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The Scottish Parliament is in recess until 2 September 2019

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Immigration Policies

Kate Hollern (Labour): What steps [is the Minister] taking to ensure that his Department's immigration policies do not unfairly discriminate on the basis of (a) race and (b) nationality. [911922]

Matthew Pennycook (Labour): What steps [is the Minister] taking to ensure that his Department's immigration policies do not unfairly discriminate on the basis of (a) race and (b) nationality. [911926]

Janet Daby (Labour): What steps [is the Minister] taking to ensure that his Department's immigration policies do not unfairly discriminate on the basis of (a) race and (b)

nationality. [911930]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Caroline Nokes): The Home Office is bound by the public sector equality duty to eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good race relations. The Equality Act 2010 provides that discrimination is not unlawful if it is required by legislation or authorised by Ministers. For example, a visa regime that applies to a particular nationality constitutes discrimination, but is lawful under the Equality Act.

Kate Holler: An Iranian refugee in my constituency applied for a Home Office travel document and has been refused. He was told that he must get a passport from his own country, which, as he fled that country, is almost impossible. Even to apply for a passport, he would have to agree to sign up for national service. Surely that is discrimination.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: I thank the hon. Lady for raising that specific issue. Although I cannot comment on individual cases, we do not wish to see anybody disadvantaged because of the individual requirements of travel documents from their country of origin. I would be very happy to work with her to see whether we can find a solution.

Matthew Pennycook: The Department's own statistics make it clear that last year's average refusal rate for entry visas from Nigeria was 37%, and almost 44% for entry visas from Ghana, compared with an average refusal rate of only 12% across all countries. Can the Minister explain to my west African-born constituents, whose family members, friends and ministers of religion are being refused visitor visas in ever rising numbers, why the system is discriminating in that way?

Reply from Caroline Nokes: I reassure the hon. Gentleman that the system is not discriminating in that way and that the Home Office is obliged to consider all visa applications in light of the evidence presented by the applicant. He might be reassured to learn that, in the year ending June 2018, we saw a 2% increase in the number of visas issued to sub-Saharan African nationals compared with the same period of the previous year.

Janet Daby: The Home Office has offered warm words and reassurances to migrant communities about a movement away from the hostile environment, yet the Government are appealing against the High Court ruling that the right-to-rent scheme, which requires private landlords to check the immigration status of tenants, is discriminatory and breaches human rights law. Does the Minister believe that discrimination is a necessary price to pay for enforcing the hostile environment?

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government disagree with the judgment and are appealing. The evaluation conducted during phase 1 implementation found no evidence of systemic discrimination as a result of the scheme. However, my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has commissioned further evaluation, which will examine the potential for discrimination in right-to-rent checks.

Stephen Kerr (Conservative): Churches in Stirling and in other parts of Scotland are struggling with the recent change in immigration rules for visiting ministers of religion. Does my right hon. Friend appreciate the degree of difficulty this is causing faith groups in Scotland? What can be done to alleviate it?

Reply from Caroline Nokes: I was very pleased last week to meet ministers of religion across a wide range of faiths to discuss this specific issue. I am sure Members will agree that when it comes to ministers of religion, as opposed to religious workers, it is imperative that those who are going to preach and conduct pastoral work within any religion need to have a good standard of English, which is why the Home Office is requiring them to apply for a tier 2 visa, as opposed to a tier 5 visa, which of course does not require the language check.

Afzal Khan (Labour): The Windrush crisis did not fall from the sky but was a direct result of the hostile environment, which the High Court has found directly causes discrimination. The Windrush compensation scheme took over a year to set up and has a two-year

deadline. Has anybody actually received the money in their bank account yet? How will the Minister ensure that claimants receive speedy compensation? Does she believe that two years is long enough to ensure that nobody who is entitled to compensation loses out?

Reply from Caroline Nokes: I thank the hon. Gentleman for that question. He will, of course, recall that elements of the compliant environment were introduced under the last Labour Government, including the controls introduced in 1999 on temporary and illegal migrant access to benefits and the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002, which introduced controls on local authority social care.

The hon. Gentleman raises an important question about the Windrush compensation scheme, and it is important that we have the scheme up and running and are receiving applications. We have, of course, undertaken to provide regular updates to the Home Affairs Committee, which will provide exactly the information that the hon. Gentleman seeks.

Of course, it is a requirement under legislation that the compensation scheme be for a period of two years, but we are looking closely at that. I reassure the hon. Gentleman that should there be a requirement to extend it, which would undoubtedly need primary legislation, we would be happy to consider that.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-07-15/debates/B585F738-DF7C-4AAC-AFDF-0D05A73BFC64/ImmigrationPolicies>

EU Settlement Scheme

Ronnie Cowan (SNP): What assessment [has the Minister's] Department made of the effectiveness of the EU settlement scheme application process. [911919]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Caroline Nokes): EU citizens are our friends, our neighbours and our colleagues, and we want them to stay. The settlement scheme is performing well. The latest published statistics show that more than 800,000 applications have been received and the majority of people are finding it easy to apply. Additional support is available to those who are vulnerable, or who do not have the appropriate access, skills or confidence to apply online.

Ronnie Cowan: Instead of implementing a scheme that makes EU citizens—many of whom have lived here for a great many years—unlawfully resident if they fail to apply by December 2020, will the Minister introduce a declaratory system whereby people apply for proof of settled status rather than the right to stay?

Reply from Caroline Nokes: A declaratory system that did not require EU citizens to obtain status and provide evidence of it would risk causing confusion, especially among the most vulnerable, and people might struggle to prove their status in years to come. There would also be a risk of confusion among employers and service providers, and the system might impede EU citizens' access to benefits and services to which they are entitled.

Steve Double (Conservative): The vast majority of people I hear from say that the settled status scheme is working very well and is easy to use. Many receive responses within a few hours of submitting their applications. However, it is a bit frustrating that the service is still not available on Apple devices such as phones; can the Minister update us on when it might be?

Reply from Caroline Nokes: It is not just anecdotal information that tells us that people are finding it easy and quick to apply; we know that most applications are settled within one to four working days. My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has been tireless in pursuing the issue raised by my hon. Friend, and we are very hopeful that the app will be available on Apple devices in the autumn.

Joan Ryan (Change UK): There is a significant eastern European community in Enfield and other parts of London. Sections of the Bulgarian, Romanian, Polish and Roma communities can be hard to reach, and some have limited English language skills. Community representatives are concerned about individuals who have worked in the grey

economy as cleaners or handymen, or for unscrupulous employers, being able to supply the right paperwork. What further steps is the Department putting in place to support these communities and to ensure that everyone can access, and apply to, the scheme?

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The right hon. Lady will be aware that the Home Office has provided up to £9 million of grant funding to 57 voluntary and community-based organisations specifically to help the vulnerable people to whom she refers. I was pleased to visit the East European Resource Centre and to have the opportunity to speak to a group of long-standing UK residents about the support available. She references the grey economy; we do not wish to see anybody working in the grey economy, but we recognise that there will be those who do. The Home Office is absolutely prepared to accept a wide range of evidence of people's stay in the UK, including tenancy agreements or letters from health providers with whom they have been in contact. This is absolutely about working with individuals. The EU Settlement Resolution Centre is up and running, and is incredibly well staffed. I was pleased to visit it, to see the help that it can give to individuals.

David Duguid (Conservative): There is a seeming desire among some Opposition Members for the EU settlement scheme to be a complete failure, but will my right hon. Friend again confirm that this is a successful scheme and that take-up has been positive? If Opposition Members continue to tell their EU citizen constituents that they will not be able to apply, they are not being helpful.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: My hon. Friend is absolutely right. The scheme has been a success, and it is shocking when hon. Members talk the scheme down. It is working well. We are determined to put in place support for those who are vulnerable, as I said. Later this week, we will see the latest statistics surrounding the scheme, which will show a considerable uplift from the figure of 800,000 reported from the end of May.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-07-15/debates/C4AE297C-689C-4EE8-8832-A9BDF2A8E7AD/EUSettlementScheme>

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

Refugee Settlement Programme

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour): When [the Minister] plans to announce details of the integrated programme to resettle an additional 5,000 refugees from 2020-21. [911920]

Helen Hayes (Labour): When [the Minister] plans to announce details of the integrated programme to resettle an additional 5,000 refugees from 2020-21. [911939]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Caroline Nokes): We continue to engage with international and domestic delivery partners and stakeholders, as we work through the detailed policy and operational considerations for the new global resettlement scheme. In the meantime, we continue towards our commitment of resettling 20,000 of the most vulnerable refugees affected by the conflict in Syria.

Thangam Debbonaire: The Minister knows that I would like the ambition to be as high as possible. What plans has she got to consult refugees and refugee organisations about the lessons that can be learned from current resettlement schemes?

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The hon. Lady will know—this is an ambition that I have often voiced to her—that we have sought to bring together the vulnerable persons resettlement scheme, the vulnerable children's resettlement scheme and the gateway protection scheme, to consolidate our refugee programmes. We continue to work closely with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and indeed with those delivering the schemes, local authorities included. As part of the ambition—this is why we have given a figure in the region of 5,000—it is important that we learn from VPRS, work through local authorities to establish the

number of people they can best assist through the schemes and make sure that we do not downgrade the good commitments we have previously given on resettlement.

Helen Hayes: Young adult asylum seekers often face unique and complex challenges to their mental health and wellbeing, with many having survived unimaginable experiences in their country of origin and during their long and treacherous journey to reach this country. In setting out details of the integrated programme to resettle an additional 5,000 refugees from 2020 to 2021, will the Minister commit to there being a youth welfare officer in every asylum accommodation and dispersed accommodation location, so that vulnerable, traumatised 18 to 25-year-olds receive the support that they need to recover from their experiences and can live as well as possible in the UK?

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The hon. Lady is absolutely right to point out the distinction between the formal resettlement schemes referred to in the question and those young people who have made, in many instances, terrible and perilous journeys of many thousands of miles and who have travelled across the whole of Europe to get to these shores. It really is important that we work to support young asylum seekers; I am conscious that the largest numbers will be found in a small number of local authorities, particularly Croydon, Kent and Hillingdon, which work incredibly hard to support not only unaccompanied minors but those leaving the care system and those for whom we have a responsibility up to the age of 24 under the Children and Families Act 2014. It is crucial that we get this right; that is why I was so pleased to see the uplift in funding to local authorities for unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

Joanna Cherry (SNP): Scotland has played a leading role in the current vulnerable persons resettlement scheme, resettling nearly 3,000 people across all Scotland's local authorities. Recent opinion polls show strong support in Scotland for maintaining that commitment and, indeed, for improving on it. Will the Minister join me in welcoming Scotland's success story, and will she commit, through the comprehensive spending review, to funding integration support for refugees under the new scheme at the same levels that are currently provided under the VPRS?

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The hon. and learned Lady is absolutely right to point out the significant role that Scotland has played. In Jordan last summer, I was pleased to meet a family who were being resettled to East Ayrshire within a few days of my visit. It is important that we provide not only support for resettling people but the necessary integration, not least through the provision of English language teaching, which is a crucial component. She will know from previous comments I have made in this House that one of my big passions is ensuring that we assist those with refugee status into work and ensure that good schemes exist across the entire country to help them to do that. ...

Joanna Cherry: ... As well as Scottish local authorities, Scottish community groups are also planning to sponsor refugee families. I met representatives of Refugee Sponsorship Edinburgh in my constituency recently. This is the first group of people to do this in Scotland. They will be delighted that the UK Government have finally agreed that any refugees supported under the community sponsorship scheme will be additional to those resettled under the UK Government scheme. Will the Minister commit to ensuring that the new scheme will make it easier for named individuals to be resettled and for family members dispersed across the world to join refugees who have already been settled here? I am sure I am not alone in being approached regularly in my constituency surgery by refugees with those concerns.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The hon. and learned Lady is absolutely right to highlight the brilliant role played by community sponsorship schemes. They are absolutely the gold standard of resettlement. However, it is important that we continue to work with the UNHCR to ensure that it is the most vulnerable people

who are resettled here, whether through community schemes or through the sponsorship of local authorities. It would be very wrong for us to use resettlement schemes to resettle people from safe third countries when many people across the middle east and north Africa region and across the world are in parlous situations and in real danger. They must always be our first priority.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-07-15/debates/FA72D925-9103-4FCB-BD69-F03C9B4F6AF6/RefugeeSettlementProgramme>

Immigration Detention: Victims of Modern Slavery

Diane Abbot (Labour): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on immigration detention and victims of modern slavery.

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Caroline Nokes): Modern slavery is an abhorrent crime, and the Government are determined to stamp it out. In my role as Immigration Minister, I am especially aware of the shocking exploitation of vulnerable individuals from overseas who are duped by the promise of a better life in the UK, only to be trafficked and sold into modern slavery. Identifying and protecting victims of such crimes is a priority. In October 2017, we announced an ambitious package of reforms to the national referral mechanism. As well as improving the support on offer, these reforms are intended to provide quicker and more certain decision making, in which victims can have confidence.

I must make it clear, however, that being recognised as a victim of modern slavery does not automatically result in being granted immigration status in the UK. There may be victims of modern slavery who have no lawful basis to remain and for whom support is available to leave the UK voluntarily. It is important that we recognise the important role of our immigration policies. Although we are committed to supporting individuals to leave voluntarily, including with reintegration support, there may be occasions when they have exhausted all options and are refusing to leave, and we are faced with the difficult decision of detaining people to secure their return.

I want to reassure the House that we do not take these decisions lightly, but it may be necessary to detain individuals, even if they are vulnerable, to effect their removal. When that is the case, we seek to keep the period of detention as short as possible and place their welfare and safeguarding at the heart of what we do. The Home Secretary made clear his commitment to going further and faster with reforms to immigration detention, including by reducing the number of people we detain, increasing the number of voluntary returns and working with partners on alternatives to detention. We have made real progress in delivering these commitments. A number of women who would otherwise have been detained are now being managed in the community. Other pilots will begin later this year.

As we approach the first anniversary of Stephen Shaw's second independent review of immigration detention, it is important to take stock of how far we have come, while acknowledging that there is much more to do to ensure that our approach to immigration detention is fair and humane.

Diane Abbott: ... On 19 June this year, the Immigration Minister provided a written answer on the possible immigration detention of persons who are in fact victims of slavery. The written answer read as follows: "there is no central record" of such persons, and "The Home Office therefore does not collate or publish the data requested".

However, we now learn from a freedom of information request by *The Independent* that that is not the case: 500 victims of enslavement or trafficking were held in immigration detention. I have myself visited Yar's Wood detention centre and met such persons.

In response to an earlier written question on 20 December last year, the Immigration Minister said: "in cases in which it has been found that there are reasonable grounds to believe that an individual may be a victim of trafficking or modern slavery, the appropriateness of their being detained, or of their detention continuing, is governed by

the Home Office's modern slavery policy. This means that such individuals will not be detained”.

How many people who are victims of trafficking or modern slavery have been held in previous years? How many such people are currently held? Are the Government not in breach of their own stated policy on detention? How many of the 400 detainees were assessed as being a threat to public order and on what grounds? Does the Minister accept that when she responded to the written question saying that no data was available, she was in fact misleading the House?

Reply from Caroline Nokes: I reassure the right hon. Lady that I certainly was not misleading the House: there is no central record of those who have received a positive, conclusive grounds decision and are detained under immigration powers. While that information may be obtainable from the live Home Office case information database, otherwise referred to as CID, the information would be for internal management only. For example, some data may be incomplete and freedom of information requests are heavily caveated as such.

Releases of data from CID are always caveated and sometimes it is possible the data is not always accurate; there may be instances where individuals are counted twice. It is standard practice in parliamentary questions that we do not provide information that does not form part of published statistics. CID will show only those individuals who have been referred into the NRM from immigration teams and would not cover those referred to the NRM from other first responders, such as the police, social services or, potentially, medical practitioners.

The right hon. Lady asks specifically about the 507 individuals referred to in the After Exploitation report. I want to be very clear on this point: those were not 507 individuals detained after getting a positive reasonable grounds. As stated very clearly in the freedom of information response, the figure relates to people who had a positive reasonable grounds when entering detention or while in detention.

Further analysis of the figures shows that, of the 507 people in question, 479 received the positive reasonable grounds decision during a detention period—and of those, 328, or 68%, were released within two days of the decision and in total 422 were released within a week. Of the 57 detained for eight days or more following a positive reasonable grounds decision, 81% were foreign national offenders.

Desmond Swayne (Conservative): What is particularly terrible about immigration detention is its indeterminate nature and the fact that detainees have so little information about their own cases and, indeed, about their rights. Habeas corpus is still one of our fundamental principles, isn't it?

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Individuals in immigration detention are entitled to a free legal advice surgery of 30 minutes within the first 24 hours of their detention and to have as many of those surgeries thereafter. As part of the Shaw re-review of last year, we piloted automatic bail referrals after two months instead of four months, as previously.

I must correct my right hon. Friend: it is not lawful to detain individuals indefinitely. They may be detained only when there are realistic grounds for removal within a reasonable timescale.

Stuart C McDonald (SNP): Immigration detention is a hellish thing to inflict on anybody; that is especially true of victims of modern slavery and trafficking. Will the Government accept that the supposed safeguards, particularly the gatekeeping process, are just not working? Signs of trafficking and enslavement are not being picked up, as those 507 cases show. Even when they are, immigration enforcement factors are given greater priority.

What will be done to improve the malfunctioning gatekeeping process and when will an overhaul of the rule 35 process be completed? More fundamentally, for as long as we continue to detain people indefinitely in these awful institutions, should not decisions on

whether to detain any individual and on who should be released be made entirely independently of the Home Office? At the very least, we need much stronger and faster independent judicial oversight.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government are committed to ensuring that the rule 35 process operates effectively. In March this year, we launched our targeted consultation on the overhaul of the detention centre rules within which the operation of rule 35 is a key element; of course it is closely linked into the operation of the “adults at risk” policy. We continue to keep the detention gatekeeper function under close review, but I certainly think that it has shown an improvement on the situation before its introduction. ...

To continue reading this very lengthy question and answer session in full see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-07-17/debates/9861C238-5602-4D10-A120-8EB6BC04DDD6/ImmigrationDetentionVictimsOfModernSlavery>

Stephen Shaw's Review, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/728376/Shaw_report_2018_Final_web_accessible.pdf

Prime Minister's Questions: hostile environment

Ian Blackford (SNP): This week the Prime Minister finally did the right thing. When Donald Trump told women that they should “go home”, she called it out as unacceptable. Let me clear that Donald Trump's actions are textbook racism; they are repugnant and diplomatic politeness should never stop us saying so. Will the Prime Minister now, on reflection, also take the opportunity to call out and condemn the racism of the “Go Home” vans that she created in the coalition Government with the Liberal Democrats?

Reply from the Prime Minister: I said at the time that that was too blunt an instrument. There is an important issue, which is that the public expect us to have a fair immigration system that deals with those who are here illegally. That is what we need to do. The right hon. Gentleman referred to the comments made by President Trump. As he alluded to, I have strongly condemned those comments.

Ian Blackford: When the Prime Minister implemented the hostile environment policy, her party stayed silent. When she delivered the racist “Go Home” vans, the Tories remained silent. When asylum seekers are deported to places where their lives are at risk, the Tories stay silent, and when faced with the racist columns written by the former Foreign Secretary, they stay silent. Is the hon. Member for Aberconwy (Guto Bebb) not correct when he warns that the Tories are “appealing to the type of nationalism that has seen UKIP grow”?

While the Tory party shares more with the extremes of Donald Trump and Nigel Farage, is it any wonder that Scotland looks on in horror?

Reply from the Prime Minister: The Conservative party is a party for the whole of the United Kingdom, and the only party in this House that is appealing to blatant nationalism is the party that wants to take Scotland out of the UK.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-07-17/debates/56E38D7E-BA9C-4922-88F0-8878C3A0566E/Engagements#contribution-FC4FACF8-38D8-40AB-BB38-767F4C15872D>

Prime Minister's Questions: Asylum seekers – housing

Chris Stephens (SNP): Tonight, campaigners will be meeting in Govan to discuss direct action against the Home Office contractor Serco, which intends to make 300 vulnerable asylum seekers homeless through its lock-change eviction programme. Many of those asylum seekers have outstanding claims and, as the Prime Minister will know, the Home Office can take 37 days to process section 4 support. Will she intervene, stop the evictions, prevent a homelessness crisis in Glasgow and respect live legal proceedings, so that the law can be clarified in this regard?

Reply from the Prime Minister: We are committed to providing asylum

accommodation that is safe and secure. We take the wellbeing of asylum seekers and the local communities in which they live very seriously. Asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute are provided with free, fully furnished accommodation while their applications are considered. We cover utility costs and provide a cash allowance to cover other essential living needs, but once a person's asylum claim is fully determined, their entitlement to that support will end. What I understand has been happening is that Serco has been providing accommodation at its own expense to over 300 people who are no longer eligible for such accommodation, either because they have been refused asylum or because they have been granted leave to remain and should move on to mainstream benefits and housing.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-07-17/debates/56E38D7E-BA9C-4922-88F0-8878C3A0566E/Engagements#contribution-980AB26D-AA50-4317-8E2A-44FC80899122>

Topical Questions: Home Office: Asylum seekers

Caroline Spelman (Conservative): In 2018, the Home Secretary agreed to review the policy that bans asylum seekers from working within their first 12 months and severely restricts what professions they can enter thereafter. Can he tell the House when he expects the results of the review to be published and what proposed changes will be recommended? [911945]

Reply from Sajid Javid: As my right hon. Friend knows, asylum seekers can work in jobs on the shortage occupation list if their claim has been outstanding for 12 months. I know that she will agree that we need to distinguish between those with the need for protection and those who are here only to work. She is right to raise the issue, and it is time for reform. The work in the Home Office is ongoing, and we hope to bring something to the House as soon as possible.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-07-15/debates/2F67E21C-063A-472F-9091-8F9B9DF85EFF/TopicalQuestions#contribution-C19BCE74-3A0C-45A3-AD22-ABE6BC1AC95A>

Topical Questions: Home Office: Lizanne Zietsman

Peter Grant (SNP) Whose interests were served by tearing Lizanne Zietsman away from her family, business and community, and deporting her against the wishes of the entire community of the island of Arran?

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The hon. Gentleman will understand the distinction between deportation, which happens to foreign national offenders, and removal, which happens to those who are immigration offenders. There is a very clear difference. He will know that I cannot comment on individual cases, but it is worth stating that the Supreme Court has upheld the Government's minimum income requirement to have dependents and spouses in this country. That is an important principle, which the Government support, because we want people to have an adequate level of income that will enable them to integrate into society.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-07-15/debates/2F67E21C-063A-472F-9091-8F9B9DF85EFF/TopicalQuestions#contribution-F2F8CADE-327B-472B-8F1D-F95CD56F25FF>

Topical Questions: Home Office: Students

Stuart C McDonald (SNP): A blanket three-year temporary leave to remain visa after a no-deal Brexit will not cut it, especially for students wanting to study courses that last longer than that. When will that be fixed so students have certainty that they can complete their courses? [911946]

Reply from Caroline Nokes: I thank the hon. Gentleman for his question on an issue that has been raised several times in the House. The Home Office is working hard to make sure that we have a solution so that not just students at Scottish universities but those in English universities who might be studying a longer course such as medicine, veterinary science or architecture are not disadvantaged. We

are determined to find a solution that works for all students.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-07-15/debates/2F67E21C-063A-472F-9091-8F9B9DF85EFF/TopicalQuestions#contribution-76BA4869-0156-488E-860B-89D81D472435>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

British Nationality: Children

Paul Farrelly (Labour) [275702] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of reducing child citizenship fees for children born or raised in the UK to avoid any future immigration complications.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office keeps its fees for immigration and nationality under regular review and changes to individual charges need to be made with a view to maintaining the overall purpose of the fees and charging legislation. An assessment of the impact of all border, immigration and citizenship (BIC) fees was published as an associated document to the Immigration and Nationality Fees (Regulations) 2018.

The Home Office constantly strives to achieve the right balance between ensuring that individuals are able to obtain status in the UK and access appropriate services, without adding burden to the taxpayer.

Applying for British nationality is not mandatory and many individuals who have settlement/ indefinite leave to remain (ILR) status choose not to apply. This is because, in addition to lawful permanent residence in the UK, a person with indefinite leave to remain has full access to the UK labour market, education and healthcare.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-10/275702/>

UK Visas and Immigration: Biometrics

Gavin Shuker (Independent) [275185] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what criteria his Department uses to determine the locations in the UK where biometric information for visa or immigration applications can be provided.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The majority of customers will be able to submit their biometrics and supporting information for their visa application via a UK Visa and Citizenship Application Service (UK VCAS) centre, which are run by Sopra Steria Ltd (SSL) on behalf of UK Visas & Immigration (UKVI). However, Individuals who have higher needs, may be vulnerable, or whose circumstances may be complex and would benefit from face to face interaction with the Home Office are directed to Service and Support Centres (SSC) where they will receive support with their application. The SSCs are all based in pre-existing locations which were previously used as premium service centres, which broadly align with the postal districts of our customers.

There are currently six core UKVCAS service points and seven core SSC's across the UK at which application submission services are offered. The SSCs are based in Belfast, Cardiff, Croydon, Glasgow, Liverpool, Sheffield and Solihull.

SSL undertook market research to identify initial service locations for the UKVCAS service points; their research included the impact on customer travel time, cost and accessibility. Beyond that, SSL offer a range of enhanced services in a further 50 UKVCAS locations. These services enable customers to submit their biometric information (photo and fingerprints) and supporting evidence in one location. 62% of customers will, on average, have to travel less than 25 miles to visit a core service centre, with 78% travelling less than 50 miles. Appointments may be offered for individual customers and/or family groups to enrol their biometrics together.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-09/275185/>

Visas

David Hanson (Labour) [276516] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for visitor visas from (a) US, (b) Russian, (c) Indian and (d) Chinese citizens were (i) granted and (ii) declined in each of the last five years.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Applications for visit visas are considered against Appendix V of the Immigration Rules and on a case by case basis. Detailed information on how UK Visas and Immigration makes decisions on visitor cases is published at

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

Information on total entry clearance visas (the majority of which are visitor visas) broken down by nationality and outcome (grants, refusals, withdrawals, lapsed) is published in the quarterly Immigration Statistics Visas volume 1 table vi_02_q at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2019-data-tables>.

Please note that the large majority of US nationals coming to the UK as visitors do not require an entry clearance visa, as shown in the Immigration Rules at

(<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-v-visitor-rules>).

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-12/276516/>

Visas

David Hanson (Labour) [276517] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average waiting time was for a decision on visitor visa application from (a) US, (b) Russian, (c) Indian and (d) Chinese citizens in each of the last five years.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Information on performance against service standards for UKVI international operations is published in the Migration transparency data, the latest publication of which is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/international-operations-transparency-data-may-2019>.

These indicate that the large majority of straightforward non-settlement visas (the large majority of which are visitor visas), 98.7%, are completed within the service standard of 15 working days.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-12/276517/>

Visas

David Hanson (Labour) [276518] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what performance targets his Department has put in place for the time taken to make a decision on a visitor visa application form (a) US, (b) Russian, (c) Indian and (d) Chinese citizens.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Under our published customer service standards we aim to process straightforward non-settlement applications within 15 working days. The information for the latest quarter available is published online.

Data on entry clearance visa processing times, including the percentage and number of visas that are processed within service standards, is published at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data> (then listed by publication date under 'UK Visas & Immigration').

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-12/276518/>

Visas: Applications

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [275742] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 17 June 2019 to Question 263146 on Visas: Applications, if he will ensure that the processing of in-country visa services by Sopra Steria will not result in increased prices for visa services for (a) international students and staff at UK universities and (b) universities.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The application fee for a visa or visa extension is paid to the Home Office and is not related to the service provided by Sopra Steria.

As part of the application process in the UK individuals must enrol their biometrics at a UK Visa and Citizenship Application Service centre which are run by Sopra Steria.

For the majority of applicants in the UK there are a variety of offerings for students and other employees at UK education institutions which include free appointments at core service points, access to enhanced service points and the premium lounge for a fee. Additionally, to help meet demand for the autumn increase in student applications a "Tier 4 Service Point" will also be offered by Sopra Steria for a fee. This cost of this is lower than the costs of an out of hours, enhanced service point or premium lounge appointments under the normal UKVCAS service and will save students the financial and logistical burden of travel.

As part of our governance processes, we work closely with SSL to ensure that excessive charges are not imposed on UKVI customers. Whilst SSL may offer added value services to customers, these are optional and aim to enhance the customer experience.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-10/275742/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-11/263146/>

Visas: Ministers of Religion

Patrick Grady (SNP) [277208] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether men ordained as deacons in the Roman Catholic Church are Ministers of Religion for the purpose of applications under Tier 2 and Tier 5 of the immigration rules.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Paragraph 169 of the Immigration Rules defines the role of a Minister of Religion. Further detail can be found within our guidance products, including our guidance for Tier 2 and Tier 5 sponsors, which can be found at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/sponsor-a-tier-2-or-5-worker-guidance-for-employers

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-15/277208/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Migrant Workers: Domestic Service

Vernon Coaker (Labour) [275676] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he has taken to ensure that overseas domestic workers are informed of their rights as workers in the UK; and if he will make a statement.

Vernon Coaker (Labour) [275677] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the timeframe is for the planned information sessions on the employment rights of overseas domestic workers; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Immigration Rules governing the Overseas Domestic Worker (ODW) visa are designed to ensure that the worker will not be

subject to exploitative working conditions in the UK. ODWs are provided with a bespoke leaflet informing them of their employment rights when they lodge their visa application, before they enter the UK.

The Government is currently running a procurement exercise to identify a provider of the information sessions for Overseas Domestic Workers. The results of this tendering exercise will be released in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-10/275676/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-10/275677/>

Overseas students

Stephen Timms (Labour) [911936] What progress he has made on his review of the treatment of overseas students accused of cheating in the Test of English for International Communication between 2011 and 2014; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Sajid Javid: Following my last update to the House and the publication of the National Audit Office report into this issue I have sought further advice from officials in my department about measures we can put in place for those who maintain their innocence. I intend to make a statement to the House this very soon.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-15/911936/>

Immigration: Windrush Generation

Afzal Khan (Labour) [276274] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his Department has a target for the time taken to make a decision on a claim submitted to the Windrush compensation scheme.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: There is no target for the time taken to make a decision on a claim submitted under the Windrush compensation scheme. We will aim to award compensation as quickly as possible, but the time it will take to process each claim will depend on the complexity of individual cases.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-11/276274/>

Immigration: Windrush Generation

Afzal Khan (Labour) [276275] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he will publish data on the time taken between someone submitting a claim to the Windrush compensation scheme and a decision being made on that claim.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office will publish information on the number of claims submitted, number of claims paid and the overall amount paid out by the scheme in due course as part of our regular reporting to HASC. We do not intend to publish information on the time taken between a claim being submitted and a decision being made on that claim.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-11/276275/>

Immigration: Windrush Generation

Afzal Khan (Labour) [276276] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether people applying to the Windrush compensation scheme who request a Tier 1 or Tier 2 review will have access to the evidence or data upon which an initial or review decision has been made.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: When an offer of compensation is made the Home Office will write to the claimant setting out the reasons for that decision.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-11/276276/>

Immigration: Windrush Generation

Afzal Khan (Labour) [276277] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether people applying to the Windrush compensation scheme will be subject to the immigration exemption to the Data Protection Act 2018.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The immigration exemption in the Data Protection Act 2018 is not a blanket exemption and may only be used on a case by case basis where the prejudice test and the proportionality test have been applied. It is not targeted at any individual cohort or schemes.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-11/276277/>

Immigration: Windrush Generation

Afzal Khan (Labour) [276278] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Windrush compensation scheme, what the average offer has been to an applicant and what criteria his Department uses to calculate loss of income in such awards.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office does not intend to keep up a running commentary on payments made. We will publish information on the number of claims submitted, number of claims paid and the overall amount paid out by the scheme in due course as part of our regular reporting to HASC.

The criteria used to calculate loss of income are set out in the scheme rules available on gov.uk

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-11/276278/>

The rules referred to above can be read at

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

Immigration: Windrush Generation

Afzal Khan (Labour) [276279] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether compensation awarded from the Windrush compensation scheme is taken into account in an assessment for an application for (a) universal credit, (b) tax credits and (c) other benefits.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Treasury has agreed that payments made under the Windrush Compensation Scheme and the Windrush Urgent and Exceptional Payments Scheme will be disregarded on an extra-statutory basis in the calculation of Universal Credit and other DWP means-tested benefits.

Similarly, payments under, or in connection with, the Windrush Compensation scheme will be disregarded in full for 52 weeks from the date the payment is made when calculating for tax credit awards.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-11/276279/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: Windrush Generation

Dawn Butler (Labour) [277132] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the oral contribution of the Minister for Women of 11 July 2019, Official Report column 439, what forms of documentation have been provided to each of the more than 6,400 applicants to the Windrush scheme.

Dawn Butler (Labour) [277134] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department,

if he will provide a breakdown of the type of documentation received by the 4,200 successful applications through the Windrush Scheme.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Secretary provides the Home Affairs Select Committee with monthly updates on the work of the department in connection with Windrush. This includes information on decisions made by the Taskforce under the Windrush Scheme. The correspondence can be found at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/correspondence-on-the-work-of-the-home-office-windrush>

The published Windrush guidance confirms what documentation is provided to the applicant dependent on the individual's circumstance. The guidance can be found at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/807384/windrush-scheme-v3.0-ext.pdf

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-15/277132/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-15/277134/>

The oral contribution referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-07-11/debates/EB3EB17E-3AD0-4299-B493-CC7B4406D5B8/WindrushHomeOfficeInvestigation#contribution-09AA86C5-75D3-42BF-91D8-02D9CCF72911>

Immigration: Windrush Generation

Dawn Butler (Labour) [277133] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many outstanding Windrush scheme applications there are.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Secretary provides monthly updates on the work of the Windrush Taskforce to the Home Affairs Select Committee. The correspondence can be found at:

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

It is intended that updates on the number of outstanding application will be provided in the future.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-15/277133/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [252532] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to page six of the Data Protection Impact Assessments cited in the Memorandum of Understanding on information sharing between the Home Office and Department for Work and Pensions and page nine of the Memorandum of Understanding on information sharing between the Home Office and HMRC on the EU Settlement Scheme, if he will place copies of those Data Protection Impact Assessments in the Library.

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [252533] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Equality Impact Assessment cited in the Memorandum of Understanding on information sharing between the Home Office and Department for Work and Pensions on the EU Settlement Scheme, if he will place a copy of that Equality Impact Assessment in the Library.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office has carried out a Data Protection Impact Assessment as part of the data sharing arrangements with Her Majesty's

Revenue & Customs and the Department for Work and Pensions to support the EU Settlement Scheme, and a copy of this will be placed in the Library shortly.

As part of this process, we have had due regard, in accordance with the public sector equality duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, to impacts on those who share a protected characteristic. This is reflected in the Policy Equality Statement for the EU Settlement Scheme, and a copy of this will be placed in the Library shortly.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-09/252532/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-09/252533/>

The Memorandum of Understanding referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/790668/Home_Office_-_DWP_API_EU_Exit_MoU.PDF

The Impact Assessments referred to above are not yet available online.

Immigration: EU Nationals

Hugh Gaffney (Labour) [277254] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment he has made of the accessibility of the EU Exit: ID document check android app for applicants.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: EU citizens make a huge contribution to our economy and society, and we want them to stay. The EU Settlement Scheme enables them to do so. The 'EU Exit: Identity Document Check' app is an optional aspect of the service which allows applicants to prove their identity remotely using their biometric identity document and an android smartphone device.

The app requires applicants to complete four quick steps – to take a photo of their identity document photo page, read the chip, complete a liveness check and take a photo of themselves using the device camera. The app process can be completed by the applicant alone, or with support from a third party, for example the applicant can choose to take the photo themselves using the front facing camera, or have a third party take the photo using the back camera.

So far, the app has undergone two separate accessibility audits, the first prior to the beta test phase and the second during the testing phase. The app development team have implemented recommendations from both audits, for example enabling users to utilise accessibility tools native to their device. User Research is ongoing, including with users with specific accessibility needs and those at the lower end of the digital inclusion scale.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-15/277254/>

UN Convention on the Status of Refugees

Jo Stevens (Labour) [275227] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what discussions his Department has had in the last three years with his counterparts in the Governments of other nations party to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol on (a) global compliance with the convention and protocol and (b) the status of refugees internationally.

Reply from Andrew Murrison: The UK is committed to supporting refugees, the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol. We played a key role with our international partners to develop the Global Compact on Refugees, which was agreed in December last year.

This Compact provides a framework for more predictable and equitable

responsibility-sharing and more effective international cooperation in refugee responses. The UK actively engaged in its development, including through five Thematic Meetings and six Formal Consultations between Member States in Geneva over 2017 and 2018.

The UK remains steadfastly supportive of the aims of the Compact. We continue to urge all states to back it and consistently emphasise the shared responsibility in addressing forced displacement and the importance of other donors stepping up.

The Global Refugee Forum at the end of this year will be an important opportunity to further broaden the support base and we will play our part in this process in full.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-09/275227/>

Refugees: Children

Vernon Coaker (Labour) [275678] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what progress has been made on filling the 480 child refugee places in the Immigration Act 2016; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government is absolutely committed to transferring the specified number of 480 unaccompanied children under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 (Dubs Amendment) as soon as possible. Over 220 children were transferred to the UK under section 67 when the Calais camp was cleared in late 2016. Since then we have been making further progress with the three participating States – France, Greece, and Italy – to refer and transfer more eligible children to move closer to the commitment to transfer 480 children.

The UK is at the forefront in protecting children affected by the migration crisis. Section 67 is one of a number of schemes that offer a safe and legal route to the UK for the most vulnerable refugees. In total, the UK provided protection to over 6,600 children in 2018, and 34,600 since the start of 2010, and in every year since 2016, the UK resettled more refugees from outside Europe than any other EU member state.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-10/275678/>

Asylum

Anneliese Dodds (Labour Co-op) [277290] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the criteria are for an investigation of an asylum seeker by Immigration Enforcement.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Immigration Enforcement do not have set criteria for investigating or taking any action on asylum seekers with an outstanding asylum claim, as they cannot be removed from the UK until a negative decision has been made on their asylum claim and they have exhausted their appeal rights.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-15/277290/>

Asylum: Religion

Anneliese Dodds (Labour Co-op) [277291] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how his Department plans to evaluate the effectiveness of its specialist training on faith or belief-based asylum claims.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: UK Visas and Immigration (UVKI) has an internal assurance process to assess the quality of asylum decisions and interviews and the application of policy that is used to evaluate the effectiveness of its specialist training on faith or belief-based asylum claims.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-15/277291/>

Asylum: Children

Tom Brake (Liberal Democrat) [276134] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate his Department has made of the number of child asylum seekers living in adult accommodation.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Child asylum seekers housed in asylum accommodation only if they are part of a family group. Unaccompanied asylum seeking children are housed by the local authorities.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-11/276134/>

Asylum: Children

Tom Brake (Liberal Democrat) [276136] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment his Department has made of the need for safeguarding policies to support child asylum seekers erroneously placed in adult removal centres.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government ended the routine detention of children in immigration removal centres in 2010. Individuals under the age of 18 are not detained for consideration of their asylum claim.

In cases where new information comes to light or concerns are raised, which indicate that a person who has been detained as an adult may be a child, we would seek to release them into the care of local authority children's services at the earliest safe opportunity for an age assessment.

Section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009 and published guidance in the form of Detention Services Order (DSO) 19/2012 "Safeguarding Children Policy" and DSO 14/2012 "Care and Management of Age Dispute Cases" set out the legal duties and guidance for staff in the immigration removal estate. This ensures that the welfare of children and their safeguarding is at the forefront of every interaction and decision.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-11/276136/>

The guidance referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/736218/DSO_19_2012_-_Safeguarding_Children.pdf

and

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/418815/DSO_14-2012_Care_and_management_of_age_dispute_cases_in_the_detention_estate.pdf

Asylum: Children

Jo Stevens (Labour) [276224] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many children applied for asylum in 2018 whose age was disputed.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office publishes data on the number of age disputes raised for main applicants who claim to be children are available, broken down by nationality for each quarter, in table as_10_q (Asylum, volume 3). The latest edition which includes data for 2018 is available at:

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-11/276224/>

Asylum seekers: right to work

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [911932] What recent assessment he has made of the effect on asylum seekers of his Department's policy on the right to work.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government fully appreciates that this is an important and complex issue which we need to consider in further detail.

That is why the Home Secretary has committed to review the policy.

We are continuing productive discussions with key partners, listening carefully to the arguments and considering the evidence put forward on this issue

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-15/911932/>

Dungavel House Immigration Removal Centre

Lesley Laird (Labour) [275814] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 17 June 2019 to Question 263224 on Asylum: Detainees, what estimate he has made of the number of people detained at Dungavel immigration removal centre.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Information on the number of people detained in Dungavel immigration removal centre (IRC) on the last day of each quarter is available in table dt_12_q of the [detention tables](#) in the latest release of 'Immigration Statistics, year ending March 2019'.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-10/275814/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-11/263224/>

Dungavel House Immigration Removal Centre

Lesley Laird (Labour) [275815] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what information his Department holds on the former places of residence of detainees at Dungavel detention centre.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office collects and maintains a range of personal information on immigration detainees on its caseworking databases, including former places of residence, if known. As was explained to the honourable member in response to her question of 10 June, the last known addresses of detainees are not included in the underlying datasets used to produce the Home Office's published detention figures.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-10/275815/>

The question referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-11/263227/>

Romania: Deportation

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [275706] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps he is taking to ensure that UK residents deported to Romania are not subject to overcrowded prison conditions in that country.

Reply from Alan Duncan: We regularly discuss improvements planned for Romanian prisons with the Romanian Ministry of Justice. Through our embassy in Bucharest, we have official guarantees from the Ministry that persons sent back by the UK serve time in prisons which meet EU standards.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-10/275706/>

Romania: Prisoners

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [275707] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and

Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment he has made of alleged abuses in the Romanian legal justice system relating to UK citizens imprisoned in that country; and what steps he is taking to help prevent such alleged abuses occurring for UK citizens deported to that country.

Reply from Alan Duncan: We are not aware of any allegations of serious abuses in the Romanian legal justice system relating to UK citizens imprisoned in Romania. When prisoners have approached us with concerns, we have contacted the local authorities to raise them - but they have usually been related to personal inconveniences and not abuse.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-10/275707/>

Deportation: Human Trafficking

Edward Miliband (Labour) [275162] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what support his Department provides to young people that were victims of trafficking after they have been returned to their country of origin.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: All confirmed victims of modern slavery who have no right to reside in the UK, or who are seeking or have sought asylum, are entitled to use the Voluntary Return Service funded by the Home Office. Individuals will receive a tailored package of support, which can include flights, help with travel documents, medical assistance and financial and reintegration support.

Arrangements for children to be returned to their country of origin, where this is in the best interests of the child, can be made by local authorities who have the legal responsibility for those children. A child's wishes (for example to be reunited with family) as well as any safeguarding or trafficking risks will be considered in the round as part of the best interest's decision.

The Home Office is also working with other governments and NGOs to make sure that when victims do decide to return home, they continue to access the support they need to prevent re-trafficking. For example, The Salvation Army has signed an MoU with La Strada Foundation in Poland to facilitate cooperation to support the safe return of Polish victims and their dependents.

The Home Office is also funding support and reintegration assistance to victims of trafficking in Nigeria and Vietnam, which includes support for those returning from the UK, and a similar programme is under development in Albania.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-09/275162/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

European Union Settlement Scheme

Lord Greaves (Liberal Democrat): To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made on the implementation of the European Union Settlement Scheme.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford): My Lords, the EU settlement scheme opened fully on 31 March and makes it easier for resident EEA and Swiss citizens and their family members to get the status they need to remain here after we leave the EU. The system is performing well and, according to the most recent internal figures, nearly 1 million applications have been received.

Lord Greaves: My Lords, that is good news, but there is still a very long way to go. As the Minister knows, if you have not been here for five years, you get pre-settled status. On 20 May, Caroline Nokes said in a Commons Written Answer:

"We are currently working hard on a number of enhancements to the EU Settlement

Scheme including the functionality to support individuals who currently hold pre-settled status to apply for settled status once they become eligible”.

Is the Minister aware that there was publicity only over the weekend because people are finding it difficult to use the app that they must use to convert their pre-settled status into settled status. Caroline Nokes promised that it would all be sorted within six weeks; that was two months ago. What is happening about that and can the Minister tell us what happens to people who forget to apply for settled status once they have their pre-settled status and the time arrives?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: In answer to the noble Lord’s first point—that we have a long way to go—given the number of citizens we are talking about, it sounds to me as though we are almost a third of the way there. In answer to his point about pre-settled status, interestingly enough, just before we came into the Chamber, I had a conversation with his noble friend, the noble Baroness, Lady Ludford, about a question she had raised with me previously on a reminder system for people coming to the end of their pre-settled status. That is certainly being worked on. He also asked me about the app. I am aware of the problem and we intend that from the end of July, it will be possible for people with pre-settled status to apply online to convert it to settled status as soon as they become eligible.

Lord Clark of Windermere (Labour): My Lords, I understand that there are 2.5 million people of European Union descent working in the UK who have still to apply for settled status. What happens to those people in just over two and a half months when we have Brexit?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I hope the noble Lord will be comforted to hear that people will have at least until 31 December 2020 to apply, which is a significant way off. It is pleasing to note that, three months into the scheme, the number of people who have applied is significant—as I said, nearly a third of the total.

The Earl of Clancarty (Crossbench): My Lords, does not the Minister believe that there should, equally, be a right of appeal following an unsuccessful application under a—God forbid—no-deal scenario, as there is currently in the event of a deal? There is no good reason why this should not be the case.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I understand that an administrative review is allowed and costs £80, but the noble Earl asked about something different, which was in the event of no deal. I will check when I go back that it is the same—that, deal or no deal, the cost and the process are the same.

Lord Anderson of Swansea (Labour): My Lords, the EU Sub-Committee covering this law met the Minister this morning. There seems to be a view that the technology is infallible. Is there not therefore a danger that the law of technology will trump the rule of law? The main complaint which the committee has found concerns the lack of physical proof that a person has been granted settled status. The Government have stubbornly refused to alter that, even if there were to be payment. What is the rationale behind that refusal?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I think the noble Lord is referring to automated decision-making. If the report is the same one that I am thinking of, it is wrong: there is no automated decision-making in the settlement scheme. Each application is checked by a caseworker, which I hope will give the noble Lord comfort. We allow applicants to choose, during the application process, whether they would like the evidence requirement for their continuous residence in the UK to be supported by government data checks. Those checks are optional and triggered only when a person enters their national insurance number on the application. The applicant may supply evidence in other forms should they wish to do so.

Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, I am sure that the Minister will agree that transparency is important and particularly difficult to achieve in a scheme that is

largely, if not completely, automated and uses algorithms. What information will the Home Office publish about its evaluation of the workings of the scheme? I include in that the work being done by the organisations receiving funding to advise vulnerable applicants, especially as—the Minister will correct me if I am wrong about this but it is important—I believe that their contracts include a gagging clause.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I cannot comment on the last point made by the noble Baroness and I will have to write to her on whether that is the case. She will of course remember the beta testing scheme that was in place before the whole thing went live; we will review how that process went. Part and parcel of that review will be the total number of successful applications made, as well as where things possibly went wrong.

Lord Pearson of Rannoch (UKIP): My Lords, why do the Government think that the EU Commission refused our original offer of continuing residence for the EU's 3.5 to 4 million people living here in return for its agreement that our 1.2 million people could go on living there?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The noble Lord has raised an important point and there has been a lot of discussion in this House about it. At the time we did what we thought was right and, yes, it would have been nice had it been reciprocated.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-07-16/debates/242841AB-EA33-4687-ACCF-3DB5BEFFD9F4/EuropeanUnionSettlementScheme>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-10/252826/>

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

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

Immigration Staff: Recruitment

Lord Marlesford (Conservative): To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to review the recruitment processes of (1) UK Visas and Immigration and (2) the Border Force.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford): My Lords, recruitment processes within all Home Office business areas are kept under regular review to ensure effectiveness and compliance with Civil Service policy. The Home Office adheres to the Civil Service Commissioners' recruitment principles and conducts pre-appointment checks in line with the baseline personnel security standard and national security vetting requirements.

Lord Marlesford: My Lords, some 50 Home Office officials, nearly all from the immigration side of the Home Office, have been sent to prison over the past 12 years for abuses of public office, yet the Home Office continues to deny that there is a problem, indicating that there are just a few rotten apples in the barrel. It now seems to be seeking to conceal the names of those officials. How can the Minister justify on grounds of privacy, as she did in a Written Answer to me on 4 July, the withholding from Parliament of the names of Shamsu Iqbal and Simon Pellett, who were sentenced in open court to 11 years and 23 years respectively for assisting unlawful immigration and smuggling of drugs and firearms? I might say that this is at a time when the Home Office is still trying to stop a judicial inquiry into the trashing of the reputation of Sir Edward Heath. Will the Government now take seriously, with a proper review, the possible deep corruption in that part of the Home Office—indeed, the possibility of enemies within it?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, I reject my noble friend's assertions that there is deep corruption within the Home Office. On releasing names, my noble friend will know that the Home Office is legally not allowed to

disclose this information. It will not, to ensure that it does not breach statutory and data protection obligations, and that is what I outline to him. Although the names of staff members are known in court, this is not necessarily the same as being in the public domain. The disclosure of names would have to satisfy a high threshold under the GDPR and Section 9 of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, which makes it an offence to disclose the facts of an offence in respect of a rehabilitated person.

Lord Rosser (Labour): In his 2018-19 annual report, the Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration states that only half the inspector posts were filled in the last few months of 2018-19; significantly fewer inspection reports were published than in 2017-18; none of the seven published reports in 2018-19 was laid in Parliament by the Government within the eight weeks to which the then Home Secretary had committed in 2014; the Home Office's focus on managing the fallout of the Windrush scandal and on preparing for Brexit appeared to affect its capacity for other business, including inspections; relationships between the inspectorate and the Home Office were generally poorer in 2018-19 than they had been in 2017-18; and during 2018-19, the chief inspector had just one meeting with the Home Secretary and two with the Immigration Minister. I have heard of an arm's-length relationship, but that is ridiculous. This is an unacceptable and potentially dangerous state of affairs in a key part of our border control and immigration system. Will the Government accept full responsibility and provide an explanation as to why they have allowed this unsatisfactory state of affairs, highlighted by the chief inspector, to arise and say what they intend to do about it?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, the noble Lord asked a number of questions, one of which was about border staff. He will know that we have recruited almost all the 900 staff that we undertook to recruit in preparation for Brexit. I will write to him with a longer answer on the inspectorate because I do not have the details at my fingertips today.

Lord Paddick (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, is the real problem at the Home Office not the culture, which is still being driven by trying to achieve the target of reducing net immigration to the tens of thousands? This House has recently passed legislation that effectively continues free movement of EU citizens in the event of a no-deal Brexit. So, the only way that this ridiculous target can be achieved is by the ruthless pursuit of anyone who can be deported, even for the most minor of reasons. Does the Minister not agree that the hostile environment may have changed its name, but it persists?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: As I have said before, the hostile environment started under Alan Johnson and ended under my right honourable friend the Home Secretary. The noble Lord has made the point about culture before, and he is right that the culture of an organisation is key to the way its policies operate. There are no targets of the kind that the noble Lord described. We have a general ambition of reducing net migration but targets—particularly in the hostile environment, as the noble Lord referred to it—no longer operate.

Lord Green of Deddington (Crossbench): My Lords, I shall be concise, as always. Does the Minister accept that there is a serious problem with the immigration service, which is that it is hopelessly under-resourced? The rate of removals has halved, and delays are growing all over the system. Does she accept that, if we want an effective immigration system, as the great majority of the public do, we have to pay for it?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: An awful lot of people want to come to this country and our immigration teams are very stretched. This requires resourcing, as everything does. We have very high employment in this country and we need people with the skills required to fill those jobs.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-07-18/debates/8BF1C179-529D-473A-A7B2-D87CB7D5D17C/ImmigrationStaffRecruitment>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Schools: Census

The Earl of Clancarty (Crossbench) [HL17037] To ask Her Majesty's Government what criteria are used when reaching decisions on the monthly matching and handovers of school census data about children by the Department for Education (DfE) to the Home Office for immigration enforcement purposes; what algorithms are used by the DfE to process such data; and what is the role of the Secretary of State for Education in making such decisions.

Reply from Lord Agnew of Oulton: Where the Home Office have clear evidence of criminal activity, including illegal immigration, limited data, including a pupil's address and school details, may be requested from the Department for Education's (DfE) National Pupil Database (NPD).

In such cases, the Home Office provide the DfE with the child's name, gender, date of birth and address (including postcode). The DfE will match this data against the records held on the NPD and, if there is a clear match, they will provide the Home Office with information relating to those individuals.

This process, and the data shared, is fully documented in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Home Office and DfE. A copy of this agreement is available in the Libraries of both Houses and is attached.

[HL17037](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-07-09/HL17037/>

Asylum: Community Relations

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL16881] To ask Her Majesty's Government how they intend to encourage the integration of asylum seekers into communities.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: This Government's priority is to focus our efforts and resources to support those who most need it, rather than invest in integration for those who may not qualify for international protection. Currently, around half of those who seek asylum in the UK are found not to need international protection. This is why support towards integration is offered at the point where someone has been recognised as a refugee.

The Government published the cross-government Integrated Communities Action plan in February 2019. In the action plan we have committed to ensuring all refugees are supported and empowered to integrate and rebuild their lives in the UK, focusing on improving support for English language, employment, mental health, and orientation to life in the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-07-02/HL16881/>

Immigration

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL16882] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many outstanding leave to remain cases are awaiting decision by the Home Office.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Information on the number of Leave to Remain applications currently awaiting decision is not available in published statistics.

However, the number of in-country applications in progress is published as part of quarterly transparency data. The latest figures are available at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/in-country-migration-data-may-2019>, which also shows the percentage of straightforward applications considered within

service standard.

[UKVI - In Country Migration Data - May 2019](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-07-02/HL16882/)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-07-02/HL16882/>

Migrant Workers

Lord Rogan (UUP) [HL16883] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to engage with businesses, employers and other stakeholders before making a final decision on future salary thresholds for skilled workers from outside the UK; and whether that timescale will be shortened in the event of a no-deal Brexit.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Following the publication of the Government's White Paper 'The UK's future skills-based immigration system' (Cm9722) on 19 December 2018, Ministers and officials are undertaking an extensive year long engagement programme with a wide range of stakeholders across the UK, including with the private, public and voluntary sector and local government, as well as industry representatives and individual businesses. We have already delivered over 100 events in every nation of the UK, reaching almost 1500 stakeholders.

As part of our engagement, on 24 June 2019, the Government asked the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to consider the issue of minimum salary thresholds in more detail. As part of this new commission, we have asked the MAC to look at a number of issues including the approach to calculating salary thresholds, the levels at which they should be set, the case for greater regional variation and the impact of exemptions from minimum salary thresholds. This report is due by January 2020. 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/Lords/2019-07-02/HL16883/>

The White Paper referred to above can be read at

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

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: Children

The Earl of Listowel (Crossbench) [HL16825] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether children applying for settled status are subject to automatic criminal records checks; and whether such children are required to declare (1) if they have been convicted of an offence, and (2) that they are subject to criminal proceedings.

Immigration: EU Nationals

The Earl of Listowel (Crossbench) [HL16826] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether (1) the suitability requirements, and (2) the threshold of criminality, for the EU Settlement Scheme apply to children; and if so, (a) how, and (b) what type of offences will be taken into account.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Applicants to the EU Settlement Scheme under the age of 18 are not required to answer questions relating to suitability. Applicants under the age of 10 are not subject to the automated criminal record check.

The suitability requirements for the scheme apply to all applicants under the age of 18. However, under the relevant provisions of the Immigration (European Economic Area Regulations) 2016, children under the age of 18 benefit from a higher level of protection and can only be deported on imperative grounds of public security.

There is no single definition of the type of offences likely to satisfy this higher threshold, but offences with a cross-border dimension which disclose particularly serious characteristics are more likely to do so.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-07-01/HL16825/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-07-01/HL16826/>

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

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

Asylum: Community Relations

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL16881] To ask Her Majesty's Government how they intend to encourage the integration of asylum seekers into communities.

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-07-02/HL16881/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL16813] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of a petition signed by 100,000 people opposing indefinite immigration detention presented to the Home Secretary in May; and what plans they have to put a time limit on immigration detention.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The petition was received by the Home Office on 8 May, and its contents have been noted.

As Stephen Shaw noted in his follow up review of the welfare of vulnerable people in immigration detention, the debate on a time limit for immigration detention rests mainly on slogans rather than evidence. The Home Secretary commissioned an internal review of how time limits work in other countries and how these relate to any other protections within the detention systems in those countries. This has shown that few other countries adopt very short time limits and that many countries face similar challenges to the United Kingdom when it comes to returning those who have no right to remain but refuse to leave voluntarily.

No one is detained indefinitely. Most people detained under immigration powers spend only short periods in detention. In 2018, 92 per cent of those detained were removed or released from detention within four months, and 69 per cent in less than 29 days.

We are continuously seeking ways to improve the immigration detention system to ensure that it is fair to those who may be detained, upholds our immigration policies, and acts as a deterrent to those who might seek to frustrate those policies.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-07-01/HL16813/>

The Review referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/728376/Shaw_report_2018_Final_web_accessible.pdf

Immigrants: Detainees

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL16814] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the annual cost of immigration detention lasting more than four months in (1) detention centres, and (2) prisons.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The average cost to detain an individual in immigration detention (including in prison) 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). Published data on the cost of detention can be found at the link below:

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-07-01/HL16814/>

Press Releases

Welcome for EU students and staff

<https://www.gov.scot/news/welcome-for-eu-students-and-staff/>

New business start-up training for refugees in the UK

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-business-start-up-training-for-refugees-in-the-uk>

New Publications

Freedom of Information release: Migrant numbers in Scotland since 2009

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/foi-19-01602/>

EU Settlement Scheme statistics, June 2019

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/818132/EU-Settlement-Scheme-Statistics-June-2019.pdf

Letter from Caroline Nokes MP and Nadhim Zahawi MP to Robert Halfon MP and Yvette Cooper MP, regarding progress on commitments in the Safeguarding Strategy for unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children

http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2019-0758/Joint_ministerial_letter_to_Chair_ESC-UASC_Safeguarding_Strategy.pdf

Letter dated from Wendy Williams, Windrush Lessons Learned Review, Independent Adviser, to Sajid Javid MP regarding the review

http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2019-0744/Windrush_Lessons_Learned_Review.pdf

Visa Problems for African Visitors to the UK

http://www.royalafricansociety.org/sites/default/files/reports/APPG%20Report%20on%20Visa%20problems%20for%20African%20visitors%20to%20the%20UK_v1.57.pdf

News

Home Office urged to 'get a grip' of its immigration responsibilities after chief inspector admits it is outsourcing 'on the cheap'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-immigration-chief-inspector-borders-hostile-environment-a9006706.html>

This shameless profiteering from our cruel immigration laws needs to stop

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/immigration-home-office-hostile-environment-profit-a9008361.html>

Scrap the target and make the UK at ease with its immigration

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-07-16/news/scrap-the-target-and-make-the-uk-at-ease-with-its-immigration-jft8htxgn>

Home Office accused of covering up plight of hundreds of trafficking victims wrongly detained in immigration centres

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-modern-slavery-trafficking-victims-immigration-detention-detained-foi-data-a9007251.html>

Home Office trials thermal imaging cameras capable of seeing migrants on beaches in France

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/07/17/home-office-trials-thermal-imaging-cameras-capable-seeing-migrants/>

Councils refuse to comply with Home Office's hostile environment policy to share rough sleeper data

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-immigration-rough-sleepers-homeless-councils-london-oxford-a9010261.html>

Open up immigration or 'cripple' industry, business bosses warn the next prime minister

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2019/07/17/open-immigration-cripple-industry-business-bosses-warn-next/>

The UK must stop persecuting people who seek asylum based on sexuality

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/jul/09/lgbt-asylum-seekers-detention>

Home Office visa service discriminating against Africans

<http://www.royalafricansociety.org/analysis/home-office-visa-service-discriminating-against-africans>

African people twice as likely to be refused UK visas than applicants from elsewhere, finds report

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/uk-africa-visas-home-office-denied-appg-immigration-a9008106.html>

MPs say 'embarrassing and insulting' UK visa system damages Africa relations

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2019/jul/17/mps-say-embarrassing-and-insulting-uk-visa-system-damages-africa-relations>

Africans arriving here are all assumed to be fleeing – but it's the UK that risks losing out

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/jul/18/african-uk-visa-rejections-home-office-global-britain>

EU migrants' £4.3bn contribution to UK 'should be spent on poor'

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/jul/15/eu-migrants-43bn-contribution-to-uk-should-be-spent-on-poor>

Channel migrants: Man in flippers attempts Channel swim

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-49006138>

Migrant rescued swimming from France to Britain wearing flippers

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/07/16/migrant-rescued-swimming-france-britain-wearing-flippers/>

Cardiff University: Student visa delay 'could cost £200k'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-49034146>

Asylum seeker Mustafa Dawood's death could happen again

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-wales-49010978/>

Daughter of British Army Gurkha veteran faces being separated from her father in deportation legal battle

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/07/20/court-rules-gurkha-veterans-daughter-not-allowed-join-uk/>

TOP

Community Relations

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Interfaith Dialogue

Lord Leigh of Crondall (Labour): To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to work with European leaders and the leaders of the Christian, Jewish and Muslim faiths to develop a comprehensive plan for inter-faith dialogue for areas of religious conflict which includes methods for mediation in order to facilitate improved ways of working between communities.

Reply from Baroness Goldie: My Lords, we welcome the United Nations *Plan of Action for Religious Leaders and Actors to Prevent Incitement to Violence that Could Lead to Atrocity Crimes*. However, we have concerns over how the plan will be implemented. In the UK, following the publication of the final report of the independent review of FCO support for persecuted Christians, we are working across government to see what else we can do to support members of faith and belief communities around the world.

Lord Lea of Crondall: My Lords, I thank the Minister for that constructive response. The tensions between adherents of different faiths, and subsets within them, are of course an inescapable part of the story of humanity, including between Judaism, Christianity and Islamism. That trio have common roots in the area that centres on Jerusalem, but they are now present in all the continents alongside other faiths. ... Do Her Majesty's Government agree that, in line with the global UN principles that the Minister mentioned, we Europeans have a vested interest in providing wherewithal? I do not mean just in rapid response; I mean helping to engender permanent co-operative arrangements on the ground in critical areas based, inter alia, on the competences from European agencies such as providing help to train mediators and experts in logistics and communications.

Reply from Baroness Goldie: I thank the noble Lord for the practical and

interesting example he has shared with the House. I am pleased that the Government are committed to preventive diplomacy such as mediation, and are working closely with the most reverend Primate the Archbishop of Canterbury to enhance the UK's work in this area. The UK believes that mediation requires a concerted approach from a range of actors. These include regional and sub-regional organisations, civil society, religious leaders and the meaningful participation of women. The Government are happy to facilitate a telephone conversation between the most reverend Primate and the leader of Nigeria's Muslims, should he require such assistance.

Lord Leigh of Hurley (Conservative): My Lords, I am the president of the Institute for Jewish Policy Research. We have conducted a survey about anti-Semitism among young Jewish people in every EU state. Sadly, we have discovered that nearly half of all those young people have suffered from some form of anti-Semitism activity over the past 12 months. The UK has the second-largest Jewish population in the EU and it is clear that the leadership required to combat anti-Semitism has to start at the top. I therefore salute those members of the Labour Party in this House who signed the letter published in this morning's *Guardian* to try to deal with anti-Semitism in the party. The Government of the United States have appointed a special envoy to deal with global anti-Semitism, Mr Elan Carr. Will the United Kingdom Government consider doing the same?

Reply from Baroness Goldie: The noble Lord depicts a troubling scenario in the result of the survey to which he referred. I assure him that the Government are committed to combating anti-Semitism both internationally and domestically. At an event at the United Nations General Assembly last September, my noble friend Lord Ahmad reaffirmed the UK's commitment to education and dialogue to combat the scourge of anti-Semitism in all its forms. Where we are aware of or witness it, it behoves us all to stand up, call it out and condemn it without equivocation.

Lord Palmer of Childs Hill (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, I widen the question: have the Government developed a social cohesion framework or action plan for post Brexit, or post a decision to remain, that ensures that individuals and groups who seek to divide and to promote extremism cannot play to fears within some communities? ...

Reply from Baroness Goldie: The Government have strict laws to deal with such matters, as the noble Lord will be aware. As he will also be aware, my noble friend Lord Ahmad is special envoy on freedom of religion or belief, and I think the Chamber will want to acknowledge his tremendous work. ...

Lord Chartres (Crossbench): Does the Minister agree that British universities, with their diverse student and staff bodies, are particularly hopeful and unexploited places in which to do precisely what the noble Lord proposes? Is she aware of the work done, for example, by the London School of Economics interfaith centre, especially its oversubscribed faith and leadership programme? Could this be commended more generally?

Reply from Baroness Goldie: I thank the noble and right reverend Lord for raising an extremely important point. The FCO has extended training on the influence of faith on foreign policy, commissioning the LSE Faith Centre to deliver a training course on religious literacy and introducing a series of regular seminars. We certainly invite other government departments, including DfID, to join this training.

Lord Turnberg (Non-affiliated): My Lords, I admit to knowing a bit about anti-Semitism and not a little about Islamophobia. Both those pernicious doctrines are on the march across Europe and now, unfortunately, in our tolerant Britain. Will the Minister encourage our religious leaders—the rabbis, imams and bishops—to produce several joint statements in which they show their abhorrence for these doctrines to their followers?

Reply from Baroness Goldie: We all listened to what the right reverend Prelate said. It is perhaps not for me to tell communities of faith what to do but everyone will have listened with great sympathy to what the noble Lord said, and I imagine that our communities of faith will want to respond positively.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-07-17/debates/F9B3222C-5ED5-4AC0-A29D-5899BCC1FDD4/InterfaithDialogue>

The UN Plan of Action referred to above can be read at

<https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/Plan%20of%20Action%20Advanced%20Copy.pdf>

The Institute for Jewish Policy Research survey referred to above can be read at

<https://jpr.org.uk/documents/FRA-JPR - Young Jewish Europeans - perceptions and experiences of antisemitism.pdf>

The letter referred to above is not available on the Guardian website but can be read at

https://ichef.bbci.co.uk/news/624/cpsprodpb/8A17/production/107915353_labour_peers_ad-nc.png

TOP

Equality

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Loneliness among people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds

S5W-23990 Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat): To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to each of the findings of the report by the British Red Cross and the Co-op Rise Network, *Barriers to Belonging: An exploration of loneliness among people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds*, and what action it is taking to implement each of the recommendations.

Reply from Christina McKelvie: The Scottish Government welcomes the valuable work that Red Cross and COOP are undertaking in tackling these issues. We note the recommendations within the report and will consider these further as we take forward the implementation of 'A Connected Scotland' our strategy to tackle social isolation and loneliness and build social connections.

In December 2017 we published the Race Equality Action Plan outlining more than 120 actions we will take over the course of this Parliament to secure better outcomes for ethnic minorities in Scotland. The plan seeks to address some of the factors that may lead to social isolation.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-23990>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://tinyurl.com/y6qlh4vg>

The Strategy referred to above can be read at

<https://tinyurl.com/y6fmwugw>

The Action Plan referred to above can be read at

<https://tinyurl.com/y6nr7s4q>

Gypsy/Traveller National Development Officer

S5W-24123 Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat) To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the commitment in the *Race Equality Action Plan - Year 1 highlight report*, by what date the National Development Officer is expected to take up post, and what the post entails.

Reply from Christina McKelvie: The Scottish Government has provided funding for a new Gypsy/Traveller National Development Officer at STEP to help improve educational experiences and outcomes for Gypsy/Travellers. Working closely with

the Traveller Education Network, the post holder will support local authorities to test out, learn from and share innovative models of education provision. The National Development Officer took up post on 27 May 2019.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-24123>

The Action Plan referred to above can be read at

<https://tinyurl.com/y6nr7s4q>

Scottish Traveller Education Programme

S5W-24124 Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat): To ask the Scottish Government, regarding its Race Equality Action Plan, what the additional £275,000 of funding in 2018-19 is in addition to, and what the funding has been used for.

Reply from Christina McKelvie: The Scottish Government already provides funding of £113,000 per year (2017-2020) to the Scottish Traveller Education Programme (STEP) to support the delivery of education to children and young people from travelling cultures. In 2018-19 we awarded STEP additional funding of £275,000 to support and share best practice in delivering education to Gypsy/Traveller families for all ages and stages – from early years to adult learning – and to embed and systematise effective approaches across Scotland.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-24124>

The Action Plan referred to above can be read at

<https://tinyurl.com/y6nr7s4q>

Scottish Traveller Education Programme

S5W-24128 Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat): To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the reference on page 50 of the *Race Equality Action Plan - Year 1 highlight report* to "the £775,000 referenced above in relation to Action 7", and this not being detailed in the report, whether it will provide details of Action 7 and its funding.

Reply from Christina McKelvie: The Scottish Government is providing an additional £775,000 to strengthen the provision of education to Gypsy/Traveller families over the period 2018-2022. £275,000 of this was awarded to STEP in 2018-19 to support, share and systematise best practice in delivering education to children and young people from travelling cultures. This will pave the way for a further £0.5m from the Child Poverty Delivery Fund which will deliver flexible family education to Gypsy/Traveller families. This is in addition to the £113,000 per year (2017-2020) which we already provide to STEP.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-24128>

The Action Plan referred to above can be read at

<https://tinyurl.com/y6nr7s4q>

Gypsy/Traveller children

S5W-24204 Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat): To ask the Scottish Government what the £100,000 allocated to Gypsy/Traveller children in 2019-20, as outlined in its "Every child, every chance: tackling child poverty delivery plan 2018-2022", has been used for, and what the outcomes have been.

Reply from Christina McKelvie: When we published 'Every Child, Every Chance: Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2018-2022' we made a commitment to invest £0.5m in flexible family learning with Gypsy/Traveller families over the lifetime of the Plan (2018-2020). This will build on additional funding of £275,000 (2018-20) to STEP to strengthen the delivery of education to children and young people in the

Gypsy/Traveller community. This work is underway and – alongside engagement with Gypsy/Traveller communities – will inform how the Child Poverty Delivery Fund money will be spent over the next three years .

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-24204>

The Delivery Plan referred to above can be read at

<https://tinyurl.com/y6gkppm7>

PATH Scotland

S5W-24126 Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat): To ask the Scottish Government how much funding PATH Scotland has received in each of the last three years, and how this funding supports the increasing number of minority ethnic people in Scotland.

Reply from Christina McKelvie: PATH Scotland has received funding of £35k for each of the years 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 through the Promoting Equality and Cohesion Fund. This funding supports the Developing Management and Leadership Skills (DMLS) in Public Life, Education and Employment Programme, which has been developed as a positive action measure to address the absence of minority ethnic men and women in leadership roles at all levels of public life, education and employment.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-24126>

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-18253 Fulton MacGregor (SNP): British Red Cross Barriers to Belonging Report – That the Parliament welcomes the report, *Barriers to Belonging*, by the British Red Cross; recognises that this new research aims to deliver information and statistics on the experiences of loneliness of people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds; notes with concern the findings in the report, which shows that people from BAME backgrounds face greater barriers to accessing help for loneliness and increased likelihood of discrimination and fear of stigma; understands that further evidence in the report highlights that belonging to a community helps tackle loneliness, while 67% of respondents who felt they did not belong in their community said they were always or often lonely, compared with just 16% who felt they did belong; considers that additional triggers such as racism, discrimination and xenophobia are often overlooked; acknowledges that transformational change is required in involving those from BAME backgrounds at greater risk of loneliness within services, institutions and workplaces, and congratulates the British Red Cross and Co-op on producing this report to call for greater inclusivity and diversity in tackling loneliness.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-18253>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.redcross.org.uk/-/media/documents/about-us/research-publications/health-social-care-and-support/barrier-to-belonging.pdf?la=en&hash=4A7DC417EF17B134F0861DF2E7B53A02378BA13F>

UK Parliament Ministerial Statement

Office for Tackling Injustices

The Minister for Women and Equalities (Penny Mordaunt): [HCWS1723] On Friday 12

July, the Prime Minister announced the creation of the Office for Tackling Injustices. This is a new organisation that will hold the Government and wider society to account for tackling key social injustices.

Despite the great progress we have made in promoting fair treatment for all in the UK, we know that too many of our citizens are still held back by the injustice of unequal treatment on the grounds of their socio-economic background, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation or disability.

The Prime Minister has spoken of her determination to tackle these “burning injustices”. But all Governments should work to end the injustices that continue to characterise our country for too many. The Office for Tackling Injustices (OfTI) will focus minds on how to create a fairer country in the decades to come.

By shining a light on data on injustices and monitoring change, the OfTI will provide evidence-based challenge to future Governments and wider society to tackle disparities in social and economic outcomes. Data is a hard, sometimes uncomfortable fact, but publishing it and communicating it clearly forces Government and others to hold a mirror up to their own performance and challenge themselves to do better.

The OfTI will have a remit covering social injustices relating to ethnicity, gender, disability, socioeconomic background and LGBT. As well as annually delivering a data-driven report on progress to Parliament, the OfTI will also publish thematic studies into issues relevant to its mandate. It will make use of relevant published data from various public authorities, monitoring trends and considering the underlying causes and drivers for them.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-07-15/debates/19071511000017/OfficeForTacklingInjustices>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-announces-new-independent-organisation-to-tackle-deep-rooted-injustices-in-society>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Higher Education: Equality

Gordon Marsden (Labour) [275681] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment he has made of the adequacy of equality and diversity training provided by higher education institutions; and if he will make an assessment of the potential merits of making that training mandatory.

Reply from Chris Skidmore: The government is committed to tackling inequalities.

That is why, in October 2018, my right. hon. Friend, the Prime Minister, launched measures to tackle barriers facing ethnic minorities in the workplace, including a new Race at Work Charter and a consultation on ethnicity pay reporting.

Like all employers, higher education providers have responsibilities under the Equality Act (2010) in relation to their staff. The government expects providers to comply fully with their obligations. As autonomous and independent institutions, it is for individual providers to ensure that the training they provide is appropriate.

The Equality Challenge Unit (part of Advance HE) has published guidance for higher education providers on embedding equality and diversity into HR policies. The Race Equality Charter also helps higher education providers to identify and address institutional and cultural barriers standing in the way of minority ethnic staff and students. The Athena SWAN Charter recognises work undertaken to address gender equality.

The regulator, the Office for Students (OfS), and its predecessor, have provided over £4.7 million in funding for projects tackling sexual harassment, online harassment and hate-based harassment. This includes projects with a focus on

developing and providing training for both staff and students on matters such as bystander intervention and handling of reports and disclosures.

In guidance to the OfS, the government has asked the regulator to positively engage with work to counter harassment and hate-crime and to make campuses places of tolerance for all students, and work with providers on equalities issues.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-10/275681/>

The Race at Work Charter, referred to above, can be read at
<https://race.bitc.org.uk/issues/racecharter>

The Race Equality Charter, referred to above, can be read at
<https://www.ecu.ac.uk/equality-charters/race-equality-charter/>

Universities: Ethnic Groups

Gordon Marsden (Labour) [275682] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the (a) terms and conditions for, (b) recruitment and (c) career advancement of BAME members of staff at UK universities.

Reply from Chris Skidmore: Despite recent progress in staff representation and progression, for example improvements in the number of women in leadership positions in higher education (HE), there is more to be done to create a HE workforce that is representative of British society.

On 1 February 2019, the government announced measures to tackle inequalities and improve outcomes for underrepresented groups in HE. These measures include asking the HE sector to take action to eliminate ethnic disparities in their workforce and support better outcomes for ethnic minority staff. UK Research and Innovation will also be commissioning a review to understand and address equality and diversity disparities in research and innovation funding.

HE providers are independent, autonomous bodies and are responsible for decisions about who they employ and the terms and conditions of employment they offer. Like every employer they must meet their obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and give due consideration to the way their recruitment, retention and promotion practises affect different sections of their communities and staff at different stages of their career.

The Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers states that 'diversity and equality must be promoted in all aspects of the recruitment and career management of researchers'. We expect to see this commitment reinforced as a revised Concordat is published in Autumn 2019.

The Race Equality Charter also helps HE providers to identify and address institutional and cultural barriers that may be impacting on minority ethnic staff and students. By improving the representation, progression and success of minority ethnic staff within HE we can ensure that everyone who has the potential to thrive at university, both as a student and as a member of staff, does so.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-10/275682/>

The Concordat referred to above can be read at
<https://www.vitae.ac.uk/policy/vitae-concordat-vitae-2011.pdf/@@download/file/Vitae-Concordat-Vitae-2011.pdf>

The Race Equality Charter, referred to above, can be read at
<https://www.ecu.ac.uk/equality-charters/race-equality-charter/>

Churches: Equality

Tonia Antoniazzi (Labour) [277265] To ask the right hon. Member for Meriden,

representing the Church Commissioners, what discussions the (a) Church of England and (b) Church in Wales have had with (i) other religious and faith bodies, (ii) the Government and (iii) the Equality and Human Rights Commission on the exemption of those bodies from equality legislation for appointments and provision of services.

Caroline Spelman: The Equality Act 2010 contains provisions that allow religious organisations to apply a limited range of religious occupational requirements to comply with the doctrines of the religion or to avoid conflicting with the strongly held religious beliefs of a significant number of the religion's followers. The ability to apply religious occupational requirements arises where the employment is "for the purposes of an organised religion" and is not specific to the Church of England. The Church of England has regular discussions with other religious and faith bodies, with HM Government, and with the Equality and Human Rights Commission on matters of mutual interest. From time to time these will include reflections on the importance for religious freedom of the provisions that protect faith and belief in the Equality Act.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-15/277265/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Equal Pay: Ethnic Groups

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL17061] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to reduce the ethnic minority pay gap in the UK.

Reply from Lord Henley: The Government is committed to a cohesive society where everyone can enter and progress at work and achieve on merit, whatever their background.

The Government consulted on how best to implement mandatory ethnicity pay reporting. We received over 300 detailed responses and will set out next steps in due course.

The Government has also launched the Race at Work Charter which commits signatories to effective practices that support fairness at work. Over 170 employers have signed up to date.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-07-09/HL17061/>

The Race at Work Charter, referred to above, can be read at <https://race.bitc.org.uk/issues/racecharter>

New Publication

Equality in Fife: July 2019

<https://centreforequalities.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/EQUALITY-IN-FIFE-JULY-2019-1a.pdf>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer

Universities: Racial Discrimination

Gordon Marsden (Labour) [275679] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment he has made of trends in the level of reports of racism against students and staff in UK universities in the last five years.

Gordon Marsden (Labour) [275680] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what discussions (a) he and (b) Ministers in his Department have had with representatives from (i) Universities UK, (ii) other education sector bodies, (iii) trades unions representing staff, (iv) student unions and (v) NUS on the effect of incidences of racism directed at their members in the last 12 months.

Reply from Chris Skidmore: The government takes all forms of hate crime extremely seriously. There is no place in our society - including within higher education – for hatred or for any form of harassment, discrimination or racism.

The government is working closely with Universities UK (UUK) and the Office for Students (OfS) to support work to address racism and other forms of harassment in higher education, including the implementation of UUK's Taskforce recommendations. The government has also tasked the OfS to support this work, and over £2 million has been invested in projects tackling hatred and harassment. The department regularly meets stakeholders and representative bodies about student experience issues including racism, hate crime and harassment. Officials hold quarterly meetings with the OfS and UUK to discuss how to make progress on harassment and hate crime, including racism within the sector. In addition, I have recently held meetings with the Union of Jewish Students and Jewish student representatives about antisemitism on campus.

The government expects providers to keep records of incidents disclosed to them and to act swiftly to investigate and address them. It is important to recognise that under-reporting is common. Higher education providers should look at how they can continue to break down barriers to reporting, in spite of the potential for it to lead to spikes in disclosures, and to make sure that students and staff feel safe and able to disclose racist incidents.

Evaluation to date has shown that progress has been made but that there is still more to do. On 7 January 2019; I wrote to the Equality and Human Rights Commission to welcome their Inquiry into Racial Harassment in Higher Education Institutions. I look forward to the new evidence that this inquiry will bring and will review its findings carefully.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-10/275679/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-10/275680/>

Universities: Racial Discrimination

Gordon Marsden (Labour) [276161] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, with reference to the article in the Guardian entitled A demeaning environment: stories of racism in UK universities, published 5 July 2019, if he will hold discussions with the Office for Students on their assessment of the scale and nature of racism in UK universities.

Reply from Chris Skidmore: There is no place in our society, including within higher education (HE) for hatred or any form of harassment, discrimination or racism.

The government is working closely with the Universities UK (UUK) and the Office for Students (OfS) to support work to address racism and other forms of harassment in HE, including implementation of UUK's Sexual Violence and Harassment Taskforce's recommendations.

Ministers and officials in the department meet regularly with the OfS, stakeholders and representative bodies about a range of student experience issues including racism, hate crime and harassment in HE. This includes specific quarterly meetings with the OfS to discuss how to tackle harassment and hate crime, including racism within the sector.

In its ministerial guidance, the government has asked the OfS to support this work and to make campuses places of tolerance for all students, and over £2 million has been invested in projects addressing hatred and harassment in HE.

The government will continue to work closely with the OfS to prioritise tackling of all forms of harassment and hate crime in higher education.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-11/276161/>

The article referred to above can be read at

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2019/jul/05/a-demeaning-environment-stories-of-racism-in-uk-universities>

Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group

Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op) [273792] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, whether he plans to publish the minutes of the Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group meetings.

Reply from Heather Wheeler: The Working Group does not plan to publish the minutes of its meetings. Communities and stakeholders are regularly kept up to date on the Groups' work.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-05/273792/>

Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group

Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op) [273793] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, how many meetings the Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group has held.

Reply from Heather Wheeler: The Working Group holds quarterly meetings. The membership of the Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group has recently been refreshed. The first meeting of the refreshed Group was held in April 2019. A second meeting is scheduled to take place in July 2019.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-05/273793/>

Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group

Wes Streeting (Labour) [276245] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, which (a) persons and (b) organisations the Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group has met with in the last 12 months.

Heather Wheeler: The Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group was established to consider and take forward proposals to tackle anti-Muslim hatred. Members are expected to interact regularly with a broad range stakeholders at an individual and organisational level. This includes Muslim communities, key partners, government departments, local service providers, police and interfaith groups.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-11/276245/>

Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group

Wes Streeting (Labour) [276246] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, when the terms of reference of the Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group (a) were last and (b) are next due to be reviewed.

Heather Wheeler: The terms of reference of the Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group were last reviewed during the process to refresh the membership this year. The terms of reference are reviewed regularly.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-11/276246/>

Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group

Wes Streeting (Labour) [276247] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what engagement the Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group has had with the (a) Attorney General's Office, (b) Cabinet Office, (c) Crown Prosecution Service, (d) Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, (e) Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, (f) Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport; (g) Department for Education, (h) Foreign and Commonwealth Office, (i) Home Office, (j) Ministry of Justice, and (k) Department for Transport in the last 12 months.

Heather Wheeler: The Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group meets quarterly. Independent members of the Working Group work alongside the listed departments, representatives from the Muslim communities, independent experts, academics, and ex-officio members of the Working Group to tackle anti-Muslim hatred.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-11/276247/>

UK Parliament Home Affairs Committee

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

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/home-affairs-committee/the-macpherson-report-twenty-years-on/oral/103826.html>

Press Release

Confronting extremism together

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/confronting-extremism-together>

News: Antisemitism in the UK Labour Party

Anti-Semitism: May and Corbyn clash over anti-racism records

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-49012361>

Theresa May puts pressure on Jeremy Corbyn at PMQs over anti-Semitism row raging in Labour Party

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17776322.theresa-may-puts-pressure-jeremy-corbyn-pmqs-anti-semitism-row-raging-labour-party/>

Labour staffers condemn Corbyn's 'appalling and hypocritical' response to antisemitism claims as backlash intensifies

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/labour-antisemitism-jeremy-corbyn-lords-mps-panorama-a9005901.html>

Labour executive to consider automatically expelling members for racism as Tom Watson leads demands for change

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/labour-antisemitism-racism-expel-members-rules-executive-tom-watson-a9007441.html>

Labour antisemitism: Party faces call to expel antisemites automatically

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-07-17/news/labour-antisemitism-party-faces-call-to-expel-antisemites-automatically-nw82hr7z9>

Corbyn faces emergency meetings next week over anti-semitism storm

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/corbyn-faces-emergency-meetings-next-week-over-anti-semitism-storm-1-4965289>

Labour anti-Semitism row: Advert criticises Jeremy Corbyn

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-49012361>

A guide to Labour Party anti-Semitism claims

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-45030552>

Labour peers call for investigation into anti-Semitism claims

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-48995585>

Labour peers take out newspaper advert to tell Corbyn he is 'failing the test of leadership'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/07/17/labour-peers-take-newspaper-advert-tell-corbyn-failing-test/>

Labour peers take out newspaper advert attacking Corbyn over antisemitism

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/labour-antisemitism-corbyn-peers-advert-guardian-house-lords-a9007986.html>

Jewish leaders accuse Labour of 'letting off' antisemites

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/jul/19/jewish-leaders-accuse-labour-of-letting-off-antisemites>

Jewish group urges Labour party to end 'institutional racism'

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/jul/20/jewish-group-urges-labour-party-to-end-institutional-racism>

Whistleblower: 'I complained a year ago about activist who claimed Holocaust was exaggerated. Labour has done nothing'

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17784501.whistleblower-i-complained-year-ago-activist-claimed-holocaust-exaggerated-labour-done-nothing/>

Other Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination News

Humza Yousaf to quit Twitter after daily 'barrage' of abuse

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/humza-yousaf-to-quit-twitter-after-daily-barrage-of-abuse-1-4964671>

Humza Yousaf quits Twitter over racist threats against baby daughter

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-07-15/scotland/yousaf-quits-twitter-over-racist-threats-against-baby-daughter-h9h3fxmht>

Muslim Conservatives speak out after criticism of the party over Islamophobia

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-politics-49022803/muslim-conservatives-speak-out-after-criticism-of-the-party-over-islamophobia>

Sajid Javid outlines plans to fight extremism

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17782427.sajid-javid-outlines-plans-fight-extremism/>

Community is the first line of defence against all forms of extremism

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/07/18/community-first-line-defence-against-forms-extremism/>

Ahmadiyya Muslims Targeted for Violent Islamophobic Hate in East London

<https://tellmamauk.org/ahmadiyya-muslims-targeted-for-violent-islamophobic-hate-in-east-london/>

Neo-Nazi 'impatient for war on Jews' jailed over far-right terror group links

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/far-right-trial-extremist-national-action-terrorism-daniel-ward-antisemitism-a9013641.html>

Nursery school children 'using racist language'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-49036798>

Racist tenant demanded home away from refugee

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-07-18/scotland/racist-tenant-demanded-home-away-from-refugee-x9zckv5q2>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Releases

Autumn 2020 for organ donation opt-out system

<https://www.gov.scot/news/autumn-2020-for-organ-donation-opt-out-system/>

New app to help disabled visitors access the Parliament is launched at Holyrood

<https://www.parliament.scot/newsandmediacentre/112416.aspx>

Future police direction

<https://www.gov.scot/news/future-police-direction/>

New Publication

Video guide to the role that committees play in the Scottish Parliament

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lrXPoCHpOHI>

News

Organ donation 'opt-out' law in force from autumn 2020

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-49045406>

'Time is right' to review priorities of Police Scotland

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/crime/time-is-right-to-review-priorities-of-police-scotland-1-4965271>

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New Publication

Sisters in Desistance: Community-based solutions for Muslim women post-prison

<http://www.khidmat.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Sisters-in-Desistance-Final-.pdf>

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Other News

Life after prison for Muslim women

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-48954943>

Muslim community shuns women released from prison, says report

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jul/15/muslim-community-shuns-women-released-from-prison-says-report>

Wales' Jewish history: Call to record it before it is too late

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-49030675>

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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>

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

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

UK Parliament

Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) Bill

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

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

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

Banknote Diversity

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

Border Control Bill

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

**** EEA Nationals (Indefinite Leave to Remain) Bill**

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

Second Reading, House of Lords

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-07-19/debates/DE273B25-3ABF-4E77-9139-70795D5B42F9/EEANationals\(IndefiniteLeaveToRemain\)Bill\(HL\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-07-19/debates/DE273B25-3ABF-4E77-9139-70795D5B42F9/EEANationals(IndefiniteLeaveToRemain)Bill(HL))

Gypsy and Traveller Communities (Housing, Planning and Education)

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

Human Trafficking (Child Protection) Bill

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

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

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

Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill

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

Immigration (Time Limit on Detention) Bill

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

Modern Slavery (Transparency in Supply Chains) Bill

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

Modern Slavery (Victim Support) Bill

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

Online Forums Bill

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

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

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

Refugees (Family Reunion) (No. 2) Bill

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

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (Legal Advice and Appeals) Bill

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

Unauthorised Encampments

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

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

Islamophobia in Scotland (closing date 26 August 2019)

<https://forms.ncl.ac.uk/view.php?id=13027>

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

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

Scottish Government proposals to create a Scottish Biometrics Commissioner (closing date 30 August 2019)

https://www.parliament.scot/S4_JusticeCommittee/Inquiries/SBCBillCfEforweb20190701.pdf

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/>

**** Strategic police priorities for Scotland** (closing date 4 October 2019)

<https://tinyurl.com/y5qo62n3>

Women of Colour in Scottish Politics (closing date not stated)

<https://edinburgh.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/women-of-colour-in-scottish-politics>

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

**** Scotland's Winter Festivals and St Andrew's Fair Saturday 2019/2020**

Closing date 16 September 2019

This Bemis small grant fund, supported by the Scottish Government, will be available to Scotland's diverse ethnic and cultural minority community organisations holding public multicultural celebratory that will enable everyone to experience the dynamic and invigorating nature of Scotland's cultural and ethnic diversity.

Participating organisations must embrace the message of arts and culture as a way of bringing communities together in common international human bond, and ensure our events are open to all. They must also nominate a charity to benefit from their event. This could be from a raffle or any other way of fundraising. If the organisation is a charity it could raise money for an existing or new project. There is no minimum or maximum amount they must raise. For information and to apply see <https://bemis.org.uk/project/swf-2019/>

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!**

Online Hate Talk – Race and Religion

22 July 2019 in Edinburgh (10.00-4.30)

Racist, Islamophobic or anti-Semitic talk can be found in online settings but what counts as prejudicial is itself often a topic of debate. This event from Edinburgh University and the British Psychological Society will discuss the nature of online hate talk, and how it can be theorised, researched, and responded to. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y2glghmr>

Working with People from Diverse Religion & Belief Identities

30 July 2019 in Glasgow (9.30-1.00)

6 September 2019 in Glasgow (1.00-4.30)

21 November 2019 in Glasgow (9.30-1.00)

Interfaith Scotland course to learn about the core beliefs and cultural practices of the main faiths, and the individual needs that may arise from a person's faith or belief identity, and consider where unintentional discrimination may occur and discuss steps to remove it. For information about the July event see <https://tinyurl.com/y63r67cs> the September event

see <https://tinyurl.com/yxgh4wb9> and the November event see <https://tinyurl.com/yxrr95j2>

**** Roma Holocaust Day Memorial**

2 August 2019 in Glasgow (12.00-2.30)

At a time of heightened racism, xenophobia, and anti-migrant antipathy across (and indeed, beyond) Europe, the importance of remembering the fate of the Roma remains as urgent as ever. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y5nfdx4t>

3 Mottos for Guiding our Approach to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

8 August 2019 in Glasgow (9.30-1.00)

17 September 2019 in Glasgow (9.30-1.00)

Interfaith Scotland course to consider why some people ignore or deny the disadvantages that others experience; how to respond to misunderstandings or offence; and the impact of our inner narratives on our interactions. For information about the August event see <https://tinyurl.com/yxq4z6a3> and the September event see <https://tinyurl.com/y69h9tyz>

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>

Interpreting Culture – Improving Cross-Cultural Communication

21 August 2019 in Glasgow (9.30-1.00)

16 October 2019 in Glasgow (1.00-4.30)

Interfaith Scotland course to consider the wide-ranging influence of cultural background on people's behaviour, expectations and beliefs, consider responses to the behaviour of others, and improve communication skills with people from other cultures. For information about the August event see <https://tinyurl.com/y374w8md> and the October event see <https://tinyurl.com/y4r8ed8f>

Introduction to Policing

25 August 2019 in Dunfermline (9.45-3.00)

1 September 2019 in Motherwell (9.45-3.00)

Scotland is an increasingly diverse country and Police Scotland want to represent this change. This one day course is aimed at encouraging people from minority ethnic communities to consider a career in policing, and will include information about the recruitment process, input from specialist departments, and an opportunity to try the fitness test. For information about the Dunfermline event see <https://tinyurl.com/y2kxb6yh> and about the Motherwell event see <https://tinyurl.com/y69h46gv>

Meet the Charity Regulator

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/>

**** Engaging "Easy to Ignore" Communities**

29 August 2019 in Kirkcaldy (9.30-4.00)

Fife Centre for Equalities course using the National Standards for Community Engagement alongside the "What Works Scotland" recommendations to delve into methods of outreach, sustainable interactions, and more. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yygwat9o>

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/zy436qr> 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>

Refugee Survival Trust <https://www.rst.org.uk/>

Freedom from Torture <https://tinyurl.com/yyhmtvky>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services

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

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

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



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



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

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