



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.

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The UK Parliament has been dissolved, and will not meet again until after the General Election that will take place on 12 December. Parliamentary questions that were not answered by 6 November will not now receive any response. The new parliament is expected to meet for the first time on 17 December formally to elect the Speaker, after which new MPs will be sworn in. The date of the State Opening of Parliament has not yet been announced.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Saleem Family (Leave to Remain)

Emma Harper (SNP): The Saleem family—Muhammad, Razia, Fatima and Saira—have been resident in the Dumfries area for the past 13 years, but they are currently being spilt up by the Home Office, which has granted temporary leave to remain to only one member of the family, the youngest daughter. The family are attending immigration court tomorrow in Glasgow, where staff from my office will be attending to speak in support of the case for their right to remain in Scotland together as a family. In the absence of any sense from

either the Home Office or the Secretary of State for Scotland, can the First Minister join me in fully condemning the actions of the Home Office in this case, and can she confirm that, in an independent Scotland, we will have a humane, dignified and person-centred approach to immigration?

Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon): I thank Emma Harper for raising the issue. In fact, I think that I may have met the Saleem family on Monday when I visited Dumfries. If their case is before a court over the next few days, I will be limited and careful in what I say, but I will say that they seemed a lovely family and a credit to this country. More generally, I want Scotland to have an immigration and asylum system that is humane and that encourages people to make a home in Scotland and a contribution to Scotland. One of the many benefits of Scotland being independent is that we get the chance to build that kind of country and that kind of society, with that kind of approach to immigration, which would be much better and very different from the disgraceful hostile environment that the Tories preside over.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12344&i=111598#ScotlandParlOR>

UK Parliament, Ministerial Statement

Immigration

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Priti Patel) [HCWS99] I am announcing today the conversion of the prisons and probation ombudsman (PPO) investigation of Brook House immigration removal centre to a statutory inquiry, in accordance with the Inquiries Act 2005. This inquiry will investigate the mistreatment of detainees at Brook House immigration removal centre broadcast in the BBC Panorama programme “Undercover: Britain’s Immigration Secrets” on 4 September 2017.

The Government take any allegation of mistreatment, and the welfare of immigration detainees, very seriously, and I want to establish the facts of what took place at Brook House and ensure that lessons are learnt to prevent these shocking events happening again.

Sue McAllister, the prisons and probation ombudsman, had appointed Kate Eves to lead their special investigation into Brook House. Following conversion of the special investigation into an inquiry, Sue McAllister, as ombudsman, was automatically appointed as the chair. However, to ensure continuity with their investigation I have agreed that Sue McAllister will recuse herself and Kate Eves will take up the position of inquiry chair. Kate Eves is an experienced and highly qualified investigator within custodial environments.

I have consulted with both Sue McAllister and with Kate Eves to confirm that the inquiry will have a similar scope to the PPO special investigation.

From today, the inquiry will have statutory powers to compel witnesses and establish the truth of what took place at Brook House.

I wish Kate Eves and all at the inquiry every success in taking forward this important piece of work.

The inquiry’s terms of reference are set out below:

Purpose

To investigate into and report on the decisions, actions and circumstances surrounding the mistreatment of detainees broadcast in the BBC Panorama programme “Undercover: Britain’s Immigration Secrets” on 4 September 2017.

To reach conclusions with regard to the treatment of detainees where there is credible evidence of mistreatment contrary to article 3 ECHR; and then make any such recommendations as may seem appropriate. In particular the inquiry will investigate:

The treatment of complainants, including identifying whether there has been mistreatment and identifying responsibility for any mistreatment.

Whether methods, policies, practices and management arrangements (both of the Home Office and its contractors) caused or contributed to any identified mistreatment.

Whether any changes to these methods, policies, practices and management arrangements would help to prevent a recurrence of any identified mistreatment.

Whether any clinical care issues caused or contributed to any identified mistreatment.

Whether any changes to clinical care would help to prevent a recurrence of any identified mistreatment.

The adequacy of the complaints and monitoring mechanisms provided by Home Office immigration enforcement and external bodies (including, but not limited to, the centre's independent monitoring board and statutory role of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons) in respect of any identified mistreatment.

Scope

For the purpose of the inquiry, the term "complainants" is used to refer to any individual who was detained at Brook House immigration removal centre during the period 1 April 2017 to 31 August 2017 where there is credible evidence of mistreatment of that individual. "Mistreatment" is used to refer to treatment that is contrary to article 3 ECHR.

The inquiry should in particular include investigation in to the mistreatment of complainants known (in the recent Brook House litigation) as MA and BB.

The inquiry may wish to draw upon the evidence and findings of the previous special investigation in to the events at Brook House, conducted by the PPO, before it was converted to a statutory inquiry.

Method

As a statutory inquiry, the inquiry will operate within the legal framework provided by the Inquiries Act 2005. As such, the procedure and conduct of the inquiry are to be directed by the chairman.

Report

The inquiry should be undertaken with sufficient pace to enable resulting recommendations to be implemented as quickly and effectively as possible. It is expected, on the basis of current information, that the inquiry will make its best endeavours to complete work and produce a final report to the Home Secretary, setting out their findings of fact and recommendations, within 12 months.

Principles

The inquiry will have full access to all the material it seeks.

The inquiry will bear the legal expenses for any individuals designated as core participant status by the inquiry chairperson. It is not part of the inquiry's function to determine civil or criminal liability of named individuals or organisations. This should not, however, inhibit the inquiry from reaching findings of fact relevant to its terms of reference.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-11-05/debates/191105112000024/Immigration>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Immigration: Republic of Ireland

Catherine West (Labour) [364] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will ensure that all Irish citizens will retain full existing rights under the Government's proposed immigration bill.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Immigration Bill will protect the status of Irish citizens in the UK once free movement rights end. This means that Irish citizens will continue to be free to enter and remain in the UK without restriction unless they are subject to a deportation order, exclusion order or international travel ban.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-14/364/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: Fees and Charges

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [5456] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to undertake a review of the fees charged for immigration applications.

Universities: Migrant Workers

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [5457] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has plans to undertake a review of the fees charged to university staff from outside the EU for visa applications.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Borders, Immigration and Citizenship System (BICS) is predominately funded by the user, and we think it is right that those who use it contribute to its cost, thereby reducing the burden on the UK taxpayer. We keep our fees for immigration and nationality applications under review and ensure they are within the parameters agreed with HM Treasury and Parliament, as set out in Section 68 (9) of the Immigration Act 2014.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-25/5456/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-25/5457/>

Visas

Jo Stevens (Labour) [579] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of visitor visas were refused in each year since 2010.

Reply from Seema Kennedy: Information on the number and proportion of grants and refusals of visitor visas is published in the Home Office's quarterly Immigration Statistics, Visas table vi_01_q, latest edition at:

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-15/579/>

Migrant Workers: Seasonal Workers

Harriett Baldwin (Conservative) [900260] What the Government's policy is on seasonal migrant workers after the UK leaves the EU.

Reply from George Eustice: As they do now, EU citizens can continue to for work in the UK in 2019 and 2020. The Government launched the Seasonal Workers Pilot in April and all 2,500 non-EEA migrant workers have now been recruited for 2019. This pilot will continue to run in 2020 and is being evaluated for its ability to assist in alleviating labour shortages during peak production periods. This will help inform future immigration policy.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-31/900260/>

Undocumented Workers

Afzal Khan (Labour) [7210] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will publish the number of arrests resulting from illegal working deployments by ICE teams between 1 April 2015 and 1 October 2019, by ethnicity.

Reply from Seema Kennedy: The Home Office is unable to provide information on the ethnicity of individuals arrested by Immigration Enforcement teams as the information requested is not recorded in a reportable format.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-29/7210/>

Immigration: Windrush Generation

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [549] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she has taken to promote the (a) Windrush Helpline and (b) Windrush Compensation Scheme to individuals in (i) India, (ii) Pakistan, (iii) Bangladesh, (iv) Kenya, (v) Singapore, (vi) Malta, (vii) South Africa, (viii) Canada and (ix) Nigeria; and how much has been spent in doing so.

Reply from Seema Kennedy: There has been significant outreach and communication activities to reach those most likely to have been affected by the issues around Windrush.

To reach international audiences, a High Commissioners event was hosted by the former Immigration Minister to further raise awareness, and working with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, a briefing was provided to embassies to inform local conversations. Plans are in development for additional activity overseas.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-15/549/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Emma Reynolds (Labour) [5436] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate her Department has made of the number of (a) Belgian, (b) Dutch (c) French, (d) German, (e) Italian and (f) Luxembourg nationals who were granted indefinite leave to remain prior to the accession of the UK to the EEC on 1 January 1973.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Statistics of settlement grants in the United Kingdom for non Commonwealth nationals before 1973 are published in table se 06 'Grants of settlement to Commonwealth citizens and foreign nationals') available at:

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

A breakdown of specific nationalities within this historical data is not available.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-25/5436/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Emma Reynolds (Labour) [5437] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the immigration status of EU27 nationals resident in the UK will be in the event that the UK leaves the EU if they were given indefinite leave to remain by the UK Government before either (a) the UK joined the EEC or (b) their country of origin joined the EEC/EC/EU.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: EU citizens who already hold indefinite leave to remain, regardless of when this was granted, can continue to rely on this status once the UK has left the European Union. They do not need to apply for status under the EU Settlement Scheme, but they may do so if they wish as, in line with the draft Withdrawal Agreement with the EU reached on 17 October 2019.

Relevant guidance for EU citizens is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families/if-you-have-permanent-residence-or-indefinite-leave-to-remain>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-25/5437/>

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

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

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Keith Vaz (Labour) [6190] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average time to process an application to the EU Settlement Scheme is.

Steve Double (Conservative) [3648] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Answer of 2 October 2019 to Question 293633 on Immigration: EU Nationals, what estimate she has made of the proportion of settled status applications that are not completed within the five working days target.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The following link lists the expected processing times for EU Settlement Scheme applications, based on current performance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-application-processing-times/eu-settlement-scheme-pilot-current-expected-processing-times-for-applications>.

Our aim is to process all applications to the Scheme as expeditiously as possible. The majority of applications are concluded within 5 working days. However, it is likely to take longer in the following instances:

- Further information is required from an applicant;
- If the applicant is applying as a minor and or the application is not linked to an adult;
- If the applicant has submitted a paper application;
- If the applicant has a relevant criminal record;
- If the applicant is a non-EEA or non-Swiss citizen and are applying based on a relationship not relied on in a previous application to the Home Office.

Overall, the total number of applications that have been concluded, as of 30 September 2019, was more than 1.5 million (1,524,500). Of these, 61% were granted settled status, 38% were granted pre-settled status.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-28/6190/>
and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-22/3648/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

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

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

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [4384] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average time taken was to complete applications to the EU Settlement Scheme in each month since its inception.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: It usually takes around 5 working days for completed applications to be processed, but it can take up to a month if the Home Office needs to request more information, for example: if the applicant is applying as a minor and or the application is not linked to an adult; if the applicant has submitted a paper application; if the applicant has a relevant criminal record; if the applicant is a non-EEA or non-Swiss citizen and are applying based on a relationship not relied on in a previous application to the Home Office

Overall, the total number of applications that have been concluded, as of 30 September 2019, was more than 1.5 million (1,524,500). Of these, 61% were granted settled status, 38% were granted pre-settled status.

The following link lists the expected processing times for EU Settlement Scheme applications based on current performance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-application-processing-times/eu-settlement-scheme-pilot-current-expected-processing-times-for-applications>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-23/4384/>

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

Keith Vaz (Labour) [6191] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the eligibility criteria are for existing family members when applying for settled status after 31 December 2020 but before 29 March 2022.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Government's priority remains to leave the European Union with a deal.

In the event that we leave the EU without a deal, the EU Settlement Scheme will continue to operate for EU citizens resident here by exit. They would be able to be joined in the UK under the scheme, by 29 March 2022, by existing close family members (spouses, partners, children, parents and grandparents), where the relationship existed by exit (or where a child was born overseas after this date) and continued to exist when the family member applied.

Details of the policy on citizens' rights in a no deal Brexit were published on 6 December 2018 and are available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/policy-paper-on-citizens-rights-in-the-event-of-a-no-deal-brexite>.

Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules HC 170, which would implement the relevant changes to the EU Settlement Scheme in the event of a no deal Brexit, was laid before Parliament on 24 October 2019 and is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statement-of-changes-to-the-immigration-rules-hc-170-24-october-2019>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-28/6191/>

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

Immigration: Married People

Seema Malhotra (Labour) [143] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential effect of the UK leaving the EU without a deal on the right to (a) live and (b) work in the UK of a German national marrying a British citizen.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: If the UK leaves the European Union on 31 October without a deal, EU citizens will, for a transitional period before the new points-based immigration system is implemented from January 2021, be able to move to the UK to live and work as they do now. If they wish to remain here after 31 December 2020, they will need by then to apply, free of charge, for 36 months' European Temporary Leave to Remain or apply for leave under the new system. More information about these arrangements is available here:

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

UK nationals living in the EU at exit will be able to return to the UK with their family members for a period after exit under current arrangements based on EU law, including until 31 December 2020 with a spouse married after exit. More information about these arrangements is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/policy-paper-on-the-rights-of-uk-nationals-in-the-eu>

Otherwise, EU citizens moving to the UK from January 2021 will, like non-EU

citizens, need to meet the requirements of the new points-based immigration system.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-14/143/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Anneliese Dodds (Labour) [5092] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Answer of 10 December 2018 to HL11784, whether biometric data from people who have obtained settled status will not be retained.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Biometric data, a facial image only for EEA nationals and Facial Image and Fingerprints for Non-EEA nationals, for persons who hold Settled Status will be retained in accordance with the answer of 10 December 2018 HL11784 and in alignment with the Border Immigration and Citizenship Privacy notice.

A settled status holder is reliant on being able to prove they have status indefinitely and may at any time in the future, when they are eligible, make an application for citizenship, in which identity checks to confirm they are correct holder of status will be performed.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-24/5092/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-11-26/HL11784/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Afzal Khan (Labour) [5109] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taken to ensure that the Status Checking Programme is fully operational before the UK leaves the EU.

Reply from Brandon Lewis? The online status service for those granted status under the EU Settlement Scheme has been operational since summer 2018, and has already been used by hundreds of thousands of individuals to check their status information. Since the end of September 2019, those granted status under the Settlement Scheme have been able to share that status with any third party via a simple online service.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-24/5109/>

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

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

Immigration: EU Nationals

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [4998] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Answer of 7 October to Question 290879 on Immigration: EU Nationals, what information her Department will provide to an organisation that an applicant has cited in their EU Settlement Scheme application.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Applicants are required to provide evidence to confirm their identity and residence in the UK, or alternatively provide evidence that an exception for the documentation required under the Scheme applies – for example, where an applicant's age or illness are a barrier to the applicant travelling to their home country or embassy to obtain a new passport or birth certificate. Where the Home Office has doubts about the authenticity of the document supplied, then it may seek to verify the document or its contents with the organisation concerned.

The information provided in all circumstances is the information on the document or the document itself.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-24/4998/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

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

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

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

Immigration: EU Nationals

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [4999] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Answer of 7 October 2019 to Question 290879 on Immigration: EU Nationals, what processes she has in place to monitor the EU Settlement Scheme for abuse and misuse of personal data.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: We have a duty to safeguard and ensure the security of personal information. We do that by having systems and policies in place to limit access to information and prevent unauthorised disclosure. Staff who access personal information must have appropriate security clearance and a business need for accessing the information, and their activity is subject to audit and review. Any personal data must be handled in line with the terms of the GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-24/4999/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

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

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

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

Immigration: EU Nationals

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [164] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department checks the tax and benefit records of applicants to the EU Settlement Scheme who have been in the UK for less than five years and are applying for pre-settled status.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Automated checks are run against any application for status under the EU Settlement Scheme where the applicant provides a National Insurance Number with their application.

If the applicant agrees with the result of the automated check, either for pre-settled or settled status, we will not ask them for any further evidence of UK residence. If the check confirms that the applicant is eligible for pre-settled status but the applicant feels that they are eligible for settled status instead they then given the option to provide further evidence confirming this.

Information on how the automated checks calculate periods of UK residence, as well as the tax and benefit records that are included in the automated checks, has been published on gov.uk and can be found here:

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-14/164/>

Immigration: EEA Nationals

Keith Vaz (Labour) [6192] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the criminality checks would be for EEA citizens seeking to migrate to the UK in the event of the UK leaving the EU without a deal.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: In circumstances where the United Kingdom has withdrawn from the European Union without a deal, EU citizens who move to the UK and wish to stay beyond 31 December 2020 will need to apply for European temporary leave to remain.

Applicants will be required to declare whether they have criminal convictions in the UK or abroad. We will carry out criminality and security checks on all applications including checks against UK police databases as well as Home Office watch-lists.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-28/6192/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [161] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Answer of 30 September to Question 290873, whether a prisoner serving a sentence is eligible to apply for settled status if they (a) are not serving a sentence that would lead to their deportation, (b) have already acquired the right of permanent residence under EU law, and (c) have completed a continuous qualifying period of five years' residence in the UK.

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [162] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Answer of 30 September to Question 290875, Immigration: EEA Nationals, whether a third country national is eligible to apply for settled status if they are a relative of an EEA national who (a) is serving a prison sentence that has not led to their deportation, (b) has acquired the right of permanent residence under EU law and (c) has completed a continuous qualifying period of five years residence in the UK.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Where an EEA citizen has acquired the right of permanent residence under EU law, or has completed a continuous qualifying period of five years' residence in the UK and Islands, prior to their sentence of imprisonment and that sentence does not lead to their deportation, they will be able to rely on that right of permanent residence, or on that continuous qualifying period of residence, in applying for settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

The non-EEA national family member of such an EEA citizen can apply for settled or pre-settled status under the scheme where they meet the relevant eligibility and suitability requirements, as set out in Appendix EU to the Immigration Rules.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-14/161/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-14/162/>

The answers referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-25/290873/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-25/290875/>

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

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

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Keith Vaz (Labour) [6193] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to hold a public consultation on the operation of the European temporary leave to remain scheme.

Keith Vaz (Labour) [6194] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what consultations she has (a) held and (b) plans to hold with relevant industry and citizens' rights groups on the operation of the European temporary leave to remain scheme.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Government does not plan to undertake a public consultation on the European Temporary Leave to Remain Scheme, the proposed arrangements for which were set out on 4 September 2019 and are available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-immigration-after-free-movement-ends-if-theres-no-deal>.

However, the overall policy and approach have been discussed with internal and external stakeholders, such as groups representing employers, EU citizens in the UK, Consulates and community organisations, and account has been taken of those discussions.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-28/6193/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-28/6194/>

Information about the European Temporary Leave to Remain Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

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

Immigration: France

Steve McCabe (Labour) [7635] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he is taking ensure that her Department's technology used in the EU settlement scheme application process accurately reads female French biometric passports that place their holder's maiden name first.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: I am aware of instances where EU citizens who were granted leave under the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) had their maiden names recorded on their digital status instead of their married names. Some EU countries, including France, issue passports that record a spouse's family name alongside the person's maiden name. The spouse's name is not included in the passport's Machine-Readable Zone, which means it is not automatically recorded and the passport does not indicate which name the applicant is using for all official purposes.

Home Office policy on names requires individuals to use one name for all official purposes. This is to prevent identity-enabled criminality, such as fraud, terrorism and sexual offences.

We are currently exploring options to enable applicants granted leave under the EUSS to be able to have their married name displayed on their digital status.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-30/7635/>

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

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour) [3811] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether EU citizens that have renewed their passport are able to provide evidence of their new passport number to the EU Settlement Scheme by (a) submitting their new passport via recorded delivery and (b) scanning their new passport using the mobile app.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: EU citizens can access their status online by entering the document number from the identity document they used in their application (even if this document has expired), plus their date of birth.

Identity document updates currently require applicants to post their new identity documents to the Home Office as supporting evidence and to protect against identity fraud, however we are continuing to deliver improvements to make these processes as user friendly as possible by making them entirely online.

In the short term, if applicants wish to add new identity documents to their status profile they can do so using the existing Update My Details process in their online profile. This currently requires them to post their new identity documents to the Home Office for manual verification.

The requirement to post identity documents in for a straightforward new document update (where no identity details have changes) is a temporary one, and applicants could choose to wait until the service is available online to update these details.

We are currently working on delivering a fast, secure and user friendly process for applicants to add new identity documents to their status profile through an entirely online process and expect this service to be available in the coming months. The mobile app will be available to applicants as an option when a document check is required as part of the update, meaning applicants will no longer need to post their document to the Home Office.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-22/3811/>

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

Immigration

Caroline Lucas (Green) [5424] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to support EU, EEA and Swiss citizens that require assistance to apply for settled status.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The EU Settlement Scheme is designed to make it simple and straightforward for EU citizens and their family members to apply to stay in the UK after we leave the EU.

The Home Office has introduced a range of support including grant funding for voluntary and community organisations and assisted digital support. In addition, the EU Settlement Scheme Resolution Centre can provide help and information by telephone and e-mail on the application process.

Up to £9 million of grant funding has been made available to 57 civil society organisations to enable them to mobilise services targeted at vulnerable EU citizens and their families. We believe these organisations have the best networks and expertise to support the most vulnerable and will help ensure that those who require the most support to apply to the scheme can access it.

The support model offers support to all who need it, not just those receiving support from charities. It is there to provide guidance, reassurance and practical help tailored to individual needs. The range of available support includes providing key information in a range of languages and formats and offering assisted digital support for those who cannot access or are not confident with technology.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-25/5424/>

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

Immigration

Caroline Lucas (Green) [5425] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she has taken to inform (a) EU, (b) EEA and (c) Swiss citizens residing in the UK who have not applied for settled status of the rules and requirements for doing so.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: It is vital that the over three million EU citizens and their family members living in the UK understand how and when to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme.

That is why, when the scheme launched fully in March, the department delivered a £3.75m marketing campaign to raise awareness of the scheme.

Advertising and local events are underway to support the cross government Get Ready campaign and further publicity will roll out over the lifetime of the Scheme. All available channels will be used to reach our audiences – such as direct marketing, radio, video-on-demand and outdoor advertising, presentations, email updates, toolkits and webinars to name a few – to direct EU citizens towards reliable sources of information on GOV.UK and the application itself.

No-one will be left behind which is why we are also working in partnership with vulnerable group representatives, local authorities and other experts to make everyone knows what they need to do and has the right level of support.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-25/5425/>

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

Caroline Lucas (Green) [5426] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether EU citizens resident in the UK will be subject to penalties if they do not apply for settled status by the deadline of (a) 30 June 2021 and (b) 31 December 2020 in the event that the UK leaves the EU without a deal.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Through the EU Settlement Scheme, we have provided a free and easy process for EU citizens resident in the UK to obtain the immigration status they need to continue living in this country. We have received over 2.2 million applications so far and those who have yet to apply have more than a year to do so, as the deadline if the UK leaves the EU without a deal will be at least 31 December 2020. We are providing additional support to those who require assistance in applying to the scheme.

Those who fail to make an application will not have lawful status in the UK when the new immigration system is introduced, but we have been clear that, where they have reasonable grounds for missing the deadline, they will be given a further opportunity to apply. Our compassionate and flexible approach will ensure that individuals who miss the deadline through no fault of their own can still obtain lawful status in the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-25/5426/>

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

Lisa Forbes (Labour) [2940] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment her Department has made of the adequacy of the minimum income requirement threshold after the UK leaves the EU.

Reply from Seema Kennedy: The minimum income requirement is set at the level which prevents burdens on the taxpayer and promotes integration. We have kept the family Immigration Rules under review and made adjustments in light of feedback, including from the courts, on their operation and impact.

The overall assessment is that the minimum income requirement strikes a fair balance between an individual's right to family life, the economic wellbeing of the UK and the community in general.

In last year's immigration white paper, 'The UK's future skills-based immigration system', the Government agreed to the principle that minimum salary thresholds should be retained for the new skilled worker route. These thresholds should help control migration, ensuring that it is reduced to sustainable levels, whilst ensuring that the UK can attract the talented people needed for the country to continue to prosper. Salary thresholds should also see skilled migrants continue to make a positive contribution to public finances.

In June 2019, the Migration Advisory Committee were commissioned to advise on a number of issues concerning potential future thresholds and the range at which they could be set. These include the mechanism for calculating future salary thresholds, salary threshold levels, whether there should be regional salary thresholds and the impact of exemptions from minimum salary thresholds. The MAC has been asked to report by January 2020. Further details of the commission can be found at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/829234/Home_Secretary_Professor_Manning_-_Points-based_system.pdf

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-21/2940/>

The White Paper referred to above can be read at

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

Migrant Workers: Latin America

Neil Coyle (Labour) [6395] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to tackle labour exploitation of nationals of Latin American countries living in the UK.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Government is committed tackling labour exploitation. Through the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and the Immigration Act 2016 we have given law enforcement bodies stronger powers to tackle labour exploitation.

Law enforcement agencies continue to work closely to investigate all reported cases of labour exploitation, which can involve different communities in the UK, including nationals of Latin American countries.

We recently published our Annual Modern Slavery Report for 2019, which sets out work that has been undertaken over the last year to tackle modern slavery in the UK:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2019-uk-annual-report-on-modern-slavery>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-28/6395/>

The following seven questions all received the same answer

Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund

Catherine West (Labour) [302] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what impact assessment was undertaken before the decision was made not to guarantee continued funding for organisations through the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund in the event that the UK leaves the EU without a deal.

Jo Stevens (Labour) [340] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has guaranteed replacement funding for organisations currently receiving support through the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund in the event the UK leaves the EU without a deal.

Jo Stevens (Labour) [343] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effect of not replacing funds currently provided to UK organisations through the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund on (a) UK organisations supporting refugees and asylum seekers in the UK and (b) refugees and asylum seekers in the UK.

Jo Stevens (Labour) [344] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to provide equivalent funding to replicate the aims of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund after the UK has left the EU.

Kate Green (Labour) [1662] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential effect on (a) refugees and (b) people seeking asylum in the UK of (i) charities and (ii) organisations no longer receiving funding through the Asylum, migration and integration fund.

Maddeline Moon (Labour) [1630] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how her Department plans to support the efficient management of migration flows and integration of refugees when the UK no longer receives funding from the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund.

Rupa Huq (Labour) [6466] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of replacing EU funding for refugee services through the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund with Government funding in the event that the UK leaves the EU.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: All projects under Asylum, Migration and Integration (AMIF) will continue to receive funding for the lifetime of their projects, even if the UK leaves the EU without a deal.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-14/302/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-14/340/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-14/343/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-14/344/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-17/1630/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-17/1662/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-28/6466/>

Asylum: Fraud

Paul Beresford (Conservative) [4905] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many of the UKVI investigations into asylum fraud since 2009 have resulted in criminal prosecutions.

Reply from Seema Kennedy: Since 2014, when records were centralised, Immigration Enforcement has undertaken 6 criminal prosecutions into asylum fraud.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-24/4905/>

Immigration: Fraud

Paul Beresford (Conservative) [4906] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many of the UKVI-led prosecutions for immigration fraud since 2009 have resulted in convictions.

Reply from Seema Kennedy: Since 2014, when records were centralised, Immigration Enforcement has secured 3 convictions into asylum fraud.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-24/4906/>

Asylum

George Howarth (Labour) [425] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the report entitled, Missing the safety net, published by Refugee Action, what processes her Department has in place to escalate support for applications that have been delayed beyond her Department's guidelines on the processing of applications; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The report relates to applications from failed asylum seekers for support under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. We aim to decide most of these applications within 5 working days, or 2 days of the Home Office reviewing the application 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.

The issue has been discussed with the authors of the report and a process through which voluntary sector organisations can escalate concerns about delays in individual cases has been agreed.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-15/425/>

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>

Asylum

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [5076] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average time taken has been for her Department to process asylum claims for cases of (a) unaccompanied asylum seeking children and (b) other cases of acute vulnerability in each month since January 2019.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Home Office does not publish data relating to the average time taken to process asylum claims for cases of (a) unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and (b) other cases of acute vulnerability in each month since January 2019.

Data on current performance can be found at tab Asy_10 of the Asylum Transparency Data August 2019 at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-transparency-data-august-2019>

We are committed to ensuring that asylum claims are considered without unnecessary delay, to ensure that individuals who need protection are granted asylum as soon as possible and can start to integrate and rebuild their lives, including those granted at appeal.

Whilst steps are taken to increase capacity and focus on process improvements to deliver better quality asylum decisions more efficiently, we have moved away from the 6-month service standard to concentrate on older claims, cases with acute vulnerability and those in receipt of the greatest level of support, including Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC). Additionally, we are prioritising cases where an individual has already received a decision, but a reconsideration is required.

This approach is intended to bring balance back to the asylum system. We have engaged with stakeholders as part of our plans to introduce new service standards. We are considering this valuable insight as we work to shape the new service standards.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-24/5076/>

Asylum: Scotland

Tommy Sheppard (SNP) [5048] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to Question 281779 on Asylum: Scotland, how many asylum seekers resident in Scotland have been required to attend Home Office appointments in England as part of their asylum application; on how many occasions those applicants did not attend those appointments; and how many asylum seekers that failed to attend a Home Office appointment in England when they were resident in Scotland had their asylum application refused in each of the last five calendar years.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Home Office does not routinely publish data to answer this question.

Whilst we hold data on the current addresses of asylum claimants, data on how many asylum seekers resident in Scotland have been required to attend Home Office appointments in England as part of their asylum application; on how many occasions those applicants did not attend those appointments; and how many asylum seekers that failed to attend a Home Office appointment in England when they were resident in Scotland had their asylum application refused in each of the last five calendar years, could only be obtained at disproportionate costs.

The Home Office does routinely publish data on the number of applications for asylum refused in the UK in each of the last five years, broken down by nationality, in its quarterly Immigration Statistics release, the latest release published on 22nd August 2019.

Latest edition available at:

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-24/5048/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-24/281779/>

Asylum: Scotland

Tommy Sheppard (SNP) [5049] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to Question 281780 tabled on 24 July 2019 on Asylum: Scotland, what assessment she has made of the (a) financial and (b) other barriers faced by asylum

seekers that are resident in Scotland required to attend Home Office appointments in England as part of their asylum application.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: As part of the asylum process, asylum seekers are expected to attend Home Office appointments such as screening interviews and substantive asylum interviews.

Individuals receiving asylum support are provided with travel cards, or are reimbursed accordingly, to ensure they can attend their Home Office appointments without financial detriment.

As part of the registration process, no provision is made for funding in advance of the registration. If an asylum seeker is destitute or vulnerable, they can present themselves to Migrant Help who may assist with access to travel.

We are committed to ensuring that asylum claims are considered without unnecessary delay. Asylum Operations are currently exploring several initiatives to improve the asylum application process to provide a better service to claimants.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-24/5049/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-24/281780/>

Asylum: Finance

Ruth Smeeth (Labour) [293] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that people who are in receipt of support under Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 are able to pay (a) travel costs that can only be paid in cash and (b) other travel costs in order to attend Home Office reporting centres.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The assistance available to people supported under section 4 of the 1999 Act consists of accommodation (with gas, electricity and water provided free) and provision of a debit card (the “Aspen Card”) which can be used to buy food and other essential items. The Aspen card cannot be used to withdraw cash, but it bears the visa logo and can be used at retail outlets that accept visa transactions.

If the supported person is required to report as a condition of their immigration bail their travel costs are also covered if they are accommodated more than 3 miles away from the reporting centre or in certain other circumstances, for example if they are unable to walk because of a disability.

In practical terms the travel costs are covered by issuing tickets or by uploading further funds on to the person’s Aspen card.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-14/293/>

Asylum: Sexuality

Crispin Blunt (Conservative) [2634] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to improve the accuracy of the data in the report Experimental Statistics: Asylum claims on the basis of sexual orientation updated on Gov.uk in August 2019.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Experimental statistics are statistics which are published in order to involve users and stakeholders in their development and as a means to build in quality at an early stage. They allow producers of statistics to better understand the strengths and limitations of the data, the value to users, as well as the quality and volatility of the data.

Case workers are required to ensure the information recorded on the system is

robust, by flagging asylum cases involving sexual orientation issues at the point where the issue is raised in the claim. Statisticians continue to work with operational colleagues, and monitor trends in the data, to ensure the data are of high quality, and the strengths and limitations are well understood and communicated to users. Users are invited to provide feedback on the statistics.

The 'experimental' nature of the statistics is kept under review in line with UK Statistics Authority guidelines.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-21/2634/>

Asylum: Sri Lanka

Sarah Champion (Labour) [7705] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Sri Lankan nationals have been granted asylum in the UK on the grounds of torture since 2015.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Home Office does not record the information in such a way that allows us to report on how many Sri Lankan nationals have been granted asylum in the UK on the grounds of torture since 2015.

The Home Office does publish data in the Immigration Statistics, which provides the total number of asylum applications for main applicants and outcomes including those granted asylum, by country of nationality, broken down by year. This can be found at:

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-30/7705/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Greek Islands

Stephen Twigg (Labour) [415] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to facilitate the resettlement of (a) vulnerable children and (b) unaccompanied minors from Greek islands.

Asylum: Greece

Stephen Twigg (Labour) [416] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department is in discussion with Greek authorities on additional resettlement places from Greece for (a) unaccompanied minors and (b) migrant children in families.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The UK is at the forefront in protecting children affected by the migration crisis. We remain absolutely committed to transferring the specified number of 480 unaccompanied children under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 (Dubs Amendment) as soon as possible. We have been making further progress with participating States, Greece, France, and Italy, to transfer more eligible children to move closer to the commitment to transfer 480 children.

In keeping with our commitments to ensure that the vulnerable children we have transferred from Greece, France and Italy to the UK under section 67 will have everything they need to be able to start a new life in the UK, we introduced a new form of leave, section 67 leave, in July 2018. Individuals who receive section 67 leave will have the right to study, work, access public funds and healthcare and apply for indefinite leave to remain.

Section 67 is one of a number of schemes that offer a safe and legal route to the UK for the most vulnerable refugees. In total, the UK provided protection to over 7,000 children in the year ending June 2019, and 39,500 since the start of 2010, and in every year since 2016, the UK resettled more refugees from out-side Europe than any other EU member state. In the year ending June 2019 the UK received

3,496 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. In 2018, the UK received 15% of all asylum claims from unaccompanied children in the EU, representing the third highest intake country.

Until the UK leaves the EU, we remain fully committed to the timely and efficient operation of the Dublin III Regulation including the provisions determining responsibility for examining the claims of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. Officials continue to work closely with Member States, including partners in Greece, to ensure the safe transfer of children under this Regulation.

Under Section 17 of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act, we are committed to seek to negotiate an agreement with the EU allowing for the family reunion of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, where it is in their best interests, once we leave the EU. We are ready to engage with the EU and with Member States on this matter and will endeavour to negotiate such an agreement as soon as possible.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-15/415/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-15/416/>

Deportation: EU Nationals

Afzal Khan (Labour) [7224] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many EU nationals were removed from the UK for failing to exercise their treaty rights in (a) 2014, (b) 2015, (c) 2016, (d) 2017 (e) 2018 and (f) 2019.

Reply from Seema Kennedy: The Home Office publishes data on returns quarterly and this can be found in table RT_05-q on gov.uk –

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-statistics>

EU nationals will be removed for either not exercising treaty rights or on criminality grounds. Returns of Foreign National Offenders broken down by EU/Non-EU can be found at table RT_06_q. The remainder are individuals who are not exercising treaty rights.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-29/7224/>

Deportation: EU Nationals

Afzal Khan (Labour) [7225] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many EU nationals who had not served a prison sentence in the UK were deported in (a) 2014, (b) 2015, (c) 2016, (d) 2017, (e) 2018 and (f) 2019.

Reply from Seema Kennedy: The Home Office does publish quarterly statistics on the numbers of EU Foreign Nationals removed from the UK. This data can be found by accessing the following.

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-29/7225/>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Human Trafficking

Alex Norris (Labour Co-op) [7203] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of National Referral Mechanism referrals receive negative Reasonable Grounds decisions for (a) people in immigration detention and (b) people outside of immigration detention.

Alex Norris (Labour Co-op) [7204] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of National Referral Mechanism negative Reasonable

Grounds decisions are (a) reconsidered and (b) judicially reviewed for (i) people in immigration detention and (ii) people outside of immigration detention.

Alex Norris (Labour Co-op) [7205] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what data her Department holds on the outcomes of (a) reconsideration requests and (b) judicial reviews as a result of a negative reasonable grounds decision through the National Referral Mechanism.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Home Office publishes quarterly statistics regarding the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) which can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/national-referral-mechanism-statistics-quarter-2-2019-april-to-june> and the UK Annual Report on Modern Slavery which

can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2019-uk-annual-report-on-modern-slavery>

This information does not distinguish between those detained under immigration powers and those living in the community. The reason for this is two-fold, firstly because the NRM referral is not an immigration route by which individuals should regularise their stay in the United Kingdom and secondly, because a person's status in immigration detention is not permanent and can change. The use of immigration detention in all cases is subject to regular reviews.

Requests for reconsideration of negative reasonable grounds decisions are taken in line with the published policy which can be found at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/828756/victims-modern-slavery-competent-auth-v8.0.pdf

Where an individual considers that a National Referral Mechanism decision has been made incorrectly, the decision can be challenged by way of Judicial Review.

It is not possible to distinguish solely from reportable database fields without a manual review of individual records the number of requests for reconsideration that were rejected because they were not in line with policy, the number of requests for reconsideration that were refused due to insufficient grounds for reconsideration. It is also not possible to distinguish solely from reportable database fields whether a reconsideration case type was the result of a reconsideration request as defined in the published policy, the result of litigation including judicial review or the result of the reconsideration of a suspended case.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-29/7203/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-29/7204/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-29/7205/>

Human Trafficking: Children

Lisa Forbes (Labour) [5115] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to protect vulnerable children from human trafficking.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The trafficking of children is an appalling crime. Where children are found to be victims of modern slavery or trafficking the Government is committed to protecting their safety and welfare.

Local authorities are responsible for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children in their area including child victims of modern slavery. Local children's services will work in close co-operation with the police and other statutory agencies to offer potentially trafficked children the support they require.

Independent Child Trafficking Guardians (ICTGs), recently renamed from

Independent Child Trafficking Advocates, are additional to this statutory support and are an independent source of advice for trafficked children and somebody who can speak up on their behalf.

This year, the Government has successfully rolled out ICTGs to one third of all local authorities in England and Wales. Where the service is available, all children that are potential victims of trafficking are eligible for support.

Government has welcomed the findings of the Independent Review of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, which included a specific set of recommendations relating the wider roll out of ICTGs. In-line with the Government's response, published in July 2019, we are currently considering the Review's recommendations on ICTGs and will provide a further update to Parliament ahead of national roll out.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-24/5115/>

Human Trafficking: Children

Sarah Champion (Labour) [8260] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when the Independent Child Trafficking Guardianship scheme will be rolled out across all regions of England and Wales; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Independent Child Trafficking Guardians (ICTGs) are currently operational in one third of all local authorities in England and Wales.

Government has welcomed the findings of the Independent Review of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, which included a specific set of recommendations relating to the wider roll out of ICTGs. In-line with the Government's response, published in July 2019, we are currently considering the Review's recommendations on ICTG and will provide a further update to Parliament ahead of national roll out. The Government remains committed to the national roll out of ICTGs.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-31/8260/>

Human Trafficking: Essex

Lady Hermon (Independent) [4289] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department will provide financial assistance for repatriation of the bodies of the people discovered in a shipping container in Essex on 23 October 2019 once their identities are confirmed.

Reply from Seema Kennedy: Once the identities of the victims of the tragic incident in Grays are confirmed we will liaise with the relevant embassies on how to provide support to the victims' families.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-23/4289/>

Human Trafficking: Essex

Lyn Brown (Labour) [4966] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the background circumstances of the 39 Chinese nationals found killed in Grays, Essex on 23 October 2019 including the possibility that the victims were (a) Uyghur Muslims or members of another religious or ethnic minority group in China seeking asylum in the UK or (b) victims of modern slavery being trafficked for the purposes of economic exploitation by organised criminal groups.

Reply from Seema Kennedy: Essex police are carrying out their investigation at pace including assessing the background of the circumstances of the victims in the tragic event at Grays.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-24/4966/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Visas: European Union Students

Baroness Garden of Frognal (Liberal Democrat): To ask Her Majesty's Government what guidance they have given to universities recruiting European Union students on courses longer than three years concerning the eligibility of such students for a visa for the duration of their studies.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford): My Lords, the Government will continue to welcome all international students who wish to study in our world-leading higher education sector after we leave the EU. We will ensure that there are visa arrangements in place to allow all EEA students who start studying a course in the UK after we leave the EU to complete their course, whether we leave with or without a deal.

Baroness Garden of Frognal: My Lords, at the moment there is no guarantee beyond the three years of the European temporary leave to remain visa, and many university programmes are four years or more: the Scottish university courses, medicine, dentistry, many part-time courses and so on. What reassurance can the Government give that these students will definitely be able to complete courses that go beyond three years? If they cannot do so, is this not every encouragement for those much-needed EU students to choose to study in other countries?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: It is pleasing to note that the number of students from EEA and non-EEA countries who come to this country to study continues to rise. There is no suggestion that those on courses longer than three years will be unable to complete them. Those with Euro TLR will be able to make an application under the student route before their leave expires.

Lord Tomlinson (Labour): My Lords, does the Minister share my concern at the report in the *Times* today about the number of students coming to independent schools and colleges from Vietnam who seem to have disappeared after they have attended for one term? Apparently paying one term's fees and then disappearing is cheaper than paying the traffickers.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The noble Lord highlights that it is very important that the student sponsor route is a secure one. For that reason, certain universities have a much easier process than others. Of course, we did in the past root out and close down bogus colleges which were responsible for a huge amount of illegal migration. ...

Baroness Blackstone (Independent Labour): Given that many EU students will no longer be eligible for fee loans and therefore will not be able to study here in the medium term, do the Government intend to restore Chevening scholarships for MA students? How much money will be put behind this and how many students are likely to benefit?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The noble Baroness has asked me a very niche question to which I do not know the answer. I have never heard of a Chevening scholarship. ... I am not going to pretend that I have, but I will try to get an answer for the noble Baroness.

Baroness Neville-Rolfe (Conservative): I congratulate my noble friend on the proposal to extend the time that graduates of UK universities can stay in the UK from four or five months to two years. When is this likely to take place?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I am very happy to accept the congratulations from my noble friend. I understand that the extension will be in place next year.

Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, I looked on GOV.UK to see what the answer might be to my noble friend's Question. It tells us that after three years, students, among others, will have to apply under the new Australian points-based system. There are a lot of questions that one might ask about this. One is whether the Government think that

such a new system can be presented as now definite and whether it is intended to be introduced by ministerial fiat, bypassing Parliament.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I do not think there is much that can bypass Parliament these days. Perhaps I might apologise for saying to my noble friend Lady Neville-Rolfe that the scheme is to be implemented next year; it will actually be in 2021, the year after next.

Lord Hannay of Chiswick (Crossbench): My Lords, does the Minister not agree that a much simpler way to approach this, and one which it could be hoped that the Government—whoever form it after the election—would embrace, is to make it clear that any student who receives a clear offer of a place at a British university registered under the Higher Education Act will be admitted to this country?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, the system that we have at the moment works very well, and the number of students coming to this country is clear proof of this.

Lord West of Spithead (Labour): My Lords, the Minister will be aware that we have something in the region of 110,000 Chinese students at our universities. In some universities, they take up almost 50% of the places on courses such as those on artificial intelligence, stealth technology and quantum mechanics. Is she concerned that we are not clear about, or aware of, exactly where some of these students have come from? For example, postgraduates are paying £50,000 to do the courses. There are therefore risks of technology being sucked away from this country.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, we have to recognise the value of research carried out by our world-leading UK universities. They are autonomous institutions; they are responsible for protecting their research and ensuring that their international student recruitment follows sustainable patterns. To help support the sector, the Government recently created Trusted Research, which is a body of information providing bespoke advice for universities to protect their research.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-11-04/debates/E787AD03-2064-41AD-908E-AC107016AD7F/VisasEuropeanUnionStudents>

The newspaper report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/the-vanishing-vietnamese-students-9xhdlp6rm>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

The following four questions all received the same answer

British Nationality

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL111] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that British citizenship is granted to a stateless person born in the UK who fulfils the conditions of paragraph 3 of Schedule 2 to the British Nationality Act 1981 but who cannot afford the registration fee.

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL112] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the number of children born each year in the UK without British citizenship to (1) a parent also born in the UK without British citizenship, and (2) to a parent who grew up in this country after being brought to the UK at a young age and has continued to live here since; and what steps, if any, they are taking to reduce those numbers.

British Nationality: Children and Young People

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL114] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the fee for a child or young person to register as a British citizen upon people born stateless in the UK.

British Nationality: Children

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL115] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that British citizenship is granted to stateless persons born in the UK in accordance with the UK's obligations under Article 1 of the 1961 UN Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office has no current plans to specifically review the fees policy applicable to stateless persons applying to register as a British citizen, however the Home Office keeps its fees for immigration and nationality under review.

The Home Office has no current plans to produce a specific impact assessment in respect of the fee for a child or young person born stateless to register as a British citizen. An assessment of the impact of all border, immigration and citizenship (BIC) fees was published as an associated document to the Immigration and Nationality Fees (Regulation) 2018. In response to a recommendation from the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration the Department will consider publication of fee-related Policy Equality Statements on a case by case basis going forward.

Statistics on the UK's resident population and on births by nationality of parent are a matter for the Office for National Statistics.

The Home Office stateless leave policy is designed to assist those who are unable to return to their country of former habitual residence because they are stateless and no longer have a right of residence there. This also reflects our obligations under the UN Stateless Conventions by providing a means for stateless persons in the UK to access their basic human rights and is part of our efforts to address wider global issues facing stateless persons. Leave to remain applications to stay in the UK as a stateless person are free of charge.

There are citizenship routes for children who are born in the UK: if their parent becomes British or settled, or if they live in the UK for the first ten years of their life. In addition there are provisions for stateless children which allow us to meet our obligations under the 1961 Convention.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-10-15/HL111/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-10-15/HL112/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-10-15/HL114/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-10-15/HL115/>

British Nationality: Children

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL113] To ask Her Majesty's Government what impact assessments they have conducted into the statutory good character requirement for children who register as British citizens; and whether they have undertaken any assessment of that requirement's impact on (1) children's best interests, (2) race discrimination, and (3) race relations.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The good character requirement for children was subject to parliamentary scrutiny when it was introduced by Section 58 of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006. It has also been the subject of inspection by the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration (ICIBI). In response to recommendations in his 2017 report a number of

adjustments were made to the policy clarifying that a child's best interests must be taken into account when considering an application for registration as a British citizen. Updated guidance to reflect these changes was published in January 2019. In addition, the good character requirement was the subject of a Policy Equality Statement, demonstrating compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty, when the British Nationality Act 1981 (Remedial) Order 2019 was laid.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-10-15/HL113/>

British Nationality: Children and Young People

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL156] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the fee for a child or young person to register as a British citizen on their fulfilment of the UK's obligations under Article 1 of the 1961 UN Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Neither the 1961 UN Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness or the 1954 Convention relating to the status of stateless persons prohibit fees from being chargeable in respect of citizenship applications. The Home Office does, however, waive fees for stateless individuals up to the point of settlement (indefinite leave to remain) in line with our obligations. The Home Office has no current plans to specifically review the policy applicable to stateless persons applying to register as a British citizen, however the Home Office keeps its fees for immigration and nationality under review.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-10-16/HL156/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Lord Greaves (Liberal Democrat) [HL449] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have refunded all of the fees for applications for settled status received before 1 April.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We have processed refunds for all those charged a fee for the EU settlement scheme prior to 1st April 2019. Where circumstances have changed with regards to the recipient's payment details these are being investigated on a case by case basis.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-10-28/HL449/>

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

Lord Greaves (Liberal Democrat) [HL11784] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether biometric and other data that has been supplied as part of applications for settled status by EU citizens under the EU Settlement Scheme will be deleted in the case of persons whose applications have been rejected; and if so, at what point such deletion will take place.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Biometrics enrolled as part of an application to EU Settlement Scheme will be retained in accordance with the Immigration (Physical Data) Regulations 2006, as amended. In practice, this means that fingerprints will normally be retained for up to 10 years, unless the person has settled status or is considered to be a risk of high harm to the UK.

All fingerprints are deleted from the Immigration and Asylum Biometric System when the person becomes a British citizen. Facial images may be retained until the person becomes a British citizen and obtains a British passport. Biometrics may only be retained as long as the Secretary of State considers it is necessary to retain

them for use in connection with the exercise of a function by virtue of the Immigration Acts or a function in relation to nationality.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-11-26/HL11784/>

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

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigrants: Detainees

Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat) [HL315] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many immigration detainees were held for more than 28 days in each of the last four years.

Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat) [HL316] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the longest time in days an individual has been detained for immigration reasons (1) among current detainees, and (2) in the last four years.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Information on the length of detention, of those in and on leaving detention is available in tables dt_06_q and dt_14,q of the detention tables in the latest release of 'Immigration Statistics, year ending June 2019'.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/826057/detention-jun-2019-tables.ods

[Detention Tables - Immigration Stats - June 2019](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-10-22/HL315/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-10-22/HL316/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat) [HL413] To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of those who have been held in immigration detention centres for more than 28 days in each of the last four years were granted (1) refugee status, and (2) the right to remain, in the UK.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Information on the length of detention, and reason for release from detention, is available in tables dt_06_q and dt_14,q of the detention tables in the latest release of 'Immigration Statistics, year ending June 2019'. The published statistics show the number of people who were granted leave to remain (LTR) in the UK on leaving detention. However, this is not broken down by type of leave, nor will it include those who are released from detention for other reasons and subsequently granted LTR.

[Detention Tables - Immigration Stats - June 2019](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-10-24/HL413/>

Asylum: Domestic Abuse

Lord Sheikh (Conservative) [HL576] To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of people seeking asylum in the UK are doing so because they are fleeing domestic violence.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office does not record the information in such a way that allows us to report on what percentage of people seeking asylum in the UK are doing so because they are fleeing domestic violence.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-10-31/HL576/>

Asylum: Death

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL365] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people seeking sanctuary in the UK have died either at sea or on land in each year since 2014.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The death of any individual attempting to travel to the United Kingdom whether at sea or in a vehicle on land is a tragic event. No-one should be risking their life in an attempt to enter the UK in such dangerous ways, and the Home Office continues to work with international partners to tackle the organised criminal gangs who are coordinating such attempts. Those who need international protection claim asylum in the first safe country they reach, as that is the fastest route to safety.

It is not possible to ascertain the motives of individuals seeking to travel to the UK, whether to seek sanctuary or otherwise. However, this Government is determined to support those who genuinely need protection and through our resettlement schemes, we are making sure our doors remain open to the people who most need our help.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-10-23/HL365/>

Asylum: Death

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL366] To ask Her Majesty's Government how asylum seekers who die in the UK are returned to their country of origin.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: There are no specific procedures for asylum seekers.

The burial or cremation arrangements of any person who had had recently arrived from abroad would depend on the circumstances, for example the wishes of their relatives or friends, or the relevant national embassy.

If there are no relatives or others to assist, the relevant local authority would have a duty to ensure that the deceased is buried or cremated respectfully.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-10-23/HL366/>

Deportation: Young People

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL367] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to prevent teenagers being deported back to a country which has been deemed unsafe to travel to, when they have lived in the UK for a decade or more.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We have a policy not to remove anyone, regardless of their age or the length of time they have lived in the UK, to a country to which it has been deemed unsafe for them to return.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-10-23/HL367/>

Human Trafficking

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL368] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans, if any, they have to use thermal imaging cameras at all UK ports to check for incidents of human trafficking.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Border Force deploys a range of detection equipment across the UK border to detect incidents of human trafficking but, for national security reasons, does not comment on the specific technology used. Border Force are continually seeking to develop and invest in new capability.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-10-23/HL368/>

Human Trafficking

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL533] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to implement additional measures to detect people smuggling through UK ports, including the use of X-rays.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: At the juxtaposed controls and at ports around the country, Border Force officers use some of the most advanced detection technology available to find and stop migrants attempting to reach the UK illegally. We have also invested tens of millions of pounds in new infrastructure to enhance border security. All freight vehicles entering the UK through the juxtaposed controls are screened for people being smuggled into the UK using a range of techniques. This includes using carbon dioxide detectors and motion sensors as well as sniffer dogs to detect clandestine on-board lorries.

We will continue to monitor closely displacement of the threat to other ports and routes into the UK and are prepared to shift more resources to UK ports, whilst working proactively with European law enforcement, including partners in France, Belgium and Holland, to target the organised crime networks behind people trafficking and illegal migration.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-10-29/HL533/>

Human Trafficking: Essex

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL364] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking in response to the deaths of 39 people discovered in a Bulgarian container lorry on 23 October.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: As my Right Honourable Friend the Home Secretary set out in her statement of 28 October, all areas of Government have a role to play in strengthening our borders, eliminating the pull factors in this country and addressing the root causes to suppress demand for illegal migration. The Government already has an illegal migration strategy in place, but as the tragic event in Essex has shown, there is much more to do.

We will be working across Government to strengthen our response to the migration crisis that led these victims to try to enter the United Kingdom and to confront the organised criminals who drive this abhorrent practice.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-10-23/HL364/>

The statement referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-10-28/debates/4B217694-62CB-4619-9A99-A810081808CD/MajorIncidentInEssex>

UK Parliament Petition

Reclassification of Ministers of Religion under Immigration Rules

The petition of the residents of Glasgow North East [P002526] Declares that visiting clergy offer respite to dedicated Ministers and bring enormous cultural benefit to the communities they serve; and further that the introduction of severe conditions regarding English language proficiency and the sharp rise in fees for visas for Ministers of Religion would cause detriment to the communities they wish to serve.

The petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Minister for Immigration, the hon. Member for South Ribble, to revoke the decision to reclassify visiting Ministers of Religion as being Tier 2 visitors under immigration rules. ...

Observations from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home

Department (Seema Kennedy): The Government recognise the role of faith in our communities, helping to build social cohesion and support our congregations in the UK. The Government recognise too, the value of the contributions, made by members of religious institutions from overseas, which is reflected in dedicated visa arrangements. The immigration rules for visitors include specific provisions for Ministers of Religion, coming to the UK to undertake pastoral duties. This can include one-off engagements such as conducting ceremonies or leading a service, provided they are not receiving payment. Beyond this, Tier 2 (Minister of Religion) and Tier 5 (Temporary Worker) offer routes for religious workers who wish to fill positions in the UK, for longer periods. Ministers of Religion play leading roles in our communities and Tier 2 allows them to do so, for up to three years, with the option to stay longer. It is important to ensure that anyone taking up such a role can communicate with both their congregation and the wider community in which they live and serve, which is why Tier 2 visa holders are required to demonstrate a strong command of English.

Tier 5 (Temporary Worker) offers a dedicated subcategory for religious workers undertaking non-pastoral, supporting roles, for a maximum of two years. As a package of routes, designed to facilitate cultural exchange and knowledge sharing, Tier 5 visa categories do not require English language proficiency.

The changes made to the immigration rules in January 2019 better defined what activities may be undertaken by Tier 5 temporary religious workers, and ensure that those filling positions as Ministers of Religion, may continue to do so, via the correct visa category.

The issue of fees has been raised and the Government acknowledge the extra cost of a Tier 2 visa. However, the Government's policy remains that those who use and benefit most from the immigration system should contribute towards its operation. Tier 2 incurs the greater costs, but, in return it offers the most favourable conditions, whereas, a visit visa for a Minister of Religion carrying out permitted activities for less than six months, attracts the lowest cost of all.

The Government continue to believe that existing visa arrangements for Ministers of Religion and religious workers, strikes the right balance between serving the needs of all congregations and the Government's wider position on integrated communities.

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-11-](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-11-04/debates/19110435000062/ReclassificationOfMinistersOfReligionUnderImmigrationRules)

[04/debates/19110435000062/ReclassificationOfMinistersOfReligionUnderImmigrationRules](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-11-04/debates/19110435000062/ReclassificationOfMinistersOfReligionUnderImmigrationRules)

Press Releases

Migration vital to Scotland's future workforce

<https://www.gov.scot/news/migration-vital-to-scotlands-future-workforce/>

Brexit: Significant concerns for EU citizens living and working in Wales

<http://www.assembly.wales/en/newhome/pages/newsitem.aspx?itemid=2047&assembly=5>

New Publications

Updated Guidance: EU Settlement Scheme: EU, other EEA and Swiss citizens and their family members

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/845641/main-euss-guidance-v3.0-ext.pdf

EU Settlement Scheme quarterly statistics, September 2019

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/845451/eu-settlement-scheme-statistics-quarterly-september-2019-hosb2719.pdf

Immigration Policy and Demographic Change in Scotland: Learning from Australia, Canada and Continental Europe

<https://tinyurl.com/yxrmc5lu>

Migration to the UK: Asylum and Refugees

<https://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/resources/briefings/migration-to-the-uk-asylum/>

News

SNP minister demands control over migration is handed to Holyrood

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/snp-minister-demands-control-over-migration-is-handed-to-holyrood-1-5039758>

Over half of EU nationals' children in Scotland not offered full permanent residency, new figures show

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/people/over-half-of-eu-nationals-children-in-scotland-not-offered-full-permanent-residency-new-figures-show-1-5042618>

Asylum seekers: Home Office taking 'substantially longer' on claims

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-50336157>

Asylum seekers face 'substantially longer' waits on claims, Oxford study finds

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/11/08/asylum-seekers-face-substantially-longer-waits-claims-oxford/>

Home Office pays religious groups to help deport rough sleepers

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/nov/05/home-office-pays-religious-groups-to-help-deport-rough-sleepers>

Majority of asylum seekers and refugees housed in poorer areas while dozens of councils support none

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-seekers-housing-refugees-councils-uk-home-office-a9193876.html>

Ten teenagers among 39 Vietnamese who died in lorry

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-11-08/news/ten-teenagers-among-39-vietnamese-who-died-in-lorry-9rtzdqmh>

Essex migrant lorry deaths should be wake-up call - MPs

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-50283423>

Wake up to human cost of migration, MPs urge after 39 deaths

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-11-04/news/wake-up-to-human-cost-of-migration-mps-urge-after-39-deaths-cxht7wz2p>

Channel migrants: Fewer than half of boats stopped by French

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-50255360>

Channel migrants: Border Force intercepts boat carrying 22 people at Dover

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-50367348>

Hunt for migrants after boat spotted at Kent coast village

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/nov/09/police-hunt-for-migrants-boat-spotted-at-kent-village>

Dutch police find 16 migrants at port in lorry destined for UK

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/nov/06/dutch-police-find-16-migrants-at-port-in-lorry-destined-for-uk>

Man arrested after 15 people found alive in lorry in Wiltshire

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/11/07/man-arrested-15-people-found-alive-lorry-in-wiltshire/>

Man arrested after 15 people found in back of lorry near Chippenham

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/chippenham-news-lorry-a350-accident-migrants-man-arrested-latest-a9188611.html>

Kirk wins Campaigner of the Year Award

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2019/Kirk-wins-Campaigner-of-the-Year-Award>

Trafficking gang jailed for duping poor women into sham marriages

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-11-09/scotland/trafficking-gang-jailed-for-duping-poor-women-into-sham-marriages-vncbcbg06>

Citizenship battle for Derry man's Filipino-born wife

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-foyle-west-50328767>

'Traumatised' Vietnamese man detained in UK for two years despite evidence he was trafficking victim

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/human-trafficking-vietnam-uk-cannabis-farm-modern-slavery-essex-lorry-deaths-a9184596.html>

Eritrean refugee, 19, killed himself as he 'feared he would be sent back'

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/nov/08/eritrean-refugee-19-who-killed-himself-feared-he-would-be-sent-back>

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Universal Credit

Neil Gray (SNP) [3704] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, with reference to her Department's report entitled, In-Work progression trial: further impact assessment and cost benefit analysis, what the point-in-time progression measures were for the (a) 52- and (b) 78-week periods by (i) gender and (ii) self-reported ethnic background of trial participants.

Reply from Mims Davies: The 52-week In-Work Progression Trial Impact Analysis was published on 12th September 2018 on GOV.UK. In the trial, the Frequent support group had Work Coach appointments every fortnight, while the Minimal support group only ever had two appointments in total.

i) Gender

The 52-week point-in-time progression measure for males was an additional £4.21 per week for the Frequent support group relative to the Minimal support group. For females, the point-in-time progression measure was an additional £5.99 per week for the Frequent support group relative to the Minimal support group. These progression estimates were calculated from samples and the difference of £1.78 is not statistically significant. The conclusion is that there does not appear to be evidence of a difference in progression between genders.

The 78-week point-in-time progression measure for males was an additional £1.34 per week for the Frequent support group relative to the Minimal support group. For females, the point-in-time progression measure was an additional £6.14 per week for the Frequent support group relative to the Minimal support group. Again, these estimates are based on samples and the difference of £4.80 is not statistically significant. The conclusion is that there does not appear to be evidence of a difference in progression between genders.

ii) Ethnicity

The Department holds some data about ethnicity. Of the self-reported ethnic backgrounds, 82% of trial participants were of a White background; 6% of participants were of a Black/African/Caribbean background; 5% were of an Asian background and 7% were made up of other ethnic backgrounds.

The Department has not calculated ethnicity sub-group progression measures. The small sample sizes in all other ethnicity groups, with the exception of the White background group, means that any comparisons of progression would not lead to statistically robust conclusions.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-22/3704/>

The report referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/838107/in-work-progression-trial-further-impact-assessment-and-cost-benefit-analysis.pdf

Travellers: Caravan Sites

Andrew Selous (Conservative) [6285] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps his Department is taking to define dominance in respect of the proportion of Traveller sites in a local area.

Reply from Esther McVey: When assessing the suitability of sites in rural or semi-rural areas, local planning authorities should ensure that the scale of the development does not dominate the nearest settled community. It is for the local planning authority when assessing an application to apply this policy when determining if the proposed development could dominate the nearest settled community.

The Secretary of State is in the process of preparing guidance to support authorities in determining planning applications for Gypsy and Traveller sites where the issue of traveller sites dominating the nearest settled community are raised.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-28/6285/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Police: Ethnic Groups

Baroness Afshar (Crossbench) [HL268] To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of current police officers are from BAME backgrounds; and what assessment

they have made of how familiar police officers are with the cultural practices of the communities they are policing.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office collects and publishes information on the ethnicity of police officers on an annual basis in the 'Police Workforce, England and Wales' statistical bulletin, which is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/police-workforce-england-and-wales>.

The latest data show that, as at 31 March 2019, there were 8,329 BAME police officers in the 43 forces in England and Wales, representing 6.9% of all officers who stated their ethnicity.

Police professional training standards are set and maintained by the College of Policing which the Government established as the first professional body for the police in 2012.

[Police Workforce England and Wales - March 2019](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-10-22/HL268/>

News

Equality Action Pledge: A new vision for Scotland's voluntary sector

<https://www.thepledge.scot/>

Sikh couple 'barred from adopting due to heritage'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-berkshire-50289183>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Hate Crime Awareness Week

S5W-25712 Pauline McNeill (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government when it will announce its plans for Hate Crime Awareness Week.

Reply from Aileen Campbell: Hate Crime Awareness Week took place across the UK from 12 to 19 October 2019, during which we engaged with key stakeholders to promote and support a broad range of events and activity across Scotland. Myself and the Justice Secretary used the opportunity provided by Hate Crime Awareness Week to reassure communities that there is no place for hate crime or prejudice in Scotland.

We remain committed to taking action to challenge all forms of hatred and prejudice and in June 2017, we published an ambitious programme of work. I chair an Action Group with key stakeholders to take this work forward whose identified priorities are on victim support through raising awareness of hate crime and encouraging reporting, as well as working with us to ensure improved data and evidence around hate incidents and crime.

Hate crime is hugely damaging to victims, their families and communities and we all must play our part in challenging it.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-25712>

Hate Crime Awareness Week

S5W-25735 Pauline McNeill (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what marketing and campaign plans it has for Hate Crime Awareness Week 2019, and whether it plans to repeat the "Dear Haters" letter campaign that covered multiple identity characteristics, which was used in 2018.

Reply from Aileen Campbell: Following our Letters from Scotland campaign in 2018, we are currently working with stakeholders to develop a further hate crime campaign for early next year.

The campaign will focus on encouraging victims and witnesses to report hate crime, making it clear that hate crime and prejudice will not be tolerated in Scotland.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-25735>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Hate Crime

Chris Ruane (Labour) [7080] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 28 October 2019 to Question 4283 on Hate Crime, what assessment her Department has made of the effect of the (a) language and tone of public statements made by and (b) the actions of public figures on trends in the level of recorded hate crime.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Home Office and key partners continue to build understanding of the drivers of hate crime through research and evaluation of hate crime programmes, and consultation with subject matter experts including the Independent Advisory Group and local practitioners. Alongside the Hate Crime Action Plan refresh in October 2018 the Government published a thematic review of the current evidence base – this can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hate-crime-action-plan-2016>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-29/7080/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-23/4283/>

Hate Crime

Stephen Morgan (Labour) [8276] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of trends in the level of police (a) numbers and (b) funding on the ability of the police to investigate hate crime.

Kit Malthouse: The Home Office continues to monitor crime levels and officer numbers. Many factors impact on crime levels. More reporting of 'hidden' crimes, recording improvements and some genuine increases in offending, have all contributed to recent increases in recorded crime.

The Government is committed to recruiting 20,000 additional police officers over the next three years. In 2020/21 the Government is investing £750 million in policing to enable the first tranche of recruitment. Hampshire Police will be able to recruit 156 officers by the end of March 2021. The Home Office is supporting the police to respond to hate crimes committed online through funding of £200,000 this year to the National Police Chiefs' Council to run the National Online Hate Crime Hub, which assists the police to respond to reports more efficiently.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-31/8276/>

Universities: Anti-Semitism

Lord Leigh of Hurley (Conservative): To ask Her Majesty's Government how many universities in England have adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of anti-Semitism; and what steps they intend to take in respect of those which have not. ...

Reply from Baroness Berridge: My Lords, the Government strongly encourage higher education providers to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of anti-Semitism. The Universities Minister and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government have, between them, written to providers a total of three times. I can confirm that five providers have informed the Government that they have adopted the definition. As autonomous institutions, the decision rests with individual providers, but the Government will continue to urge and encourage them to adopt this important definition.

Lord Leigh of Hurley: I am sure that my noble friend the Minister will agree it is very disappointing that only five institutions have agreed to adopt the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism, and that she will join me in encouraging all the Members of this House who serve as chancellors, masters, wardens, principals and fellows of universities to encourage their institutions to adopt that definition. The EHRC recently introduced guidelines on freedom of expression, requiring universities to have a particular code. Does the Minister agree that, if the universities adopted the IHRA definition, that would satisfy the requirements of the code in respect of anti-Semitism?

Reply from Baroness Berridge: My Lords, I join my noble friend Lord Leigh in saying that, yes, it is disappointing. But the Government are aware of only five institutions; there may be other providers which have adopted the definition but have not seen fit to respond to any of the letters. They have been encouraged to do so and to inform the Government of their reasons should they not be adopting the definition. My noble friend is also right that the Government collaborated with the EHRC on its new *Freedom of Expression* code for universities. Universities should be in no doubt now regarding their duty to promote free speech and the holding of events on campuses.

Lord Anderson of Swansea (Labour): My Lords, while applauding the record of the Minister in this field and welcoming her to the Front Bench, may I ask her whether she agrees that commitment to this definition is a good badge of one's commitment to human rights and anti-Semitism generally? What reasons, if any, are advanced by those defaulting institutions?

Reply from Baroness Berridge: I am grateful to the noble Lord. Yes, this is an internationally recognised definition, and we were the first Government to adopt it. Unfortunately, I cannot elaborate on any institution's reasons at the moment. However, as I said, the Secretary of State for Communities has asked institutions that are having reservations to inform the Government about their reasons.

Lord Palmer of Childs Hill (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, I thank the Minister for the generalities she has mentioned, but can I bring her into the real world? Jewish students at the University of Bristol have been dismayed by the lack of response from their institution following a lecturer using slides to teach sociology students conspiracy theories about mainstream Jewish groups, such as the Community Security Trust—I am on its advisory board—the Jewish Leadership Council, of which I am a vice-president, and the Board of Deputies. Does the Minister agree that the adoption of the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism would assist universities in responding to such disgraceful incidents in the future? This House cannot just leave it to them on their own.

Reply from Baroness Berridge: The noble Lord is right that the definition is very important. It should leave universities in no doubt about what is and is not

acceptable behaviour on campus. Free speech should be promoted; there is a presumption that events should go ahead. However, free speech should always be within the law and any restrictions should be necessary and reasonable. All students on our campuses, whatever their faith background, should be able to learn without harassment but should also be exposed to new ideas and to criticism of them.

The Archbishop of Canterbury: My Lords, I declare an interest as president of the Council of Christians and Jews, founded in the depths of the Second World War by Chief Rabbi Hertz and Archbishop William Temple. I applaud the noble Baroness's long history of standing up for freedom of religion and belief. Like the noble Lord, the CCJ hears numerous reports of no-platforming, intimidation and lack of free speech. I fully accept that universities are autonomous, but will the Minister look for ways in which pressure can be applied to ensure that these standards are kept? Does she agree that mere exhortation is not really working?

Reply from Baroness Berridge: I am grateful to the most reverend Primate. I obviously agree, but it is not "mere exhortation". The EHRC guidance on freedom of expression on campus was put together with a number of stakeholders, including Universities UK, to deal with exactly the issues that have been faced. The universities have been reminded of their duty in relation to no-platforming and the closing down of free speech by the Office for Students, which is responsible for student well-being and safeguarding on campus. However, in the recent legislation, your Lordships' House ensured that universities are autonomous institutions. Although the Secretary of State can issue guidance, this has to take into account the autonomy of those institutions.

Lord Bassam of Brighton (Labour): I completely agree with the Minister on this point, but more government pressure needs to be put on the Office for Students, which has a distinct responsibility for this. Although it is a relatively new regulator, this is an important role. What more can the Government do to put pressure on the OfS?

Reply from Baroness Berridge: My Lords, in response to the Equality and Human Rights Commission's recent report on racial harassment on campus, the Office for Students issued a consultation on expectations to the providers. The Government are in no doubt, however, that universities should take rigorous action when free speech is being closed down or when any student faces hatred or harassment, whether physical or online. The regulator has only had its full powers since August this year. I remind your Lordships that this House voted for the autonomy of our academic institutions. The Government are, therefore, using guidance to put what pressure they can on universities.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-11-04/debates/99C22CE0-ED2C-45EF-99F4-02162EBA8F18/UniversitiesAnti-Semitism>

The "Freedom of Expression" Code, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/freedom-of-expression-guide-for-higher-education-providers-and-students-unions-england-and-wales.pdf>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/tackling-racial-harassment-universities-challenged.pdf>

Press Releases

Brothers sentenced for attack outside Cardiff Mosque

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/cymruwales/news/brothers-sentenced-attack-outside-cardiff-mosque>

National antisemitism data collection falls short of what is needed

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2019/national-antisemitism-data-collection-falls-short-what-needed>

New Publication

Antisemitism – Overview of data available in the European Union 2008–2018

https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2019-antisemitism-overview-2008-2018_en.pdf

News

General election 2019: Tory peer accuses Hancock of 'whitesplaining'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-50358879>

Tory Islamophobia row: Warsi accuses Hancock of 'whitesplaining'

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2019/nov/09/tory-islamophobia-hancock-accused-of-trying-to-isolate-warsi>

Tory minister accused of 'whitesplaining' Islamophobia to senior Muslim Conservative Sayeeda Warsi

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/matt-hancock-islamophobia-whitesplaining-sayeeda-warsi-muslim-tory-a9196151.html>

Scottish Labour loses its third election candidate following anti-Semitism row

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/18022717.scottish-labour-loses-third-election-candidate-following-anti-semitism-row/>

Labour candidate in Aberdeenshire quits in anti-Semitism row

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-50338256>

Dan Carden: Labour shadow minister denies anti-Semitic lyric

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-50360863>

Shadow minister Dan Carden 'sang racist words' to Beatles' Hey Jude

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/shadow-minister-dan-carden-accused-of-singing-racist-words-to-beatles-song-hey-jude-swh0w9mpg>

Labour hopeful Gideon Bull resigns over Shylock jibe

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-11-08/news/labour-hopeful-resigns-over-shylock-jibe-b2763cd6h>

Labour MPs face fresh claims of antisemitic and anti-LGBT remarks

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/nov/09/labour-mps-face-fresh-allegations-of-antisemitic-and-anti-lgbt-remarks>

Fresh blow to Labour as David Blunkett reveals 'despair' at party's 'anti-Semitism'

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/general-election-2019-fresh-blow-to-labour-as-david-blunkett-reveals-despair-at-party-s-anti-semitism-1-5042724>

David Blunkett says he 'despairs' about Labour and antisemitism

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/nov/08/david-blunkett-says-he-despairs-about-labour-and-antisemitism>

David Blunkett says he 'despairs' over 'antisemitism and thuggery' in Labour

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/david-blunkett-labour-corbyn-antisemitism-party-column-a9196091.html>

Labour beset by 'anti-Semitism and thuggery', claims Lord Blunkett, as he warns of 1983-style election defeat

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/11/08/labour-beset-anti-semitism-thuggery-claims-lord-blunkett-warns/>

'The abuse made me physically ill': Luciana Berger reveals toll of fighting antisemitism while Labour MPs refused to stand by her

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/luciana-berger-labour-antisemitism-jeremy-corbyn-election-latest-liberal-democrats-finchley-a9196696.html>

The clear and present danger of Labour's anti-Semitism

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/politics/clear-present-danger-labours-anti-semitism/>

Holocaust rose tree destroyed by vandals in Glasgow

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-50335198>

Vandals 'violently destroy' Roma Holocaust memorial plaque in Glasgow

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/vandals-violently-destroy-roma-holocaust-20831125>

Govanhill Roma community left 'disgusted' after Queen's Park genocide memorial is trashed

<https://www.glasgowlive.co.uk/news/glasgow-news/govanhill-roma-community-left-disgusted-17215052>

Mixed race soldier sues MoD for £100,000 amid claims colleagues put up 'racist' posters at army base and nicknamed him Apu, High Court hears

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/11/06/mixed-race-soldier-sues-mod-100000-amid-claims-colleagues-put/>

Exhonestly confessions page in race hate probe

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-devon-50305443>

Exeter University reports student Facebook page to police over links to 'Nazi propaganda'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/exeter-university-exhonestly-facebook-students-police-hate-crime-nazi-propaganda-racism-a9186311.html>

Bristol Southmead Hospital: Racist patients could have treatment withdrawn

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-bristol-50286473>

Oxford College launches probe after porter asked black alumnus if he used to 'rob the place'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/11/07/oxford-college-launches-probe-porter-asked-black-alumnus-used/>

Schoolgirl's racist abuse: 'Maybe I'm meant to be treated like an animal'
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-50306621>

Teenager racially abused and attacked near Pittodrie stadium
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-50360994>

Sizzlers Restaurant chef awarded £15,000 over racial abuse
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-50332527>

Racism in football: Watford's Troy Deeney says 'one-strike' policy needed
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/football/50316490>

Leeds United's Kiko Casilla charged with using language of a racist nature during away loss at Charlton
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/football/2019/11/04/leeds-uniteds-kiko-casillacharged-using-language-racist-nature/>

Kiko Casilla: Leeds goalkeeper charged by FA over alleged racist abuse of Jonathan Leko
<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/football-league/kiko-casilla-racist-abuse-leeds-fa-charge-ban-jonathan-leko-championship-a9184731.html>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-19755 Linda Fabiani (SNP): Special Anniversary for Baha'is, Bicentenary of the Birth of the Báb – That the Parliament acknowledges that 2019 marks the Bicentenary of the Birth of the Báb, which is being celebrated all over the world by Bahá'is; notes that this is a very special celebration for those of the Bahá'í faith in their belief that the Báb, Siyyid Alí-Muhammad, who was born in Iran in 1819, was called by God as Forerunner and Herald of Bahá'u'llah, a twin Prophet and Luminary of the Bahá'í faith; recognises the importance of this year for Bahá'is, and sends its best wishes to the Bahá'í community in East Kilbride and across Scotland.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-19755>

New Publications

Scotland's National Action Plan to Prevent and Eradicate Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) – Year Three Progress Report
<https://tinyurl.com/yh3gaf8g>

Media Guidelines: Reporting on Muslims and Islam
<http://secureservercdn.net/50.62.174.113/hnv.9d6.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Media-guidelines-reporting-on-Muslims-and-Islam-full-report.pdf>

News

New media guidelines designed to tackle Islamophobia

https://www.holyrood.com/news/view,new-media-guidelines-designed-to-tackle-islamophobia_14664.htm

New guidelines published to tackle 'othering' of Scotland's Muslim communities

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/new-guidelines-published-to-tackle-othering-of-scotland-s-muslim-communities-1-5040226>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Exploitation: Ethnic Groups

Baroness Afshar (Crossbench) [HL267] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the response by Baroness Williams of Trafford to Baroness Kennedy of Cradley's oral question on 22 October, what plans they have to establish, as points of contact for minority women who are at risk of exploitation, specific individuals who are familiar with the cultural practices of minority ethnic groups.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Ministry of Justice provides funding to specialist sexual violence services to support victims to cope and, where possible, recover from the impact of crime. On 18 September, we announced an additional £5m to support victims of sexual violence, which commits £32m over three years.

In addition, local Commissioners (be they Police and Crime Commissioners, Local Authorities or health commissioners) will also seek to provide specialist support to victims in their area. To support this, in December 2016 we published the National Statement of Expectations, which sets out a blueprint for local service provision, including how Commissioners can best respond to the needs of minority or marginalised groups.

In 2016/17 MHCLG also provided £300k to Imkaan to build capacity and strengthen specialist BAME organisations, including through training, quality standard accreditation and access to the tools they need to measure their impact.

On 18th September we appointed Nicole Jacobs as the first Designate Domestic Abuse Commissioner, who will raise awareness of domestic abuse, stand up for victims, and drive up consistency in the response to domestic abuse. The Commissioner is required to appoint a specific thematic lead within her office to consider and address the needs of BAME victims.

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-10-22/HL267/>

The answer referred to above was probably that given by Lord Keen of Elie at the following link rather than by Baroness Williams

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Lords/2019-10-22/debates/A1FDED07-16C6-4D19-8F44-97B6F5BA00C1/CrimeRape#contribution-FBFA52EE-EB19-4022-9262-B09619339CC0>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/5m-increase-for-rape-and-sexual-abuse-victims>

Meat: Ritual Slaughter

The Earl of Shrewsbury (Conservative) [HL318] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their policy on the labelling of meat from the non-stun slaughter of animals.

Reply from Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The Government encourages the highest standards of welfare at slaughter, would prefer all animals to be stunned before slaughter, and also respects the rights of Jews and Muslims to eat meat prepared in accordance with their religious beliefs.

There are no domestic or European Regulations that require the labelling of Halal or Kosher meat, but where any information of this nature is provided it must be accurate and must not be misleading to the consumer. The Government expects industry to provide consumers with the necessary information for them to make an informed choice about their food.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-10-22/HL318/>

New Publication

Letter from Baroness Berridge to Lord Sharkey regarding the implementation of sharia compliant student funding and interest rates on student loans

<http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2019-1034/Baroness Berridge to Lord Sharkey-Queens speech debate.pdf>

News

Sir Lindsay Hoyle elected Speaker of House of Commons

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-50293505>

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General Election

News

General election 2019: Scotland's future slap bang in middle of campaign

<https://www.bbc.com/news/election-2019-50352180>

Boris Johnson promises to block indyref2, even if the SNP win a majority in the 2021 Holyrood election

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/11/07/boris-johnson-promises-block-indyref2-even-snp-win-majority/>

General election 2019: Who has selected the most women as candidates?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-50247599>

Election 2019, Your Questions Answered

<https://www.bbc.com/news/election-2019-50294186>

General election 2019: What is tactical voting?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-50249649>

General election poll tracker: How do the parties compare?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-49798197>

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New Publication

Video: Advice for first time charity trustees

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/news/video-advice-for-first-time-charity-trustees/>

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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

** Immigration Detention Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/immigrationdetention.html>

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

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

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/unaccompaniedasylumseekingchildrenlegaladviceandappeals.html>

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

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

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

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

**** closes this week!**

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/>

**** Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy Review** (closing date 29 November 2019)

<https://consult.gov.scot/human-trafficking-team/trafficking-and-exploitation-strategy-review/>

**** Civil Partnership (Scotland) Bill** (closing date 31 January 2020)

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/113449.aspx>

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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**** this week!**

Scottish Interfaith Week: Eat Share Love

10-17 November 2019

Scottish Interfaith Week connects communities through a series of events encouraging dialogue, understanding, and co-operation between Scotland's religious communities. Get involved either by organising or attending an event and sharing your experience online using #SIFW19 For information see <http://scottishinterfaithweek.org/>

**** this week!**

How to raise our voices above islamophobia: experiences from a women's organisation

12 November 2019 in Glasgow (10.30-12.00)

13 November 2019 in Glasgow (6.00-8.00)

Amina and MEND discussion on the causes and cures of islamophobia in Scotland. For information see https://www.scojec.org/memo/files/19xi_amina.jpg or contact info@mwrc.org.uk / 0141 212 8420

**** this week!**

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

Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals

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

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>

**** Working with people from diverse religion & belief identities**

21 November 2019 in Glasgow (9.30-1.00)

22 April 2020 in Glasgow (1.00-4.30)

Interfaith Scotland course on improving confidence in discussing and responding to the religion and belief of those we work with. Includes the core beliefs and cultural practices of the main faiths, and individual needs that may arise from a person's faith or belief identity. For information see <https://interfaithscotland.org/get-involved/training> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

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

**** Introduction to Policing**

24 November 2019 in Glasgow (9.45-3.00)

Police Scotland course to encourage people from minority ethnic communities to consider careers in policing. For information see <https://www.scotland.police.uk/recruitment/events> contact recruitmentpositiveactionteam@scotland.pnn.police.uk or request to join the closed facebook group 'Police Scotland Positive Action'

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>

**** Three mottos to guide our approach to equality, diversity & inclusion**

13 February 2020 in Glasgow (1.00-4.30)

2 June 2020 in Glasgow (1.00-4.30)

Interfaith Scotland course considering diversity in its widest sense including why some people ignore or deny the disadvantages that others experience, how to respond to misunderstandings or offence, and the impact of our inner narratives on our interactions. For information see <https://interfaithscotland.org/get-involved/training> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

**** Interpreting culture – improving cross-cultural communication**

10 March 2020 in Glasgow (1.00-4.30)

Interfaith Scotland course on cultural diversity to explore how cultural background influences behaviour, values, and beliefs, and how to improve our inter-cultural communication. For information see <https://interfaithscotland.org/get-involved/training> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

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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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SCoJeC

The Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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

BEMIS

Empowering Scotland's Ethnic and
Cultural Minority Communities

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



gov.scot

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

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