-makes-football-fans-less-safe/>

Growing threat from far right as white extremists form largest proportion of terror arrests seen in 15 years

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/white-extremists-far-right-terror-arrest-figures-home-office-a8958066.html>

All over the country ethnic minorities are victims of more violence than ever – and it's all because of Brexit

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/brexit-violence-bame-ethnic-minorities-immigration-discrimination-a8959171.html>

Swastikas daubed on tombs in historic Edinburgh cemetery

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/crime/swastikas-daubed-on-tombs-in-historic-edinburgh-cemetery-1-4948136>

Homophobic and Nazi graffiti appears on historic Edinburgh landmark Jacob's Ladder

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/crime/homophobic-and-nazi-graffiti-appears-on-historic-edinburgh-landmark-jacob-s-ladder-1-4945307>

What Cambridge University taught us about racism

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2019/jun/15/chelsea-kwakyee-and-ore-ogunbiyi-taking-up-space-merky-books-interview>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Releases

Win tickets to see Her Majesty The Queen address Parliament's 20th Anniversary

<https://www.parliament.scot/newsandmediacentre/112123.aspx>

Opt-out system for donation gets go-ahead

<https://www.gov.scot/news/opt-out-system-for-donation-gets-go-ahead/>

Census (Amendment)(Scotland) Bill passed

<https://www.gov.scot/news/census-amendmentscotland-bill-passed/>

Disclosure Bill published

<https://www.gov.scot/news/disclosure-bill-published/>

Population challenges

<https://www.gov.scot/news/population-challenges/>

Citizens' Assembly of Scotland

<https://www.gov.scot/news/citizens-assembly-of-scotland/>

News

Plans underway to create new Citizens' Assembly in Scotland

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/plans-underway-to-create-new-citizens-assembly-in-scotland-1-4947736>

Gordon Brown: Citizens' assemblies could find common ground in a Scotland facing 50 years of bitter constitutional division

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/gordon-brown-citizens-assemblies-could-find-common-ground-in-a-scotland-facing-50-years-of-bitter-constitutional-division-1-4948013>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Organs: Donors

Julian Knight (Conservative) [259274] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to encourage organ donation.

Reply from Jackie Doyle-Price: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Solihull on 9 April 2019 to Question 240020.

A number of steps are being taken, including the implementation of the UK-wide 'Taking Organ Transplantation to 2020' Strategy (2013); the introduction of the Organ Donation (Deemed Consent Act) 2019 from 2020 which will introduce a new system of consent for organ and tissue donation in England; a 12-month communication campaign, launched by NHS Blood and Transplant on 25 April 2019, to raise awareness of these changes and the options available under the new system; and, from 2020, teaching of the science relating to blood, organ and stem cell donation in all state-funded primary and secondary schools.

Shortages of organs for transplant are relevant to people from all backgrounds but are particularly acute for black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) patients, who are more likely to need an organ transplant. It is for this reason the Department launched a campaign in July 2018, delivered by NHS Blood and Transplant, with support from the National Black, Asian, Mixed Race and Minority Ethnic Transplant Alliance, to raise awareness and break down barriers to donation within these communities. A Community Investment Scheme was also launched and in January 2019, 25 projects were successful in sharing £140,000 in funding to break down myths and barriers and increase support for organ donation among BAME communities. Organisations representing Jain, Sikh, Hindu, Muslim, Swahili, black and Asian Christians, black African and Caribbean and multi-faith groups received funding for their projects.

A toolkit is available to help hon. Members engage locally which includes details of the resources available to support such engagement. This is available at the following link: <http://bit.ly/bameODtoolkit>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-03/259274/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-02/240020/>

News

Conservative Muslim chair to quit if Johnson wins leadership race

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-48634858>

Boris Johnson compared to Hitler by head of Conservative Muslim Forum

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17706265.boris-johnson-compared-to-hitler-by-head-of-conservative-muslim-forum/>

Boris Johnson: Senior Muslim Conservative makes comparison with Adolf Hitler

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/boris-johnson-senior-muslim-conservative-makes-comparison-with-adolf-hitler-1-4947257>

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European Parliament Elections

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

European Parliament: Elections

Chuka Umuna (Independent) [259215] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what recent estimate he has made of the number of EU citizens who were unable to vote in the 2019 European elections due to local authorities (a) not sending the correct registration forms in time and (b) processing the registration forms incorrectly.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Government took all the legal steps necessary to prepare for the European Parliamentary elections and put in place all the legislative and funding elements to enable Returning Officers to make their preparations required for the polls on 23 May

Electoral Registration Officers are responsible for administering elections at the local level. They are also under a statutory duty to ensure people who are eligible to vote in elections have the opportunity to do so and are supported by the Electoral Commission in delivering these functions.

The Electoral Commission encouraged EROs to take additional steps to raise awareness of this requirement locally, through social media channels and other means.

The Electoral Commission supported EROs in the discharge of this function. It issued guidance on the 4th April which recommended that EROs should identify EU citizens who are on the local government register and send them a declaration form and supporting information explaining how they can declare their intent to vote in these elections in the UK should they wish to.

In line with their statutory duty, the Electoral Commission will be publishing a report into the administration of the polls later this year.

Figures on the number of individuals completing forms or details relating to the processing of those forms are not held centrally by the Government.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-03/259215/>

European Parliament: Elections

Ben Lake (Plaid Cymru) [260094] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what assessment the Government has made of the UK's compliance with Article 20 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union on the right to vote in the recent EU parliamentary elections.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Legislation has been in place since 1994 which ensures that the UK is in compliance with its European Union obligations regarding EU citizens' right to vote in European Parliamentary elections whilst resident in the UK. The Government took all the legal steps necessary to prepare for the European Parliamentary elections and put in place all the legislative and funding elements to enable Returning Officers to make their preparations required for the polls.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-04/260094/>

European Parliament: Elections

Ben Lake (Plaid Cymru) [260095] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what guidance was issued to the Government by the Electoral Commission on the time required to ensure (a) EU citizens living in the UK and (b) UK citizens living in the EU would be able to vote in the EU parliamentary elections; and on what date his Department received that advice.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Government officials worked closely with Returning Officers and the Electoral Commission and other agencies such as the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) and the Association of Electoral Administrators (AEA) to support the smooth running of the polls on 23 May.

Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) are under a statutory duty to ensure people who are eligible to vote in elections have the opportunity to do so. For the recent European Parliamentary elections that included making sure relevant citizens of the EU who are resident in the UK and registered to vote in local elections were made aware they needed to complete a voter registration and declaration form (commonly referred to as a UC1 or EC6 form) in order to enable them to vote.

On 5 April, the Electoral Commission published guidance for local returning officers and EROs on the upcoming European parliamentary elections. This guidance reminded EROs to prepare and issue UC1 forms to EU citizens on the electoral register. It also encouraged EROs to agree plans and timings for postal vote despatch, including plans on how to prioritise the despatch of overseas votes. Overseas voters include UK eligible citizens living in the EU.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-04/260095/>

European Parliament: Elections

Ben Lake (Plaid Cymru) [260096] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what assessment his Department made of the capacity of local authorities to ensure EU citizens living in the UK were able to vote in the UK at the recent EU parliamentary elections.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Registration for elections is a matter for Electoral Registration Officers (EROs). The Electoral Commission provides guidance and advice to EROs and is responsible for monitoring their performance.

The Electoral Commission supported EROs in the discharge of this function. It issued guidance on the 4th April which recommended that EROs should identify EU citizens who are on the local government register and send them a declaration form and supporting information explaining how they can declare their intent to vote in these elections in the UK should they wish to.

The Government worked with local authority elections staff including EROs and Returning Officers and with the Electoral Commission and other agencies such as

the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) and the Association of Electoral Administrators (AEA) to support the smooth running of the polls.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-04/260096/>

European Parliament: Elections

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour)b [261299] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what estimate he has made of the number of non-UK EU citizens living in the UK who were unable to register to vote in the European parliamentary elections in (a) Slough (b) the UK.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Cabinet Office does not hold information on the number of non-UK EU citizens, resident in the UK, who do or do not register to vote in European Parliamentary elections

Estimates of the number of eligible people on the registers for electoral events are published by the Electoral Commission following each poll, but have not previously included a breakdown of the numbers of EU citizens eligible to vote. These reports are available online at: www.electoralcommission.org.uk.

Each Electoral Registration Officer maintains a register for their own local area. Some headline registration statistics by area are collated and published annually by the Office for National Statistics, however, this does not include a breakdown of the numbers of EU citizens registered to vote. The total number of UK local government electors – which includes EU citizens – in the year to December 2018 was 47.8 million The latest bulletin is available at:

www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/elections/electoralregistration

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-06/261299/>

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Other News

Data on ethnicity, disability status, marital status and religion produced from the Annual Population Survey for 2015 to 2017

<https://gov.wales/equality-and-diversity-statistics-2015-2017>

Scots lead way on charitable giving with £851m donations

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-06-11/scotland/scots-lead-way-on-charitable-giving-with-851m-donations-0dkf8n6rk>

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Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

**** Disclosure (Scotland) Bill**

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/111895.aspx>

Bill as introduced

[https://www.parliament.scot/S5_Bills/Disclosure%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBill50S052019.pdf](https://www.parliament.scot/S5_Bills/Disclosure%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBill50S052019.pdf)

Policy Memorandum

[https://www.parliament.scot/S5_Bills/Disclosure%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBill50PMS052019.pdf](https://www.parliament.scot/S5_Bills/Disclosure%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBill50PMS052019.pdf)

Explanatory Notes

[https://www.parliament.scot/S5_Bills/Disclosure%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBill50ENS052019.pdf](https://www.parliament.scot/S5_Bills/Disclosure%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBill50ENS052019.pdf)

Financial Memorandum

[https://www.parliament.scot/S5_Bills/Disclosure%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBill50FMS052019.pdf](https://www.parliament.scot/S5_Bills/Disclosure%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBill50FMS052019.pdf)

Statements on Legislative Competence

[https://www.parliament.scot/S5_Bills/Disclosure%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBILL50LCS052019.pdf](https://www.parliament.scot/S5_Bills/Disclosure%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBILL50LCS052019.pdf)

Equality Impact Assessment

<https://tinyurl.com/y2eqhjtj>

Final Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment

<https://tinyurl.com/y4jqg7my>

Impact Assessment - Fairer Scotland Duty

<https://tinyurl.com/y333knqr>

Partial Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment

<https://tinyurl.com/y4e6zdc6>

Data Protection Impact Assessment

<https://tinyurl.com/yxlgz675>

Protection of Vulnerable Groups and the Disclosure of Criminal Information consultation report: The Scottish Government response

<https://tinyurl.com/y5uodrv7>

Ministerial Statement and Q&A

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12183&i=110071#ScotParlOR>

Female Genital Mutilation (Protection and Guidance) (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/111850.aspx>

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

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

Stage 3 consideration of amendments

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12180&i=109992#ScotParlOR>

Stage 3 debate

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12180&i=109993#ScotParlOR>

Vote to approve the Bill

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12180&i=109995&c=2184991#ScotParlOR>

Bill as passed

[https://www.parliament.scot/S5_Bills/Human%20Tissue%20\(Authorisation\)%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBill32BS052019.pdf](https://www.parliament.scot/S5_Bills/Human%20Tissue%20(Authorisation)%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBill32BS052019.pdf)

UK Parliament

Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) Bill

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

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

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

Banknote Diversity

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

Border Control Bill

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

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>

Order of Commitment Discharged, House of Lords

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-06-12/debates/8E0AE3DA-FCD8-444C-A32A-FC35E461EFD3/Holocaust\(ReturnOfCulturalObjects\)\(Amendment\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-06-12/debates/8E0AE3DA-FCD8-444C-A32A-FC35E461EFD3/Holocaust(ReturnOfCulturalObjects)(Amendment)Bill)

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>

Unauthorised Encampments

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

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

Scottish Human Rights Commission Draft Strategic Plan (closing date 28 June 2019)

<http://www.scottishhumanrights.com/media/1860/strategic-plan-consultation-vfinal-eh.docx>

Online Harms White Paper (closing date 1 July 2019)

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

** **Female Genital Mutilation (Protection and Guidance) (Scotland) Bill** (closing date 30 August 2019)

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/112128.aspx>

** **Section 38 of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015: Duty to notify and provide information about victims** (closing date 6 September 2019)

<https://consult.gov.scot/justice/duty-to-notify-and-provide-information/>

Use of interpreters in the asylum process (closing date not stated)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/call-for-evidence-use-of-interpreters-in-the-asylum-process>

Experiences of Islamophobia (closing date not stated)

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

Raising skills and standards of supporters of refugees and asylum seekers

(closing date not stated)

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

Police Scotland: Your view counts (open all year)

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

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Job Opportunities

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

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

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Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

Diversity Week Activity Fund – Fife

Closing date not stated

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

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Scotland's Census 2021

18 June 2019 in Glasgow (10.00-4.00)

20 June 2019 in Dundee (10.00-4.00)

National Records of Scotland events to update users about their on-going programme of output development, including geography, microdata, origin-destination data, plans for updating our Scotland's Census website, and the different ways in which they will present data and analysis. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yyd3j23w>

**** this week!**

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 and the full programme see

<https://www.refugeefestivalscotland.co.uk/about/>

**** this week!**

Launch of Refugee Festival Scotland

20 June 2019 in Glasgow (12.00-2.00)

Celebrate the launch of Refugee Festival Scotland 2019, mark World Refugee Day, and show solidarity and support for people who have been forced to flee their homes. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yyomi8bk>

**** this week!**

The Global Compacts – A New Vision for the Future of Migrant and Refugee Protection?

21 June 2019 in Glasgow (11.00-12.00)

UNHCR event providing a short overview of the Global Compact on Refugees and the Global Compact on Migration, both adopted by a majority of UN member states in December 2018. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yywm2bgl>

**** this week!**

So you say you come from ...? Prove it!

21 June 2019 in Glasgow (11.00-1.00)

Interactive event by The Asylum Project highlighting how easy it can be to fall through the cracks and end up stateless in a hostile environment. For information see <https://www.refugeefestivalscotland.co.uk/events/so-you-say-you-come-from-prove-it/>

**** this week!**

Collecting Around Migration: A Glimpse Behind the Scenes at Glasgow Museums

21 June 2019 in Glasgow (2.00-5.00)

Glasgow Museums event highlighting refugee stories at the heart of Glasgow's story. Come along to discover more about how this is being done, or if you or your organisation would like to be a part of shaping this ongoing process. You are invited to bring an object or story that you find meaningful. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y3lfm9v4>

**** this week!**

21 June 2019 in Glasgow (5.00-6.00)

UNHCR event to explore the link between displacement and trafficking, highlighting initiatives and gaps to addressing vulnerability to exploitation experienced by asylum-seekers and refugees. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y3r6te6k>

**** this week!**

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/>

**** this week!**

Movement of Identity

22 June 2019 in Edinburgh (1.00-4.00)

Young Academy of Scotland event to hear stories of movement, work being carried out by integration networks in Scotland. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y5yah53w>

Talking Prejudice

25 June 2019 in Glasgow (10.00-4.00)

27 June 2019 in Edinburgh (10.00-4.00)

Youthlink Scotland event for youth workers and other practitioners in diverse communities to hear from other professionals about the tools and services available to address hate crime and prejudice. For information about the Glasgow event see <https://tinyurl.com/y2prbudt> and for the Edinburgh event see <https://tinyurl.com/y2f8wnqv>

Home on the Move: the Impact of Immigration Policy on Participation and the Possibilities for Practice

25 June 2019 in Glasgow (11.00-1.30)

Workshop to present research findings about the meaning and importance of 'home' to migrants, refugees and asylum seekers living in Glasgow. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y5utxt84>

Meet the Charity Regulator

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/>

Author and Subject – People Seeking Asylum and Refuge Affecting Change

25 June 2019 in Glasgow (5.30-7.00)

Event to explore the different ways asylum seekers and refugees use their experiences and voices to positively affect change in their own lives and in the lives of others. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y44krodd>

Housing for Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Europe

26 June 2019 in Edinburgh (5.00-7.00)

Presentation of research by the Universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow into housing for refugees and asylum. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y43fjpsb>

Come As You Are #Berlin, and Klezmer Ceilidh

27 June 2019 in Edinburgh (7.00-10.30)

30 June 2019 in Glasgow (7.00-10.30)

Contemporary dance performance from Berlin-based dance company TOTAL BRUTAL. It explores what happens when three refugees from Syria try to find their way into the Berlin art landscape: their hopes, dreams and nightmares. For information about the Edinburgh event see <https://tinyurl.com/y5yjggc4>, and about the Glasgow event see <https://tinyurl.com/y42q8yfr>

Gesturing Refugees

27 June 2019 in Glasgow (7.00-8.00)

Interactive performance by Palestinian dancer and choreographer, Farah Saleh and collaborators to archive hidden stories of refugeehood using the bodies of refugee artists and audience members, while playing with other archive material, testimonies and imagination. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yy5xgocf>

Refugee Cycle

29 June 2019 in Glasgow (10.00-4.00)

UNESCO cycle ride. At regular intervals along the route, there will be informative performances and activities. Central themes are (forced) migration, community building and hospitality. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y5ualhd9>

Challenging The Hostile Environment

29 June 2019 in Glasgow (1.00-5.00)

Stand Up to Racism Scotland event about injustices such as the Windrush scandal, and Serco's threat to evict refused asylum seekers in Glasgow. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y5sbt7fa>

Asylum Seeker and Refugee Scholarships

29 June 2019 in Glasgow (4.00-8.00)

Africa Future conference about the benefits for young people and asylum seekers to study in higher education. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y23w6odp>

Refugee Festival Scotland 2019 Football Tournament

30 June 2019 in Glasgow (11.00-4.00)

Football tournament to stimulate the integration of the local community with people from a refugee background. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yygx75mm>

Lives in Transit: Written Accounts and Artistic Expressions of Refugee Stories

30 June 2019 in Edinburgh (6.00-9.00)

Opening of exhibition presenting the experiences of refugees through interviews with refugees now resettled in Scotland. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y5emrnew>

We Are One – Citizenfest

9-10 August 2019 in Glasgow

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

Working with refugees and the asylum process

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

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

Working with refugees and VPRS resettlement

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

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

Age assessment awareness

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

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

Refugee community sponsorship

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

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Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services

<https://www.volunteerscotland.net/for-organisations/disclosure-services/>

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

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SCoJeC

The Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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

Empowering Scotland's Ethnic and
Cultural Minority Communities

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/>



gov.scot

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

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