



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

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

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

The Scottish Parliament is in recess until 2 September 2019, and the UK Parliament until 3 September 2019. The next issues MEMO will be published on 12 and 26 August, and 9 September.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Motions

S5M-18364: Gordon MacDonald (SNP): EU Doctors and Nurses Save the UK Billions – That the Parliament acknowledges the findings of a study by Medbelle that has calculated how much the UK has received in income tax from EU nationals working in the medical industry and the money saved in terms of UK education spending; understands that, in the last five years, the UK received £1.5 billion in income taxes and saved a further £1.6 billion by hiring EU medical professionals who were trained overseas; understands that this sum is equivalent to paying for 3,456 MRI scanners, at £895,000 per scanner, 562,427 hip operations, at £5,500 per operation, or the salaries of 57,928 nurses with five

year's professional experience for one year, at an average salary of £53,400; appreciates the huge value that foreign-born doctors and nurses working in the NHS bring to the UK in terms of their experience and wealth of knowledge, and recognises what it considers the likely negative impacts that Brexit will have on attracting and retaining EU doctors and nurses in the future.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-18364>

S5M-18356: Fulton MacGregor (SNP): Community-based Alternatives to Immigration Detention – That the Parliament welcomes Detention Forum's blog series on community-based alternatives to detention (ATDs); considers that ATDs have been shown to be more humane, more effective and cheaper than detention; notes that ATDs use case management, tailored to the needs of specific communities, to enable people to resolve their immigration issues while living in the community; believes that ATDs exemplify an approach that recognises the importance of engaging individuals and respecting their rights and dignity, rather than relying on immigration enforcement; considers that Scotland would be an ideal location for one of the announced Home Office pilot ATDs, and supports the work of Scottish Detainee Visitors, Detention Forum and others in supporting people affected by detention and advocating for detention reform.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-18356>

UK Parliament, Ministerial Statement

Immigration

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Sajid Javid) [HCWS1803] I am today making an announcement on a number of issues related to immigration. These include an expansion of the shortage occupation list (SOL) in line with the recommendations of the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) and a planned future amendment in the Immigration Rules to Section 67 leave. I am also providing an update on the Home Office's response to cheating in English language tests and the Border, Immigration and Citizenship System (BICS) independent review.

Migration Advisory Committee review of the shortage occupation list

On 29 May, the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) published the outcome of its full review of the shortage occupation list (SOL). I am very grateful to the MAC for a very thorough and comprehensive piece of work. The MAC recommended a number of changes to the main UK-wide SOL, expanding the list to cover a range of high-skilled occupations, including a number of health and social care, engineering and digital technology occupations.

The Government are happy to accept all of the MAC's recommendations on the composition of the SOL and the necessary amendments will be made in the autumn immigration rules changes.

The MAC also suggested that, in order to combat the particular challenges faced by some remote communities, the Government should pilot a scheme that facilitated migration to these areas. The Government accept that this is an idea worth pursuing. Further details will be given in due course.

Section 67 leave

In June 2018, we introduced section 67 leave to fulfil our legal obligation to those children transferred to the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016. This ensures that those unaccompanied children transferred to the United Kingdom under section 67, and who do not qualify for refugee status or humanitarian protection, are able to remain in this country and build a life here. This form of leave allows them to study, work, access public

funds and healthcare, and is a route to settlement which they would not ordinarily have had.

Currently, the immigration rules only provide for section 67 leave to be granted to those who have already had an application for refugee status or humanitarian protection refused. This means that upon arrival in the United Kingdom, the child is required to go through the process of claiming asylum, including providing an account of why they fled their country of origin.

We intend to amend the existing rules to allow those transferring under section 67 to receive this form of leave immediately, as soon as they arrive. This will provide the children, and the local authorities who will care for them, with additional reassurance and guarantee their status in the UK at the earliest opportunity.

Children who have already been transferred to the UK under section 67 and are currently having their asylum claims assessed will also be entitled to section 67 leave automatically once this amendment has been made. Children granted section 67 leave on arrival will still have the opportunity to claim asylum. Should they be successful in an asylum claim, those who qualify will receive refugee or humanitarian protection status.

The Government are absolutely committed to transferring the specified number of 480 unaccompanied children under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 as soon as possible.

The Home Office's response to cheating in English language tests

Five years ago, the scale of this issue was uncovered by Panorama. Their footage revealed systematic cheating in test centres run on behalf of the company ETS. Further investigation showed just how widespread this fraud was. Twenty-five people who were involved have been convicted and sentenced to over 70 years in prison. Further criminal investigations are ongoing, with a further 14 due in court next month.

Our approach to taking action on students has been endorsed by the courts, who have consistently found the evidence the Home Office had was enough to prompt the action that was taken at the time.

Despite this, there have remained concerns that some people who did not cheat may have been caught up and I am aware that some people found it hard to challenge the accusations against them. So earlier this year, I commissioned officials for advice.

This is a complex matter given that we need to work within existing legal frameworks relating to appeal rights, judicial review and administrative review.

I have therefore asked officials to review our guidance to ensure that we are taking the right decisions on these cases to ensure we are properly balancing a belief that deception was committed some years ago against other factors that would normally lead to leave being granted, especially where children are involved. We will update operational guidance to ensure no further action is taken in cases where there is no evidence an ETS certificate was used in an immigration application.

We continue to look at other options, including whether there is a need for those who feel they have been wronged to be able to ask for their case to be reviewed. We intend to make further announcements about this and will update the House in due course.

Review of the border, immigration and citizenship system

In October 2018, I committed to conducting a review of the Border, Immigration and Citizenship System (BICS). The purpose of this review will be to ensure the BICS is ready and able to deliver a world class immigration system.

The review will focus on whether the BICS has in place the right systems, structures, accountability and working practices to deliver against its goals. It will be forward looking in its nature. It will not consider individual policies or goals, but rather whether the system has the right capabilities to deliver against those stated objectives.

I am pleased to announce today that I have appointed Kate Lampard CBE to lead the review.

Kate has previously held senior non-executive roles in the NHS, chaired the Financial

Ombudsman Service, and has undertaken important reviews for Government. She has a wealth of skills and experience to bring to this critically important task.

I will place a copy of the terms of reference for the review in the Libraries of both Houses.

The review will aim to complete by early 2020.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-07-23/debates/19072367000018/Immigration>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Secondary Legislation

Nationality: draft British Nationality Act 1981 (Remedial) Order 2019

The Minister for Immigration (Caroline Nokes): I beg to move, That the draft British Nationality Act 1981 (Remedial) Order 2019, which was laid before this House on 2 May, be approved.

In this day and age, I think we can all agree that the law should not discriminate against people simply because their parents were not married when they were born, and that we should not discriminate against people just because it was their mother who was British, not their father. The draft British Nationality Act 1981 (Remedial) Order 2019 is designed to remove discriminatory provisions in the British Nationality Act 1981 for those applying for British citizenship under specific routes introduced to address historical discrimination against those whose parents were not married, or against those whose mother was British, as opposed to their father. The draft order was first laid in Parliament in March 2018.

Once the law has been changed, those who seek to register as British citizens and who were born to an unmarried British father before July 2006, or to a British mother before 1983, will no longer need to demonstrate that they are of good character where it would be discriminatory to require them to do so. In two separate cases, the courts declared the good character requirement to be unlawful and made a declaration of incompatibility with the European convention on human rights. This legislation will correct incompatibilities identified by the domestic courts by removing the good character requirement for those applying for British citizenship via certain routes on the basis of historical discrimination. ...

Afzal Khan (Labour): The good character requirement has wrongly blocked children from registering for their right to British citizenship. We support the statutory instrument because it corrects a discriminatory and wrongful requirement. This requirement in relation to citizenship is highly controversial and, simply put, it is outdated in the present climate. British nationality law granted automatic citizenship by descent only to children born in wedlock to British fathers. Although previous changes have allowed children born to British mothers or fathers to become British citizens by descent whether their parents were married or not, discrimination remained because they were required to prove good character.

Concerns raised by the Joint Committee on Human Rights, the courts, numerous organisations and young people themselves all indicate that it is inappropriate to apply the good character test to children who have a right to be British. The statutory changes proposed today would address those concerns by removing the requirement to prove good character. ...

We believe that the good character requirement has led to serious discrimination. Children from BME backgrounds, as well as children in care, are much more likely to be denied citizenship because of unequal treatment in the criminal justice system. ...

To read this discussion in full see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-07-23/debates/372BF34E-FBEC-4443-9E3E-73FBD9CC40F4/Nationality>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

TOEIC: Overseas Students

Stephen Timms (Labour): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will announce his decisions on the cases of overseas students falsely accused of cheating in ETS TOEIC—test of English for international communication—English language tests.

Reply from The Minister for Immigration (Caroline Nokes): Five years ago, “Panorama” uncovered the shocking scale of fraud within the English language testing system. ETS, the company that ran the centres, analysed all the tests taken in the UK between 2011 and 2014—more than 58,000 in all. It identified more than 33,000 invalid results where, in its view, there was direct evidence that somebody had cheated, and a further 22,000 were considered questionable because of irregularities. This fraud was serious and systematic, and 25 people who were involved have been convicted and sentenced to more than 70 years in prison. Further criminal investigations are ongoing, with a further 14 due in court next month. These crimes did not happen in isolation. The student visa system we inherited in 2010 was wide open to abuse. The National Audit Office found that as many as 50,000 people may have fraudulently entered the UK to work using the tier 4 student route in 2009-10 alone.

Following the revelations, the Home Office took prompt action against some of those who were found to have cheated, and that action was endorsed by the courts. Those whose results were questionable were offered the chance to resit the test. Despite this, there are understandable concerns that some people who did not cheat might have been caught up, and that some have found it hard to challenge the accusations against them. So earlier this year my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary commissioned advice from officials. Yesterday he lodged a written ministerial statement updating the House on our next steps. He announced that the Department would change existing guidance to ensure that the belief that a deception had taken place was balanced against other factors, which would normally lead to leave being granted, especially where children are involved.

Furthermore, we will ensure that no further action is taken in cases where there is no evidence that an ETS certificate was used in an immigration application. We will also drop the automatic requirement to interview those linked to a questionable certificate. We continue to look at other options, including whether there is a need for those who feel they have been wronged to be able to ask for their case to be reviewed. It is right that we show concern for those who have chosen to study or make a life in this country, but we cannot allow our concern to undermine the action we must take to tackle what was a widespread criminal fraud. We will keep the House fully informed as our response to this issue develops.

Stephen Timms: By 2017, more than 35,000 refusal, curtailment and removal decisions had been made in ETS alleged cheating cases. Thousands of those accused and denied visas remain in the UK protesting their innocence. The Home Secretary, who I am delighted to see in his place, told the House three months ago: “We had a further meeting to make some final decisions just last week”.—[\[Official Report, 1 April 2019; Vol. 657, c. 799.\]](#)

However, there has still been no announcement. He said on Monday last week: “I am planning to come to the House with a statement to say much more before the summer recess.”—[\[Official Report, 15 July 2019; Vol. 663, c. 586.\]](#)

He has come to the House today, but we have not heard that statement. Thousands of students who have been falsely accused now face grave hardship and need this to be resolved urgently.

ETS’s records are confused, incomplete and often plain wrong. The professor of digital forensics at Birmingham City University told the all-party parliamentary group on TOEIC

last month that it was “unsafe for anyone to rely upon computer files created by ETS ... as a sole means of making a decision”, but those files are the only basis for the cheating allegations. Appeals were not allowed in the UK, but a growing number have convinced a court that they did not cheat. Immigration judge Lucas, dismissing the Home Office’s case of TOEIC cheating against one of my constituents, wrote last month that “the reality is that there is no specific evidence in relation to this Appellant at all.”

This is a grave injustice that must be brought to an end.

At the Home Affairs Committee on Monday, the Home Secretary suggested a new reconsideration system for TOEIC cases, although yesterday’s inadequate written statement did not even go as far as that. Does the Minister envisage a reconsideration system for those wrongly accused? When will it be set up? How will it operate? When will full details of it be announced? Would it not be better and easier just to allow students to take another secure English language test, and if they pass, to allow them to regain their visa status?

Reply from Caroline Nokes: I commend the right hon. Gentleman for his diligence in pursuing this issue. He certainly brought it to my attention very early on in my tenure as Immigration Minister. It is important to reflect on the fact that the courts have said, in separate cases, that the evidence was enough to take the action that we did and that people had cheated for a variety of reasons. My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary did indeed publish a written ministerial statement yesterday, which gave an indication of the changes so far, but it is important that we continue to work on the issue and find a mechanism to allow people, where necessary, to have some form of review. Unfortunately, I cannot set things out in the detail that the right hon. Gentleman has requested at this time, but I reassure him that I am conscious that we have a new Prime Minister and, should I remain in this post, I will seek to raise the TOEIC issue with him as a matter of urgency, because it is important that we work as a Government to ensure that we find a mechanism for redress for the few cases in which a wrong decision may have been made.

Afzal Khan (Labour): ... The TOEIC scandal is another example of the Government’s hostile environment, plunging thousands of lives into uncertainty. This shameful episode, which started in 2014, has led to thousands of students being accused of cheating and the cancellation of some 35,000 student visas. Multiple organisations and court cases have questioned the allegations, uncovering the Home Office’s many shortcomings.

The damage, distress and loss caused to the international students wrongly accused of cheating has been colossal, leaving them feeling like criminals. Likewise, it has damaged our international reputation as a preferred destination for international students. It is evident that the Home Office has not learned key lessons from this debacle and the hostile environment policy, which is obviously still in play. I met students in Parliament and was shocked to learn about the abuse that they have experienced and to learn that they all suffer mental health problems—something not to be taken lightly.

The Home Secretary revealed at Monday’s Home Affairs Committee meeting that a new reconsideration system will be introduced, but the details remained vague in yesterday’s statement. The urgency of this matter must be understood, and the Government must clarify what the new system will look like and when it will be set up. These students have endured serious hardship and deserve answers, and immigration policies and processes must be fair and transparent. Will the Minister confirm that no further students accused of cheating in a TOEIC test will be detained or forcibly removed? Does she also accept that students have faced serious financial losses? If so, what financial support will be provided? This grave injustice must be corrected as quickly as possible.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: I thank the hon. Gentleman for his questions, but I point out to him that, far from this being a shameful scandal, what is shameful is that this was cheating on an industrial scale. The latest National Audit Office report confirmed that abuse of the system was widespread, and the 2012 NAO report

indicated that “abuse was rife”. Of course, the Home Office also not only sought compensation from ETS, but received it. It is therefore absolutely imperative that we emphasise that this was criminal activity and that people have been imprisoned. As I said earlier, 14 more individuals are facing court action as a result.

The hon. Gentleman will be well aware of the responses that my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary recently gave to the Home Affairs Select Committee, and I want to emphasise his precise words. He spoke of “a very small number, judging by the cases that have gone through the courts or come to the Home Office since 2014. Nevertheless, even if it is one individual who has been wronged, it is our duty to make sure that we are doing more to help.”

It is our duty, and that is absolutely what my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary intends to do. ...

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

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-07-24/debates/909DA222-47F0-4BD4-A04B-5833A6AD339B/TOEICOverseasStudents>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Visas: Married People

Henry Bellingham (Conservative) [278926] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 11 March 2019 to Question 229177 on visas: married people, if he will collate and publish figures for (a) the number of applications submitted under Appendix FM where the sponsor did not meet the financial requirement but argued that there were exceptional circumstances pertaining to their case and (b) the number of applications that were successful.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Information collected, collated and published in official statistics is kept under review, balancing user needs against burdens on suppliers, in accordance with the Code of Practice for Statistics, implementing the Statistics and Registration Act 2007 (copy available at

<https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/code-of-practice/the-code/>).

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-18/278926/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-06/229177/>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Visas: Migrant Workers

Seema Malhotra (Labour co-op) [279030] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate he has made of the number of applications received in each of the last twelve months for Leave to Remain extension application as a Tier 1 Highly Skilled general migrant; and how of those cases were concluded within eight weeks.

Visas: Standards

Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op) [279031] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reasons the processing of extension applications may exceed the eight-week agreed service standard; and with what frequency that standard has been exceeded in each of the last three years.

Visas

Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op) [279032] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the reasons are that qualify an extension application as complex.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Tier 1 (General) route closed to Leave to Remain

extension applications on 6 April 2015. Therefore, no Tier 1 General extension applications were received in the last twelve months.

The data regarding exceeding the eight-week service standards in current application routes can be found using the link

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

The statistics specific to service standards can be found on tab InC_02.

Historical data regarding service standards can be found via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data#previous-data-releases>

Complexity is identified on a case by case basis and will also vary depending on the application route. Therefore there is not an exhaustive list of the circumstances in which particular types of application might be deemed to be complex. Where an application is defined as non-straightforward, due to complexity, the customer will be written to within the normal processing time to explain why it will not be decided within the normal standard service, and to explain what will happen next.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-18/279030/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-18/279031/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-18/279032/>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Visas: Overseas Students

Gordon Marsden (Labour) [280139] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Education on the financial implications for universities of delays in the processing of free visa applications for international students who have been offered places by universities to study in the UK.

Gordon Marsden (Labour) [280168] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent discussions he has had with representatives from Cardiff University on delays in the processing of visa applications for international students who are enrolling in autumn 2019.

Gordon Marsden (Labour) [280171] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Education on the adequacy of procedures to process tier 4 visa procedures.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office regularly engages with representatives from the education sector, including the Department for Education. This has included recent discussions on Tier 4 services during the Autumn. Operationally we are currently deciding Tier 4 visa applications within published service standards.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-22/280139/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-22/280168/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-22/280171/>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Migrant Workers: Proof of Identity

Keith Vaz (Labour) [280125] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans he has to introduce digital IDs for migrants seeking to work in the UK; and if he will make a statement.

Keith Vaz (Labour) [280126] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the estimated cost is of introducing a digital ID system for migrants seeking to work in the UK.

Migrant Workers

Keith Vaz (Labour) [280127] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans he has to increase the use of algorithm-based software in the determination of immigration status for migrants seeking to (a) work and (b) visit the UK.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office has no plans to introduce digital IDs for migrants seeking to work in the UK. However, as set out in the Government's White Paper on the future skills-based immigration system published on 19 December 2018, individuals will use online services to demonstrate their immigration status to employers, landlords and other service providers. These online services will enable individuals to view an online record of their immigration status held by the Home Office, and to share it with others, securely and in real time. Online services are being rolled out now to those who hold a biometric residence document, and those who apply to the EU Settlement Scheme.

A decision on an individual's immigration status is determined by suitably trained Home Office staff. To ensure that applications for leave to remain and enter are processed as efficiently as possible, UK Visas and Immigration digitally streams applications to the relevant team. Streaming does not determine the outcome of an application; rather it ensures appropriate checks are made against requirements of the Immigration Rules by suitably-trained decision makers. The streaming system drives efficiency by ensuring decision makers have the relevant applications as quickly as possible. It is regularly updated to reflect any changes in policy. Online status services simply surface information based on the immigration product an individual has already been granted.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-22/280125/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-22/280126/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-22/280127/>

The White Paper referred to above can be read at

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

Immigration: Windrush Generation

Afzal Khan (Labour) [277850] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 16 July 2019 to Question 276277 on Immigration: Windrush Generation, what the criteria of proportionality will be when applied to people applying to the Windrush compensation scheme.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The proportionality test related to the immigration exemption in the Data Protection Act 2018 requires the rights of the individual data subject to be weighed against the likely prejudice to the maintenance of effective immigration control in so allowing such rights. It is not targeted at any individual

cohort or schemes and may only be applied on a case by case basis
<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-16/277850/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

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

Immigration: Windrush Generation

Afzal Khan (Labour) [277851] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 16 July 2019 to Question 276276, whether the reasons for a decision sent to a claimant will include HMRC and DWP data checks on the claimant's employment or benefits history.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Letters setting out a final decision for a claim made under the Windrush Compensation Scheme will reference any payments made by another Government department.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-16/277851/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

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

Immigration: EU Nationals

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [278477] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will place in the Library a copy of the algorithms citizen matching layer and business logic.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Under the EU Settlement Scheme, we conduct automated checks of certain tax and benefits records held by HM Revenue & Customs and the Department for Work and Pensions, where the applicant chooses to provide their National Insurance number. The checks help to provide evidence of the applicant's residence in the UK and remove or reduce the need for them to submit documentary evidence of this.

The business logic of how the checks calculate the period of residence is available on gov.uk at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/eu-settlement-scheme-uk-tax-and-benefits-records-automated-check>

We have also published there the memorandum of understanding with each department, reasons why records may not be found, and guidance on the wide range of other evidence we can use to confirm UK residence.

All applications under the scheme are decided by a caseworker.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-17/278477/>

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

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

Immigration: EU Nationals

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [280266] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for administrative review have been made to the EU Settlement Scheme; how many of those applications were (a) successful and (b) successful due to new evidence or an error by the caseworker in the original decision.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: In the period up to 31 May 2019, the last point at which data was assured, 368 applications were received for administrative review of decisions made on applications under the EU Settlement Scheme. Of these:

- 30 administrative review applications were rejected, e.g. because no EU Settlement Scheme application had been received;
- in all the remaining 253 cases, the applicant was challenging a grant of pre-settled status rather than settled status, of which:
 - 22 of these grants of pre-settled status were upheld following the administrative review; and
 - 231 of these grants of pre-settled status were overturned, and the applicant was instead granted settled status following administrative review. In these cases, the applicant had generally accepted a grant of pre-settled status when making their application and then provided additional evidence of their eligibility for settled status with their application for administrative review.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-22/280266/>

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

Immigration: EU Nationals

Jo Swinson (Liberal Democrat) [280173] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many EU citizens (a) have been and (b) will be prevented from obtaining settled status due to the technical inability of the settlement scheme app to convert pre-settled status into settled status.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: No EU citizens have been or will be prevented from obtaining settled status due to the technical inability of the EU Settlement Scheme app to convert pre-settled status to settled status. The online process which will allow an applicant to convert their pre-settled status to settled status is on track to be available from the end of July 2019. Currently, applicants who have obtained pre-settled status can make a fresh application to the scheme by contacting the Settlement Resolution Centre.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-22/280173/>

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

Refugees: Sudan

Jo Swinson (Liberal Democrat) [280177] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the viability of return to Sudan for people from Darfur or Nuba ethnicities.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The UK has a proud history of providing protection to those who need it. Each case is carefully considered on its individual facts and merits in accordance with our international obligations under the Refugee Convention and European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). Each individual assessment is made against the background of the latest available country of origin information and any relevant caselaw. Our assessment of the situation in Sudan is set out in the relevant country policy and information notes, which are available on the Gov.uk website. Where someone establishes a well-founded fear of persecution or serious harm in their country they are normally granted protection and are not expected to return there.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-22/280177/>

Private Education: Overseas Aid

Chi Onwurah (Labour) [279002] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what proportion of Official Development Assistance allocated to his Department is spent on independent schools; and what other programmes are funded by that Assistance.

Reply from Nadhim Zahawi: The department's estimated Official Development Assistance (ODA) spend in 2018 was £20 million, which also included a £5 million contribution to the Association of Commonwealth Universities' scholarship endowment fund. This spend was announced last April and exclusively funds master's level scholarships for citizens of ODA-eligible Commonwealth countries. This estimate of spending on ODA primarily relates to the provision of education of child and unaccompanied child asylum seekers in the 12 months after they make an asylum claim in the UK. The department estimates how much of the wider core schools funding for England is allocated due to having these children on schools' rolls. The estimate does not include any spending on independent schools.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-18/279002/>

Local Government: Asylum

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [280223] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to help councils (a) accommodate and (b) process asylum seekers.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office ensures that asylum seekers, who would otherwise be destitute, are provided with accommodation and a weekly cash allowance.

This includes free, furnished accommodation, and we also cover utility costs and provide individuals with a cash allowance to cover other essential living needs.

The level of the allowance is reviewed each year.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-23/280223/>

Asylum

Peter Heaton-Jones (Conservative) [280440] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum-seekers crossed the Channel between November 2018 and January 2019 inclusive; and of those how many (a) were returned to France for processing of their asylum applications, (b) have been granted asylum in the UK and (c) have applications being processed in the UK.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office has published data on the number of migrants who crossed the Channel between November 2018 and January 2019. This information can be found at the link below:

<https://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-committees/home-affairs/Correspondence-17-19/19-03-05-Letter-from-Sir-Philip-Rutnam-KCB-Permanent-Secretary-Home-Office-Migrant-boats-in-the-channel.pdf>

The department does not routinely publish breakdowns of asylum claims by method of arrival or type of claim. This information is recorded but not in a format that can easily be retrieved and could only be obtained at disproportionate costs.

The Home Office does publish data on the number of applications for asylum in the UK, in its quarterly Immigration Statistics release, the latest release published 24th May 2019. The number of asylum applications for main applicants by country of nationality, made since January 2019 can be found in table as_01_q for main applicants: Latest edition available at:

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

Since January, more than 50 people who arrived illegally in the UK in small boats

have been returned to Europe.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-22/280440/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: China

Yasmin Qureshi (Labour) [279448] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for asylum the Home Office has received from Uighurs since 2015; and what proportion of those applications have been successful.

Yasmin Qureshi (Labour) [279450] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will make an assessment of the potential merits of granting Uighur asylum seekers the automatic right to remain in the UK.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office is unable to report on how many applications for asylum from Chinese Uighurs it has received since 2015; and what proportion of those applications have been successful, as to obtain this information would require a manual trawl of records and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost. We do, however, publish data on those who have been granted asylum in the UK, with main applicants broken down by country of nationality. The latest release, published 24th May 2019, can be found in tab as_01 at volume 1 of the quarterly Immigration Statistics release:

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

The UK has a proud history of providing protection to those who need it, in accordance with our international obligations under the Refugee Convention and European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).

Where someone establishes a well-founded fear of persecution or serious harm in their country they are normally granted protection and are not expected to return there.

Our assessment of the situation for Uighurs in China is set out in the relevant country policy and information note, which is available on the Gov.uk website

All asylum and human rights claims from Chinese nationals are carefully considered on their individual merits in accordance with our international obligations. Each individual assessment is made against the background of the latest available country of origin information and any relevant caselaw.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-19/279448/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-19/279450/>

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Philip Hollobone (Conservative) [278443] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate the Government has made of the number of illegal seaborne migrants that have crossed the Short Straits (a) from 1 October to 31 December 2018, (b) from 1 January to 31 March 2019 and (c) since 1 April 2019.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Permanent Secretary's letter to the Home Affairs Select Committee on small boat attempts up to and including February 2019 can be found here:

<https://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-committees/home-affairs/Correspondence-17-19/19-03-05-Letter-from-Sir-Philip-Rutnam-KCB-Permanent-Secretary-Home-Office-Migrant-boats-in-the-channel.pdf>

The data since February is currently being reconciled to ensure accuracy. No decision has been taken on mode or frequency of any future publication of this data.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-17/278443/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigrants: Detainees

David Davis (Conservative) [276155] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many migrant detainees were referred to the National Referral Mechanism in each year since 2015.

David Davis (Conservative) [276156] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of migrant detainees referred to the National Referral Mechanism were subsequently given positive decisions by the Home Office that there were reasonable grounds to believe they were trafficked to the UK.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Government is committed to identifying and supporting victims of modern slavery. The National Crime Agency regularly publishes NRM data, and the number of potential victims referred into the NRM for 2018 is available online here:

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

Annual summary statistics for previous years are also published on the NCA website.

The statistics also show the outcomes of reasonable and conclusive grounds decisions. This data does not distinguish whether individuals are migrant detainees. Since 29th April this year the Single Competent Authority (SCA) took over responsibility for decision making in the NRM from the NCA and UKVI. Publishing of statistics for future years regarding the NRM will therefore be the responsibility of the Home Office.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-11/276155/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-11/276156/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Human Trafficking: Victim Support Schemes

Alex Norris (Labour Co-op) [273829] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the 2 July 2019 Free Movement news item entitled Government to drop 45-day time limit on support for trafficking victims, whether he plans to bring forward proposals on providing subsistence for people in the National Referral Mechanism who are (a) in outreach support, (b) in non-catered safe house accommodation, (c) in catered safe house accommodation and (d) in National Asylum Support Service accommodation for as long as their individual needs require.

Alex Norris (Labour Co-op) [273830] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the 2 July 2019 Free Movement news item entitled Government to drop 45-day time limit on support for trafficking victims, what the timeframe is for implementing his Department's aim for a new needs-based system which is both consistent with legal obligations and sustainable in the longer-term.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Government is committed to stamping out modern slavery and providing victims with the support they need to rebuild their lives.

We are always working to improve our understanding of the complex needs of victims of modern slavery and to improve the support available.

In October 2017, Government announced an ambitious package of reforms to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) – our system for identifying and supporting

victims of modern slavery. We have already made significant progress in delivering this complex reform programme.

We will now make further improvements to this offer – including embedding a needs-based approach to support – to better tailor support services to the needs of victims. The specific details and timeline associated with this work is being developed.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-05/273829/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-05/273830/>

The news item referred to above can be read at

<https://www.freemovement.org.uk/government-to-drop-45-day-time-limit-on-support-for-trafficking-victims/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Immigration: Children

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour): To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on children of the no recourse to public funds immigration condition.

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

My Lords, the Government work with local authorities to support families with children who are subject to the no recourse to public funds condition. The condition applies to migrants with no leave to remain or those here on a temporary basis. They include skilled workers and their families where the minimum income threshold for a visa is normally £30,000. Those granted leave on the basis of family life may apply to have the condition lifted to avoid destitution.

Baroness Lister of Burtersett: My Lords, I think that the answer there was that no assessment has been made. "It's just like living a life without being alive", is how one girl described the impact of this immigration rule, which denies access to most benefits, free school meals and social housing. In view of the growing evidence of the hunger, homelessness and emotional pain that it is causing children, and the ineffectiveness of central and local authority safeguards, why are the Government not monitoring the rule's impact and doing more to protect children according to their obligation under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child to give primary consideration to the best interests of children?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The noble Baroness will know that the no recourse to public funds condition has been set by successive Governments—it is not new. There are obviously exceptions for refugees relating to humanitarian protection and there are certainly discretionary leave cases. We also recognise the need for exceptions where the right to family or private life is involved under the Immigration Rules. We therefore allow for applicants to seek leave on family life grounds or to request that the no recourse to public funds provision is lifted or not imposed at all. Local authorities have seen real-terms increases and will do so up to the spending review. They should be well placed in addition to the extra £410 million allocated to them in 2019-20 to invest in adult and children's social care services.

The Lord Bishop of St Albans: My Lords, research by the Children's Society shows that this particular group of children is more likely to experience absolute poverty, homelessness and greater levels of domestic violence. Despite the significant evidence

about the damage that poverty, destitution and abuse can have on children's outcomes, the Home Office has not yet made public how many children are subject to these NRPF conditions on their families' leave to remain. Will the Minister commit to making these figures publicly available?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I am not in a position to make the figures publicly available. However, where children are involved, families may qualify for support from local authorities under Section 17 of the Children Act. It is very difficult to substantiate some of the claims made in the report without knowing the cases. I do not decry what the right reverend Prelate says: we have an absolute duty to children in our care and our communities.

Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, following the right reverend Prelate's question, does the Minister agree that it is important to know how many children are affected? We cannot take policy decisions without underlying information. Does she recognise that there are probably tens of thousands of British-born children—or children eligible to apply for British citizenship—who do not have access to public funds? Is this the right way to treat fellow Britons? How does it affect integration and cohesion?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: While I cannot give out the figures, I can say that 54 local authorities can access a database developed by local government with funding from the Home Office. It is called NRPF Connect and allows for online checks and information sharing, enabling the Home Office to identify local authority-supported cases and prioritise them for conclusion. There is communication between the Home Office and local authorities.

Baroness Manzoor (Conservative): My Lords, some of these children will be rough sleepers. Will the Minister address the accusation that the Rough Sleepers' Support Service is being used as a secret service?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I thank my noble friend for referring to that accusation. I have heard it before: it was raised in your Lordships' House the other day. It is not a secret service. Officials are working with partners to ensure that effective referral processes are established and that rough sleepers will always be made aware of how information collected on them will be shared and used.

Lord Rosser (Labour): My Lords, have the Government not been asked twice about the number of children experiencing the consequences of having no recourse to public funds? I am not quite clear from the Government's response whether they have that figure but are declining to reveal it or do not know the figure. If the Government do not have the figure, is it because they know they would be embarrassed by the figure's magnitude if they had to give it out, or are they just not particularly interested?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: It is not a question of not being particularly interested. As I said to the noble Baroness, Lady Hamwee, there is information sharing between the Home Office and local authorities. I imagine that it is management information, as opposed to publishable figures, but I can confirm that to the noble Lord.

Lord Russell of Liverpool (Crossbench): My Lords, in her response to the noble Baroness, Lady Lister, the Minister said that several Governments have applied the same rules. She might be interested to know that a very distinguished noble friend and fellow Cross-Bencher sitting not a million miles away from me muttered in my direction, "One of the definitions of insanity is doing the same wrong thing again and again".

I come back to the point of children being denied free school meals. In all conscience, how can any Home Office official or Minister say that that is the right thing to do? In what way does it promote integration? And what on earth have those children done wrong?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The point I made did not uphold the noble Lord's point that doing the same thing over again and expecting a different result is the definition of insanity but that successive Governments have accepted that, if you do not have right of residency, NRPF should apply. On free school

meals, a pupil or their parent must be in receipt of any of the qualifying benefits, including asylum support, and must make a claim to the school for free school meals. It is not that a child would not have access, but that they must satisfy the criteria. Decisions over whether immigrants or refugees have recourse to public funds and/or receive asylum support are made by the Home Office.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-07-23/debates/D1DB64AA-B59E-412F-B43D-5CAACBC40FC9/ImmigrationChildren>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Immigration Controls

Lord Green of Deddington (Crossbench) [HL17146] To ask Her Majesty's Government what specific action they took in each of the last five financial years to reduce net migration to the UK.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government remains committed to reducing net migration to sustainable levels but has always been clear that this will take time to achieve.

Under the current immigration system, we have maintained numerical caps to limit the number of people who can enter and remain in the UK and introduced measures to ensure employers invest in and develop the UK's domestic workforce.

Following the end of Free Movement, our future skills-based immigration system will support the UK's dynamic economy and address public concerns around uncontrolled migration.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-07-15/HL17146/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

The Earl of Clancarty (Crossbench) [HL17197] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to make phone calls free of charge for applicants seeking advice from the EU Settlement Scheme Resolution Centres.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office are not charging for this service, calls to the Settlement Resolution Centre from within the UK will cost the same as dialling any 01 or 02 number.

The charges will vary depending upon the provider and using landlines or mobiles. Applicants may get free calls to some numbers as part of their call package. We also have an 02 number available for those calling from overseas.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-07-16/HL17197/>

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

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

The following three questions all received the same answer

Immigration: Children in Care

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL17260] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations the Home Office has received from local authorities about (1) the need for nationality advice for children in local authority care, and (2) problems in identifying children in local authority care and care leavers who need to use the EU Settlement Scheme.

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL17263] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to publish the new burdens assessment produced in relation to the need for local authorities to identify and support eligible children in care from the European

Economic Area and their family members to regularise their immigration status through the EU Settlement Scheme.

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL17264] To ask Her Majesty's Government how they intend (1) to monitor, and (2) to ensure that (a) looked after children, and (b) care leavers, applying through the EU Settlement Scheme are getting the correct status, in particular that they are not assigned pre-settled status because they lack the necessary documents.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office has not received direct representations seeking nationality advice for looked after children from local authorities. The difficulties that local authorities may encounter when identifying eligible looked after children and care leavers has been raised.

During engagement sessions, with the Home Office EU Settlement Scheme Safeguarding User Group, as early as May 2018, stakeholders, representing looked after children and care leavers, highlighted that local authorities do not routinely record nationality of children. To help local authorities prepare for the launch of the EU Settlement Scheme, the Home Office made several recommendations. Identifying the eligible cohort of children and care leavers was one of the recommendations, along with identifying resource to manage this work stream. The Home Office has also produced an information pack to assist local authorities with responsibilities for looked after children. The pack details the need to obtain identity documents, a process which local authorities are familiar with as it is required for other circumstances.

The Home Office has no plan to publish the new burdens assessment in relation to looked after children and the EUSS.

The Home Office is committed to continuing to engage with local authorities as they undertake their responsibilities to ensure that all eligible looked after children and care leavers are supported to make an application to the EUSS. The Home Office will ensure that caseworkers liaise with and support applicants to get the status they require. The Home Office is directly engaging with local authorities, social workers, and those making applications on behalf of looked after children and care leavers to provide support and information. If an applicant indicates that they expect to be granted settled status but the evidence for that status is incomplete, the Home Office will make multiple attempts to contact the applicant and help them to provide the evidence required. The Home Office is monitoring applications in relation to children in care and care leavers both via engagement with local authorities and by tracking applications received.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-07-17/HL17260/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-07-17/HL17263/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-07-17/HL17264/>

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

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

Immigrants: Detainees

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL17216] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people who are subject to immigration removal are currently held in prisons in England and Wales; and what are the (1) maximum, and (2) mean, periods for which they have been so held.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office publishes quarterly statistics on the number of foreign nationals detained under immigration powers in prisons including the length of detention.

Providing the complete information requested would exceed the word limit for responses to written parliamentary questions and therefore please see the attached tables.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/803188/detention-mar-2019-tables.ods

The Ministry of Justice also publish quarterly statistics on the prison population which can be found by accessing the following link:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/796904/population-31-march-2019.ods

[Detention Tables - March 2019](#)

[MOJ Population March 2019](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-07-16/HL17216/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL17217] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that all detention centres are fully informed of the Adults at Risk policy; and in particular that staff responsible for receiving new arrivals are fully briefed.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Training on the Adults at Risk in Immigration Detention policy has been provided to staff working in immigration removal centres, including healthcare staff and other staff who come into contact with detainees.

This is supplemented by the issuance of further guidance, which covers adults at risk matters, to staff involved in the induction process.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-07-16/HL17217/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL17218] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to report to Parliament annually, or more often, on the progress of the (1) Alternatives to Immigration Detention, and (2) the 2-month auto-bail referral, pilot.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: There are no plans to provide an annual report on either pilot to Parliament.

We will update Parliament on progress at suitable points, for example, once the two-month auto bail pilot has been evaluated.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-07-16/HL17218/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Chris Stephens (SNP) (2636) Asylum seeker accommodation evictions – That this House notes with serious concern that asylum seekers accommodated, or who were accommodated under section 95 or 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, in asylum dispersal areas across the UK, are either threatened or are subject to evictions by Home office contractors - notably Serco in Glasgow - delivering the public service of asylum housing, with no court oversight or due legal process; regards such practices as highly inappropriate and contrary to the UK's best traditions of procedural fairness and the rule of law; and recommends changes are made to ensure legal due process on evictions

applies in asylum accommodation.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/53180/asylum-seeker-accommodation-evictions>

UK Parliament Petitions

Windrush

Dawn Butler (Labour): The petitioners, including the change.org online petitioners—almost 12,000 people in just a few days—call on the Prime Minister... to resolve the outstanding Windrush cases. ...

The petition of Residents of the United Kingdom, Declares that the Prime Minister has spoken at great length recently about her legacy; further that if she leaves office before resolving the Windrush scandal and the many outstanding cases, then this will be her legacy; further that the Prime Minister should offer more than warm words and take action to solve the crisis she created; further that in 1948, individuals throughout the British Empire received citizenship under the British Nationality Act; further that these citizens, some from the Caribbean, came to the United Kingdom in order to help rebuild the country after the war; further that these citizens lived here, worked here and raised families here; further that the hostile environment policy accelerated during Mrs May's time as Home Secretary led to many of these citizens losing their rights and in some cases being deported back to the Caribbean; further that others lost jobs, were forced into debt and suffer from immense stress and fear because of the policy; further that the former Home Secretary Amber Rudd said in April 2018 that it would only take two weeks to resolve the Windrush cases, however over a year has passed and there is still a significant number of outstanding cases; further that what has been done to these British citizens is outrageous, unfair and must end; further that a change.org petition initiated by Dawn Butler MP on this matter has received over 9,600 signatures.

The petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Prime Minister Theresa May and the Government to resolve all outstanding Windrush cases by Wednesday 24th of July. ... [P002502]

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-07-23/debates/27DFA550-2B63-4C9D-B4C5-B6F88CB994C3/Windrush>

Press Releases

Immigration detention reform

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/immigration-detention-reform>

Separated migrant children to access legal aid more easily

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/separated-migrant-children-to-access-legal-aid-more-easily>

New Publications

Update to the Home Affairs Select Committee on Windrush: 23 July 2019

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/819848/Windrush_update_to_HASC_to_end_of_June.pdf

Landlords: immigration right to rent checks: collection of guidance to help landlords, homeowners and letting agents carry out correct right to rent checks and avoid civil penalties

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/landlords-immigration-right-to-rent-checks>

Preparing for the future: A review of the Border, Immigration and Citizenship System: Terms of Reference

http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2019-0805/deposit_BICS_Review_Terms_of_Reference.pdf

An evaluation of Independent Child Trafficking Guardians - early adopter sites: Final report

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/819723/evaluation-independent-child-trafficking-guardians-final-horr111.pdf

Nationality and immigration requirements for the UK's armed forces

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-8625/CBP-8625.pdf>

News

Serco begins asylum seeker lock-change evictions in Glasgow

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-49126126>

Two people evicted from Serco properties in Glasgow in last seven days

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/3462_two_people_evicted_from_serco_properties_in_glasgow_in_last_seven_days

Glasgow asylum-seeker evictions begin amid warning of homelessness crisis

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/jul/26/glasgow-asylum-seeker-evictions-serco-homelessness-crisis>

UK decision to deny EU citizens access to data challenged in court

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/jul/23/uk-decision-deny-eu-citizens-access-personal-data-challenged-court>

Brook House: 'G4S made £14m profit from immigration centre'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-49067285>

Taxpayers paid £57m to lawyers who successfully fought Government attempts to deport suspected terrorists and illegal immigrants

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/07/27/taxpayers-paid-57m-lawyers-successfully-fought-government-attempts/>

Immigrants are the lifeblood of Britain's entrepreneurial spirit – we need them more than ever

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/07/22/immigrants-lifeblood-britains-entrepreneurial-spirit-need/>

Immigrants in Scotland face the Brexit dilemma

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/insight-immigrants-in-scotland-face-the-brexit-dilemma-1-4972388>

British universities are increasingly becoming hostile environments – even for students who have always lived in the UK

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/hostile-environment-british-universities-sajid-javid-boris-johnson-a9015191.html>

Community Relations

New Publication

'We Are Ghosts': Race, Class and Institutional Prejudice

<https://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/images/Press%20Release%20-%20We%20Are%20Ghosts.pdf>

Equality

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Modern Apprenticeship: Ethnicity

S5W-24010: Mary Fee (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-23612 by Maree Todd on 19 June 2019, whether it will provide a further breakdown by race.

Reply from Maree Todd: A breakdown of Modern Apprenticeship starts in Early Learning and Childcare frameworks by self-declared ethnicity for the years 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19, is in the following table.

Modern Apprentices are asked to provide details of their ethnicity, rather than race. This is provided on a self-declaration basis.

Social Services - (Children and Young People)			
Ethnicity	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Mixed or Multiple; Asian; African; Caribbean or Black; and Other ethnic group	35	33	62
White	1,280	1,453	1,777
Not Known / Prefer Not to Say	4	6	30
Grand Total	1,319	1,492	1,869
Social Services - (Children and Young People): Technical Apprenticeship			
Ethnicity	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Mixed or Multiple; Asian; African; Caribbean or Black; and Other ethnic group	*	5	*
White	*	193	*
Not Known / Prefer Not to Say	0	1	0
Grand Total	81	199	233

Notes: Disclosure control is applied (*) where figures are less than 5 or where such figures can be identified through differencing.

No disclosure control is applied to 'prefer not to say' figures unless necessary.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-24010>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-23612>

Race Equality: Funding

S5W-24122: Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat): To ask the Scottish Government which three projects have been funded through the £2.7 million announced in the *Race Equality Action Plan - Year 1 highlight report*, and how much of this was directed towards BAME communities.

Reply from Joe FitzPatrick: To date, 26 projects are being supported through the Screening Inequalities Fund. This includes a number of activities specifically tackling inequalities of access to cancer screening programmes within BAME communities. Examples of this work include the creation of an innovative new Outreach Service targeting women less likely to attend screening services; and raising awareness of breast and cervical screening within the Chinese community in Scotland. We have also established a Screening Inequalities Network which will oversee the development of a national screening inequalities strategy and will include a 3 year programme of action.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-24122>

The Year 1 Report referred to above can be read at

<https://tinyurl.com/y66zo89z>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Attorney General: Ethnic Groups

Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op) [279042] To ask the Attorney General, how many BAME staff are employed at (a) grade 7, (b) grade 5 and (c) grade 3 in his Department.

Reply from Lucy Frazer: The recording of ethnicity is the responsibility of the individual to input via employee self-service. Due to small numbers of staff at each of the requested grades, we have grouped these together in our response below. Including those on temporary promotion at the grades requested, there are 16 members of staff in scope. Of these, only five have input their ethnicity details onto the HR system. Of these, none have self-identified as being from an ethnic minority background.

AGO supports the Civil Service vision of being recognised as the UK's most inclusive employer. AGO has two diversity champions and a Diversity & Inclusion Strategy in place that is reviewed by the Executive Board every six months.

AGO is an employer which promotes equality and aims to reflect the diversity of the society in which we live. It is committed to maximising the skills and potential of all its staff. It welcomes applications from all suitably qualified persons irrespective of disability, ethnic origin, gender, age, sexual orientation, marital status or religion/belief. It also implements blind recruitment to minimise the impact of unconscious bias.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-18/279042/>

Ministry of Defence: Ethnic Groups

Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op) [279045] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many BAME staff are employed at (a) grade 7, (b) grade 5 and (c) grade 3 in her Department.

Reply from Tobias Ellwood: The number of civilian Full Time Equivalent BAME staff employed in the Ministry of Defence (MOD) as at 30 June 2019 is as follows:

Paid Grade/MOD Equivalent BAME Headcount	
Grade 7/B2	65
Grade 5/SCS1	5
Grade 3/SCS3	~

In line with Departmental policy figures are rounded to the nearest 5 and tilde ('~') represents a number lower than five and greater than zero. Includes MOD Main Top Level Budgetary Areas (TLBs) only. Excludes Trading funds, Defence Equipment and Support Bespoke Trading Entity, Executive Agency, Royal Fleet Auxiliary and Locally engaged civilians (LECs).

Full details relating to the numbers of BAME staff employed in the MOD can be found in the Civilian personnel diversity publication on Gov.uk at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/mod-diversity-dashboard-2019>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-18/279045/>

Department for Education: Ethnic Groups

Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op) [279047] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many BAME staff are employed at (a) grade 7, (b) grade 5 and (c) grade 3 in his Department.

Reply from Joseph Johnson: The number of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) staff employed as at 30 June 2019 in Grade 7, Grade 5 (Deputy Director equivalent) and Grade 3 (Director equivalent) roles are summarised in the table below. Where the total number of BAME staff is fewer than 5, the actual number is suppressed to protect anonymity. The following agencies are included in these figures: Education & Skills Funding Agency, Standards & Testing Agency and Teaching Regulation Agency.

Grade	Number of BAME staff (headcount)
Grade 7	174
Grade 5 (Deputy Director)	12
Grade 3 (Director)	Fewer than 5

The department has an internal Diversity & Inclusion Strategy with a priority of increasing BAME representation at senior grades. We have introduced a range of interventions to attract and recruit more people from diverse backgrounds that include anonymised sifting and more diverse interview panels and we expect to see an improvement in these numbers over the next 2 to 5 years. We recently launched Project Race which aims to improve race equality and tackle disproportionate outcomes for BAME colleagues through outreach, support, and open honest discussion.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-18/279047/>

Department for Exiting the European Union: Ethnic Groups

Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op) [279049] To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, how many BAME staff are employed at (a) grade 7, (b) grade 5 and (c) grade 3 in his Department.

Reply from Kwasi Kwarteng: The Department for Exiting the European Union is committed to the creation of a diverse and inclusive working environment. Based on the self-declaration rates held on our system, the number of BAME staff employed in each grade group, and as a proportion of the staff in that grade who

have made a declaration, is as follows:

Grade	Number (proportion)
Band A (Grade 7 equivalent)	20 (13.6%)
Band A+ (Grade 6 equivalent)	12 (19.6%)
SCS1 (Grade 5 equivalent)	fewer than 5
SCS2 (Grade 3 equivalent)	fewer than 5

The Department has had success in attracting a diverse workforce at delegated grades (AO-G6 equivalent), and in particular our representation of BAME staff is one of the highest in government. Our priority is now to ensure we are representative at the most senior levels of the department focusing on processes such as talent, development, attraction and recruitment, as well as continuing to build an inclusive culture that celebrates uniqueness. These figures are based entirely on people identifying themselves as BAME on the Department's HR system.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-18/279049/>

Department of Health and Social Care: Ethnic Groups

Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op) [279051] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how many BAME staff are employed at (a) grade 7, (b) grade 5 and (c) grade 3 in his Department.

Reply from Caroline Dinenage: As part of our commitment to achieving a workforce representative of the society we serve and providing equality of opportunity, we monitor representation of all protected characteristics across the Department.

Providing diversity information relies on employees voluntarily completing their diversity information on our electronic HR system and we continue to encourage staff to complete their self-declaration.

The declaration rate for ethnicity with the Department is 67% (data as at 30 September 2018) and therefore it should be noted that the information provided below regarding black, Asian and minority ethnic staff refers only to staff who have completed their self-declaration. This information refers only to Departmental staff and does not include staff from our executive agencies or arm's length bodies.

Grade 7 – 38

Grade 5 (SCS1) – 7

Grade 3 (Director) – Nil

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-18/279051/>

Home Office: Ethnic Groups

Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op) [279052] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many BAME staff are employed at (a) grade 7, (b) grade 5 and (c) grade 3 in his Department.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: For the purposes of this answer, Senior Civil Service (SCS) Pay Band 1 has been treated as equivalent to Grade 5 and SCS Pay Band 2 and Director General have been treated as Grade 3.

At 30 June 2019, there are currently the following staff in the Home Office who have declared their ethnicity as BAME:

Grade	Number of BAME staff
Grade 7	309
Grade 5	15
Grade 3	2

Data Source: Adelphi – Home Office Human Resources Record System

Period covered: As at 30 June 2019

Employee coverage: The data is based on headcount of paid, permanent Civil Servants who were current as at 30 June 2019.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-18/279052/>

Department for International Development: Ethnic Groups

Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op) [279053] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, how many BAME staff are employed at (a) grade 7, (b) grade 5 and (c) grade 3 in his Department.

Reply from Andrew Murrison: The below table shows the number of BAME staff, at Grade 7, Grade 5 and Grade 3, employed by DFID as at 30 June 2019.

Grade	No. of BAME Employees
Grade 7 (A2)	101
Grade 5 (SCS-G5)	5
Grade 3 (SCS-G3)	Less than 5
Grand Total	108

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-18/279053/>

Scotland Office: Ethnic Groups

Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op) [279057] To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, how many BAME staff are employed at (a) grade 7, (b) grade 5 and (c) grade 3 in his Department.

Reply from Alister Jack; The Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland does not employ staff directly. All staff that join do so on an assignment, loan or secondment from other government bodies, principally the Ministry of Justice and the Scottish Government, who remain the employers.

Detailed information in relation to the ethnicity of staff is not held by the Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland; this information is held by the parent employers.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-18/279057/>

Treasury: Ethnic Groups

Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op) [279059] To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many BAME staff are employed at (a) grade 7, (b) grade 5 and (c) grade 3 in his Department.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The data for HM Treasury is based on Paid Staff as of 30th June 2019, and those who have chosen to declare their ethnicity.

	BAME
Range E (Grade 7)	64
Range SCS 1 (Grade 5)	6
Range SCS 2 (Grade 3)	Fewer than 5

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-18/279059/>

Wales Office: Ethnic Groups

Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op) [279154] To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, how many BAME staff are employed at (a) grade 7, (b) grade 5 and (c) grade 3 in his Department.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The number of staff working in the Office of the

Secretary of State for Wales and declaring themselves as BAME as at 30 June 2019 are shown below:

Grade	No. of staff reporting ethnicity	BAME
(a) grade 7/6	9	0
(b) grade 5	3	1
(c) grade 3	1	0
Total other staff grades	22	6

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-18/279154/>

Department for Transport: Ethnic Groups

Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op) [279058] To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how many BAME staff are employed at (a) grade 7, (b) grade 5 and (c) grade 3 in his Department.

Reply from Michael Ellis: As at June 30th, the numbers of BAME staff at the requested grades are as follows:

Grade	BAME Staff
Grade 3 (SCS Payband 3)	0
Grade 5 (SCS Payband 1)	6
Grade 7	101

It is worth noting numbers are not complete as these figures represent only those staff who have chosen to record their diversity information and self-identified as BAME on our HR records system. It is not mandatory to complete this information. This figure represents the numbers across the Department and its Executive Agencies.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-18/279058/>

Press Release

Prime Minister appoints Baroness Ruby McGregor-Smith as Office for Tackling Injustices Chair

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-appoints-baroness-ruby-mcgregor-smith-as-ofti-chair>

New Publication

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Annual report and accounts: 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019

https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/ehrc_ara_2018-19_i.pdf

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Harassment: EU Nationals

Jo Stevens (Labour) [276220] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment he has made of the prevalence of verbal and physical harassment of non-UK EU citizens in the UK.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Data on the nationality of victims of crime is not centrally collected by the Home Office. However, police forces are free to collect this information locally.

The police may treat verbal and physical harassment of non-UK EU citizens as racially-motivated hate crimes. The Government has a robust response to all forms of hate crime. This includes a range of relevant legislation, and the Hate Crime Action Plan 2016-20. The Action Plan includes a number of commitments organised under the themes of preventing hate crime, tackling hate crime, increasing reporting, supporting victims and increasing our understanding of hate crime.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-11/276220/>

Hate Crime: Sikhs

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [277247] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what funding he has allocated to help tackle hate crime reported by the Sikh community in each of the last 10 years.

Reply from Heather Wheeler: The Department does not hold this data but the Government takes the view that all forms of hate crime are completely unacceptable. In October 2018 the Government refreshed the Hate Crime Action Plan, and committed additional funding to continue to protect places of worship - since 2016 Government's Places of Worship scheme has approved 17 grants to Gurdwaras. Additionally, we have committed just over £1.5 million for projects to tackle all forms of racially and religiously motivated hatred. The Government has an extensive engagement programme with all faith communities, including the Sikh community through the MHCLG-led Sikh roundtable. Membership of the roundtable is currently being refreshed to broaden the representation.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-15/277247/>

The Action Plan referred to above can be read at

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

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

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

Press Releases

Independent expert appointed to tackle Islamophobia

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/independent-expert-appointed-to-tackle-islamophobia>

John Mann appointed as independent adviser on antisemitism

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/john-mann-appointed-as-independent-adviser-on-antisemitism>

News: Antisemitism in the UK Labour Party

Labour launches anti-Semitism guide for party members

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-49064771>

Labour website tells its members how to avoid being antisemitic

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-07-22/news/labour-website-tells-its-members-how-to-avoid-being-antisemitic-zjx7qw56c>

Jeremy Corbyn lays out plans to deal with 'most extreme' anti-Semitism complaints

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/jeremy-corbyn-lays-out-plans-to-deal-with-most-extreme-anti-semitism-complaints-1-4969462>

Labour anti-Semitism: Ruling body backs Corbyn expulsions plan

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-49082083>

Jeremy Corbyn ramps up plans to expel antisemites from party

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/jul/22/jeremy-corbyn-ramps-up-plans-to-expel-antisemites-from-party>

Labour antisemitism: Jeremy Corbyn to speed up expulsions

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-07-23/news/labour-antisemitism-jeremy-corbyn-to-speed-up-expulsions-r7m83zxlx>

Labour anti-Semitism: Corbyn announces plan to speed up expulsions

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-49064771>

Jeremy Corbyn outlines plans to accelerate expulsion of antisemites from Labour's ranks

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/jeremy-corbyn-labour-antisemitism-meeting-shadow-cabinet-a9016351.html>

Jeremy Corbyn wins battle for party to handle antisemitism claims

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-07-24/news/jeremy-corbyn-wins-antisemitism-fight-fr5n3sj06>

Jeremy Corbyn admits Labour has 'real problem' with anti-semitism

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/jeremy-corbyn-admits-labour-has-real-problem-with-anti-semitism-1-4968619>

Labour critic of Jeremy Corbyn will advise Government on anti-Semitism

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/07/23/labour-critic-jeremy-corbyn-will-advise-government-anti-semitism/>

Jeremy Corbyn's plan for ally to rule on Labour's anti-Semitism cases derided as a 'cop-out'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/07/23/jeremy-corbyns-plan-ally-rule-labours-anti-semitism-cases-derided/>

Shadow minister defends Labour candidate who made anti-Semitic comments

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/07/21/shadow-minister-defends-labour-candidate-made-anti-semitic-comments/>

Shadow minister apologises over 'anti-Semitic conspiracy'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-manchester-49130905>

Labour councillor suspended in anti-Semitism investigation

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-manchester-49113927>

If Labour treated its antisemitism crisis like the human rights injustice it is, it could end the discrimination

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/labour-party-antisemitism-jewish-human-rights-investigation-nec-a9016906.html>

News: Other Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Theresa May picks Labour MP to tackle 'bitter scourge of antisemitism'

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/theresa-may-picks-labour-mp-to-tackle-bitter-scourge-of-antisemitism-1-4970136>

Theresa May appoints John Mann as adviser on antisemitism

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2019/jul/23/theresa-may-appoints-john-mann-as-adviser-on-antisemitism>

Lib Dems urge new SPFL board to publish secret report on football sectarianism

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17784397.lib-dems-urge-new-spfl-board-publish-secret-report-football-sectarianism/>

SPFL must publish data on sectarianism, demand Lib Dems

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/spfl-must-publish-data-on-sectarianism-demand-lib-dems-1-4968599>

Racist Graffiti Regent Road, Edinburgh

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/whats-happening/news/2019/july/appeal-update-racist-graffiti-regent-road-edinburgh>

Everyone Anyone Welcomed by Government

<https://rangers.co.uk/news/headlines/everyone-anyone-welcomed-by-government/>

Incidents of bigotry in football double in just five years as Kick It Out chief says figures are 'sadly not surprising'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/football/2019/07/24/incidents-racism-football-double-just-five-years-kick-chief/>

Reports of racism rise by nearly 50 per cent as discriminatory abuse increases for seventh year running

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/news/kick-it-out-racism-figures-2019-racist-abuse-increase-latest-a9017886.html>

Football reports alarming rise in discrimination

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/sport/football-reports-alarming-rise-in-discrimination-6073t72k6>

Discrimination in football 'like wild west' at grassroots level

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2019/jul/24/reports-of-discrimination-in-football-rise-by-a-third-show-new-figures-kick-it-out-racism>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Release

Letter to the Prime Minister

<https://www.gov.scot/news/letter-to-the-prime-minister-2/>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

LGBT People: Religion

Jim Cunningham (Labour) [274440] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what steps she has taken to promote LGBTQ+ rights in the religious community.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Government will always protect people's legitimate right to free speech, to be themselves and to practise their religion within the law.

These values are fundamental but we will not shy away from challenging cultures and practices that are harmful to individuals or hold them back from making the most of the opportunities of living in modern Britain.

In July 2018, we launched the LGBT Action Plan, setting out comprehensive commitments on LGBT equality. These actions aim to help all LGBT people, of all backgrounds and faiths, reach their full potential.

From our commitment to end conversion therapy to using behavioural insights to tackle deep-seated prejudices, this government is committed to building a society that works for everyone, regardless of faith, sexual orientation or gender identity.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-05/274440/>

The Action Plan referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/721367/GEO-LGBT-Action-Plan.pdf

Sexual Offences: Victim Support Schemes

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour) [277824] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what assessment has he made of the adequacy of (a) funding for and (b) access to specialised services for (i) people and (ii) BAME people experiencing sexual violence.

Reply from Edward Argar: The Ministry of Justice provides funding to specialist sexual violence services to support victims to cope and, where possible, recover from the impact of crime. We awarded increased funding to services in April this year and made a commitment of £24m over three years. This funding is reaching 96 rape support centres across England and Wales, ensuring specialist provision in each of the country's 42 Police and Crime Commissioner areas.

We provide £306,849 funding for helplines and online services to ensure that all victims, regardless of location, can access support.

Services in receipt of Ministry of Justice grant funding are expected to understand and respond to the specific needs of victims in their area. This includes the provision of services tailored to victims that may face additional barriers, such as BAME groups, to accessing support.

Victims may also access Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs). There are 47

SARCs in England who carry out forensic medical examinations and offer counselling services. NHS England Investment in SARCs will increase to £35m by 2020. Victims may also access NHS mental health services.

We are exploring ways to improve support for BAME victims as part of our work to tackle racial disparity in the Criminal Justice System.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-16/277824/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Government Securities: Islam

Alan Brown (SNP) [277780] To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, with reference to his Mansion House dinner speech on 20 June 2019, what his timeframe is for his Department to issue a second sovereign sukuk; and if he will make a statement.

Stephen Timms (Labour) [277615] To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, with reference to his Mansion House speech of 20 June 2019, when he plans to issue a second sovereign sukuk; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from John Glen: Over the coming weeks the relevant teams at HM Treasury will work with the Debt Management Office and other officials on formulating the procurement process for the appointment of structuring and legal advisers. A specific timetable has not yet been determined for this. Further announcements, including on the timing of the issuance, will be made in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-16/277780/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-16/277615/>

The speech referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/mansion-house-dinner-speech-2019-philip-hammond>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Financial Services: Islam

Alan Brown (SNP) [277781] To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what assessment the Government has made of the potential merits of using sukuk to finance infrastructure projects; and if he will make a statement.

Stephen Timms (Labour) [277616] To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what assessment the Government has made of the potential merits of using Islamic financial certificates, sukuk to finance infrastructure projects without adding to Government debt on the public sector balance sheet; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from John Glen: The proceeds from the Sukuk, like the proceeds from the wider gilt programme, flow into the consolidated fund. This is used for general expenditure, including expenditure on infrastructure. The government considers the core gilt program rather than the Sukuk to be the most cost-effective way of raising money for expenditure, including that of infrastructure projects. The main purpose behind the decision to issue a second Sukuk is to reaffirm the government's commitment to the UK being the Western hub for Islamic finance, whilst also providing high-quality liquid assets to UK-based Islamic banks.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-16/277781/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-16/277616/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Sharia-compliant Student Finance

Lord Sharkey (Liberal Democrat): To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress is being made towards the introduction of Sharia-compliant student finance.

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: My Lords, the Government remain committed to introducing a system of alternative student finance, known as ASF, compatible with the principles of Islamic finance. We have received advice from the specialist consultants we appointed and will set out plans for implementation as we conclude the post-18 review at the spending review. This will ensure that students in receipt of an ASF package are not disadvantaged compared with other students in receipt of mainstream student support.

Lord Sharkey: That Answer is still vague and still qualified. Why can the Government not make a firm commitment? They have known about this problem since 2013 and have known about the solution since 2014. Every year since then, and again this September, Muslim students will have been disadvantaged. The noble Lord, Lord Young, told the House on 13 March 2017 that the Government were currently working towards a scheme being open to applications within this Parliament, which, then, was due to end in 2020. Can the Minister give the House a firm assurance that the new scheme will in fact be available for the 2021 academic year?

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: I cannot give the noble Lord a firm assurance on that, but I can say that we continue to work through the complex range of policy, legal and system issues that will need to be resolved in order to develop and eventually launch an ASF product. We should not underestimate the scale of complexity here. We are trying to replicate a system of student finance that delivers the same results as now, whereby students do not receive any advantage nor suffer any disadvantage through applying for ASF.

Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne (Conservative): Will the Minister assure your Lordships that this new Government will do everything possible to open the gates as widely as possible to students from all over the world? As noble Lords know, I am particularly keen that that should happen for students from Iraq, the Middle East and silk route countries. I would really welcome that endorsement. We need the students and they really love being here.

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: My noble friend is right. We want everyone with the ability to benefit from higher education to be able to do so. Resolving this issue will therefore make a significant contribution to our widening participation agenda, ensuring that people from all faiths and backgrounds feel that there is support by removing financial barriers to access.

Baroness Garden of Frognall (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, the Government were able to produce a sharia-compliant version of the Help to Buy scheme within six months from a standing start. So why, after six years so far, have they not produced a student finance scheme, which is obviously to the detriment of Muslim students?

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: There is a process in place. I know that the noble Lord, Lord Sharkey, has expressed frustration about its progress, as has the noble Baroness. These changes were mooted in 2012, and there was a consultation in April 2014 and the Government published their response. We then enabled the process to go through Parliament through the Higher Education and Research Act 2017. This is a complex process and it requires time to get it right.

Lord Watson of Invergowrie (Labour): My Lords, the Minister has just given us what can best be described as obfuscation. This is a sorry tale dating back, as the noble Lord, Lord Sharkey, said, to 2013, when Prime Minister Cameron spoke to the World Islamic Economic Forum and promised a sharia-compliant student loan scheme:

"Never again should a Muslim in Britain feel unable to go to university because they cannot

get a Student Loan—simply because of their religion”.

The Government’s chosen vehicle was the Higher Education and Research Act 2017, which the Minister himself guided through your Lordships’ House. At no point did he rebut the view given to those of us involved in that legislation that an Islamic-compliant scheme could be in place within a year, given the political will. There have now been six years and three Prime Ministers since that commitment was given to the Muslim community. The Minister says—and I believe him—that he is very keen to increase diversity in our universities, so how can he justify the foot-dragging that is causing precisely the opposite?

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: I certainly do not call it foot-dragging. We would be the first Government to introduce a system of student finance compatible with Islamic finance principles; that is a good start. To give a little more detail on the complexities, we have identified and have been considering a range of issues which include, among others, accounting for the new arrangements, the degree of legal separation required, the treatment of cash flows, the nature of the commitments that a student will make under the new system and the method for establishing equivalence of outcome.

Lord Sheikh (Conservative): My Lords, I declare an interest: I co-chaired the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Islamic Finance. The UK has the largest Islamic finance market outside the Islamic world, yet the community tell me we are suffering because of lack of facilities for students. Does my noble friend agree that it is time we put into practice the commitment given by David Cameron in 2013 that Muslim students will not suffer as a result of their religion?

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: My noble friend is right. We want to introduce this as soon as we possibly can; I have undertaken today to give an update at the spending review, which will be some time in the autumn. Around 40,000 Muslims are down to study in this country, but we do not know how many have been deterred from starting at university as a result of the delays in this process.

Lord Newby (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, the Minister has twice linked any further statement on this sorry tale to the spending review. Can he explain to the House the relevance of the spending review given that, by his own admission, we are talking simply about the extension of existing provisions from which non-Muslim students can benefit and there are no new policy expenditure implications? Secondly, when might we expect the spending review?

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: I have been pressed on that matter before and I am unable to give a date for the review. But on the tuition fees process and system, I have said that we will announce the results of the Augar review at the spending review and this, of course, is included in that. So, it makes sense to make the announcement when we are ready to do so and to give an update at that point.

Lord Flight (Conservative): My Lords, might the delay result from it being too difficult to find a substitute for interest to match the two student loan models? If there is not something similar, it can be argued that one side or the other is benefiting more.

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: It is helpful to hear that from my noble friend. It is a complex issue, but we have made progress. As I said earlier, we have legislated to make the introduction of the system possible but we need to work through these complex issues. There is no point rolling the system out when it is not fit for purpose.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-07-25/debates/EE789E3A-C4D8-4731-9FC4-B4DF2A6CE523/Sharia-CompliantStudentFinance>

UK Government Ministers

<u>The Cabinet</u>	
Prime Minister	Boris Johnson
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster	Michael Gove
Chancellor of the Exchequer	Sajid Javid
Home Secretary	Priti Patel
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs	Dominic Raab
Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union	Stephen Barclay
Secretary of State for Defence	Ben Wallace
Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice	Robert Buckland
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care	Matt Hancock
Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy	Andrea Leadsom
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government	Robert Jenrick
Secretary of State for International Trade and President of the Board of Trade	Elizabeth Truss
Secretary of State for Education	Gavin Williamson
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	Theresa Villiers
Secretary of State for Transport	Grant Shapps
Secretary of State for Work and Pensions	Amber Rudd
Leader of the House of Lords and Lord Privy Seal	Baroness Evans of Bowes Park
Secretary of State for Scotland	Alister Jack
Secretary of State for Wales	Alun Cairns
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland	Julian Smith
Secretary of State for International Development	Alok Sharma
Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport	Nicky Morgan
Minister without Portfolio (Cabinet Office)	James Cleverley
<u>Also attend Cabinet meetings</u>	
Chief Secretary to the Treasury	Rishi Sunak
Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Commons	Jacob Rees-Mogg
Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury and Chief Whip	Mark Spencer
Attorney General	Geoffrey Cox
Minister of State (Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy) (Energy and Clean Growth)	Claire Perry
Minister of State (Home Office) (Immigration)	Caroline Nokes

Press Releases

Prime Minister Boris Johnson: Who's in his cabinet?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-49043973>

Theresa May's final speech as Prime Minister

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/theresa-mays-final-speech-as-prime-minister-24-july-2019>

Boris Johnson's first speech as Prime Minister

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/boris-johnsons-first-speech-as-prime-minister-24-july-2019>

Alister Jack appointed as Secretary of State for Scotland

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/alister-jack-appointed-as-secretary-of-state-for-scotland>

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) - April 2018 to March 2019, Annual Report, Experimental Statistics Report

<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/female-genital-mutilation/april-2018---march-2019>

Hajj pilgrims urged to be aware of MERS-CoV advice

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/hajj-pilgrims-urged-to-be-aware-of-mers-cov-advice>

New Publication

By deeds and their results: How we will strengthen our communities and nation

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/819477/MHCLG_Communities_Framework_Accessible.pdf

News

Boris Johnson wins race to be Tory leader and PM

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-49084605>

Lib Dems: Jo Swinson elected new leader

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-49076118>

Lib Dems: Who is new leader Jo Swinson?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-49046446>

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Other News

Asian transplant recipient on changing attitudes

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-england-leeds-48709389/asian-transplant-recipient-on-changing-attitudes>

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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 (Accommodation Eviction Procedures) Bill**

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

Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) Bill

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

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

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

Banknote Diversity

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

Border Control Bill

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

EEA Nationals (Indefinite Leave to Remain) Bill

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

Gypsy and Traveller Communities (Housing, Planning and Education)

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

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

**** People's Postcode Lottery**

Opens 31 July 2019; Closing date 14 August 2019

Funding of between £500 and £20,000 is available for projects aimed at promoting human rights, combatting discrimination and the prevention of poverty. For information see <http://www.postcodetrust.org.uk/>

**** Workplace Equality Fund**

Opens 31 July 2019; Closing date not yet published

The Scottish Government Workplace Equality Fund works with employers to address long standing barriers particular groups face in entering and progressing in the labour market so that everyone in Scotland has the opportunity to fulfil their potential, and help to reduce employment inequalities, discrimination and barriers across a range of industries including the arts, tourism, construction and communication and STEM. For information and to apply see <https://www.impactfundingpartners.com/our-funds/workplace-equality-fund>

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 their

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!**

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>

**** this week and next week!**

Workplace Equality Fund 2019/20 Information Sessions

31 July 2019 in Glasgow (10.30-12.30)

7 August 2019 in Aberdeen (10.30-12.30)

12 August 2019 in Edinburgh (2.30-4.30)

20 August 2019 in Glasgow (10.30-12.30)

Impact Funding Partners events to provide information about applying to the Workplace Equality Fund 2019/20. Sessions will include an introduction to the fund and its outcomes, outline the criteria and eligibility of the fund, and the application timescales, and provide an opportunity to ask questions, and to discuss project ideas. For information see:

Glasgow (31 July) <https://tinyurl.com/y3yhqtnx>

Aberdeen <https://tinyurl.com/y64k8ocf>

Edinburgh <https://tinyurl.com/y5r6ae5m>

Glasgow (20 August) <https://tinyurl.com/yy68cdqn>

**** this week!**

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>

**** next week!**

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>

**** next week!**

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/y69h46qy>

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/zy436gr> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Refugee rights to housing

7 November 2019 in Glasgow

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

Age assessment awareness

13 November 2019 in Glasgow

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

Engaging with seldom heard voices

5 December 2019 in Glasgow

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

Refugee community sponsorship

11 December 2019 in Glasgow

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

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Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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