



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.

Following the ruling by the Supreme Court that the prorogation of the UK Parliament in September was unlawful, the 2017-19 parliamentary session resumed on 25 September 2019. However, it has now been prorogued again and will not meet again until 14 October 2019. Prorogation is the period between the end of one session of Parliament and the State Opening of Parliament that begins the next session.

Because of the Jewish Festival of Succot, the next two issues of MEMO will be published midweek on 17 and 24 October.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

European Union Citizens (Assistance to Stay)

Jenny Gilruth (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government what assistance it is providing to EU citizens to stay in Scotland ahead of 31 October. (S5O-03638)

Reply from the Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey): The Scottish Government has committed over £1 million to support EU citizens, including £800,000 over three years to Citizens Advice Scotland's EU citizens support service, which provides advice and information.

In April, we launched the stay in Scotland campaign to provide information, advice and practical support on the EU settlement scheme, including £250,000 for community support across Scotland.

Jenny Gilruth (SNP): In Fife, less than a third of our 10,000 EU nationals have applied for settled status. Would it not provide much more security and peace of mind for thousands of my constituents if the Tories scrapped the scheme? If they will not scrap it, does the minister agree that voters should have the chance to throw Boris Johnson's party out of number 10 and to decide Scotland's future as an independent member of the European Union?

Reply from Graeme Day: I know that Jenny Gilruth has sought to provide peace of mind for her EU national constituents, as far as that is possible, by holding her own advice event and I commend her for that. I know that a number of members around the chamber have done something similar.

The UK Government should be providing certainty on this issue; it could disapply the requirement for five years' residence and remove pre-settled status altogether. I was struck by the comments of Daniel Hannan, a Conservative member of the European Parliament and a leave supporter. He said:

"I have had constituency cases of EU nationals being denied settled status despite living here for years. This is a breach of the assurances I and other Leavers gave during the referendum."

On the point about Boris Johnson and independence, it will not surprise anyone in the chamber that I concur with the views of Jenny Gilruth.

Emma Harper (SNP): What steps is the Scottish Government taking to encourage and support EU citizens in rural Scotland to apply for settled and pre-settled status?

Reply from Graeme Dey: Immigration is a reserved matter under the devolution settlement, including the operation of the settlement scheme. However, we are taking a number of steps, including those that I mentioned earlier. I encourage everyone in the chamber to actively promote the stay in Scotland campaign in their constituencies. That campaign was launched by the First Minister in April to raise awareness of the settlement scheme in Scotland. There is a good deal of publicity around that, and there are a number of different elements to the scheme, which covers EU nationals who are based in rural and urban areas. Emma Harper is right to highlight the issue of rural-based folk, because often, as well as being valued friends and neighbours, they are particularly important to those rural local economies.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12310&i=111241#ScotParlOR>

Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015

Jenny Marra (Labour): Four years ago this week, the Parliament unanimously voted for the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015, section 11 of which gives unaccompanied children the legal protection and support of the Scottish guardianship service. Members should make no mistake about how important that is. Children who are trafficked into Scotland, many from Vietnam, with no idea where they are and no parent or guardian to look after them, are alone and vulnerable to criminal gangs. Four years later, that protection has not been implemented by the Scottish Government. Why not? Those children do not have the legal protection that we passed into law for them. Will the First Minister commit to implementing in full that vital protection before Parliament breaks for Christmas?

Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon): I will write to Jenny Marra on that point. I will give her a full answer on why that provision has not been commenced so far and the timescale for bringing it into force. It is an important issue.

More generally, I commend and pay tribute to the work of the Scottish guardianship service. A couple of weeks ago, I visited young people who are under the care and support of that service, and I saw its benefit to them. We want to make sure that the service is available to all young people who need it. I will make sure that Jenny Marra gets a specific answer to that question as quickly as possible.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12293&i=111141#ScotParlOR>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund

Kate Green (Labour) [292230] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many organisations receive funding from his Department through the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: There are currently 22 organisations receiving funding under the Asylum Migration and Integration Fund. The Home Office is one of these organisations, the rest are third party recipients.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-30/292230/>

Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund

Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat) [292183] To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, with reference to his announcement of 28 September 2019 of £16.6 billion to guarantee funding for organisations in receipt of EU programme funding in the event of the UK leaving the EU without a deal, whether charities and non-Governmental organisations that receive funding from the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund will be eligible for that funding.

Reply from Rishi Sunak: Organisations that have successfully bid directly to the European Commission for Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) funding on a competitive basis while the UK is still in the EU are covered by this guarantee. The £16.6 billion of funding announced includes provisions for eligible AMIF recipients.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-30/292183/>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-announces-support-for-post-brexit-future?utm_source=miragenews&utm_medium=miragenews&utm_campaign=news

Immigration: British Nationals (Overseas)

Emma Reynolds (Labour) [292899] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the potential merits of allowing British National (Overseas) passport holders to live and work in the UK; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Seema Kennedy: The UK continues to support the one country, two systems model underpinned by the Sino-British Joint Declaration. The immigration status of BN(O)s is part of this agreement; there is no right to work or live in the UK under the BN(O) passport.

I refer the Hon Lady to the answers given by my Rt. Hon Friend, the Foreign

Secretary, when responding to an urgent question on 26 September 2019.
<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-01/292899/>

The answers referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-09-26/debates/E7A4A3F4-2095-4A5E-856A-2CD252EB86F8/HongKong>

Immigration: Appeals

Jonathan Lord (Conservative) [293550] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the (a) target and (b) average time taken is between the completion of an immigration tribunal and the implementation of that tribunal's decision.

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

Information on the average length of time taken to implement allowed appeals that we do not challenge is not readily available in a reliable format and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost through the examination of individual case files.

Statistics on appeals that have been determined by HM Courts and Tribunals Service are published quarterly. The most recent edition (Tribunals and gender recognitions certificates statistics quarterly: October to December 2018) is available at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/tribunal-statistics-quarterly-april-to-june-2019>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-02/293550/>

Migrant Workers: Pay

Kirsty Blackman (SNP) [290918] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will reconsider the £30,000 salary threshold for immigrant workers.

Reply from Seema Kennedy: On 24 June 2019, the Government asked the independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to consider the operation of salary thresholds in the future immigration system, including the impact of exemptions from minimum salary thresholds.

The MAC is due to report by January 2020.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-25/290918/>

Migrant Workers: Speech and Language Therapy

Geraint Davies (Labour Co-op) [293421] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to accept the recommendation made by the Migration Advisory Committee in its report entitled Full review of the Shortage Occupation List, published in May 2019, that the entire occupation of speech and language therapists be added to the Shortage Occupation List.

Reply from Seema Kennedy: The previous Home Secretary announced in his Written Ministerial Statement of 23 July that the Government was accepting the Migration Advisory Committee's recommendations on the composition of the Shortage Occupation List (SOL). Changes to the Immigration Rules implementing these recommendations, were laid on 9 September and will come into effect from 6 October. This includes adding speech and language therapists to the SOL.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-02/293421/>

Immigration: Armed Forces

Steve McCabe (Labour) [293442] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to waive immigration application fees for members of the armed forces and their families.

Reply from Seema Kennedy: The Home Office is listening carefully to those with concerns about how members of HM Forces can have the support of their families whilst serving our country. We are continuing to discuss the impact of immigration fees on members of the HM Forces with MOD.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-02/293442/>

Jobcentre Plus: Interpreters and Sign Language

Paul Farrelly (Labour) [292140] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what estimate she has made of the proportion of Job Centre Plus offices that have (a) British Sign Language and (b) language interpreters.

Reply from Mims Davies: Under the Equality Act 2010, DWP must make suitable provision to communicate with claimants who do not speak English or Welsh (for people residing in Wales), or who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired. It is DWP policy to use an interpreter when we need to communicate with a claimant who:

- cannot communicate adequately in English (or, in Wales, Welsh);
- has complex needs and, or may need additional support; and
- cannot provide their own interpreter.

Since the 1st January 2018 Thebigword has provided Foreign Language and British Sign Language (BSL) services for the DWP staff and customers. All Jobcentres are able to access the service provided by Thebigword.

The services available for BSL are face to face interpreting and Video Relay Service. The services available for foreign language interpreters are face to face interpreting, telephone interpreting and written translations.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-30/292140/>

Immigration: Windrush Generation

Ruth Jones (Labour) [272952] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what steps her Department is taking to support the Home Office in its internal investigation into the causes of the Windrush scandal.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: My Rt Hon. Friend the Home Secretary commissioned a lessons-learned review to consider the key policy and operational decisions that affected the Windrush generation and appointed Wendy Williams as its independent advisor. We understand that Wendy Williams has been considering a great deal of material during the course of the review and has spoken with a wide range of people. The government will publish her report following its receipt.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-03/272952/>

Elections: EU Nationals

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour) [291396] To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office, whether EU citizens will have the right to vote in the May 2020 local elections in the event that the UK has left the EU (a) with or (b) without a deal.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The rights of EU citizens to vote and stand in UK local elections are set out in primary legislation and will not immediately change on exit from the EU. We are seeking reciprocal bilateral agreements to secure the rights

and interests of British expats in EU countries.

The Scottish and Welsh Governments are responsible for their own franchise for local and devolved elections.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-26/291396/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Jo Stevens (Labour) [291012] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the reciprocal effect on UK citizens living in the EU of measures to tighten the migration to the UK of EU citizens in the event that the UK leaves the EU without a withdrawal agreement.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Government values the significant contribution that EU citizens make to our public services and our communities, and we want them to stay. The Prime Minister has given an unequivocal guarantee that they will have the absolute certainty of the continued right to live and remain in the UK after Brexit.

That certainty is being delivered by the EU Settlement Scheme, and nearly 1.5 million people have already been granted status under the scheme. That status will enable EU citizens and their family members to secure their rights in UK law, with the same rights to work and access benefits and services as they have now. The scheme will cover all EU citizens living in the UK before Brexit on 31 October, and their family members, and they will have until at least 31 December 2020 to apply. Freedom of movement as it currently stands under EU law will be brought to an end when we leave the EU on 31 October. From January 2021, we will introduce a new points-based immigration system. This will prioritise the skills and contributions people can make to the UK, rather than where they come from. In a no deal scenario, there will be a transitional period before the new immigration system commences in 2021. We have announced details of the temporary immigration arrangements that will operate during this period and they are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/no-deal-immigration-arrangements-for-eu-citizens-moving-to-the-uk-after-brexit>

Law-abiding EU citizens moving to the UK after a no deal Brexit will still be able to live and work in the UK for a temporary period, but we will make it harder for serious criminals to enter the UK. Those new arrivals who wish to stay beyond the end of 2020 will need to apply for a UK immigration status. The Home Office will open a new immigration scheme – the European Temporary Leave to Remain Scheme to provide a route to apply for this status. The online application process will be simple and free of charge. Subject to identity, security and criminality checks, successful applicants will be granted 36 months' leave to remain in the UK. This will provide them with a bridge into the new immigration system from 2021.

The Government looks forward to seeing the EU27 set out such clear and generous arrangements for UK nationals living in the EU.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-25/291012/>

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

Visas: Migrant Workers

James Frith (Labour) [291421] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that visa-free travel is maintained between the UK and the EU for short visits to work in the UK after the UK leaves the EU.

Immigration: Migrant Workers

James Frith (Labour) [291422] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether a new immigration system will be in place from 1 November 2019 for people working in the UK and not under visiting or settled status.

James Frith (Labour) [291423] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether there will be a transition immigration system in place from 1 November 2019 for people working in the UK and not under visiting or settled status.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Whether the UK leaves the EU on 31 October 2019 with or without a deal, the Government has announced that EEA and Swiss citizens will be able to continue to travel to the UK until the end of 2020 without needing a visa.

From January 2021 we will introduce a new points-based immigration system. This will prioritise the skills and contributions people can make to the UK, rather than where they come from.

In a no deal scenario, there will be a transitional period before the new immigration system commences in 2021. The Government announced the details of these temporary immigration arrangements on 4 September 2019 and they are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/no-deal-immigration-arrangements-for-eu-citizens-moving-to-the-uk-after-brexit>.

Law-abiding EEA and Swiss citizens moving to the UK after a no deal Brexit will still be able to live and work in the UK for a temporary period, but we will make it harder for serious criminals to enter the UK. Those new arrivals who wish to stay beyond the end of 2020 will need to apply for a UK immigration status. The Home Office will open a new immigration scheme – the European Temporary Leave to Remain Scheme – to provide a route to apply for this status. The online application process will be simple and free of charge. Subject to identity, security and criminality checks, successful applicants will be granted 36 months' leave to remain in the UK. This will provide them with a bridge into the new immigration system.

EEA and Swiss citizens who are resident in the UK by exit on 31 October 2019 will remain eligible to apply for UK immigration status under the EU Settlement Scheme. They will have until at least 31 December 2020 to do so.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-26/291421/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-26/291422/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-26/291423/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Steve Double (Conservative) [293633] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the average waiting time for decisions on settled status applications; and what plans she has to reduce waiting times for those decisions.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Applications for settled status are generally completed within 5 working days.

Applications may take longer in instances where further evidence is required, or an application is made via the postal route. In these instances, processing times may vary based on how quickly the information is provided.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-02/293633/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

David Linden (SNP) [293711] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what guidance her Department has published on the application process for indefinite leave to remain for a person who has previously been granted discretionary leave to remain.

Reply from Seema Kennedy: The guidance on the application process for indefinite leave to remain for a person who has previously been granted discretionary leave is published on GOV.UK at:

<https://www.gov.uk/settle-in-the-uk/y/you-have-discretionary-leave>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-02/293711/>

The following five questions all received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [290878] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Government guidance entitled How your personal information is used within the Borders, Immigration and Citizenship System, if she will publish the memoranda of understanding between her Department and authorities and organisations outside the EEA on data sharing for settled status applications.

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [290879] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to Government guidance entitled EU Settlement Scheme: how we use your personal information, if she will publish a list of organisations with whom the Government has shared the personal information of EU Settlement Scheme applicants.

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [290880] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the sharing of personal information of an EU Settlement Scheme applicant with an external organisation, if she will publish the criteria by which her Department judges whether an external organisation has taken sufficient steps to protect personal information shared with them.

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [290881] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if her Department will publish data sharing agreements with external organisations relating to the EU Settlement Scheme.

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [290882] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 22 May 2019 to Question 254812 on Immigration: EU Nationals, what the criteria and process is that her Department uses to determine whether staff require access to data in order to carry out their duties; and who in her Department is responsible for making that decision in each case.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Home Office is the data controller for all data processed within the EU Settlement Scheme, this includes where organisations are contracted to act on behalf of the Home Office.

No other organisations have access to the personal information of applicants to the EU Settlement Scheme.

The Home Office may share information with an organisation an applicant has cited within their own application. This is to verify the evidence and protect against fraud and the use of counterfeit documents. Further details are set out in the following guidance and privacy information notice:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/eu-settlement-scheme-how-we-use-your-personal-information>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/personal-information-use-in-borders-immigration-and-citizenship>.

The Home Office takes its data security and data protection obligations extremely seriously. There are processes in place in the Home Office for the capturing and mitigation of risks and vulnerabilities to ensure appropriate control of our services. I can confirm this is the case for the EU Settlement Scheme.

Our staff are security cleared and data will only be accessed by those who have a

valid business reason to access it. The Home Office regularly monitors the systems for abuse and misuse.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-25/290878/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-25/290879/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-25/290880/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-25/290881/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-25/290882/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

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

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

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

Immigration: EEA Nationals

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour) [290438] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department has taken for EEA nationals' settlement status to be verified by border officials after the UK exits the EU in the event that the secure online service is inaccessible due to (a) temporary system failure, (b) planned system maintenance and (c) cyber-attack.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Immediately after exit, EU citizens can continue to cross the border using their passport or national identity card. They will be able to use e-Gates if they are travelling on a biometric passport.

EU citizens will not be routinely asked to prove that they have been granted status under the EU Settlement Scheme after EU Exit in order to re-enter the UK but systems will be in place to allow border officials to make such checks where necessary. There are established contingency processes and procedures in the event of any interruption to systems at the border which border officials are familiar with.

Once the new points based immigration system is fully introduced, Border Force will be able to identify those individuals granted status digitally without the need for the individual to provide evidence.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-24/290438/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Jo Stevens (Labour) [292271] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the Government plans to apply restrictions on access to (a) social security and (b) health services to non-UK EU citizens (i) without evidence of settled status and (ii) with other legal immigration status after 31 October 2019.

Brandon Lewis: Eligibility rules governing access to social security benefits and NHS services by EU citizens living in the UK will not change on 31 October 2019. We have made clear that all EU citizens will require status under UK immigration legislation to continue living in the UK after the end of 2020, when the new points-

based immigration system is introduced. We will set out the rules for the new system and associated entitlements in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-30/292271/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Children in Care: EU Nationals

Steve Reed (Labour Co-op) [291577] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to Section 20 rules to apply to stay in the UK under the EU Settlement Scheme, what support her Department is providing to local authorities to enable them to work with looked-after children that are EU nationals.

Steve Reed (Labour Co-op) [291578] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that children in care that are EU nationals are informed of the potential requirement to apply to secure their status in the UK.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Home Office has put in place a comprehensive vulnerability strategy to ensure that the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) is accessible for all, including children in care.

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

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

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 Children Act 1989 provides the legal framework for local authorities to promote a child's welfare and best interests, setting out statutory duties in relation to looked after children in England, with respective authorities for the devolved administrations. Statutory guidance is provided by DfE in relation to this. This statutory duty to promote best interests, coupled with funding provided to local authorities under a new burdens assessment should ensure that this important work will be done.

Additionally, the Home Office has been holding monthly teleconferences for local authority staff who are undertaking this work. A designated help-line number has also been made available for local authority staff to contact trained caseworkers in the Home Office should they need to discuss any aspect of the EU Settlement Scheme.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-27/291577/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-27/291578/>

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 Farrelly (Labour) [291281] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department,

what steps her Department is taking to support homeless migrants from the EU apply for settled status.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Home Office has put in place measures to ensure that the settlement scheme is accessible and capable of handling vulnerable customers, including homeless applicants, with flexibility.

A user group of external stakeholders who represent the needs of potentially vulnerable individuals, including those who are homeless, has been established to work with the Home Office to ensure the right support arrangements are in place. There is provision in policy to ensure effective consideration of evidence of residence, which allows for a wide range of evidence to be provided by applicants in order to evidence their residence.

The Home Office has introduced a range of support including up to £9 million grant funding for 57 voluntary and community organisations, to ensure those that require the most support to apply to the scheme can access it.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-26/291281/>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Asylum: Families

Afzal Khan (Labour) [293719] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that the ability of refugees and people seeking asylum to reunite with family members in the UK under the Dublin III Regulation will be safeguarded in the event that the UK leaves the EU without a withdrawal agreement.

Afzal Khan (Labour) [293720] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will bring forward legislative proposals to protect the rights of families to reunite under the Dublin Regulation in the event that the UK leaves the EU without a withdrawal agreement.

Afzal Khan (Labour) [293721] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the effect of the UK leaving the EU on families who are eligible to be reunited under the provisions of the Dublin III Regulation.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: In a no-deal scenario, the UK would immediately cease participating in the Dublin III Regulation. However, under the Immigration, Nationality and Asylum (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 there is a 'savings' provision, where any Dublin family reunion cases, which have entered the system prior to exit day, will continue to be processed. The UK is also committed, under section 17 of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018, to seek to negotiate an agreement with the EU which allows for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in the EU to join family members lawfully present in the UK, where it is in their best interests. This commitment stands whether we leave the EU with or without a deal.

The UK provides a safe and legal route to bring families of refugees together through its refugee family reunion policy. This allows a partner and children under 18 of those granted protection in the UK to join them here, if they formed part of the family unit before the sponsor fled their country. This route will not be affected by EU Exit.

Appendix FM to the Immigration Rules provides for family members wishing to enter or remain in the UK on the basis of their relationship with a family member who is a British citizen or settled in the UK, and those who are post-flight family of a person granted protection in the UK. This route will also not be affected by EU Exit.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-02/293719/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-02/293720/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-02/293721/>

Appendix FM, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-fm-se-family-members-specified-evidence>

Asylum: Families

Catherine McKinnell (Labour) [290767] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what progress has been made toward securing the future of family reunion routes in negotiations with the EU; and whether the UK will continue to apply the Dublin III Regulation if the UK leaves the EU without a deal.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: If the UK leaves the EU with a deal we will continue to participate in the Dublin III Regulation, under which unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in the EU currently reunite with family members in other EU Member States, during the implementation period.

The UK would cease participating in the Dublin III Regulation immediately if we were to leave the EU without a deal. However, the Immigration, Nationality and Asylum (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 makes a 'saving' such that any Dublin family reunion cases which have entered the system prior to exit day will continue to be processed in a no deal situation.

We want a close future partnership to tackle the shared challenges on asylum and illegal migration. Section 17 of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 commits the Government to seek to negotiate an agreement with the EU which allows for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in the EU to join family members lawfully present in the UK, where it is in their best interests. This commitment stands whether we leave the EU with or without a deal. Effecting transfers relies on an agreement being in place and we endeavour to negotiate such an agreement as soon as possible.

In either a deal or no deal scenario, children will still be able to apply to join family members in the UK who benefit from international protection under the UK's refugee family reunion provisions under the Immigration Rules.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-25/290767/>

Human Trafficking: Immigration

Vernon Coaker (Labour) [292096] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will introduce a new immigration status of survivor of modern slavery for people who have received a positive conclusive grounds decision through the National Referral Mechanism.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: If a confirmed victim of modern slavery does not qualify for asylum, humanitarian protection or other forms of leave to remain under the Immigration Rules, then they are considered for a grant of discretionary leave to remain on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the particular circumstances of each case. There are no plans to change this policy.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-30/292096/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

British Citizenship

Lord Dubs (Labour): To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the effectiveness of the procedures for acquiring British citizenship.

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

My Lords, UK Visas and Immigration anticipates that about 178,000 applications will be processed during 2019-20. Following the introduction of streamlined processes, around 80% of applications are now submitted online. As a result, as at August 2019, 99.4% of straightforward applications were decided within the six-month service standard.

Lord Dubs: My Lords, the Minister will, I am sure, be aware of an official book called *Life in the United Kingdom: A Guide for New Residents*. First, can she justify the fact that the examples given of eminent British people are almost all men and that, in some respects, women have been airbrushed out of British life? Secondly, a number of questions arise that are supposed to be relevant to life in Britain. I will try her out on one: when was the Giant's Causeway formed—40 million, 50 million or 60 million or 70 million years ago? Will the Minister care to hazard an answer? Also: when did Henry VIII die—January 1547, January 1557, February 1547 or February 1557? I am sure that these are relevant to life in Britain. Can the Minister answer any of these questions, please?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The noble Lord, who is actually my noble friend, has issued me with a double humiliation. As someone whose father is from Northern Ireland, I am ashamed that I cannot answer his question, but I will guess at 50 million years ago.

Noble Lords: Yes!

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: That is called the luck of the Irish, my Lords. On the second question about Henry VIII, I really have no idea, but then I am Irish, so maybe I can be granted leeway on that. There are points about the Life in the UK test and how much detail and knowledge we can expect people to have, so I take the noble Lord's point.

Baroness Gardner of Parkes (Conservative): My Lords, I declare an interest as someone who has only recently become a British citizen. That was in the last hour of the last day of the last Labour Government, when they passed an amendment such that a Member of this House could automatically become a British citizen. I do not know how or how often that is publicised, but it is a fact, and I am grateful to the Government for it. Before then, I had to produce a right of abode, which produced all sorts of documents that went back to birth certificates and everything under the sun. I have also helped other people, with the help of a particular noble and learned Lord, who had been Lord Chief Justice. He and I took 10 years to get British citizenship for someone who well deserved it, so I think there is something very wrong about this position. I am not complaining because I was given only a six-month visa when I arrived; at least I was given that. Some people are getting nothing and some are involved in enormously long procedures, but they get something in the end. How many years is it taking? Can it be speeded up in any way?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Like my noble friend, I have tried to assist the many noble Lords who have asked me questions about immigration, citizenship, et cetera. They are complex, and Members of your Lordships' House have shown me just how complex they are, not least my noble friend. I am glad that her case was resolved, in the end. But it is important that, to become a British citizen, you demonstrate your commitment to this country. Some of our rules have been in place for years, but I accept that there are many different avenues that one might take for the various types of access arrangements.

Baroness Butler-Sloss: Could it not be simplified?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I am sure my right honourable friend

the Home Secretary will consider that in due course.

Lord Paddick (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, refugee families often have to make repeated applications for leave to remain, before becoming eligible for British citizenship, paying thousands of pounds at each stage, potentially costing tens of thousands of pounds overall—way above the actual cost to the Home Office of processing their applications. Does the Minister accept that the government policy of overcharging positively discourages those seeking sanctuary in the UK? All these people want is to contribute to and integrate with British society.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office does not make a profit from application fees. The income that it derives is used to fund other vital areas of the borders, immigration and citizenship service. We have always provided refugees with exceptions to the need to pay application fees for leave to remain, in specific circumstances. That might be for refugees or those living in local authority care. ...

Lord Blunkett (Labour): My Lords, 18 months ago, I was pleased to serve on a Select Committee of this House chaired by the noble Lord, Lord Hodgson. Many of the issues we are discussing now were dealt with in that Citizenship and Civic Engagement Committee. Will the Minister go back to the new Home Secretary and ask whether we could make progress, both on the issues that were just raised by the Member from the Liberal Democrat Benches, but also on the Life in the UK test? When it came in 17 years ago, I promise your Lordships that it did not include a question on the Giant's Causeway. Could we look urgently at making it relevant, sensible and usable for people gaining citizenship in the UK?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I assure the noble Lord that I will take back both his point and that of the noble Lord, Lord Paddick. I thank him; we have all been educated this morning, not least myself. I was thinking about the analogy with Trivial Pursuit: if the same questions have been in play for a number of years, this may be an opportunity to update them. I will certainly take that point back.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-10-03/debates/849977B7-74A0-49E3-9A6C-BD15533252AA/BritishCitizenship>

Sections of the book referred to above can be read at

<http://www.test4citizenship.com/book>

Visa Applications: Dr Mu-Chun Chiang

Lord Greaves (Liberal Democrat): To ask Her Majesty's Government what (1) lessons they have learnt, and (2) procedures they intend to change, following the reconsideration of the visa application by Dr Mu-Chun Chiang.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford): My Lords, I am pleased that the case of Dr Chiang was successfully resolved following the provision of new evidence by Dr Chiang and reconsideration by UK Visas and Immigration. UK Visas and Immigration continually utilises customer feedback and experiences to review processes and procedures with the aim of enhancing services.

Lord Greaves: My Lords, this was indeed an unusual case in that the Home Office gave in before the bitter end. About 20 years ago, I first came across immigration and nationality issues with the Home Office when a busload of asylum seekers was dumped on an industrial estate in Colne in the middle of the night. Experiences then—and, I am sorry to say, since then—have led me to believe that too much of the immigration and nationality section of the Home Office is riddled with what I would call bureaucratic incompetence tinged with institutional racism. Nothing has improved; in fact, it has got worse. Recently, the co-chair of the Green Party suggested that the immigration and nationality functions should be separated off and made into a separate department, starting again based on a

culture of efficiency and humanity. Is that something that the Minister will put forward to her colleagues for the Queen's Speech?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: On the noble Lord's last point, about a culture that is far more humane, I would certainly totally subscribe to that, as would the Home Secretary. Regarding the balance between bureaucracy and subjectivity, it was the criticism of subjectivity that led to a much more objective way of determining applications. The noble Lord referred to a coach-load of asylum seekers 18 years ago; I am afraid that neither I nor the Conservative Party can answer for what happened 18 years ago. He also talked about the Home Office giving in before the bitter end; actually, the case was resolved quickly—not that I am in any way trying to defend the fact that it could have been resolved more quickly.

Lord Rosser (Labour): For a Government who think there is far too much red tape and what they describe as bureaucracy, it is revealing that, when it comes to dealing with work visa applications, rigid application of the very strict rules seems to be the order of the day. The reality is that the decision on Dr Chiang only got changed because there was a lot of adverse publicity about the actions of the Home Office and influential people took up the case. How many other decisions, of a similar kind to Dr Chiang's, have already been taken and enforced by the Home Office under its now renamed hostile environment policy because the individuals adversely and unfairly affected were not able to get the necessary publicity and support of influential people to get the Home Office ruling changed? Do the Government know the answer to that question? Do they care about it?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, we certainly do care. The issue was resolved very quickly, and it is not correct that it only got changed because people intervened. It got changed because new evidence that had been asked for was produced. The fact that we have a 98% grant rate for such applications is evidence of how many people successfully apply.

Lord Storey (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, the Minister may recall that I wrote to her regarding a young Indian girl who wanted to come and spend Christmas with her relatives in Liverpool. She applied twice for a tourist visa and twice was turned down. The Minister kindly put me in touch with the relevant Home Office official, and it was found out that she had been turned down because there was an unexplained sum of money in her bank account—she was fully employed in India. The unexplained money was from her father to pay for her trip. I refer to what my noble friend Lord Greaves said: should officials not deal with these applications with a more sensitive and humanitarian touch?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I do; I agree. The case was resolved, which is good. As I said to the noble Lord, Lord Rosser, 98% of these types of visas are granted.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-10-08/debates/ADA2110A-D6BA-4C39-891E-F84B1E06740F/VisaApplicationsDrMu-ChunChiang>

Asylum Seekers: Employment

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat): To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to review the length of time asylum seekers have to wait before being permitted to undertake paid employment.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford): My Lords, this is an important and complex issue, which we need to consider in detail. As the Prime Minister has said, the Home Office is currently reviewing the matter, and we are continuing productive discussions with partners, listening carefully to the arguments and considering the evidence put forward on the issue.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: Can I ask the Minister why, when other countries manage to hold their asylum seekers only for three months or perhaps for six months without being able to work, we keep them for 12 months before we allow them to work? What is the

reason? These are people of great skills, and I meet many of them in different ways; some are ministers, there are teachers and there are engineers. They have many skills that we could use to our advantage here in the UK.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, I do not doubt that asylum seekers have a range of skills; just because they are asylum seekers, it does not mean they do not possess skills. But it is important to distinguish those who need protection from those who want to work and not to blur the two.

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour): My Lords, surely it is in the interests of the economy, as well as those seeking asylum, to enable them to work. All the evidence, from other countries and here, suggests that is important to their mental health and future integration. It is supported by the general public and a majority of the senior managers who were recently surveyed on this.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I agree with what most of what the noble Baroness says. Asylum seekers can do voluntary work, which would certainly improve their mental well-being, but I disagree about the benefit to the economy.

Baroness Finlay of Llandaff (Crossbench): My Lords, can I ask the Minister how many of those waiting in the system are healthcare professionals at any level? While they are waiting, are they being provided with English language skills and tuition to enable them to take the examinations they need in order to work subsequently in their own profession?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I do not have disaggregated figures on what types of skills people claiming asylum possess, but I agree with the noble Baroness that anyone settling in this country should have English language proficiency. It is the best route to economic empowerment.

Lord Kirkhope of Harrogate (Conservative): My Lords, is it not important for us to differentiate between the sanctuary that we have been proud to offer over a long time—we are one of the leading countries in that sense—for those who are in terrible danger and comply with the 1951 United Nations convention criteria for granting asylum, from those who come to this country under ordinary Immigration Rules and meet those rules to benefit economically? Surely the two things should not be mixed.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I could not agree more with my noble friend, and that is what I tried to say to the noble Lord, Lord Roberts. These are two different things and should not be conflated.

Lord Reid of Cardowan (Labour): My Lords, I do not for one moment underestimate the difficult complexities here, particularly in distinguishing, as has been said, between genuine asylum seekers and those who come for other reasons, but can the Minister tell us whether the extended and elongated period of requirement prior to being allowed to work, as compared with other nations, is a matter of process? In other words, to what extent is the elongation the result of a lack of personnel, resources or procedures for these processes?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: By the elongated period, I assume that the noble Lord means 12 months. Actually, the best system of all would be for people's asylum claims to be determined quickly and work towards our new service standard of four months. It is not a good thing if someone waits for 12 months for their asylum claim to be heard, so I agree with the noble Lord in that sense.

Baroness Boycott (Crossbench): My Lords, can the Minister give an assurance that the current position whereby the children of asylum seekers do not receive free school meals is going to be reconsidered? This seems to be extremely unfair, especially when parents are unable to work.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I will have to get back to the noble Baroness on that point, because off the top of my head I am not certain whether the children of asylum seekers can receive school meals. Local authorities have a duty of care and a safeguarding duty for children, and therefore I think that there will be certain circumstances where they can have free school meals.

Lord Rosser (Labour): My Lords, I think I am right in saying that the then Home Secretary said last December that he was reviewing the right for asylum seekers to work, and in June of this year he confirmed that that was the case and that he would update Parliament in due course. I know that the Minister has said on behalf of the Government that this is a complex issue, but it is now quite a long time since the then Home Secretary said that he was looking at the matter. Does that mean that, with a change of Home Secretary, there is now less enthusiasm for doing anything? If that is not the case—let us assume that there is no imminent general election—when do the Government expect to complete this review?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: It was the Prime Minister who said that the Home Office was reviewing the matter, and therefore I do not assume that there is a change in the position. I hesitate to say this to the noble Lord, but I am sure that it will be done in due course.

Lord Paddick (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, while the application is being processed, the Government give some seekers of sanctuary no support at all—they can stay but with no recourse to public funds—or they provide them with such low subsistence that it is impossible for them to buy essentials such as clothes or shoes. Either they have a legitimate claim to be here or they should be deported, but why should they be made destitute while their application is being considered?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The noble Lord is absolutely right that either their claims should be considered or not, and that should be done swiftly, which is what I was saying to the noble Lord, Lord Reid. The sooner that people's applications are considered, the sooner these things can be determined.

The Earl of Sandwich (Crossbench): My Lords, can the Minister update us on the serious situation of the Syrian refugees whom we agreed to accept?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I do not know the exact figure, but at the last count we had brought something like 26,000 children over here. Of course, the situation in Syria is dire, the caliphate is collapsing, and therefore those children might be even more in need now than ever before.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-10-07/debates/93575CA2-7BF2-49A5-A08A-0DD92DFB401E/AsylumSeekersEmployment>

Modern Slavery (Victim Support) Bill

The Lord Bishop of London: To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to facilitate the enactment of the Modern Slavery (Victim Support) Bill within the next 12 months.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford): My Lords, the Government have given serious consideration to the issues raised in the Bill from the noble Lord, Lord McColl, and to how to ensure that victims have the support they need to begin rebuilding their lives. However, the Government do not believe victims should be given an automatic grant of leave. Consideration of whether an individual is a victim of modern slavery and any decisions regarding their immigration status are, and must remain, separate.

The Lord Bishop of London: I thank the Minister for her reply. Churches across the UK are providing some exceptional support to victims of modern-day slavery, such as Tamar at All Souls Church here in Westminster. On a recent visit to Tamar I was struck by how essential it was that victims were provided with assistance, healthcare, housing and mental health support. Can the Minister comment on what progress is being made to cost and evaluate provision so that victims can not only receive adequate care but recover in the best way possible?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I pay tribute to the ministry the right reverend Prelate describes, because I know that both the Church and the voluntary sector do a fantastic job in this area. Children can receive support through the

independent child trafficking guardians that have now been rolled out in a third of local authorities in England and Wales—they are very welcome—and follow-on support, through the victim care contract, that victims can expect to receive after the trauma of their experience.

Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne (Conservative): I am sure the Minister will agree that modern slavery cannot be confined to these shores; it is a global horror story. I welcome her statement, but did she by chance catch sight of the particularly painful programme that BBC Arabic put forward on modern slavery of children under nine under sharia law in Iraq? Is she aware that there have been cases of this kind—I know of them myself—here in the United Kingdom? May we spread our work and share it with other nations in the same way that the right reverend Prelate has offered?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I did see that programme, and it was very disturbing: children as young as eight and nine being married for an hour, effectively so that they could be abused. In this country we would call it child abuse, and of course those girls suffer even worse because it damages the rest of their lives.

Lord Anderson of Swansea (Labour): My Lords, how do the Government respond to the claim that there is a loophole in current modern slavery legislation that is being exploited by county lines networks and that allows young people to pose as victims when in fact they are not?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The noble Lord raises an interesting point, because quite often in county lines those children are both victims and perpetrators of some of the offences. Interestingly, the majority of referrals into the NRM are from the UK and are suspected to be from county lines gangs.

Lord McColl of Dulwich (Conservative): My Lords, is the Minister aware that the University of Nottingham conducted a cost-benefit analysis of my Bill and showed that it would have saved £25 million in the past two years had it been implemented? A 12-month period of support would allow victims to get into work, supporting themselves and contributing to the economy.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I thank my noble friend for that question. He refers to a period of 12 months, but the two initial phases—when someone has received positive reasonable grounds, and conclusive grounds—each give a minimum of 45 days' support. Together, that is a minimum of 90 days. Someone may well receive a longer period of support.

Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, the recent independent review of the Modern Slavery Act discussed the need to develop our domestic infrastructure to protect victims. The Independent Anti-slavery Commissioner has said that we should, “ensure that all child victims of slavery are fully supported towards safety”.

The Minister mentioned independent child trafficking guardians. Is the piloting and evaluation of the scheme going so slowly as to jeopardise the full rollout recommended by the independent review?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Not that I know of, but we should note that when something is rolled out, it is important that it be done properly, in the sense that it is ultimately effective. To me, piloting and rolling out further seems to be the best way of doing this. I do not think it is too slow, but I do think we need to get it right.

Lord Kennedy of Southwark (Labour Co-op): My Lords, as a Labour and Co-op peer and a member of the Co-op, I am delighted to support the Bill of the noble Lord, Lord McColl, which will bring the law in England and Wales up to the same standards that we enjoy in Northern Ireland and Scotland, giving victims 12 months' support and assistance. The Co-operative Group has worked closely with the noble Lord on his Bill. However, it is certain to be lost in the Commons due to the usual suspects on the government Benches, who take great pleasure in wrecking Private Members' Bills. Why will the Government not

help to get this much-needed reform through to help victims of modern slavery, following the example of the Church, the Co-operative Group and others?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, in response to the independent review of the Modern Slavery Act, which was of course cross-party, the Home Office launched a public consultation. The proposals under consideration would require changes to primary legislation, and we at the Home Office intend subsequently to make any necessary legislative changes as soon as we can, with parliamentary time.

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-10-07/debates/2B905DE2-0AF0-4823-AB53-7FA319C9DB60/ModernSlavery\(VictimSupport\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-10-07/debates/2B905DE2-0AF0-4823-AB53-7FA319C9DB60/ModernSlavery(VictimSupport)Bill)

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Immigration: Fees and Charges

Lord Beecham (Labour) [HL17573] To ask Her Majesty's Government how the costs of an application (1) for limited leave to remain, and (2) to extend limited leave to remain, are calculated; by how much the costs of such applications have increased in percentage terms since 2015; and why those costs have increased.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The unit costs of immigration and nationality fees are the calculated estimate of the full financial cost for providing each route/service, including direct costs and relevant local and central overheads (e.g. accommodation, HR, Finance and IT), plus depreciation, cost of capital employed, and other wider system costs that are incurred in connection with immigration and nationality activity.

The approach the Home Office uses to calculate the published unit costs for all UK visa, immigration and citizenship services takes into account the entire forecast cost of the relevant chargeable functions, including all related indirect costs. Weightings are then used, based on operational business planning data, to apportion the total cost across the range of services and products.

Unit costs may be influenced by changes in the way that applications in certain routes are processed from year to year, for example where additional checks are introduced or required, or by changes elsewhere within the overall system which impact on the weighting calculations and therefore the amount apportioned to any individual service.

With regard to percentage increases, the Home Office publishes a complete list of fees and unit costs for all application types. This can be viewed via the following link:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/visa-fees-transparency-data

Additionally, the link below sets out all the fees that have been in operation since 2015.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/visa-regulations-revised-table

When setting fees, the Home Office takes into account the cost of processing the application, the wider cost of running Border, Immigration and Citizenship (BIC) system and the benefits the Home Office believes are likely to accrue from a successful application.

Application fees have increased in recent years as the Home Office aims to reduce the overall level of funding that comes from general taxation.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-09-03/HL17573/>

Right of Abode: British National (Overseas)

The Marquess of Lothian (Conservative) [HL17663] To ask Her Majesty's Government

what assessment they have made of recent calls to restore the right of abode in the UK to holders of British National (Overseas) passports living in Hong Kong; and what action, if any, they intend to take as a result.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Holders of British National (Overseas) passports living in Hong Kong do not have a right of abode in the UK, unless they are also British citizens.

Their only route to acquire the right of abode in the UK would be to apply for British citizenship. There are no plans to change the law in this respect.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-09-03/HL17663/>

Immigration

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL17656] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the evidence and recommendations in the report by Let Us Learn! 'Normality is a luxury': how 'limited leave to remain' is blighting young lives?, published in July.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government has considered this report and representations made on behalf of these young people. It is only right that those who benefit from the NHS contribute to its upkeep and the income generated from the Immigration Health Surcharge goes directly to NHS services. Fee waivers are also available for applications under specified human rights routes that and these routes cater for children and young people who have spent a significant amount of their life in the UK. A waiver can therefore be applied to the health surcharge. If the applicant cannot pay either the health surcharge or the immigration fee we will waive both.

The Home Office keeps fees under review and we are considering the range of concerns that have been expressed in this context.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-09-03/HL17656/>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VXwkZOOiBA8PO9dFDuA9RF2lqVr4HYYG/view>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Children in Care: EU Nationals

Baroness Armstrong of Hill Top (Labour) [HL17567] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many looked-after children are non-UK EU nationals.

Baroness Armstrong of Hill Top (Labour) [HL17568] To ask Her Majesty's Government what support local authorities give to looked-after children who are non-UK EU nationals to apply for (1) residency, (2) citizenship, and (3) settled status.

Reply from Lord Agnew of Oulton: The department does not hold information on the nationality of looked-after children in England. However, estimates suggest that there may be around 5,000 children in care who are non-UK EU nationals.

We recognise that looked-after children who are non-UK EU nationals will require support with immigration issues. It is important that local authorities offer the necessary support by addressing these issues early as part of any assessment and care plan. In doing so, local authorities can seek legal advice about the appropriate action based on the circumstances of the individual looked-after child.

Legislation will also be introduced to bring immigration matters for separated migrant children into the scope of legal aid, meaning that this group will get support in securing their immigration rights. Legal aid may also be available through the Exceptional Case Funding scheme where a failure to provide legal aid would breach, or risk breaching, European Court of Human Rights law rights or

enforceable EU law rights.

Ensuring that looked-after children are supported to obtain a status under the European Union Settlement Scheme is a core element in the delivery of the scheme.

Local authorities are expected to make applications on behalf of all eligible looked-after children for whom they have parental responsibility and to raise awareness of the scheme and offer support as required for looked-after children for whom they do not hold parental responsibility.

Guidance has been issued to local authorities to help them with these responsibilities.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-09-03/HL17567/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-09-03/HL17568/>

Asylum

Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench) [HL17705] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by the Refugee and the No Accommodation Network Missing the Safety Net, published on 4 September, in particular the finding that the Home Office is frequently failing to provide vulnerable people, including pregnant women, with the asylum support to which they are entitled.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We will discuss the report with the authors and respond in due course.

The report is about support arrangements for failed asylum seekers, who can apply to receive accommodation and other assistance if they would otherwise be destitute and can show that there is a temporary obstacle preventing their departure from the UK. Most of these applications are decided upon within 5 working days, or 2 days if the person is vulnerable, but some take longer because of the need to make further enquiries to establish that the person is eligible to receive the support. There is a right of appeal to the independent Tribunal if the application is refused.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-09-04/HL17705/>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.refugee-action.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Missing-The-Safety-Net-Report.pdf>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Immigrants: Detainees

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL17763] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure that children are not detained for immigration reasons.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL17764] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many children have been detained in immigration detention for longer than 28 days since January 2018.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL17765] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many children who have been detained in immigration detention at any point since January 2018 were subsequently deported.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The UK ended the routine detention of families with children in immigration removal centres in 2010, and enshrined this in law under the Immigration Act 2014. Children may be detained in family groups for removal in our pre-departure accommodation for up to 72 hours, extendable to

a week with Ministerial approval. This provision is used sparingly and only after all other avenues have failed. Families with children may also be detained at the border pending a decision on whether they should be admitted to the country, or until the next available return flight if they are refused entry to the UK. There remain limited circumstances where unaccompanied children may be held under immigration powers at port for up to 24 hours, usually until they can be transferred into the care of social services.

Information on the number of children leaving detention and in the detention estate, is available in tables dt_09_q and dt_13_q of the detention tables in the latest release of 'Immigration Statistics, year ending June 2019'. The term 'deportations' refers to a legally-defined subset of returns which are enforced either following a criminal conviction or when it is judged that a person's removal from the UK is conducive to the public good. Information on those deported is not separately available and therefore the published detention statistics refer to all enforced returns and voluntary departures.

[Detention Tables - June 2019](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-09-05/HL17763/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-09-05/HL17764/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-09-05/HL17765/>

Press Releases

Right to stay for EU citizens

<https://www.gov.scot/news/right-to-stay-for-eu-citizens/>

Pending first-instance asylum cases at highest level since December 2017

<https://www.easo.europa.eu/news-events/pending-first-instance-asylum-cases-highest-level-december-2017>

New Publications

Asylum support: UK rights and expectations

This booklet is available in English, Albanian, Amharic, Arabic, Chinese, Farsi, Kurdish, Pashto, Punjabi, Tigrinya, and Urdu

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-support-uk-rights-and-expectations>

EU Settlement Scheme Statistics, September 2019

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/837497/eu-settlement-scheme-statistics-september-2019.pdf

EU Settlement Scheme: Advice and Support for EU Citizens

<https://centreforequalities.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/EUSS-English.pdf>

EU Settlement Scheme: Advice and Support for Employers

<https://centreforequalities.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/EUSS-Information-for-Employers.pdf>

Updated Guidance: EU Settlement Scheme – family and travel permits

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/836012/euss-family-and-travel-permit-guidance-v2.0.pdf

Updated Guidance: EU Settlement Scheme caseworker guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-caseworker-guidance>

Letter from Seema Kennedy MP to Yvette Cooper MP regarding notification of changes required to the shortage occupation list

[http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2019-0932/letter from Seema Kennedy to Yvette Cooper shortage occupation list.pdf](http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2019-0932/letter-from-Seema-Kennedy-to-Yvette-Cooper-shortage-occupation-list.pdf)

News

Priti Patel pledges points-based immigration

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-10-02/news/priti-patel-pledges-points-based-immigration-nzpznlx63>

Nearly all Home Office misconduct inquiries relate to immigration

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/oct/04/nearly-all-home-office-misconduct-inquiries-relate-to-immigration>

Thousands of EU Settlement Scheme applications unsuccessful, figures suggest

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17957605.thousands-eu-settlement-scheme-applications-unsuccessful-figures-suggest/>

Thousands of applications to EU Settlement Scheme unsuccessful, figures show

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/thousands-of-applications-to-eu-settlement-scheme-unsuccessful-figures-show-1-5020800>

Government u-turn puts vital services at risk

<http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news-and-events/news/3490-government-u-turn-puts-vital-services-at-risk>

Oxford professor's children refused visas to join her in UK

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2019/oct/01/oxford-professors-children-refused-visas-to-join-her-in-uk>

Dear Home Secretary

<http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news-and-events/blogs/3491-dear-home-secretary>

Home Office reverses deportation threat to Liverpool doctor

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-merseyside-49904500>

Mu-Chun Chiang: Home Office backtracks on threat to deport NHS doctor

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/mu-chun-chiang-deport-doctor-visa-brexit-nhs-home-office-a9133371.html>

Home Office in U-turn over NHS doctor facing deportation

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/oct/02/home-office-in-u-turn-over-nhs-doctor-facing-deportation>

Syrian refugee orphan finds his own Hogwarts after landing rare scholarship in UK
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/10/04/syrian-refugee-orphan-finds-hogwarts-landing-rare-scholarship/>

As the son of an immigrant, I know Priti Patel is telling you lies about free movement after Brexit

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/priti-patel-brexit-free-movement-europe-australia-points-based-immigration-a9135491.html>

Syrian refugee children embrace love of Welsh language

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-wales-49994738/syrian-refugee-children-embrace-love-of-welsh-language>

Translating for Mum and Dad

<https://www.bbc.com/news/stories-49939124>

TOP

Community Relations

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-19246 Elaine Smith (Labour): The Positive Contribution of Catholic Schools – That the Parliament recognises the positive contribution that Catholic schools have made to Scotland's education system, in particular since the historic Education (Scotland) Act 1918 came into force, when the schools became part of the state education system in return for, among other things, the right to retain their Catholic ethos; acknowledges what it sees as the contribution and the positive impact that it believes that this has had on society; considers that denominational schools continue to play a vital role in Scottish education; believes that sectarianism predates the existence of Catholic schools and that they are not a cause of it and instead they contribute to an open, tolerant, diverse and inclusive education system in Central Scotland and across the country; considers that anti-Catholicism has no place in Scotland, and acknowledges the calls that it must be challenged in all its forms.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-19246>

News

Black and Scottish: 'Are you a Protestant Rasta or a Catholic Rasta?'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-49894363>

Glasgow's first black councillor asked if he was 'Catholic or Protestant' Rasta while growing up in city

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17957955.glasgows-first-black-councillor-asked-catholic-protestant-rasta-growing-city/>

Black History Month: Butetown's vibrant community with deep roots

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-wales-49924149/black-history-month-butetown-s-vibrant-community-with-deep-roots>

TOP

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Department for Transport: Ethnic Groups

Chris Stephens (SNP) [292942] To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how many and what proportion of staff who applied for promotion within his Department from 1 September 2018 to 1 September 2019 and who identified as (a) BAME and (b) White were successful by each grade in his Department.

Reply from Chris Heaton-Harris: The way that roles are advertised as either across government or external means that it is not possible to identify promotion opportunities only available to existing Department for Transport employees.

The data which can be provided is the number and proportion of BAME and White total applicants and successful applicants for all recruitment campaigns between 1 September 2018 and 1 September 2019. The whole data set is provided because existing Department for Transport employees have the opportunity to apply for all these roles and could achieve a promotion if successful.

This breakdown provided in the table and covers the Department for Transport and its four Executive Agencies (the Driver Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA), the Driver Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA), the Maritime Coastguard Agency (MCA) and the Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA)).

Grade	Ethnic Group	Total Number of Applications	Total Number of Successful Applicants	% of total applications by ethnicity at each grade	% of successful applicants by ethnicity at each grade
Administrative Officer	White	274	57	94%	93%
	BAME	12	4	4%	7%
	Prefer not to say	5	0	2%	0%
	Total:	291	61		
Executive Officer	White	1085	98	85%	94%
	BAME	153	3	12%	3%
	Prefer not to say	40	3	3%	3%
	Total:	1278	104		
Higher Executive Officer	White	1186	81	57%	75%
	BAME	739	21	35%	19%
	Prefer not to say	157	6	8%	6%
	Total:	2082	108		
Senior Executive Officer	White	763	63	53%	68%
	BAME	542	23	38%	25%

	Prefer not to say	157	6	8%	6%
	Total:	2082	108		
Senior Executive Officer	White	763	63	53%	68%
	BAME	542	23	38%	25%
	Prefer not to say	128	6	9%	7%
	Total:	1433	92		
Grade 7	White	611	56	61%	88%
	BAME	310	4	31%	7%
	Prefer not to say	86	4	9%	7%
	Total:	1007	64		
Grade 6	White	378	33	76%	92%
	BAME	80	0	16%	0%
	Prefer not to say	40	3	8%	8%
	Total:	498	36		

Total	White	BAME	Prefer not to say
Applications	65%	28%	7%

More details on the limitations of providing data on only promotions.

For vacancies advertised across government, individuals need to have a verified account to confirm their eligibility as existing Civil Servants. As part of their personal profile, Civil Servants are requested to provide their current substantive grade. If individuals have not completed their personal profile we would be unable to identify whether they were promoted.

For vacancies advertised externally, individuals have the option to use a privately registered account as there is no requirement for them to confirm that they are existing Civil Servants. This means that in the instance that an existing Civil Servant applies for an externally advertised vacancy using a private account, then we cannot identify whether or not the successful individual is being promoted.

The diversity of applicants applying for posts that are advertised regionally will be affected by the percentage of BAME individuals in the working population.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-01/292942/>

Ministry of Justice: Ethnic Groups

Chris Stephens (SNP) [292943] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many and what proportion of staff who applied for promotion within his Department from 1 September 2018 to 1 September 2019 and who identified as (a) BAME and (b) White, were successful by each grade in his Department.

Reply from Chris Philp: The available information relating to the request is provided below and in the attached table.

Number of internal³ applicants⁸ known to have applied for promotion¹ into the Ministry of Justice (excluding HMPPS²), by ethnicity and grade of post advertised, for recruitment campaigns closed⁵ between 1 July 2018 and 30 June 2019 inclusive⁴:

Ethnicity	Number of applications made on promotion ¹ , by grade of post					
	Bands A-E ⁹	Band A ⁷	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E
All	9,592	1,515	1,916	3,008	2,897	256
BAME	3,829	480	740	1,320	1,203	86
White	5,091	897	1,017	1,496	1,525	156
Not declared	672	138	159	192	169	14

Ethnicity	Number of successful ⁶ applications made on promotion ¹ , by grade of post					
	Bands A-E ⁹	Band A ⁷	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E
All	932	117	185	247	346	37
BAME	234	17	39	67	104	7
White	660	95	137	169	230	29
Not declared	38	5	9	11	12	1

Ethnicity	Percentage of applications submitted that were successful in the recruitment process					
	Bands A-E ⁹	Band A ⁷	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E
All	10%	8%	10%	8%	12%	14%
BAME	6%	4%	5%	5%	9%	8%
White	13%	11%	13%	11%	15%	19%
Not declared	6%	4%	6%	6%	7%	7%

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-01/292943/>

Prisons: Ethnic Groups

Madeleine Moon (Labour) [294106] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many BAME prisoners were held at (a) HMP Parc and (b) HMP Cardiff prison under (i) remand and (ii) sentence following decisions by courts outside of Wales in each year since 2015; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Lucy Frazer: The below table indicates non white (includes prisoners with 'not stated' and 'not recorded' ethnicities) prisoners in HMPs Cardiff and Parc with an associated court outside of Wales (includes prisoners with 'Court not recorded').

	30/6/15	30/6/16	30/6/17	30/6/18	30/6/19
Total	75	60	105	71	87
<i>Of which:</i>					
Remand	11	7	15	5	7
Sentenced	62	46	85	60	74
Non-Criminal	2	7	5	6	6

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-03/294106/>

Press Releases

Improving Gypsy/Traveller lives

<https://www.gov.scot/news/improving-gypsytraveller-lives/>

First ever UK human rights tracker launched

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/first-ever-uk-human-rights-tracker-launched>

New Publications

Improving the lives of Gypsy/Travellers: 2019-2021

<https://tinyurl.com/y3phj9bh>

Human Rights Tracker

<https://humanrightstracker.com/en/>

News

Making human rights campaigning more accessible

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/blogs/making-human-rights-campaigning-more-accessible>

Human rights panel bids to make Scotland ‘a better country in a better world’

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17941855.human-rights-panel-bids-make-scotland-a-better-country-better-world/>

David Mackereth: Christian doctor loses trans beliefs case

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-birmingham-49904997>

Christian doctor who refused to call transgender woman ‘she’ loses employment tribunal

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/christian-doctor-transgender-woman-she-david-mackereth-a9133496.html>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-19276 Mark McDonald (Independent): Show Racism the Red Card – That the Parliament acknowledges that 4 October 2019 is Wear Red Day; recognises that the funds raised during Wear Red Day will help the charity, Show Racism the Red Card, to deliver anti-racism workshops to children, young people and their teachers across Scotland; supports the charity in its efforts to challenge racism in society, and agrees that, by working with the next generation in schools, it can have a big impact towards eradicating racism and creating a better world in the future.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-19276>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Social Media

Ian Austin (Independent) [294113] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps her Department is taking to tackle (a) racism, (b) abuse and (c) threats on social media platforms.

Reply from Matt Warman: The Online Harms White Paper sets out our plans for world-leading legislation to make the UK the safest place in the world to be online. We intend to establish in law a new duty of care on companies towards their users, overseen by an independent regulator. The duty of care will ensure companies have appropriate systems and processes in place to deal with harmful content on their services to keep their users safe. Compliance with this duty of care will be overseen by an independent regulator, which will have a range of enforcement powers.

Alongside the White Paper, the government published the Social Media Code of Practice. This voluntary guidance sets out actions that the Government believes social media platforms should take to prevent bullying, insulting, intimidating and humiliating behaviours on their sites.

Government has also asked the Law Commission to conduct a second phase of its review of the legal framework around abusive and offensive communications online. This will make specific recommendations for legal reform and is due to report in early 2021.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-03/294113/>

The White Paper referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/793360/Online_Harms_White_Paper.pdf

The Code of Practice referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/793324/Code_of_Practice_for_providers_of_online_social_media_platforms.d.pdf

Information about the Law Society review referred to above can be read at

<https://www.lawcom.gov.uk/law-commission-to-undertake-phase-2-of-the-abusive-and-offensive-online-communications-project/>

Religious Hatred: Islam

Jim Cunningham (Labour) [294093] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps the Government is taking to tackle Islamophobia.

Reply from Luke Hall: The government does not tolerate hatred of any kind and is taking a number of steps to tackle Islamophobia. We have some of the strongest legislation in the world to tackle hate crime and where groups incite racial hatred or are engaged in racially or religiously motivated criminal activity, we would expect them to be prosecuted.

To support security training for places of worship, we have committed £1.6 million through the places of worship security grant this year. and a further £5 million over three years. We have also supported Tell MAMA with over £2.5 million between 2016 and 2020 to monitor and combat anti-Muslim hatred, and committed £1.5 million in new funding for hate crime projects including those tackling anti-Muslim hatred and racism in schools.

The government will also be appointing independent advisers to provide expert advice to government on a definition of Islamophobia. The first of these advisers, Imam Qari Asim MBE, was appointed on the 23 July 2019. Their work will draw on

a wide range of opinions and they will work in close collaboration with the cross-government Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-03/294093/>

News

Sturgeon blames opposition for rise in sectarian trouble

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17944954.sturgeon-blames-opposition-rise-sectarian-trouble/>

Challenging Islamophobia? An event at conference tells me the Tories don't care

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/sep/30/challenging-islamophobia-muslim-bashing-event-conference-conservatives>

NUS president withdraws from Tory conference over claims of 'disturbing' Islamophobia

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/nus-president-conservative-party-islamophobia-national-union-students-zamzam-ibrahim-a9126451.html>

NUS head pulls out of Tory conference over 'disturbing Islamophobia'

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2019/sep/30/nus-head-pulls-out-of-tory-conference-over-disturbing-islamophobia>

Conservative conference fringe meeting was no 'Muslim-bashing fest'

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/oct/01/conservative-conference-fringe-meeting-was-no-muslim-bashing-fest>

The Labour Party's antisemitism problem might lie in a simple clash of identities

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/labour-party-antisemitism-israel-jewish-assault-synagogue-left-wing-a9138381.html>

Toby Young apologises for accusing Hammond of antisemitism

<https://www.theguardian.com/media/2019/sep/30/toby-young-apologises-for-accusing-hammond-of-antisemitism>

Dame Louise Ellman: Labour group's Yom Kippur action condemned

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-merseyside-49925523>

Jeremy Corbyn urged to intervene after Labour members table confidence vote in Jewish MP on eve of Yom Kippur

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/10/03/jeremy-corbyn-urged-intervene-labour-members-table-confidence/>

Call for more government action on racial discrimination

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-49894354>

Third of BAME Scots have experienced discrimination in Scotland in the past two years

<https://www.survation.com/third-of-bame-scots-have-experienced-discrimination-in-scotland-in-the-past-two-years/>

Prejudice against black and other ethnic minority Scots 'persistent', study finds
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/crime/prejudice-against-black-and-other-ethnic-minority-scots-persistent-study-finds-1-5015886>

One in four ethnic minority workers report experiencing bullying and harassment despite zero-tolerance policies
<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/bullying-harassment-work-racism-equality-zero-tolerance-policy-a9128951.html>

Victims of racism lose faith as prejudice persists
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-10-03/scotland/victims-of-racism-lose-faith-as-prejudice-persists-56b3sxwk0>

Ncuti Gatwa: I was racially bullied as a teenager
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-09-30/scotland/ncuti-gatwa-i-was-racially-bullied-as-a-teenager-3mr9jsc2w>

New anti-bigotry campaign launched
<https://www.actiononsectarianism.info/news/new-anti-bigotry-campaign-launched>

Warning of sectarian tensions in Scotland under no-deal Brexit
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17955286.warning-sectarian-tensions-scotland-no-deal-brexite/>

Racism in arts world puts spotlight on Scotland's claims to be inclusive
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/racism-in-arts-world-puts-spotlight-on-scotland-s-claims-to-be-inclusive-brian-ferguson-1-5019936>

£22.5k payout for Muslim woman racially abused by her employer
<https://tellmamauk.org/22-5k-payout-for-muslim-woman-racially-abused-by-her-employer/>

Sikh peer accuses BBC of 'prejudice' as he quits Radio 4 show after 35 years
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/people/sikh-peer-accuses-bbc-of-prejudice-as-he-quits-radio-4-show-after-35-years-1-5017507>

Taxi driver left shocked after passenger wished to put Muslims inside of a 'nuclear chamber'
<https://tellmamauk.org/taxi-driver-left-shocked-after-passenger-wished-to-put-muslims-inside-of-a-nuclear-chamber/>

FA investigating allegations of racism involving Leeds' Kiko Casilla
<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2019/oct/01/fa-investigating-allegations-of-racism-against-leeds-kiko-casilla>

TOP

Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Releases

'No deal' Brexit preparations published
<https://www.gov.scot/news/no-deal-brexite-preparations-published/>

Dumfries and Galloway, Glasgow and Na h-Eileanan Siar to join rehearsal for next census
<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/news/2019/dumfries-and-galloway-glasgow-and-na-h-eileanan-siar-to-join-rehearsal-for-next-census>

MSPs expenses information for 2018/19 published online
<https://www.parliament.scot/newsandmediacentre/113116.aspx>

Expectation versus reality: Holyrood's original steering group deliver their assessment of the Scottish Parliament at twenty
<https://www.parliament.scot/newsandmediacentre/113177.aspx>

New Publications

Scottish Government overview of 'no deal' Brexit preparations
<https://tinyurl.com/y432uzcw>

Consultative Steering Group: Reflections on 20 years of the Scottish Parliament
[https://www.parliament.scot/VisitorInformation/CSG_2019_\(002\).pdf](https://www.parliament.scot/VisitorInformation/CSG_2019_(002).pdf)

News

MSPs expenses claims soar as security costs increase
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/msps-expenses-claims-soar-as-security-costs-increase-1-5016721>

TOP

Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Department for Work and Pensions: Jainism

Gareth Thomas (Labour Co-op) [292802] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if she will invite representatives of the Jain community to national events organised by her Department; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Mims Davies: Britain's Jain community makes a positive contribution to life in this country. This Government values its contribution immensely.

The Jain Community are currently not members of the Department for Work and Pensions' Operational Stakeholder Engagement Forum. The forum meets quarterly and enables stakeholders and representatives to shape operational delivery, build positive relationships and communicate key messages, such as national departmental events.

The Government is always keen to work with the Jain community on matters that are important to them, and we will continue to do so. The Jain Community would be very welcome to join the departmental forum.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-01/292802/>

The following eight questions all received the same answer

Department of Health and Social Care: Jainism

Gareth Thomas (Labour Co-op) [292803] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if he will invite representatives of the Jain community to national events organised by his Department; and if he will make a statement.

Treasury: Jainism

Gareth Thomas (Labour Co-op) [292804] To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will invite representatives of the Jain community to national events organised by his Department; and if he will make a statement.

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government: Jainism

Gareth Thomas (Labour Co-op) [292807] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, if he will invite representatives of the Jain community to national events organised by his Department; and if he will make a statement.

Attorney General: Jainism

Gareth Thomas (Labour Co-op) [292808] To ask the Attorney General, if he will invite representatives of the Jain community to national events organised by his Department; and if he will make a statement.

Cabinet Office: Jainism

Gareth Thomas (Labour Co-op) [292809] To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office, if he will invite representatives of the Jain community to national events organised by his Department; and if he will make a statement.

Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport: Jainism

Gareth Thomas (Labour Co-op) [292811] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, if she will invite representatives of the Jain community to national events organised by her Department; and if she will make a statement.

Department for Education: Jainism

Gareth Thomas (Labour Co-op) [292813] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if he will invite representatives of the Jain community to national events organised by his Department; and if he will make a statement.

Department for International Development: Jainism

Gareth Thomas (Labour Co-op) [292815] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, if he will invite representatives of the Jain community to national events organised by his Department; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Caroline Dinenage, Simon Clarke, Luke Hall, Michael Ellis, Kevin Foster, Helen Whately, Michelle Donelan, and Zac Goldsmith: Britain's Jain community makes a positive contribution to life in this country. This Government values its contribution immensely. The Government is always keen to work with the Jain community on matters that are important to them, and we will continue to do so.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-01/292803/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-01/292804/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-01/292807/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-01/292808/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-01/292809/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-01/292811/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-01/292813/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-01/292815/>

Department for International Trade: Jainism

Gareth Thomas (Labour Co-op) [292800] To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, if she will invite representatives of the Jain community to national events organised by her Department; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Conor Burns: The Department for International Trade hosts a number of national events throughout the year in order to support business to grow internationally, ensure the UK remains the leading destination for international investment, and to promote open markets and a free and fair trade policy. The Department invites attendees on the basis of their relevance to these objectives, and focuses primarily on business, diplomatic, and policy representatives as well as organisations that represent civil society, particularly those that reflect interests across consumer, trade union, academia, regional and devolved areas.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-01/292800/>

Department for Transport: Jainism

Gareth Thomas (Labour Co-op) [292801] To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, if he will invite representatives of the Jain community to national events organised by his Department; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Chris Heaton-Harris: The Department for Transport is an inclusive department and we work with a diverse range of communities and stakeholders. When planning events we work closely with local authorities and other organisations to ensure that representatives of communities that may be interested in attending, including the Jain community, receive invitations.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-01/292801/>

Ministry of Defence: Jainism

Gareth Thomas (Labour Co-op) [292806] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will invite representatives of the Jain community to national events organised by his Department; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Johnny Mercer: National Events led by Defence are discrete and each one will attract a varying attendance. The Department aims to ensure the widest possible representation, while maintaining relevance to the occasion being marked.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-01/292806/>

New Publications

Factsheet: Get ready for Brexit campaign

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/838052/GET_READY_FOR_BREXIT - CAMPAIGN FACTSHEET.docx](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/838052/GET_READY_FOR_BREXIT_-_CAMPAIGN_FACTSHEET.docx)

Brexit: No-Deal Readiness Report

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/837632/No_deal_readiness_paper.PDF

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Welsh Government

New Publication

Gypsy and traveller caravan count: July 2019

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2019-10/gypsy-and-traveller-caravan-count-july-2019-837.pdf>

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New Publication

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator Annual Review

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/about-oscr/our-work/corporate-reports/annual-review-2018-19/>

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Children (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/112632.aspx>

Civil Partnership (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/112997.aspx>

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

Bills that were in progress but had not completed their passage through Parliament before it was prorogued in September fell, but were revived when that prorogation was ruled to have been unlawful. Now that Parliament has been prorogued again, this brings the 2017-19 session to an end and these Bills will make no further progress.

**** Asylum Seekers (Accommodation Eviction Procedures) Bill**

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

The Bill failed to complete its passage through Parliament before the end of the session. This means the Bill will make no further progress.

**** Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) Bill**

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

The Bill failed to complete its passage through Parliament before the end of the session. This means the Bill will make no further progress.

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

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

The Bill failed to complete its passage through Parliament before the end of the session. This means the Bill will make no further progress.

**** Banknote Diversity**

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

The Bill failed to complete its passage through Parliament before the end of the session. This means the Bill will make no further progress.

**** Border Control Bill**

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

The Bill failed to complete its passage through Parliament before the end of the session. This means the Bill will make no further progress.

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

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

The Bill failed to complete its passage through Parliament before the end of the session. This means the Bill will make no further progress.

**** Gypsy and Traveller Communities (Housing, Planning and Education)**

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

The Bill failed to complete its passage through Parliament before the end of the session. This means the Bill will make no further progress.

**** Human Trafficking (Child Protection) Bill**

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

The Bill failed to complete its passage through Parliament before the end of the session. This means the Bill will make no further progress.

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

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

The Bill failed to complete its passage through Parliament before the end of the session. This means the Bill will make no further progress.

**** Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill**

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

The Bill failed to complete its passage through Parliament before the end of the session. This means the Bill will make no further progress.

**** Immigration (Time Limit on Detention) Bill**

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

The Bill failed to complete its passage through Parliament before the end of the session. This means the Bill will make no further progress.

**** Modern Slavery (Transparency in Supply Chains) Bill**

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

The Bill failed to complete its passage through Parliament before the end of the session. This means the Bill will make no further progress.

**** Modern Slavery (Victim Support) Bill**

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

The Bill failed to complete its passage through Parliament before the end of the session. This means the Bill will make no further progress.

**** Online Forums Bill**

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

The Bill failed to complete its passage through Parliament before the end of the session. This means the Bill will make no further progress.

**** Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill**

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

The Bill failed to complete its passage through Parliament before the end of the session. This means the Bill will make no further progress.

**** Refugees (Family Reunion) (No. 2) Bill**

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

The Bill failed to complete its passage through Parliament before the end of the session. This means the Bill will make no further progress.

**** Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (Legal Advice and Appeals) Bill**

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

The Bill failed to complete its passage through Parliament before the end of the session. This means the Bill will make no further progress.

**** Unauthorised Encampments**

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

The Bill failed to complete its passage through Parliament before the end of the session. This means the Bill will make no further progress.

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

Children (Scotland) Bill (closing date 15 November 2019)

<https://www.parliament.scot/gettinginvolved/112981.aspx>

Independent Child Trafficking Guardians (closing date 17 November 2019)

<https://consult.gov.scot/looked-after-children-unit/independent-child-trafficking-guardians/>

Freedom of Information extension of coverage (closing date 22 November 2019)

<https://consult.gov.scot/constitution-and-cabinet/freedom-of-information-extension-of-coverage/>

Widening the scope of the current victim statement scheme (closing date 24 November 2019)

<https://consult.gov.scot/justice/current-victim-statement-scheme/>

Financial Redress for Historical Child Abuse in Care (closing date 25 November 2019)

<https://consult.gov.scot/redress-survivor-relations/financial-redress-historical-child-abuse-in-care/>

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

Glasgow Communities Fund

Closing date for applications: 20 October

Glasgow City Council funding of between £20,000 and £200,000 per year for up to three years for community and Third Sector organisations in Glasgow. The Fund aims to tackle poverty and inequality through building the skills, capacity and resilience of individuals and communities, and supporting activities and services that will enable and empower

communities to become involved in the social, economic and cultural life of the city. The Fund has the following overarching outcomes:

- People and communities have access to services, support and opportunities that improve their lives and well-being
- People and communities are more self-reliant and are better able to identify ways to improve and take control of their lives and well-being
- People are better able to gain the skills, capacity and confidence to play an active role in their communities
- People and communities are better able to influence and participate in decision making and service development
- People and communities are better able to identify and deliver solutions that meet their needs

For information see <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/glasgowcommunitiesfund> and for Guidance and application forms see <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/article/24983/Application-Process>

**** Celtic Connections in the Community**

Closing date for applications: 25 October

BEMIS Scotland in partnership with Unison, Celtic Connections, and the Scottish Government are offering a new opportunity for Glasgow's communities to programme a bespoke *Celtic Connections in the Community* celebratory event, with grants available of up to £1,500.

The events can involve music, song, dance or food or other cultural celebrations. BEMIS wants to support exciting, innovative, diverse events that will celebrate the best of our communities and provide an opportunity for skilled community musicians, singers, dancers and others, who may not have had the opportunity to do so before to perform as part of this world-famous international music festival.

For information and to apply see

<https://bemis.org.uk/project/celtic-connections-in-the-community/>

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Black History Month

until 31 October 2019

Black History Month illuminates Scotland's 'hidden history', and brings into sharp relief the various strands of suffering, humiliation, exploitation and denigration of African, Caribbean and Asian people, as well as being about solidarity and the building of allies in relation to experiences of racism in Scotland. To read the full programme of events see https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/7ec2e5_bee1dd34a1e849af9dba0c7afc3112d5.pdf

**** this week!**

Festival of Politics

until 12 October 2019 at the Scottish Parliament

Scottish Parliament festival that includes debates on the political and social issues that matter most to you, and a programme of free entertainment. For information see <https://www.festivalofpolitics.scot/>

**** this week!**

The Macpherson Report at 20

11 October 2019 at the Scottish Parliament (1.15-2.45)

Festival of Politics debate about whether Britain and its public bodies have changed in acknowledging and tackling racism since the publication of the Macpherson Report into the police's handling of the death of Stephen Lawrence. For information see <https://www.festivalofpolitics.scot/events/the-macpherson-report-at-20>

**** this week!**

Islamophobia – does it exist?

11 October 2019 at the Scottish Parliament (3.30-5.00)

Festival of Politics discussion on the blurred lines on religion, race and freedom of speech and the issue of Islamophobia in the UK. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y683sfva>

**** this week!**

Introduction to Fundraising

15 October 2019 in Kirkintilloch (9.30)

23 October 2019 in Tranent (9.30)

Institute of Fundraising introduction to the rules governing fundraising and how it has to be carried out legally and ethically. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y3ebmqeb>

**** this week!**

Tackling Prejudice and Building Connected Communities 2019

15 October 2019 in Glasgow (9.30-4.00)

BEMIS and Police Scotland follow up to last year's Tackling Prejudice and Building Connected Communities conference. The 2019 conference will return to last year's key outcomes and will include presentations and practical discussion opportunities with key stakeholders on these critical approaches to helping to shape a Scotland that is responsive, just, and cognisant of our ethnic minority communities. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y33z6h2k>

**** this week!**

Interpreting Culture – Improving Cross-Cultural Communication

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>

Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals

23 October 2019 in Glasgow (9.30-12.30)

20 November 2019 in Stirling (9.30-12.30)

PAiH training to explore fundamental issues of settled and pre-settled status, welfare and housing entitlements of EEA nationals. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training>

Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

23 October 2019 in Glasgow (1.30-4.30)

20 November 2019 in Stirling (1.30-4.30)

PAiH training to explore how the asylum system works, the process involved in making a claim for asylum, barriers faced by both refugees and asylum seekers building a new life in Scotland, and their respective entitlement to services. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training>

Challenging the Hostile Environment

25 October 2019 in Glasgow (11.00)

Positive Action in Housing AGM Conference and workshops to discuss the challenges for refugee, migrant and EU citizens rights, the impact of poverty and discrimination, and ways to further develop crisis services for destitute and homeless people from BME, refugee and migrant communities. For information see <https://paih.typeform.com/to/O2yYFH>

**** New Scots Gathering**

26 October 2019 in Edinburgh (11.30-4.00)

Scottish Refugee Council event inviting refugees, asylum seekers, community groups and neighbours to meet, talk, learn together and engage with the New Scots Integration Strategy. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y579j36k>

Working with refugees and the asylum process

31 October 2019 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to examine why people might need to flee their own country, how they seek asylum in the UK, and what opportunities exist for rebuilding their lives here in Scotland. Reduced fees available for relevant organisations. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/z68a5k8> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Refugee 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

Working with refugees and VPRS resettlement

21 November 2019 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to examine the issues facing Syrian refugees as they move from countries around Syria to the UK, and highlight the challenges and opportunities they face as they build new lives in Scotland. Reduced fees available. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/zy436qr> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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

No Recourse to Public Funds

11 December 2019 in Glasgow (1.30-4.30)

PAiH training to help frontline workers identify a tenant's current status, clarify what this means in terms of access to public funds and plan effective support where difficulties arise.

For information see <http://www.paih.org/training>

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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://www.freedomfromtorture.org/>

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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