



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.

### Contents

[Immigration and Asylum](#)

[Equality](#)

[Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination](#)

[Other Scottish Parliament and Government](#)

[Other UK Parliament and Government](#)

[Health Information: Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

[Bills in Progress](#)

[Consultations](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

[Funding Opportunities](#)

[Events, Conferences, and Training](#)

[Useful Links](#)

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

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## Immigration and Asylum

### Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

#### Migration Policy

**Annabelle Ewing (SNP):** The vital importance of the care sector has never been more evident. Therefore, what discussions has the Scottish Government had with the United Kingdom Government on migration policy, in light of the increasing demand on the care sector in Scotland?

**Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon):** That is an important point. The current crisis has clearly demonstrated our reliance on individuals in our health and care sectors and on key workers across our communities. Many of them were not born in this country but have chosen to make their homes here. We have therefore called on the UK Government to grant all migrants leave to remain during this time and, in the longer term, to revisit its approach to immigration policy.

Across society, we should all stop using the inaccurate and somewhat demeaning

terminology “lower-skilled” to describe the contributions of key workers. Those are vital roles that are filled by dedicated people with very valuable skills. We will continue to seek opportunities to discuss those issues with the UK Government and to seek to persuade it to take a better approach to immigration as we come out of the crisis than perhaps was the case when we went into it.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12616&i=114121#ScotParlOR>

### **Polish Presidential Election**

**Claire Baker (Labour):** The First Minister will be aware that the Polish presidential election is still due to take place on 10 May. I would not ask the First Minister to comment on Poland’s politics or the election, but can she provide assurances to Polish nationals who are resident in Scotland and who have a right to participate in that election, if they wish to, that protecting them from the risk of coronavirus will be a priority and that the Scottish Government will ensure that there is close contact with the Polish consulate on advice for that electorate?

**Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon):** We will certainly do so. I am happy to arrange for a written response to be provided to Claire Baker on exactly that point, and Graeme Dey has given me an indication that the work is already under way. As Claire Baker indicated, of my many responsibilities, the Polish presidential election is not one. Nevertheless, ensuring that Polish residents here have the opportunity to participate in an election is an important matter. I will arrange for a written response to be sent, setting out what we are doing to ensure that that is the case.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12616&i=114123#ScotParlOR>

## **UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers**

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Immigration: Coronavirus**

**John Hayes (Conservative) [34906]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to introduce a cap on the number of migrants permitted to enter the UK during the covid-19 outbreak.

### **Travel Restrictions: Coronavirus**

**John Hayes (Conservative) [34913]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent steps she has taken to prevent incoming travellers entering the UK from other countries experiencing covid-19 outbreaks.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Our approach to tackling COVID-19 has been driven by the latest scientific and medical advice, with flows of passengers reduced significantly by travel restrictions in the UK and overseas.

Any decisions in relation to the UK border and Covid-19 will be taken on the basis of scientific and medical advice. We need to keep our approach at the border, and all our measures, under active review but we will not hesitate to impose whatever restrictions in our power as are necessary.

On 17 March 2020, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office advised against all non-essential international travel, and the Government also introduced unprecedented measures to manage and contain the spread of the virus. These measures include social distancing and self-isolation.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-25/34906/>

and

### **Foreign Nationals: Coronavirus**

**Claire Hanna (SDLP) [37868]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what support her Department is providing to foreign nationals who plan to remain in the UK long-term but are unable to extend their visa due to (a) financial difficulties and (b) not being able to access legal advice during the covid-19 outbreak.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** We are taking compassionate and pragmatic measures to ensure appropriate support is available to individuals affected by and as a result of Covid-19.

Those looking to stay in the UK long-term can apply from the UK online to switch to a long-term UK visa until 31 May. The terms of individuals' existing leave will remain the same until applications are decided. Further Guidance is available on Gov.uk. Many existing measures also provide relevant support, for instance those eligible to apply for leave to remain or further leave to remain on a specified human rights route are also eligible to apply for a fee waiver.

A coronavirus immigration mailbox [CIH@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:CIH@homeoffice.gov.uk) has also been set up and there is a freephone number 0800 678 1767 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) for those who wish to discuss their individual circumstances.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-20/37868/>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Immigrants: Coronavirus**

**Barry Sheerman (Labour Co-op) [37456]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment her Department has made of the effects of the covid-19 outbreak on people with no recourse to public funds.

### **Immigrants: Finance**

**Barry Sheerman (Labour Co-op) [37457]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is planning to take to support those with no recourse to public funds.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Government has put in place a range of measures to support people affected by the covid-19 outbreak and we will continue to review the situation to consider if more can be done.

The Home Office is working closely with other government departments to support people, including migrants with no recourse to public funds, through this crisis. We are taking a compassionate and pragmatic approach to an unprecedented situation.

The Coronavirus job retention scheme, self-employment income support and statutory sick pay are not classed as public funds for immigration purposes. Contribution-based benefits are also not classed as public funds for immigration purposes. Additionally, measures we have brought forward such as rent and mortgage protections are not considered public funds and can be accessed by migrants with leave to remain.

In addition, the Government has made in excess of £3.2bn of funding available to local authorities in England to assist them in managing the pressures arising out of the pandemic.

People granted leave under the family and human rights routes can apply to have a condition lifted or for access to benefits if their financial circumstances change. Additionally, the Home Office has confirmed in light of the pandemic, anyone who would normally cease to be eligible for accommodation because their asylum claim, and any appeal, has been resolved, is being allowed to remain in their current

accommodation for at least three months. This applies both to those who have been refused asylum and granted asylum.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-20/37456/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-20/37457/>

### **Immigrants: Finance**

**Chris Elmore (Labour)** [38004] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what financial support her Department is providing during the covid-19 outbreak to people that hold visas that restrict their access to public funds.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Government has put in place a range of measures to support people affected by the covid-19 outbreak and we will continue to review the situation to consider if more can be done.

The Home Office is working closely with other government departments to support people, including migrants with no recourse to public funds, through this crisis. We are taking a compassionate and pragmatic approach to an unprecedented situation.

Migrants with leave under the Family and Human Rights routes can apply to have the restriction lifted by making a 'change of conditions' application if there has been a change in their financial circumstances. The Home Office has recently digitised the application form to make sure it is accessible for those who need to remain at home, and I can assure you that the applications are being dealt with swiftly and compassionately.

The Coronavirus job retention scheme, self-employment income support and statutory sick pay are not classed as public funds for immigration purposes. Contribution-based benefits are also not classed as public funds for immigration purposes. Additionally, measures we have brought forward such as rent and mortgage protections are not considered public funds and can be accessed by migrants with leave to remain.

The Government has made in excess of £3.2bn of funding available to local authorities in England to assist them in managing the pressures arising out of the pandemic.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-20/38004/>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Immigrants: Finance**

**Kate Green (Labour)** [38626] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effect of the covid-19 outbreak on migrants in the UK who have no recourse to public funds.

**Kate Green (Labour)** [38627] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to suspend the no recourse to public funds condition during the covid-19 lockdown.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office is working closely with other government departments to support people, including migrants with no recourse to public funds, through this crisis. We are taking a compassionate and pragmatic approach to an unprecedented situation.

Migrants with leave under the Family and Human Rights routes can apply to have the NRPF restriction lifted by making a 'change of conditions' application if there has been a change in their financial circumstances. The Home Office has recently digitised the application form to make sure it is accessible for those who need to

remain at home, and I can assure you that the applications are being dealt with swiftly and compassionately.

Many of the wide-ranging Covid-19 measures the government has put in place are not public funds and therefore are available to migrants with no recourse to public funds (NRPF). We therefore do not believe it is necessary to suspend the NRPF condition.

The Coronavirus job retention scheme, self-employment income support and statutory sick pay are not classed as public funds for immigration purposes. Contribution-based benefits are also not classed as public funds for immigration purposes. Additionally, measures we have brought forward such as rent and mortgage protections are not considered public funds and can be accessed by migrants with leave to remain.

Local authorities may also provide basic safety net support if it is established that there is a genuine care need that does not arise solely from destitution, for example, where there are community care needs, migrants with serious health problems or family cases where the wellbeing of a child is in question.

The Government has made in excess of £3.2bn of funding available to local authorities in England to assist them in managing the pressures arising out of the pandemic.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-21/38626/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-21/38627/>

### **Migrant Workers: Coronavirus**

**Stella Creasy (Labour Co-op)** [37630] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what support her Department is providing to non-EEA nationals who (a) are working reduced hours and (b) have lost their jobs due to the covid-19 outbreak and are unable to claim universal credit.

**Reply from Justin Tomlinson:** Those unable to access DWP income-related benefits, such as Universal Credit, may be eligible to access DWP contributions-based benefits such as New style Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), providing they meet eligibility criteria.

The Chancellor has announced the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme to help firms continue to keep people in employment. Employers can put workers on temporary leave and the government will pay them cash grants of 80% of their wages up to a cap of £2,500, providing they keep the worker employed.

The Chancellor has also confirmed that, depending on their status, workers on zero hour contracts may be eligible for the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and we would urge people to explore this avenue too.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-20/37630/>

*Information about the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-job-retention-scheme-up-and-running>*

### **Visas: Coronavirus**

**Alison Thewliss (SNP)** [32208] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the requirement in certain categories of visa to leave the UK before being allowed to apply will be suspended during the period of the Coronavirus outbreak.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** We continue to monitor the Covid-19 virus situation closely and will make appropriate and pragmatic adjustments to requirements and

processes where necessary.

Given the restrictions on travel due to the current pandemic a number of restrictions on what is termed in country route switching have been relaxed.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-19/32208/>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Visas: Married People**

**Peter Kyle (Labour) [38501]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will extend spousals visas where one spouse is unable to re-enter the country before their visa expiration date due to global travel restrictions.

#### **Visas: Foreign Nationals**

**Peter Kyle (Labour) [38511]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will allow the extension of visas for foreign nationals who are unable to re-enter the country before their visa expiration date due to global travel restrictions.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Home Office has put in place a range of measures to support those affected by the covid-19 outbreak. We continue to monitor the situation closely and take these exceptional circumstances into account.

These are unprecedented times and we may make further adjustments to requirements where necessary and appropriate, to ensure people are not unduly affected by circumstances beyond their control.

A coronavirus immigration mailbox [CIH@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:CIH@homeoffice.gov.uk) has also been set up and there is a freephone number 0800 678 1767 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) for those who wish to discuss their individual circumstances.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-21/38501/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-21/38511/>

#### **Visas: Married People**

**Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [37494]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of suspending the minimum combined income requirements for spousal visas during the covid-19 outbreak.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Home Office has put in place a range of measures to support those affected by the covid-19 outbreak. We continue to monitor the situation closely and take these exceptional circumstances into account. We may make further adjustments to requirements where necessary and appropriate to ensure no one is penalised for circumstances beyond their control.

The minimum income requirement can be met in a number of ways in addition to or instead of income from employment or self-employment. For example, income from the couple's investments, property rental or pension may also be taken into account, together with their cash savings.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-20/37494/>

#### **Immigration: Married People**

**Barry Sheerman (Labour Co-op) [38421]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential effect on families of the Minimum Income Requirements for non-EEA spouses and partners in the event that those family members are facing financial difficulties as a result of the covid-19 outbreak.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Home Office has put in place a range of measures to support those affected by the covid-19 outbreak. We continue to monitor the

situation closely and take these exceptional circumstances into account.

The minimum income requirement can be met in a number of ways in addition to or instead of income from employment or self-employment. For example, income from the couple's investments, property rental or pension may also be taken into account, together with their cash savings. Where there are exceptional circumstances, other sources of income can be taken into account.

These are unprecedented times and we may make further adjustments to requirements where necessary and appropriate, to ensure people are not unduly affected by circumstances beyond their control.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-21/38421/>

### **Migrant Workers: Visas**

**Vicky Foxcroft (Labour)** [37829] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that people applying for visa renewals which require a minimum term of employment in the UK are not disadvantaged by job losses during the covid-19 pandemic.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** These are extraordinary times and the Government has been clear no one will have a negative outcome through the immigration system due to circumstances beyond their control. The Government is doing all it can to protect jobs and has announced a range of measures to support sponsored workers in Tier 2. Details are published on Gov.uk at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-immigration-and-borders>

We will keep our policies under review and a dedicated coronavirus immigration helpline has been set up to help those who have been affected by the current situation.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-20/37829/>

### **NHS: Migrant Workers**

**Barry Sheerman (Labour Co-op)** [38422] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to grant relevant NHS staff indefinite leave to remain until the end of the covid-19 pandemic.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Government has announced, for NHS doctors, nurses and paramedics, whose visa will expire before 1 October, we will extend their visa for 12 months. This offer also applies to their families.

The extension is automatic and free of charge and those benefitting will not have to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge.

We keep all of our policies under review and are continuing to consider how we can best support the NHS and its staff.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-21/38422/>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Immigrants: Health Services**

**Drew Hendry (SNP)** [38964] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of removing the Immigration Health Surcharge for NHS workers during the covid-19 outbreak.

**Drew Hendry (SNP)** [38966] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the financial effect of increases in the cost of the Immigration Health Surcharge on NHS employees making use of the 12 month covid-19 visa extension.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** We welcome the vital contribution NHS staff from across

the globe make to our healthcare system.

The Home Secretary announced on 31 March 2020 the Home Office will automatically extend the visa of any NHS doctor, nurse or paramedic, where it will expire before 1 October 2020, for 12 months, free of charge. This extension will also apply to their families and includes an exemption from payment of the immigration health surcharge.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-22/38964/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-22/38966/>

### **Visas: India**

**Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [34389]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what support she is giving to Indian nationals in the UK with visas due to expire soon but who cannot leave the UK due to international travel restrictions as result of the covid-19 pandemic.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Indian nationals whose visas expired after the 24 January and who cannot leave the country because of travel restrictions or self-isolation due to the COVID-19 pandemic will be able to extend their visa.

A dedicated COVID-19 immigration team has been set up within UKVI to make the process as straightforward as possible. Anyone in this situation just needs to contact this team via email at [CIH@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:CIH@homeoffice.gov.uk) or by calling 0800 678 1767 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm), to let them know their visa has expired and they will be issued with an extension.

This will last until 31 May 2020 but will be kept under regular review in case further extensions are needed.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-24/34389/>

### **Migrant Workers: Visas**

**Helen Hayes (Labour) [38516]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans her Department has to ensure that non-British nationals working in the (a) NHS and (b) social care sector to tackle the covid-19 outbreak are supported in extending their visas (i) during and (ii) after the outbreak.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Government has announced, for NHS doctors, nurses and paramedics, whose visa will expire before 1 October, we will extend their visa for 12 months. This offer also applies to their families. The extension is automatic and free of charge and those benefitting will not have to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge.

We keep all of our policies under review and are continuing to consider how we can best support the health and social care sector.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-21/38516/>

### **Visas: Skilled Workers**

**Catherine West (Labour) [37968]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the potential merits of extending the length of Tier 2 visas for 18 months due to the covid-19 outbreak.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Where employers wish to continue to employ sponsored migrant workers, those workers can qualify for extensions in the normal way.

To show our appreciation to the health sector we have already extended the visas of key NHS frontline workers, and their families, automatically for one year, where



their visa was due to expire before 1 October. The Government is doing all it can to protect jobs and has announced a range of measures to support sponsored workers in Tier 2. Details are published on Gov.uk at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-immigration-and-borders>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-20/37968/>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Matthew Offord (Conservative)** [37614] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many EU nationals have applied for (a) settled and (b) pre-settled status since that scheme became operational; and what recent estimate her Department has made of the number of EU nationals who permanently reside in the UK.

**Matthew Offord (Conservative)** [37615] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many EU nationals of each nationality have applied for (a) settled and (b) pre-settled status since that scheme became operational.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The latest published information shows that more than 3.4 million (3,468,700) EU Settlement Scheme applications had been received up to 31 March 2020 of which 3.2 million (3,259,000) were from EU nationals.

In the same period 3.1 million (3,147,000) applications had been concluded of which 58% were granted settled status and 41% granted pre settled status. Grants by conclusion type and nationality will be published in the next detailed quarterly release later this month. Data to 31 December 2019 can be found at

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

The latest figures, including applications by EU nationality, can be found in the Home Office's 'EU Settlement Scheme monthly statistics' available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/eu-settlement-scheme-statistics-march-2020>

Estimates of UK population are produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The published figures refer specifically to applications made to the EU Settlement Scheme and cannot be directly compared with ONS estimates of the resident population of EU/EEA nationals in the UK. The published EUSS figures include non-EEA family members, Irish nationals, and eligible EEA citizens not resident in the UK, none of whom are usually included in ONS estimates of the resident EU population. Furthermore, the population estimates do not take account of people's migration intentions and will include people who have come to the UK for a range of purposes, including some who have no intention to settle in the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-20/37614/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-20/37615/>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Alison Thewliss (SNP)** [1762] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many (a) woman and (b) men have been granted settled status under the EU Settled Status Scheme.

**Alison Thewliss (SNP)** [1763] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many (a) women and (b) men have been granted pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

**Reply from Kevin Foster;** It is not a mandatory requirement for an EU Settlement Scheme applicant to disclose their gender in their application.

The latest edition of the monthly statistical series on the operation of the EU Settlement Scheme was published on 16 April 2020, providing high-level figures on applications received and outcomes made up to 31 March 2020. This can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/eu-settlement-scheme-statistics-march-2020>

The EU Settlement Scheme Quarterly Statistics provide detailed statistics on applications made to the EUSS. We are continuously considering the content of the future releases and will be taking into account views and feedback from statistics users.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-09/1762/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-09/1763/>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme: EU Nationals**

**Selaine Saxby (Conservative)** [38958] To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what steps he is taking to ensure that EU citizens eligible for the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme are issued with National Insurance numbers as quickly as possible.

**Selaine Saxby (Conservative)** [39023] To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what steps he is taking to ensure EU citizens receiving a National Insurance number for the purposes of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme are not disadvantaged by any delay to that process as a result of covid-19.

**Reply from Jesse Norman:** HMRC have put processes in place to allow an employer with employees that do not have a National Insurance number to submit a claim to the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, in order to ensure that employees without a National Insurance number, including EU citizens, are not disadvantaged.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-22/38958/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-22/39023/>

#### **Undocumented Migrants: English Channel**

**Tracey Crouch (Conservative)** [37578] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has had discussions with representatives from (a) Kent County Council and (b) Kent Police on the potential merits of providing additional Government support to help deal with illegal migrants crossing the English Channel to enter the UK during the covid-19 outbreak.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** In line with existing processes, we are in regular contact with Kent Police and the Local Resilience Forum regarding migrant crossings in the Channel. These discussions have continued during the covid-19 response and have been factored into operational planning.

Border Force and Immigration Enforcement are continuing to keep the UK's border secure and have robust contingency plans in place to respond to the covid-19 pandemic driven by the latest scientific and medical advice. In line with that advice to date, no changes have been required at the UK border.

Working with the Department for Transport and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, Border Force Maritime have worked with commercial operators and Port

Security Officers to ensure that sightings of potentially suspicious small vessels are reported immediately.

Additionally, Border Force have worked with HM Coastguard to increase safety broadcasts to all vessels in the Channel, encouraging them to look out for and report small vessels. Border Force Maritime continues to encourage the public and industry to report suspicious activity and reduce the threat from organised crime and terrorism. Regional General Maritime teams have been bolstered to further improve their capability to receive and process migrants.

The Kent Multi-Agency Hub brings together officers from the police, National Crime Agency, Border Force, HMRC and Immigration Enforcement to share, develop and analyse intelligence between agencies.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-20/37578/>

### **Asylum: Applications**

**Laurence Robertson (Conservative)** [37427] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care on using the medical experience and qualifications of people who are waiting for a decision on their asylum application during the covid-19 outbreak; and if she will make a statement.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Asylum seekers with medical experience and qualifications, who have been waiting for a decision on their claim for 12 months or more, can already apply to work for the NHS in the range of medical professions on the Shortage Occupation List.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-20/37427/>

### **Detention Centres: Hygiene**

**Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru)** [38617] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department (a) has taken and (b) will take to ensure adequate supplies of soap and hand sanitizer at immigration removal centres.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The safety and health of people in the detention estate is of the utmost importance. We are following all Public Health England guidance on COVID-19 and have robust contingency plans in place, including measures such as protective isolation.

Basic hygiene is a key part of tackling COVID-19. Handwashing facilities are available in all immigration removal centres and we are working closely with suppliers to ensure we have an adequate supply of soap and cleaning materials. In addition, each centre has posters and leaflets to inform staff and detainees about the importance of handwashing and social distancing to minimise the risk from COVID-19. Detainees are also able to speak to staff directly for advice on the protective measures in place.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-21/38617/>

### **Detention Centres: Coronavirus**

**Dan Jarvis (Labour)** [38487] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to (a) prevent the transmission of covid-19 in immigration removal centres and (b) protect (i) staff and (ii) detainees in those centres from that infection.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The safety and health of people in the detention estate is of the utmost importance. The Home Office is following all Public Health England and Health Protection Scotland guidance on COVID-19 and have robust

contingency plans in place.

Measures such as protective isolation are considered on a case by case basis to minimise the risk of COVID-19 spreading in the immigration detention estate. Further measures including shielding, single occupancy rooms and the cessation of social visits have been introduced in line with the Government direction on social distancing. Appropriate personal protective equipment is available to contractor and healthcare staff when interacting with detainees being held in isolation.

Handwashing facilities are available in all immigration removal centres and we are working closely with suppliers to ensure we have a continuous supply of soap and cleaning materials. In addition, each centre has posters and leaflets to inform detainees about the importance of handwashing and social distancing to minimise the risk from COVID-19. Detainees are also able to speak to staff directly for advice on the measures in place.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-21/38487/>

### **Detention Centres**

**Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru)** [38618] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how many covid-19 tests have been conducted in immigration removal centres as of 21 April 2020; and what testing strategy is in place for those centres.

**Reply from Nadine Dorries:** Information on the number of COVID-19 tests conducted in immigration removal centres is not held.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-21/38618/>

### **Immigrants: Detainees**

**Christine Jardine (Liberal Democrat)** [37983] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have entered detention under immigration legislation since 23 March 2020.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office publishes data on people entering detention in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'.

Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data relates to the year ending December 2019. Additionally, the Home Office publishes a high-level overview of the data in the '[summary tables](#)'. The 'contents' sheet contains an overview of all available data on detention.

Figures covering the first quarter of 2020 will be released on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2020. Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the '[Research and statistics calendar](#)'.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-20/37983/>

## **UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer**

### **NHS: Migrant Workers**

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL2825] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many staff employed in the National Health Service are not British citizens.

**Reply from Lord Bethell:** NHS Digital publishes Hospital and Community Health Services workforce statistics. These include staff working in hospital trusts and clinical commissioning groups (CCGs), but not staff working in primary care or in general practitioner surgeries, local authorities or other providers.

As at December 2019, the latest available data, there were 166,857 non-United

Kingdom nationals (excluding unknowns) employed in National Health Service trusts and CCGs.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-23/HL2825/>

## Press Releases

**Home Secretary announces visa extensions for frontline health and care workers**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-announces-visa-extensions-for-frontline-health-and-care-workers>

**Supreme Court judgement relating to the potential deportation of a Zimbabwean citizen, who, while lawfully resident in the UK, committed serious crimes.**

The appellant had been granted indefinite leave to remain in the UK but after having been convicted of battery a deportation order was made against him. He appealed the deportation on health grounds but after considering the evidence, the Secretary of State refused to revoke the order. The appellant asked the Supreme Court for the right to appeal that decision, and the Supreme Court judgement allows the appeal.

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.supremecourt.uk/cases/docs/uksc-2018-0048-press-summary.pdf>

## New Publications

**Mid-Year Population Estimates Scotland, Mid-2019**

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/population-estimates/mid-19/mid-year-pop-est-19-report.pdf>

**Infographic: Mid-year population estimates, Scotland 2019**

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/nrs-visual/mid-19-pop-est/mid-year-pop-est-19-info.pdf>

**Updated Guidance: Coronavirus (COVID-19): advice for UK visa applicants and temporary UK residents**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-uk-visa-applicants-and-temporary-uk-residents#history>

**EU Settlement Scheme Looked-after children and care leavers: local authority and health and social care trust guidance**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/882748/looked\\_after\\_children\\_EUSS.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/882748/looked_after_children_EUSS.pdf)

**Update to the Home Affairs Select Committee on Windrush**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/882124/20200428\\_HASC\\_update\\_on\\_Windrush1.odt](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/882124/20200428_HASC_update_on_Windrush1.odt)

**The Home Office response to the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration's report: Annual inspection of Adults at Risk in Immigration Detention (November 2018 - May 2019)**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/882002/Response\\_to\\_the\\_annual\\_inspection\\_of\\_adults\\_at\\_risk\\_in\\_immigration\\_detention.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/882002/Response_to_the_annual_inspection_of_adults_at_risk_in_immigration_detention.pdf)

**Consultation on section 38 of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015: Duty to notify and provide information about victims Consultation Analysis Report**  
<https://tinyurl.com/y9qfhez1>

## News

**Migration drives population rise in Scotland**  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-52487043>

**Migration rise pushes Scotland's population to record 5.4 million**  
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18419683.migration-rise-pushes-scotlands-population-record-5-4-million/>

**Migrants drove Scottish population to new high as births and deaths fell**  
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/migrants-drove-scottish-population-to-new-high-as-births-and-deaths-fell-3r663z5jr>

**New points-based system after Brexit for foreign players – from European Union and beyond**  
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/new-points-based-system-after-brexit-for-foreign-players-from-european-union-and-beyond-xb5l6lgmj>

**Coronavirus: Home Office immigration policies 'compounding' health inequalities, says Sadiq Khan**  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/coronavirus-sadiq-khan-home-office-immigration-policies-a9488966.html>

**Priti Patel acts to stop rise in migrants crossing Channel**  
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/priti-patel-acts-to-stop-rise-in-migrants-crossing-channel-rlphr5r70>

**Priti Patel seeks new agreement with EU to return more Channel migrants to France**  
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/04/30/priti-patel-seeks-new-agreement-eu-return-channel-migrants-france/>

**In the midst of a pandemic, Priti Patel is focusing on what really matters – making life difficult for immigrants**  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/coronavirus-priti-patel-nhs-visa-immigration-windrush-bame-a9490451.html>

**More than 90 migrants picked up in Channel in eight boats**  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-52449088>

**Haulage boss wanted over Essex lorry container deaths is denied bail**  
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/haulage-boss-wanted-over-essex-lorry-container-deaths-is-denied-bail-fvw9xqdf>

**Nigel Farage accused of breaking lockdown to make 'racist' video about immigration**  
<https://www.indy100.com/article/nigel-farage-coronavirus-lockdown-migrant-video-9489916>

## Recommendations for a safe and accessible asylum system

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/recommendations-for-a-safe-and-accessible-asylum-system/>

## 'Give refugees temporary leave to remain during Covid-19 crisis'

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/may/03/give-refugees-temporary-leave-to-remain-during-covid-19-crisis>

## Migrants told to rely on 'investments and cash savings' to meet visa requirements during lockdown

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/coronavirus-home-office-income-requirement-families-spouse-visa-savings-a9495071.html>

## Coronavirus: Why lockdown is unremittingly grim for migrant workers

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/coronavirus-why-lockdown-is-unremittingly-grim-for-migrant-workers-j8z23kbfm>

## The government has no intention of ending the hostile environment – as an immigration lawyer, this is how I know

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/hostile-environment-coronavirus-immigration-court-appeal-right-rent-a9492536.html>

## 'Without food banks, I don't know how I'd survive': A hungry migrant family's story

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/food-banks-survival-migrant-family-coronavirus-uk-story-a9493031.html>

## New Scots on the frontline

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/new-scots-on-the-frontline/>

TOP

## Equality

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

#### Broadcasting: Equality

**Yasmin Qureshi (Labour)** [37560] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, with reference to page four of the report published by Ofcom on 18 September 2019 entitled Diversity and equal opportunities in television, whether the Government has received representations from Ofcom on powers to collect information from broadcasters on the characteristics of (a) age, (b) sexual orientation and (c) religion or belief.

**Reply from John Whittingdale:** The Government has received representations from Ofcom regarding powers to collect information on additional diversity characteristics. Under the Communications Act 2003, Ofcom requires data from broadcasters related to equality of opportunity between men and women, people of different racial groups, and for disabled persons.

The Government is committed to supporting the broadcasting sector in reflecting and providing for the whole of the UK population and encourages broadcasters to provide data to Ofcom on all the protected characteristics.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-20/37560/>

The report referred to above can be read at

[https://www.ofcom.org.uk/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0028/166807/Diversity-in-TV-2019.pdf](https://www.ofcom.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0028/166807/Diversity-in-TV-2019.pdf)

### **Travellers: Coronavirus**

**Christian Matheson (Labour) [37723]** To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what recent assessment he has made of the needs of Travellers during the covid-19 outbreak.

**Reply from Christopher Pincher:** The Government is determined to ensure everyone gets the support they need to look after themselves and their families during the COVID-19 outbreak and are enabled to take the necessary measures to reduce the spread of the virus. We are holding regular discussions with representatives from Gypsy and Traveller communities to understand the issues they are facing, and to understand what guidance and support, including for local authorities, who have a responsibility to look after vulnerable groups. On 11 April, the Communities Minister wrote to local authority Chief Executives to highlight the need to mitigate potential impacts amongst Gypsy and Traveller communities, highlighting that some Gypsies and Travellers may need assistance in accessing basic facilities such as water, sanitation and waste disposal, to enable them to adhere to public health guidelines around self-isolation and social distancing.

On 18 April, the Local Government Secretary announced that councils across England will receive a further £1.6 billion to help them to deal with the immediate impacts of coronavirus. This takes the total funding to support councils to respond to the pandemic to over £3.2 billion.

The Minister for Rough Sleeping and Housing also wrote to Caravan Site owners and managers on 27 March to confirm that people who live permanently in caravan parks, or are staying in caravan parks while their primary residence is unavailable, may continue to do so.

Levels of self-employment are high amongst Gypsy and Traveller communities. The Government recently announced a scheme for those who are self-employed to claim a taxable grant worth 80 per cent of their trading profits up to a maximum of £2500 per month for the next 3 months. This may be extended if needed.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-20/37723/>

## **UK Parliament Early Day Motion**

**Kirsten Oswald (SNP) (391) Equality in recruitment and employment** – This House notes the increase in use of artificial intelligence and automated-decision-making to recruit, manage and pay workers remotely through the coronavirus pandemic; recognises that learning from past patterns of behaviour to inform decisions about the future increases the risk of deepening inequality for people and groups who are already experiencing disadvantage; further notes that fair access to, and terms of, work is critical at a time when 15 per cent of the workforce have already lost their jobs and over 2 million people are claiming universal credit; expresses concern that the auditing tools most commonly used to assess the risk of discrimination are importing legal standards from the United States which do not reflect the purpose or requirements of the Equality Act 2010; recognises new research from the Institute for the Future of Work which reveals significant limitations in existing approaches to assessing the impacts of automated systems on equality; and calls on the Government to develop and enforce high industry standards to promote good governance and compliance of the Equality Act, to require regular Equality Impact Assessments as proposed by the Institute for the Future of Work and to review the application and enforcement of the Equality Act to ensure it is fit for purpose.



## Press Releases

**Holyrood Committee launches inquiry into equality and human rights impact of Covid-19**

<https://www.parliament.scot/newsandmediacentre/115019.aspx>

**Scottish equality and human rights bodies welcome inquiry into implications of Covid-19**

<https://www.scottishhumanrights.com/news/scottish-equality-and-human-rights-bodies-welcome-inquiry-into-implications-of-covid-19/>

## New Publications

**Letter from Sally Collier, Chief Regulator of Ofqual, to Helen Hayes MP, regarding the potential for unconscious bias in terms of gender and race in the predicted grades for GCSEs and A-Levels**

[http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2020-0225/PQ34386\\_Helen\\_Hayes\\_MP.pdf](http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2020-0225/PQ34386_Helen_Hayes_MP.pdf)

**The Colour of Money: How racial inequalities obstruct a fair and resilient economy**

<https://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/publications/pdfs/2020%20reports/The%20Colour%20of%20Money%20Report.pdf>

TOP

## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

#### Hate Crime: Coronavirus

**Neil Coyle (Labour)** [34991] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps his Department is taking to (a) protect and (b) support people subject to (i) racial abuse and (ii) other hate crimes as a result of the covid-19 pandemic.

**Reply from Luke Hall:** The Government takes hate crime and discrimination of any kind very seriously. We are a tolerant and welcoming multicultural society and we have one of the strongest legal frameworks in the world to report, record and prosecute hate crime. I would encourage anyone who experiences hate crime to report it to the police. Government's Hate Crime Action Plan published in October 2018 sets out a comprehensive programme of work across Government and the police. We fund hate crime reporting platforms, including True Vision, and we continue to engage with communities of all backgrounds and local leaders including councils and the police to make sure we are aware of any concerns communities may have and can provide targeted support.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-25/34991/>

*The Action Plan referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/748175/Hate\\_crime\\_refresh\\_2018\\_FINAL\\_WEB.PDF](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/748175/Hate_crime_refresh_2018_FINAL_WEB.PDF)

The True Vision website, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.report-it.org.uk/>

### **Local Government Services: Coronavirus**

**Andrew Gwynne (Labour)** [37523] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps he is taking to support workers that have faced racial, verbal and physical abuse while providing local authority services during the covid-19 outbreak.

**Reply from Luke Hall:** The Government takes hate crime and discrimination of any kind very seriously. We are a tolerant and welcoming multicultural society and we have one of the strongest legal frameworks in the world to report, record and prosecute hate crime. As such, I would encourage anyone who experiences hate crime or any other form of verbal or physical abuse to report it to the police.

While MHCLG does not performance manage local government, we do consider the service delivery of authorities as part of our oversight of local government. We continue to assess the risks affecting local government as part of the response to coronavirus. This will allow for us to compile the information needed to identify risks affecting councils and their workers, aiding us in assisting the Local Government Association and across Government to identify those local authorities which may need support.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-20/37523/>

### **Hate Crime: China**

**Christine Jardine (Liberal Democrat)** [38538] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of racially-motivated hate crimes recorded by the police in each week of 2020 to date were against people of Chinese ethnicity.

**Reply from Kit Malthouse:** The Home Office collects and publishes statistics annually on the number of racially motivated hate crime offences recorded by the police in England and Wales. Information is not routinely collected on the ethnicity of victims.

The latest 'Hate Crime, England and Wales' statistical bulletin is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2018-to-2019>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-21/38538/>

### **Antisemitism**

**Matthew Offord (Conservative)** [34967] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, for what reasons his Department has not brought forward legislative proposals to make Holocaust denial a criminal offence.

**Reply from Luke Hall:** The Government deplores attempts to deny the Holocaust, including those views expressed in a pseudo-intellectual manner. We understand why some European countries, because of their particular histories, have expressly legislated against Holocaust denial, but successive governments have taken the view that criminalising Holocaust denial in the UK would represent an unnecessary infringement of freedom of expression. It is of course the case that if Holocaust denial is expressed in a way that is threatening, abusive, or insulting and incites racial hatred, or is likely to do so, then that would be unlawful under the Public Order Act 1986.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-25/34967/>

## News

**Scotland's Hate Crime and Public Order Bill must not stifle free speech – Murdo Fraser MSP**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/scotlands-hate-crime-and-public-order-bill-must-not-stifle-free-speech-murdo-fraser-msp-2552473>

**Labour antisemitism: Party faces 'untold' costs after leak**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/labour-antisemitism-party-faces-untold-costs-after-leak-t73kmv7lc>

**National Action: Founders of neo-Nazi terrorist group not prosecuted three years after ban**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/national-action-neo-nazi-terrorist-group-founders-trials-ben-raymond-a9430941.html>

**Coronavirus: Swastikas daubed on 'stay at home' signs**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-tyne-52489449>

**Covid-19: How racism kills**

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/blogs/covid-19-how-racism-kills>

**Teachers warned over 'unconscious bias' amid fears that ethnic minority children will get the wrong grades**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/04/30/teachers-warned-unconscious-bias-amid-fears-ethnic-minority/>

**African jobseekers changing their names to overcome 'racist' recruiters, author claims in new book**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/04/27/african-jobseekers-changing-names-overcome-racist-recruiters/>

**Dave Kitson's bid to lead PFA hit by claims of 'racial stereotyping' and 'making excuses' for racism**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/football/2020/05/01/dave-kitsons-bid-lead-pfa-hit-claims-racial-stereotyping-making/>

**Dark-skinned girls, 'love yourself for who you are'**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/newsbeat-52470302>

TOP

## Other Scottish Parliament and Government

### News

**Holyrood goes hybrid to ease MSP 'frustration'**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18417994.coronavirus-scotland-holyrood-goes-hybrid-ease-msp-frustration/>

TOP

## Other UK Parliament and Government

### New Publications

#### **Revised: Forced Marriage Unit Statistics 2018**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/882532/Forced Marriage Unit Statistics 2018 revised final.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/882532/Forced_Marriage_Unit_Statistics_2018_revised_final.pdf)

#### **Forced Marriage Unit statistics 2018: figures and tables**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/882535/Figures and Tables 2018 revised final.ods](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/882535/Figures_and_Tables_2018_revised_final.ods)

TOP

## Health Information: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

### NHS

#### **NHS Inform (Scotland)**

Latest guidance about COVID-19 from NHS Scotland and the Scottish Government, including social distancing and stay at home advice.

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19>

#### **Healthcare for overseas visitors**

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/care-support-and-rights/health-rights/access/healthcare-for-overseas-visitors>

#### **Healthcare for refugees and asylum seekers**

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/care-support-and-rights/health-rights/access/healthcare-for-refugees-and-asylum-seekers>

#### **NHS Near Me (Scotland)**

Near Me is a video consulting service that enables people to have health and social care appointments from home or wherever is convenient. All you need is a device for making video calls like a smartphone and an internet connection. Near Me is a secure form of video consulting approved for use by the Scottish Government and NHS Scotland.

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

#### **NHS (England and Wales)**

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

### Scottish Parliament Motions

**S5M-21598 Sandra White(SNP): Sikhs in Scotland Supporting Communities** – That the Parliament acknowledges the outstanding contribution from Sikhs in Scotland in supporting communities across Scotland, including in the Glasgow Kelvin constituency, with the establishment of the Sikh Food Bank; understands that it has delivered over 20,000 meals across Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee and Aberdeen, as well as food packs for families and individuals, which include a variety of essential groceries; notes that it is

also offering to collect and deliver shopping for people shielding in the community; believes that the impact of this entirely voluntary contribution, which was initiated by Charandeep Singh, has ensured that many people, including key workers across the country's public services, are being supported; notes that the Sikh Food Bank also offers advice and support to those in hard-to-reach communities understand what they need to do in order to stay safe, through a multi-lingual interpretation service, and applauds and thanks everyone involved in the Sikh Food Bank who have mobilised and provided support during the COVID-19 outbreak.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-21598>

**S5M-21568 Maurice Golden (Conservative): Pulling Together Supporting the East Renfrewshire Jewish Community** – That the Parliament congratulates Pulling Together on its efforts to support vulnerable members of the Jewish community in East Renfrewshire during the COVID-19 outbreak; understands that it is the largest group supporting the Jewish community in the UK; notes that the group has been instrumental in ensuring vulnerable residents have access to both food and medical supplies through the work of local volunteers; further notes that the group anticipates an increase in demand for its services and will act to ensure priority is given to those most at risk; is pleased that the group has a strong focus on the safety of its volunteers, including providing safety and cleaning equipment, along with clear instructions on best practice in hand hygiene; believes that both Pulling Together and other similar support groups serve as an example of communities at their best, and wishes Pulling Together continued success in providing its much-needed support.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-21568>

## Scottish Government

**Coronavirus (COVID-19): trends in daily data**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/trends-in-number-of-people-in-hospital-with-confirmed-or-suspected-covid-19/>

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's speech 1 May 2020**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-speech-1-2020/>

**Number of volunteer sign-ups passes 76,000**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/number-of-volunteer-sign-ups-passes-75-000/>

**Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance**

<https://www.gov.scot/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance/>

**ParentClub: information to help parents cope with the 'new normal'**

<https://www.parentclub.scot/topics/coronavirus>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

### Coronavirus: Religion

**Mike Amesbury (Labour) [33745]** To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to provide guidance to religious bodies during the covid-19 outbreak.

**Reply from Helen Whately:** To make sure people are staying at home and apart from each other, the government has stopped all public gatherings of more than two people. This includes weddings, baptisms and other religious ceremonies. However, this excludes funerals in places of worship and crematoria.

More details can be found at the following links:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/full-guidance-on-staying-at-home-and-away-from-others/full-guidance-on-staying-at-home-and-away-from-others#closing-certain-businesses-and-venues>

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/875304/240320\\_Revised\\_Guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/875304/240320_Revised_Guidance.pdf)

While the government recognises the importance of rituals and gatherings, it is advised that the actions detailed in their “guidance for communities managing a death” are taken to reduce the spread of infection. More information can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-care-of-the-deceased/guidance-for-care-of-the-deceased-with-suspected-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19#guidance-for-professionals-who-manage-bodies-including-mortuary-staff-pathologists-and-funeral-directors>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-23/33745/>

#### **Charities: Coronavirus**

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [37972] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps his Department has taken to support charity workers in faith organisations during the covid-19 outbreak.

**Luke Hall:** Faith communities have a long history of service supporting many of the most vulnerable members of our society. The rapid response during the current pandemic has been no different. We value the work being done to support those in need.

Charities can access many of the support measures the Chancellor has announced for businesses, including deferring their VAT bills, paying no business rates on charity shops next year, and furloughing staff with the Government paying 80 per cent of their wages. Further details can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/financial-support-for-businesses-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

However, we know that some charities cannot furlough staff as they are contributing to the frontline response. That is why the Chancellor on 9 April announced £750 million of funding for charities providing key frontline services to vulnerable people affected by the pandemic. Further details can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-sets-out-extra-750-million-coronavirus-funding-for-frontline-charities>

We will continue to engage with the voluntary and community sector and faith organisations to understand how we can support them to respond to the pressures they may be facing.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-20/37972/>

#### **Charities: Coronavirus**

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [37974] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps his Department is taking to support Mosques with charity work during the month of Ramadan during the covid-19 outbreak.

**Luke Hall:** British Muslims, like many faith communities across the country, have responded during the COVID 19 pandemic to support their neighbours,

communities and the most vulnerable. We welcome the Muslim community's continued contributions to our shared national effort and know this will take on a special meaning during Ramadan.

The coronavirus pandemic has, however, challenged many parts of our daily life and means that Muslims in the UK and around the world will not be able to mark Ramadan and Eid Al-Fitr in the way they would normally do and are instead finding ways to do this virtually, including charitable work, such as fundraising, that would have otherwise been done in person.

Charities can access many of the support measures the Chancellor has announced for businesses, including deferring their VAT bills, paying no business rates on charity shops next year, and furloughing staff with the Government paying 80 per cent of their wages. Further details can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/financial-support-for-businesses-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

However, we know that some charities cannot furlough staff as they are contributing to the frontline response. That is why the Chancellor on 9 April announced £750 million of funding for charities providing key frontline services to vulnerable people affected by the pandemic. Further details can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-sets-out-extra-750-million-coronavirus-funding-for-frontline-charities>

The Government continues to engage with a range of faith groups, including Muslim community representatives, to maintain a complete picture of the impact of coronavirus and understand how we can support them to respond to the pressures they may be facing.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-20/37974/>

## UK Government

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19): what you need to do**

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

### **Coronavirus outbreak FAQs: what you can and can't do**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do>

### **Letter from NHS Chief Executive Sir Simon Stevens & Chief Operating Officer Amanda Pritchard to all NHS Trusts**

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2020/04/second-phase-of-nhs-response-to-covid-19-letter-to-chief-execs-29-april-2020.pdf>

### **COVID-19: mitigating impacts on Gypsy and Traveller communities [in England]**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/882564/COVID-19 - mitigating impacts on gypsy traveller communities.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/882564/COVID-19_-_mitigating_impacts_on_gypsy_traveller_communities.pdf)

## Other Organisations

### **BEMIS: Ethnic Minority National Resilience Network**

#### **1) Emergency Sustenance Grant Fund**

From Friday 17th April until Friday 29th May 2020 the EMNRN will provide emergency grant relief to those facing acute financial vulnerability due to the ongoing situation.

They can support people/families who meet the following self-defined criteria:

- Have run out of or will run out of money between 9th April and 15th May
- Not in receipt of funding from other similar programmes
- Are unable to support their family due to delays in universal credit or self-employment support
- Have household member(s) who are showing virus symptoms making it impossible for to go to shops or shop online
- Are individuals and experiencing Covid-19 hardships with no family support, etc
- Any other reason connected to the public health emergency that has material impact of placing the household in acute hardship

They will pay grants of:

- £60 per individual household adult to a maximum of £120.
- £40 per child (under the age of 16) up to a maximum of £200 per family unit.

For full details and to apply see

<https://bemis.org.uk/emergency-sustenance-grant-scheme/>

## 2) Newsletter 28 April 2020

<https://mailchi.mp/572079cd7f1e/emnrn-update-28042020>

## 3) Meeting

6 May 2020 online (zoom) (10.00 – 12.00)

To participate contact [danny.boyle@bemis.org.uk](mailto:danny.boyle@bemis.org.uk) by 3pm on 5 May 2020.

## Institute for Fiscal Studies

**Are some ethnic groups more vulnerable to COVID-19 than others?**

<https://www.ifs.org.uk/uploads/Are-some-ethnic-groups-more-vulnerable-to%20COVID-19-than-others-V2-IFS-Briefing-Note.pdf>

## News

**No exceptions to furlough rules for charities**

<http://thirdforcenews.org.uk/tfn-news/no-exceptions-to-furlough-rules-for-charities>

**NHS leaders set out new measures to protect BME staff in pandemic**

<https://www.nursingtimes.net/news/workforce/letter-from-nhs-leaders-sets-out-new-measures-to-protect-bme-staff-in-pandemic-29-04-2020/>

**NHS looks into taking BAME staff off frontline for their safety**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/30/nhs-bosses-say-bame-staff-should-be-risk-assessed-to-cut-covid-19>

**BAME NHS workers should be given roles reducing risk from coronavirus, new guidance says**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/04/29/bame-nhs-workers-should-given-roles-reducing-risk-coronavirus/>

**BAME healthcare workers need urgent protection**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/bame-healthcare-workers-need-urgent-protection-jvdttc6g9>



**Given their increased risk, immigrant and ethnic minorities need tailored help to fight Covid-19**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/global-health/science-and-disease/given-increased-risk-immigrant-ethnic-minorities-need-tailored/>

**Coronavirus: Ethnic breakdown of London deaths revealed**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-52453782>

**Coronavirus: Black African deaths three times higher than white Britons - study**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-52492662>

**Coronavirus deaths at Glasgow care home, as Scotland's Jews grapple with pandemic**

<https://www.thejc.com/community/community-news/coronavirus-deaths-at-glasgow-care-home-as-scotland-s-jews-grapple-with-pandemic-1.499328>

TOP

## **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>

**Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill**

<https://beta.parliament.scot/bills/hate-crime-and-public-order-scotland-bill>

### **UK Parliament**

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

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

**Asylum Support (Prescribed Period) Bill**

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

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

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-21/immigrationandsocialsecuritycoordinationeuwithdrawal.html>

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

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

## **Marriage (Approved Organisations) Bill**

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

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

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

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

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

TOP

## **Consultations**

\*\* new or updated this week

### **Your Police 2020-2021** (closing date 31 March 2021)

Police Scotland recognise the importance of understanding the views and priorities of Scotland's diverse communities. This is especially important during the ongoing Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This survey is an opportunity for you to give your views and opinions during these challenging times, and beyond.

<https://consult.scotland.police.uk/surveys/your-police-2020-2021/>

### **\*\* Equality and human rights impact of Covid-19** (closing date not stated)

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/114975.aspx>

### **Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill** (closing date not stated)

The Scottish Government welcomes your views on any aspect of the Bill as it begins its passage through Parliament. Queries should be headed 'Hate Crime Bill Launch' and sent to [ConnectedCommunities@gov.scot](mailto:ConnectedCommunities@gov.scot)

### **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>

TOP

## **Job Opportunities**

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

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

TOP

## Funding Opportunities

\*\* new or updated this week

### **Grants online: Coronavirus**

A number of Community Foundations and other organisations have launched funding programmes to assist local organisations in responding to the challenges of the Coronavirus Pandemic. To read a list of organisations and the types of funding they have made available, see <https://www.grantsonline.org.uk/coronavirus.html>

### **Third Sector Resilience Fund**

*Closing date not stated*

Scottish Government grants and loans from £5,000 to £100,000 for the Third Sector in response to the Coronavirus pandemic. The Third Sector Resilience Fund is an emergency fund for charities, community groups, social enterprises and voluntary organisations working in Scotland. The fund will support organisations that already deliver services and products but find themselves in financial difficulties directly as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. The primary intention of the fund is to help third sector organisations to stabilise and manage cash flows over this difficult period. For information and to apply see <https://scvo.org/support/coronavirus/your-funding/for-organisations/third-sector-resilience-fund/>

### **Fife Centre for Equalities Diversity Week Activity Fund 2020**

*Closing date not stated*

Grants of up to £100 for charities, community and voluntary groups, sporting groups, and informal groups to host a one-off activity celebrating the diverse population of Fife during Fife Centre for Equalities Diversity Week 7-13 September 2020. For information and to apply see <https://tinyurl.com/stbmu24>

[TOP](#)

## Events, Conferences, and Training

\*\* new or updated this week

### **Talking Prejudice**

*The Inverness event is presumed to be cancelled as information has been removed from the YouthLink website. The website states that the Stirling event is likely to be run as an online event, and that further details will be posted soon.*

5 May 2020 in Inverness (9.30–4.00)

2 June 2020 in Stirling (9.30–4.00)

YouthLink event for youth workers and others working in diverse communities to hear from other professionals about the tools and services available to address hate crime and prejudice. For information about the Stirling event see <https://tinyurl.com/v29nlow>

**\*\* this week!**

### **Ethnic Minority National Resilience Network**

6 May 2020 online via zoom (10.00–12.00)

To participate contact Danny Boyle [danny.boyle@bemis.org.uk](mailto:danny.boyle@bemis.org.uk) by 3pm on 5 May 2020.

**\*\* this week!**

### **Organising interfaith events and enabling dialogue**

*The Interfaith Scotland website states that they are looking at ways of putting their training courses onto an online format and advises anyone who has signed up for any of their training courses to contact Jamie Spurway at [jamie@interfaithscotland.org](mailto:jamie@interfaithscotland.org) for information.*

7 May 2020 in Glasgow (1.00–4.30)

Interfaith Scotland course on how to arrange events that bring together people of many faiths and philosophies for meaningful and respectful dialogue, including practical considerations for their success, and creating an environment that respects difference while seeking mutual understanding. For information see <https://interfaithscotland.org/get-involved/training> or contact Jamie Spurway [jamie@interfaithscotland.org](mailto:jamie@interfaithscotland.org)

### **3rd International Conference on Migration and Mobilities**

8–10 July 2020 in St Andrews

The conference is orientated around the four themes that reflect key contemporary conceptual and policy concerns: internal migration and urban change, forced migration and bordering, visualising mobilities, and European migration in turbulent politics. For information see <http://www.imigmob2020.org/home>

**TOP**

## 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>

TOP



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



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



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

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