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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 is in recess until 2 June 2020.**

## Immigration and Asylum

### Scottish Parliament Motion

#### **S5M-21878 John Mason (SNP): Immigration Statistics, Positive but with Concern –**

That the Parliament welcomes data from the National Records of Scotland showing that there has been a rise of 36,000 in the number of non-British nationals residing in Scotland between 2018 and 2019, taking the total to 388,000; recognises however that, although EU migration has remained stable over the last two years, net EU migration has fallen from a peak of over 200,000 in 2015 to 49,000; believes that Scotland does not have enough babies being born to either maintain and grow the population in future or to fill all the jobs required, and seeks to promote the country as a destination for migrants, both from and outwith the EU, to increase its international outlook, cultural diversity and economic viability.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-21878>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

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

**Tracey Crouch (Conservative)** [37575] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many migrants have crossed the English Channel to enter the UK in (a) January, (b) February and (c) March 2020; and what the countries of origin were for those migrants.

**Tracey Crouch (Conservative)** [37582] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of illegal migrants who have crossed the English Channel to enter the UK since 1 April 2020.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The data showing the number of migrants intercepted crossing the English Channel to enter the UK for the months of January, February and March is shown in the table below, including the claimed nationalities for those migrants:

(a) January 2020 – 94; (b) February 2020 – 182 and (c) March 2020 – 187.

By nationality:	Jan	Feb	March
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	53	109	104
Iraq	16	40	63
Syria Arab Republic	16	18	13
Afghanistan	5	3	5
Kuwait Bidoun	1		
Yemen	5	1	
Pakistan	4	1	
Mali	2		
Cote D'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)	1		
Senegal	1		
Egypt	1		
Guinea	1		
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>187</b>

The total number of migrants for the April period cannot yet be released as the figures have not passed through a data quality check and cannot be assured. The figures will be published at a later date, once they have been

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-20/37575/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-20/37582/>

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

**Tracey Crouch (Conservative)** [37577] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans her Department has for the deportation of illegal migrants who have crossed the English Channel to enter the UK during the covid-19 outbreak.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** It is the policy of this Government to return those not in need of protection.

The majority of countries who are signatories to the Dublin Regulations which governs the return of those seeking asylum in the UK to a third country have announced temporary suspension of transfers to and from all EU Member States due to the Corona virus.

Returns to third-countries can still take place where there is a suitable route of return.

We are ready to resume Dublin returns as soon as travel restrictions are lifted

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-20/37577/>

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

**Tracey Crouch (Conservative)** [37579] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether illegal migrants who have crossed the English Channel to enter the UK are being tested for covid-19; and how many illegal migrants have been so tested since the start of the covid-19 outbreak.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The processes to manage clandestine arrivals are kept under regular review. In line with Public Health Guidance we are not currently providing routine testing for clandestine arrivals to the UK. In line with established processes, those arriving across the Channel are immediately assessed to establish whether there are any medical requirements. Those showing symptoms of COVID-19 are provided with suitable accommodation in which to self-isolate. There are currently no cases of Covid-19 in the immigration detention estate.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-20/37579/>

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

**Vicky Foxcroft (Labour)** [47369] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent estimate her Department has made of the number of unaccompanied child migrants that have crossed the English channel from France and subsequently been granted asylum in the UK in each year since 2016.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office does not routinely publish breakdowns of asylum claims by method of arrival to the UK.

However, the Home Office does publish data on Initial decision on asylum applications from unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC), by outcome. This data can be found at Asy\_02b, of the published Immigration Statistics, year ending December 2019, published on 27 February 2020:

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

However, this data is not yet published for the period up to March 2020.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-15/47369/>

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

**Andrew Rosindell (Conservative)** [48295] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the monthly cost to the public purse of quarantining refugees who have crossed the English Channel.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** All asylum seekers who arrive in the United Kingdom presenting with symptoms of coronavirus are placed in a hotel facility to enable them to self isolate for the 7 days (14 days for families) recommended by Public Health England. Any service users who present with symptoms once housed within the accommodation estate will be supported to self-isolate within that facility. Data on arrival date, route and method of transmission into the UK is not readily accessible, and would require a manual search.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-18/48295/>

## Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

**Henry Smith (Conservative)** [48386] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to Question 41028, whether migrants who have illegally entered the UK in 2020, and have not been returned to other countries due to a suspension of the Dublin Agreement during covid-19 restrictions, will be re-assessed for return once the pandemic is over.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Dublin III Regulation is a long-standing mechanism between EU Member States to determine responsibility for examining asylum claims. It is not an application route for transfer to the UK.

Under the Dublin III Regulation, member states have three months to make a request to another participating member state to take back or take charge of the asylum application. Requested member states have two months from receiving a request to accept or reject responsibility for processing the asylum claim. Once a Dublin request has been accepted, the Regulation provides that the sending Member State has six months to enact the transfer.

The Home Office continues to work closely with EU Member State partners to enact transfers as soon as possible and ahead of the six-month timeframe. We are responding to the unique circumstances of the coronavirus outbreak by closely monitoring the transfer suspensions imposed by other member states and will seek to return those migrants accepted by another member state as soon as the relevant suspension ends, and a route of return becomes available.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-18/48386/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-28/41028/>

## Undocumented Migrants: Dover

**Gordon Henderson (Conservative)** [48398] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent estimate she has made of the number of migrants who (a) entered the UK at Dover (b) were stopped and returned to France immediately and (c) have been deported following a review of their status.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office do not routinely publish this level of data on clandestines, as this could compromise immigration controls and impact on national security. The Home Office works closely with partners in the UK and overseas to strike people smuggling at source – identifying and dismantling the organised crime groups that facilitate illegal immigration. Additionally, the UK works abroad to reduce factors that may push or force people to attempt such journeys - through creating jobs, tackling modern slavery, providing education and delivering life-saving humanitarian assistance in response to conflicts and natural disasters. We will continue to work closely with our French counterparts to maintain border security and keep legitimate passengers and trade moving.

At juxtaposed controls and 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.

The Home Office publishes data on the number of returns from the UK in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on the number of Returns are published in table Ret\_D01 of the [Returns detailed datasets](#).

Please note that only some of those returned will have previously entered the UK illegally; others may have entered legally, for example those who enter on a visa and overstay their period of valid leave and are therefore not separately identifiable in the data.

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

### **Refugees: Families**

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [47441] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the potential merits of enabling unaccompanied child refugees in the UK to sponsor close family members to join them in the UK.

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [47442] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department plans to allow unaccompanied child refugees in the UK to sponsor the safe passage of (a) parents, (b) siblings, (c) grandparents and (d) other close family members to the UK under family reunion rules.

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [47443] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will expand existing family reunion rules to allow parents to sponsor children over the age of 18 to join them in the UK.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Government has consistently made clear its considerable concern that allowing refugee children to sponsor family risks creating incentives for more children to be encouraged, or even forced, to leave their family and attempt hazardous journeys to the UK. This would play into the hands of criminal gangs, undermining our safeguarding responsibilities.

Government policy makes clear that there is discretion to grant visas outside the Immigration Rules, which caters for extended family members in exceptional circumstances – including young adult sons or daughters who are dependent on family here and living in dangerous situations. Refugees can also sponsor adult dependent relatives living overseas to join them where, due to age, illness or disability, that person requires long-term personal care that can only be provided by relatives in the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-15/47441/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-15/47442/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-15/47443/>

### **Refugees: Children**

**Catherine West (Labour)** [38490] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to bring to the UK child refugees that have been granted permission to join their families following the cancellation of their flights as a result of the covid-19 outbreak.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The UK remains fully committed to meeting our obligations under the Dublin III Regulation. The Regulation makes it very clear that once a take charge request has been accepted for an unaccompanied child, the transfer is the responsibility of the requesting State.

Despite covid-19 restrictions the UK remains ready to accept transfers under Dublin whenever Member States are in a position to make those arrangements. We are continuing to liaise with our counterparts in Member States on what actions can be taken during this period and to effect transfers as soon as it is safe and practical to do so.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-21/38490/>

### Legal Aid Scheme: Asylum

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [47444] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, if he will restore access to legal aid for asylum seekers in the UK.

**Reply from Alex Chalk:** Legal aid is and will continue to be available for asylum cases in the UK, including for initial applications, accommodation claims for asylum support and appeals. All legal aid applications are subject to statutory eligibility tests.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-15/47444/>

### Asylum: Applications

**Laurence Robertson (Conservative)** [37426] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people are waiting for a decision on their asylum application as at 20 April 2020.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office publishes data on asylum applications awaiting a decision in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on the number of people who are awaiting a decision on their asylum application are published in the [asylum applications awaiting a decision](#) data table in Asy\_D03 of the [asylum and resettlement detailed datasets](#).

The latest data is as at December 31<sup>st</sup> 2019 and an update, covering data up to the end of March 2020, is due to be released on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2020 as part of the Immigration Statistics Quarterly release.

Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook.

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/2020-04-20/37426/>

### Asylum

**Alex Cunningham (Labour)** [47280] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many negative decisions on asylum claims have been made but not served since 23 March 2020.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office publishes data on initial decisions on asylum applications by outcome. This data can be found at Asy\_02a, of the published Immigration Statistics December 2019

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-december-2019/list-of-tables#asylum-and-resettlement](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-december-2019/list-of-tables#asylum-and-resettlement)

However, this data is not yet published for the period from March 2020.

During COVID-19, Asylum Operations continue to make and serve decisions on cases where there is enough information to do so. In terms of decisions on negative claims 'made but not served', the Home Office does not publish data on what is usually a brief interregnum between a decision being written and then served.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-15/47280/>

*The following four questions all received the same answer*

### Asylum: Glasgow

**Stuart C McDonald (SNP)** [45264] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when her Department was notified by Mears Group of plans to move some 300 asylum seekers from self-contained accommodation into hotels in Glasgow.

**Stuart C McDonald (SNP)** [45265] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department gave approval to Mears Group for plans to move

some 300 asylum seekers from self-contained accommodation into hotels in Glasgow in April.

**Stuart C McDonald (SNP)** [45266] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what risk assessments her Department have (a) requested, (b) conducted and (c) received in relation to the move by Mears Group of asylum seekers from self-contained accommodation into hotels in Glasgow in April 2020.

**Stuart C McDonald (SNP)** [45267] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what (a) consultation with, (b) engagement with and (c) notification of relevant (i) individuals and (ii) organisations her Department undertook prior to the Mears Group moving asylum seekers from self-contained accommodation into hotels in Glasgow in April 2020.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The moves that took place in Glasgow were moves from contingency accommodation (serviced apartments) to contingency accommodation (hotels). Contingency use is permitted under the Asylum Accommodation and Support Contracts.

Where a provider needs to move an Initial Accommodation (IA) or Dispersed Accommodation (DA) service user they may have to do so as a matter of urgency and in such circumstances there is no contractual requirement to notify the Home Office in advance, but rather within one day of such a move taking place. A provider may only move an IA Service User once.

All accommodation providers are required to undertake risk assessments for the activities and services they perform and risk is formally managed on a monthly basis at formal contract government meetings, the most recent of which updated the risk register in relation to the use of hotel contingency across the AASC contracts held by Mears.

Risk assessment of the suitability of a property for use for supported asylum seekers would normally form part of the engagement with a Local Authority on the use of a particular hotel contingency.

The AASC Contract does not require service users in receipt of S98 support to be given 7 days-notice of moves and there may be times when service users need to be moved quickly, as a matter of urgency. In all cases relating to the moves in Glasgow, Mears have confirmed that the moves were discussed with service users in advance which included discussing requirements, assistance with packing belongings and arranging transport.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-11/45264/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-11/45265/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-11/45266/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-11/45267/>

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

#### **Asylum: Glasgow**

**Alison Thewliss (SNP)** [45285] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers are accommodated in hotels in Glasgow.

**Alison Thewliss (SNP)** [45286] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of asylum seekers in accommodation in hotels in Glasgow are supported under (a) Section 98 and (b) Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act

1999 and of those supported under Section 4 how many were granted that support due to the covid-19 lockdown.

**Alison Thewliss (SNP)** [45287] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether asylum seekers in accommodation in hotels in Glasgow will be reinstated back into self-contained flats after covid-19 lockdown measures are eased.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Hotel usage is permitted under the Asylum Accommodation and Support Contracts as contingency accommodation. There are currently 350 Service Users being accommodated in hotels in Glasgow.

Of these 299 are being housed under s98, 37 under s4 and 14 being housed under s95. We do not hold data on those being accommodated specifically as a result of the COVID 19 lockdown (the data provided is internal locally held and is subject to change).

It is Home Office policy to move people into suitable Dispersed Accommodation (DA) once their claim for support has been assessed. Mears and the Home Office work closely with Glasgow City Council on procurement of properties and it is our intention, once restrictions on movement are lifted, to move all individuals in contingency accommodation into suitable DA.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-11/45285/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-11/45286/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-11/45287/>

#### **Asylum: Finance**

**Alex Cunningham (Labour)** [47278] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers have been transferred from Section 95 to Section 4 support since 23 March 2020.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Published stats will be available on gov.uk in due course, recent statistics since March 2020 are not yet ready for release. We can confirm that we have seen an increase in Section 4 application and we continue to move people who would no longer be eligible for Section 95 support onto Section 4. We are working to ensure that applications are dealt with efficiently, and that no one should be left destitute.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-15/47278/>

#### **Asylum: Finance**

**Catherine West (Labour)** [47388] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when her Department plans to publish the outcome of its review into asylum support rates; and if she will make a statement.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** We are currently reviewing the level of the cash allowances, as we do each year, to ensure that they remain capable of meeting the essential living needs of asylum seekers

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-15/47388/>

#### **Asylum: Finance**

**Kenny MacAskill (SNP)** [47460] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has plans to restore the link between the level of asylum support and social security benefits; and if she will make a statement.



**Reply from Chris Philp:** We are currently reviewing the level of the cash allowances, as we do each year, to ensure that these meet the essential living needs of asylum seekers. The level of the asylum support cash allowance is not linked to social security benefits.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-15/47460/>

### **Asylum: Finance**

**Gill Furniss (Labour)** [48570] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the methodology is for (a) calculating changes to asylum support rates and (b) ensuring those rates are sufficient to allow asylum seekers to avoid destitution; and if she will make a statement.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** A report published in March 2018 sets out the methodology for calculating the asylum support rates and can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/report-on-review-of-cash-allowance-paid-to-asylum-seekers>.

We are currently reviewing the level of the support rate, as we do each year, to ensure that they remain capable of meeting the essential living needs of asylum seekers.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-18/48570/>

### **Asylum: Housing**

**Barry Sheerman (Labour Co-op)** [37450] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that asylum seeker accommodation adheres to social distancing measures introduced during the covid-19 outbreak.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office has been working with a Public Health England embed during the current crisis and we have put in place a number of measures to support people in the asylum system who are affected by the COVID-19 outbreak, including working closely with providers to make sure the most vulnerable people within the system receive the support they need. There are currently no cases of Covid-19 in the immigration detention estate

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-20/37450/>

### **Asylum: Housing**

**Thangam Debbonaire (Labour)** [46103] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking with the Department for Education to ensure that the required (a) equipment and (b) technology to participate in school work is provided to asylum-seeking families with children living in National Asylum Support Service supplied accommodation during the covid-19 outbreak.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The children of asylum seekers have access to the same educational services as all other children living in the UK.

The government has committed over £100 million to support remote education. We are providing laptops and tablets to disadvantaged children who would otherwise not have access. This specifically includes: children in Year 10 who are preparing for examination; children receiving support from a social worker, including pre-school children; or care leavers.

In addition, where individuals in these groups do not have internet connections, we will be providing them 4G wireless routers to ensure they can learn at home.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-12/46103/>

### **Housing: Asylum**

**Shabana Mahmood (Labour)** [46594] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what support the Government is providing to local authorities that are responsible for resettling the highest number of asylum seekers relative to other local authorities.

**Reply from Luke Hall:** The Home Office is working on an agreed change plan in partnership with Local Authority Chief Executives through the Home Office Local Government Chief Executive Group. The plan seeks to achieve a more equitable dispersal of asylum seekers across the UK and seeks to overcome barriers to ensure availability of service provision.

The plan has been paused in light of the current COVID-19 crisis but will resume once restrictions on accommodation moves have been lifted.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-13/46594/>

### **Asylum: Housing**

**Alex Cunningham (Labour)** [47281] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that people are not evicted from asylum accommodation into homelessness when the lockdown restrictions are eased; and what discussions she has had with representatives of (a) local authorities and (b) Public Health England on that matter.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Government has put in a range of measures to support asylum seekers who are affected by the coronavirus outbreak and continue to monitor the situation closely. Our current policy temporarily allows those granted refugee or other immigration status, and those who have been refused asylum and exhausted their appeal rights, to remain in their asylum accommodation. This policy will be reviewed before the end of June.

When normal arrangements resume, we will ensure our procedures are consistent with PHE guidance and that the impact on local authorities is carefully considered, as some of those granted refugee or other immigration status may require assistance to find alternative accommodation.

Failed asylum seekers who have exhausted their appeal right will continue to be provided with asylum accommodation provided they take reasonable steps to leave the UK or where there is a practical or legal obstacle that prevents their departure.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-15/47281/>

### **Asylum: Housing**

**Alex Cunningham (Labour)** [47284] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether Section 4 asylum dispersals are continuing during the covid-19 outbreak.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** We recognise the challenge of managing COVID 19 within our accommodation estate and are working closely with Public Health England (PHE) on how their guidance on social distancing and self-isolation is properly applied, while ensuring that people can continue to access essential services. We have reduced movement around our accommodation in line with wider guidance, moves can still take place where there is a critical or need or to ensure social distancing and isolation. There are currently no cases of Covid-19 in the immigration detention estate

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-15/47284/>

### **Asylum: Housing**

**Alex Cunningham (Labour)** [47285] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to enable subsistence only payments that are not connected to the provision of accommodation for Section 4 asylum seekers.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** There are no plans to provide failed asylum seekers supported under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 with support in the form of subsistence payments only. If failed asylum seekers wish to receive the support they are required to move to accommodation provided by the Home Office.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-15/47285/>

### **Asylum: Housing**

**Ruth Jones (Labour)** [48629] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what financial support the Government is providing to people living in asylum accommodation to ensure that they can access soap, hand sanitiser and other essential personal hygiene items during the covid-19 outbreak.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Asylum seekers receiving support under section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 are generally provided with accommodation and a cash allowance to cover other essential living needs, including hygiene products. For those in section 98 Initial Accommodation and hotel or hostel accommodation, hygiene products are provided to them.

As a result of the Covid-19 crisis a higher proportion of asylum seekers than usual are being accommodated in full-board hostels and hotels.

We continue to monitor the situation closely and we are making adjustments to our processes and procedures where necessary and appropriate. There are currently no cases of Covid-19 in the immigration detention estate.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-18/48629/>

### **Detention Centres: Coronavirus**

**Dawn Butler (Labour)** [37505] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the feasibility of releasing detainees from immigration detention centres to (a) prevent and (b) contain the transmission of covid-19 in those centres.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The safety and health of those in immigration removal centres is of the utmost importance but we remain committed to removing foreign national offenders or those who violate our immigration rules. Detention plays a key role in securing our borders and maintaining effective immigration control.

Decisions to detain an individual are made on a case by case basis and are based on all of the information known at the time of the review. As circumstances of the case change, detention is reviewed in light of these changes and release may then become appropriate.

The Home Office is following all Public Health England guidance and have robust contingency plans in place including measures such as protective isolation 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.

There are currently no cases of Covid-19 in the immigration detention estate.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-20/37505/>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Detention Centres: Coronavirus**

**Christine Jardine (Liberal Democrat)** [37981] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that all people in immigration removal centres have access to soap and sanitiser during the covid-19 outbreak.

**Christine Jardine (Liberal Democrat)** [37982] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her policy is on testing (a) staff and (b) detainees in immigration removal centres for covid-19.

**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 guidance on coronavirus and have robust contingency plans in place, including measures such as protective isolation and use of personal protective equipment. 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.

The Home Office is working closely with NHS England health and justice teams and regional commissioning teams to support their planning and delivery of healthcare services in immigration removal centres during the COVID-19 outbreak, which includes testing.

On 26 March, the High Court ruled that our approach to detention and Coronavirus was sensible, with the appropriate precautionary measures in place.

There are currently no cases of Covid-19 in the immigration detention estate.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-20/37981/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-20/37982/>

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

### **NHS: Migrant Workers**

**Baroness Quin (Labour)** [HL4616] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to waive the cost requirement for the renewal of visas for those working in NHS hospitals in any capacity during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government has announced we will extend the visas for a range of healthcare professionals working for the NHS and independent health and care providers, where their current visa expires between 31 March and 1 October. This offer also applies to their families. The 12-month extension is automatic and free of charge and those benefitting will not have to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge.

This is part of a wider Government approach to supporting the health and care sector during the COVID-19 pandemic. We will continue to keep all of our policies under review.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-18/HL4616/>

### **Windrush Generation: Compensation**

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Conservative)** [HL4198] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people who claimed compensation under the Windrush

Compensation Scheme have died before their claims had been settled.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** In unfortunate cases when the claimant passes away after submitting a compensation claim but before the claim is fully resolved, we work with the families to ensure the compensation payment is made to the appropriate person on the claimant's behalf. We have had three such cases so far and are working closely with the families and legal representatives in all of these cases to determine the right person to whom the compensation can be paid.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-12/HL4198/>

*Information about the Windrush Compensation Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/windrush-compensation-scheme>*

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Windrush Generation: Compensation**

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Conservative)** [HL4199] To ask Her Majesty's Government how they have publicised the Windrush Compensation Scheme (1) in the UK, and (2) overseas.

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Conservative)** [HL4200] To ask Her Majesty's Government how they have liaised with British High Commissions to deal with the claims of people who are currently overseas to compensation under the Windrush Compensation Scheme.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** There has been significant outreach and communication activity to publicise the Windrush Compensation Scheme. Evidence has shown the importance of face-to-face communications and prior to the Covid-19 pandemic outbreak, over 30 outreach events were delivered across the UK with community partners. These events have been promoted by stakeholders and on local and social media. We are now continuing events online: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/windrush-online-engagement-events>

We also work with MPs, local councils and stakeholders to raise awareness, and materials on the scheme are available on Gov.uk and have been provided to community groups. In March, the Home Secretary announced a national advertising campaign to raise awareness, and a community fund to help organisations encourage applications among their communities. These will be complemented by new activity with specialist diverse media outlets and partnerships with community leaders.

To publicise the scheme overseas, we hosted an event for High Commissioners, and working with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, we provided materials and a briefing to British Embassies and High Commissions overseas to enable them to promote the scheme locally. Plans are in development for additional activity overseas in priority countries.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-12/HL4199/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-12/HL4200/>

*Information about the Windrush Compensation Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/windrush-compensation-scheme>*

#### **Asylum: Finance**

**Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour)** [HL4183] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 6 May (HL Deb, col 441), when

the current review of asylum support commenced; when that review is due to be completed; and whether that review will take additional costs into account, such as those associated with hygiene needs, resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The current review of the level of the cash allowances began with the publication of the latest Family Spending data by the Office of National Statistics on 19 March, as that data is one of the main sources of information used to assess the appropriate level of the allowances. The review also takes account of research into the actual costs of purchasing essential items and whether Covid 19 has impacted on these costs.

The outcome of the review will be published in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-12/HL4183/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-05-06/debates/34B285A7-F1A0-4C18-AB8C-38A3F59CCDDF/NationalAsylumSupportService#contribution-A97C1976-D687-49B5-9472-2F1E8EA33A45>

### Asylum: Finance

**Baroness Coussins (Crossbench) [HL4235]** To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to increase the level of asylum support in line with the COVID-19 related uplift for Universal Credit.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We are currently reviewing the level of the cash allowances, as we do each year, to ensure that they remain capable of meeting the essential living needs of asylum seekers. The level of the cash allowances is not linked to Universal Credit.

Home Office has put in place a range of measures to support those in the asylum system who are affected by the covid-19 outbreak. We continue to monitor the situation closely and are making adjustments to our processes and procedures where necessary and appropriate

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-12/HL4235/>

### Immigrants: Detainees

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL4186]** To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people were detained in each immigration removal centre on (1) 2 March, (2) 21 April, and (3) 7 May.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office publishes data on people in detention in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release'. Data on the number of people detained under immigration powers at the end of each quarter, by location are published in table Det\_D02 of the immigration detention detailed datasets. Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data relates to those in detention as at 31 December 2019, which show that there were 1,256 people detained in immigration removal centres, 24 in short term holding facilities in the detention estate, with a further 359 detained under immigration powers in prison. 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, including those detained as at 31 March 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/Lords/2020-05-12/HL4186/>

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

### **Immigrants: Detainees**

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL4208] To ask Her Majesty's Government what financial and other support they provided to those released from immigration removal centres as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL4209] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they hold the current address of each person released from an immigration removal centre as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL4210] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they provided long-term accommodation to those released from immigration removal centres as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Asylum seekers who would otherwise be unable to support themselves are provided with accommodation and financial assistance to meet their essential living needs.

We remain committed to providing support and accommodation to those who need it. In light of the pandemic, we have introduced temporary measures to continue supporting those who would normally have had their accommodation and financial assistance stopped until at least the end of June when we will review the situation. We are ensuring local authorities are supported, with £3.2 million in targeted funding to help support individuals who are sleeping rough off the streets, and an additional £3.2 billion provided to local authorities as part of the wider government response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding has been provided to help local authorities to reduce risks to public health and to support individuals on the basis of need.

The legal position on those with no recourse to public funds has not been amended. People granted refugee status in the United Kingdom are able to access the mainstream benefits in the same way as a British Citizen.

Individuals released from immigration detention will usually be subject to certain conditions which may require a person to report to a Home Office reporting centre at regular intervals or to remain living at the same address.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-12/HL4208/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-12/HL4209/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-12/HL4210/>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Human Trafficking: Victim Support Schemes**

**The Lord Bishop of Bristol** [HL4177] To ask Her Majesty's Government what long-term support services they plan to provide to survivors of trafficking to protect them from being re-trafficked and to ensure that they are supported when the COVID-19 lockdown ends.

### **Slavery: Victims**

**The Lord Bishop of Bristol** [HL4178] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to ensure that the level of subsistence support given to victims of modern slavery during the COVID-19 pandemic is sufficient to meet essential needs.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** This Government is committed to stamping out modern slavery and providing victims with the support they need to rebuild their lives.

The Victim Care Contract aims to lift victims of modern slavery out of exploitation and establish a pathway to rebuild their lives. The Recovery Needs Assessment (RNA) informs a tailored move-on plan for confirmed victims, with the aim of

establishing longer-term stability by helping victims transition out of VCC support and back into a community, as appropriate. Where this is not possible, VCC support will continue to meet the victim's ongoing recovery needs.

The safety and security of those supported through the modern slavery Victim Care Contract (VCC) is a top priority during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are continually reviewing how essential services can best be maintained and delivered to ensure victims receive and have the means to access the support they need at this time. To ensure our support system remains robust, we have adapted the method by which victims receive financial support. A new card payment solution has been rolled out to allow victims to receive their payments without requiring a cash transaction or a face-to-face meeting with a support worker. These pre-paid cards for users can be used online, in shops or in cash machines.

The policy change announced on 6 April mean individuals who are accommodated in the VCC, will have continued access to this accommodation until at least the 6 July 2020. The policy will be reviewed before the end of June in respect of the Government's latest covid-19 advice. This change, alongside the existing support mechanisms within the contract will ensure that vulnerable individuals are not left without the essential support they need at this challenging time.

As the public health restrictions are lifted, we are committed as ever, to support victims and protect them from re-trafficking.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-12/HL4177/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-12/HL4178/>

## Press Releases

### **Helping those with no access to public funds**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/helping-those-with-no-access-to-public-funds/>

### **Windrush Compensation Scheme pays out £360,000 within first year**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/windrush-compensation-scheme-pays-out-360000-within-first-year>

### **Increased funding to support victims of human trafficking**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/increased-funding-to-support-victims-of-human-trafficking/>

## New Publications

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19): immigration and borders: Guidance for those affected by changes to UK immigration and borders due to coronavirus**

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

### **Statistics relating to COVID-19 and the immigration system, May 2020**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/887808/statistics-relating-to-covid-19-and-the-immigration-system-may-2020.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/887808/statistics-relating-to-covid-19-and-the-immigration-system-may-2020.pdf)

### **Windrush Compensation Scheme data: May 2020**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/887450/Windrush\\_Compensation\\_Scheme\\_Q1\\_2020.ods](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/887450/Windrush_Compensation_Scheme_Q1_2020.ods)



## **Human Trafficking: Report of April 2020 Scottish Population Online Survey**

<https://tinyurl.com/ya9ylju6>

## **Trafficking and exploitation strategy: third annual progress report**

<https://tinyurl.com/yb7lwauh>

## **News**

### **Home Office has paid out only 60 Windrush claims**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/home-office-has-paid-out-only-60-windrush-claims-kvmcxhtdl>

### **Priti Patel seeks powers to turn back migrants off south coast**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/patel-seeks-new-powers-to-turn-back-migrants-off-south-coast-3cjz9hl2z>

### **Channel migrants: Boats carrying 60 people intercepted**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-52827078>

### **Kayaker among new wave of migrants crossing the Channel, as French Navy accused of escorting boats into British waters**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/05/26/kayaker-among-new-wave-migrants-crossing-channel-french-navy/>

### **Channel crossings will continue as long as illegal migrants are allowed to stay in Britain**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/05/31/channel-crossings-will-continue-long-illegal-migrants-allowed/>

### **Britain has lost the plot on migrant crossings**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/britain-has-lost-the-plot-on-migrant-crossings-92v3wxss3>

### **Thirteen people charged in France over Essex lorry deaths**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/may/30/thirteen-people-charged-in-france-over-essex-lorry-deaths>

### **Police smash people-smuggling ring 'linked to Essex lorry deaths'**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/may/29/police-smash-people-smuggling-ring-linked-to-essex-lorry-deaths>

### **Essex lorry deaths: 26 suspects arrested in France and Belgium over 'people-smuggling network'**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/essex-lorry-deaths-suspects-arrested-france-belgium-smuggling-network-a9535166.html>

### **Outrage at U-turn on promise to reunite child refugees with UK family**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/may/24/outrage-at-u-turn-on-promise-to-reunite-child-refugees-with-uk-family>

### **UK asylum applications fall sharply during lockdown**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/may/28/uk-asylum-applications-fall-sharply-during-lockdown>

**Three quarters of public say UK workers should be prioritised for British jobs rather than migrants, study shows**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/05/27/three-quarters-public-say-uk-workers-should-prioritised-british/>

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## Equality

### UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

#### **Domestic Abuse: Ethnic Groups**

**Baroness Uddin (Non-affiliated)** [HL4193] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that women from BAME communities who have (1) experienced, and (2) reported, domestic abuse receive adequate advice, support and counselling and, where necessary, emergency housing and financial assistance.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We are in frequent contact with the domestic abuse sector, including specialist BAME organisations, as well as the Domestic Abuse Commissioner, to understand the impact of covid-19 on BAME communities.

Following increases in calls to domestic abuse helplines and online services, the Home Secretary announced an additional £2m to bolster organisations' capacity on April 11. This is currently being allocated.

This is in addition to £28m of Government funding for domestic abuse charities to help survivors of domestic abuse and their children by providing more safe spaces, accommodation and access to support services during the coronavirus outbreak.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-12/HL4193/>

### New Publication

**Equality and Human Rights Commission Impact report 2019-20**

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/impact-report-2019-20.pdf>

### News

**BAME campaigners urge UK government to tackle race inequalities after high Covid toll**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/may/27/call-for-coronavirus-uk-race-equality-strategy>

**First hijab-wearing UK court judge hopes to be 'trailblazer'**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-nottinghamshire-52819978>

**Muslim woman becomes first hijab-wearing judge in UK but says she is still mistaken for interpreter**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/05/27/muslim-woman-becomes-first-hijab-wearing-judge-uk-says-still/>

TOP

# Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

### **Antisemitism: Hate Crime**

**Bambos Charalambous (Labour)** [47412] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, how many Ministerial roundtables on antisemitism have been held since the Home Office's Hate Crime Action Plan refresh document was published in 2018.

**Reply from Luke Hall:** Following the publication of the Hate Crime Action Plan Refresh in October 2018, the Government has hosted two ministerial roundtables on antisemitism with stakeholders from Jewish communities, alongside regular meetings of the Cross-Government Working Group to Tackle Antisemitism.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-15/47412/>

*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)

### **Sikhs: Hate Crime**

**Bambos Charalambous (Labour)** [47413] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, how many roundtables her Department has held with the Sikh community since the Home Office's Hate Crime Action Plan refresh document was published in 2018.

**Reply from Luke Hall:** There is regular engagement at Ministerial and official level with representatives of Sikh communities. In addition to this the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has hosted two hate crime roundtables with the Sikh community since the Government's Hate Crime Action Plan refresh document was published in October 2018.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-15/47413/>

*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)

### **Travellers: Hate Crime**

**Bambos Charalambous (Labour)** [47414] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, how many roundtables have been held with representatives of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Liaison Group since the publication of her Department's updated Hate crime action plan in October 2018.

**Reply from Luke Hall:** There have been five Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Liaison Group roundtables hosted by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government since the Government's Hate Crime Action Plan refresh document was published in October 2018.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-15/47414/>

*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)

## Press Release

**Scapegoating of minorities during pandemic increases need for targeted action to combat intolerance and discrimination, OSCE conference concludes**

<https://www.osce.org/odihr/453207>

## News

**Met accused of racism over drug-search video**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/met-accused-of-racism-over-drug-search-video-5pmxt20sp>

**BAME people fined more than white population under coronavirus laws**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/may/26/bame-people-fined-more-than-white-population-under-coronavirus-laws>

**Noel Clarke says racism is 'embedded in fabric of British society' and UK film industry**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/films/news/noel-clarke-racism-bulletproof-fishermans-friends-george-floyd-protests-minneapolis-a9538526.html>

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## Other UK Parliament and Government

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

#### Places of Worship Security Funding Scheme

**Bambos Charalambous (Labour) [46779]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the £1.5 million to protect vulnerable places of worship through the Places of Worship Protective Security Programme has been distributed to those places of worship.

**Reply from Kit Malthouse:** The Places of Worship Protective Security Funding Scheme has awarded funding to 49 places of worship in the 2019/2020 round. Funding for this scheme has been doubled to £3.2 million for 2020/2021.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-13/46779/>

*Information about the Places of Worship Security Funding Scheme can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/places-of-worship-security-funding-scheme>*

### UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

#### Forced Marriage

**Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle (Green) [HL4350]** To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to legislate to tackle predatory marriage.

**Reply from Lord Keen of Elie:** The Government has no current legislative plans to change the existing safeguards.

A registration official has a duty to stop proceedings if they are of opinion that either of the parties to a marriage does not have the capacity to marry.

The Law Commission is currently reviewing how and where weddings take place, including the formalities and safeguarding checks required before a marriage is

conducted. We will carefully consider any recommendations made in the final report.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-12/HL4350/>

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## **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/>

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

### **Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups**

**Marsha De Cordova (Labour)** [47451] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what proportion of people who have been tested positive for covid-19 are BAME.

**Reply from Jo Churchill:** Data on the proportion of people who have tested positive for COVID-19 in England by ethnicity is publicly available in the weekly national surveillance reports. These can be accessed on the GOV.UK site at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-covid-19-surveillance-reports>

The last report, based on week 19 (reflecting data up to 10 May 2020 and where available up to 13 May 2020) showed 17.8% of cases who are from a Black, Asian, and minority ethnic group.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-15/47451/>

### Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups

**Catherine West (Labour)** [47392] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what assessment his Department has made of the risk of catching covid-19 by BME women in the 3rd trimester of pregnancy.

**Reply from Nadine Dorries:** The National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit are using the United Kingdom Obstetric Surveillance System to determine the incidence of hospitalisation with pandemic COVID-19 infection in pregnancy and assess the outcomes of pandemic COVID-19 in pregnancy for mother and infant.

The initial analysis of the study found that there was a strong association between admission with infection and black or minority ethnicity. Consequently, The Royal College of Midwives has launched a targeted campaign to raise awareness of the increased risk to Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) women and reassure pregnant mothers that help is available. The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists is also updating its guidance to reflect the increased risks for BAME women so that health professionals can pass on relevant advice and support to the women in their care.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-15/47392/>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

### Minority Groups: Coronavirus

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns (Conservative)** [HL4377] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to support refugees and marginalised religious and belief communities which have been negatively impacted by COVID-19.

**Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The UK Government works to ensure that all aid reaches the most vulnerable, including refugees and those from marginalised religious and belief communities. Vulnerable populations will experience COVID-19 outbreaks differently. COVID-19 is likely to reinforce their marginalised position in society, their experience of discrimination, violence and stigma, and further limit their access to essential support and services. For this reason, guidance has been circulated across DFID highlighting that inclusion must be central to our response and that the specific needs of refugees and all marginalised religious communities should be taken into account when developing practical programmes to tackle COVID-19.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-13/HL4377/>

### Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups

**Baroness Lawrence of Clarendon (Labour)** [HL4512] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, following reports of the differential impact of COVID-19 on BAME communities, all relevant public authorities in the UK should be gathering data on the ethnic profile of those dying with the condition; and if not, what plans they have to instruct such authorities to do so.

**Reply from Lord True:** The potential for impact on ethnicity, gender, age, and other vulnerable groups is a cause for significant concern to us. This is why we have asked Public Health England to review COVID-19 outcomes among different groups, including ethnic minority communities, and to explore reasons for the disparities.

The findings of this review will inform what further action we can take to better protect these communities. In the meantime, we have implemented specific measures to reduce the spread of the virus in all communities.

The statistical information requested falls under the remit of the UK Statistics Authority. I have therefore asked the Authority to respond. ...

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is responsible for publishing weekly numbers of deaths registered in England and Wales. The most recent annual figures published are for deaths registered in 2018<sup>[1]</sup>. However, we do publish provisional weekly deaths registrations, which are currently published for deaths registered up to 8 May 2020<sup>[2]</sup>. National Records Scotland (NRS) and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) are responsible for publishing the number of deaths registered in Scotland and Northern Ireland respectively.

Cause of death is defined using the International Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th edition (ICD-10). Deaths involving COVID-19, which refers to deaths where COVID-19 is mentioned anywhere on the death certificate, are identified by the ICD-10 codes U07.1 and U07.2.

The ONS have recently published an article<sup>[3]</sup> and accompanying datasets<sup>[4]</sup> on provisional analysis of deaths involving COVID-19 by ethnicity for England and Wales. These analyses are based on a new dataset developed by the ONS that links 2011 Census records to deaths that occurred between 2 March and 10 April 2020 registered by death registrations up to 17 April 2020, with deaths being added on a weekly basis. These analyses will be updated and extended in June 2020.

Collecting information on the ethnic profile of individuals dying with COVID-19 presents practical and methodological challenges. This is because ethnicity is a self-identification measure reflecting how individuals define themselves, and guidance on the collection of ethnic group data in the UK states that responses on ethnicity should be answered by the individual directly, particularly if they are an adult<sup>[5]</sup>.

Ethnicity is not recorded on the death certificate. To enable us to undertake our specific analysis at the ONS, deaths involving COVID-19 were linked to the 2011 Census, which allowed us to ascertain the self-reported ethnicity of the deceased and other demographic factors. ...

[1] <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/datasets/deathsregisteredinenglandandwalesseriesdrreferencetables>

[2] <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/bulletins/deathsregisteredweeklyinenglandandwalesprovisional/weekending8may2020>

[3] <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/articles/coronavirusrelateddeathsbyethnicgroupenglandandwales/2march2020to10april2020>

[4] <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/articles/coronavirusrelateddeathsbyethnicgroupenglandandwales/2march2020to10april2020/relateddata>

[5] <https://www.ons.gov.uk/methodology/classificationsandstandards/measuringequality/ethnicgroupnationalidentityandreligion>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-14/HL4512/>

### **Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups**

**Baroness Uddin (Non-affiliated)** [HL3098] To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the reported numbers of COVID-19 related deaths of frontline staff from BAME communities, what steps they are taking to mitigate the risks of COVID-19 for BAME frontline staff.

**Reply from Lord Bethell:** We are looking very specifically at the impact COVID-19 is having on the black, Asian and minority ethnic population. We have

commissioned Public Health England to look at this issue in detail and they are due to report before the end of May. The review will also analyse available data on health outcomes for National Health Service staff, to develop a better understanding of how the virus affects frontline workforce.

In advance of Public Health England's review, and on a precautionary basis, NHS England and NHS Improvement have recommended that NHS employers should risk-assess staff at potentially greater risk and make appropriate arrangements accordingly.

We are working around the clock to ensure personal protective equipment is delivered as quickly as possible to all those on the frontline during this global pandemic for as long as it is required.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-04-22/HL3098/>

### **Religious Buildings: Coronavirus**

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL4184] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with religious authorities about opening places of worship for (1) personal private devotions, (2) formal services, and (3) funerals and weddings, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Reply from Lord Greenhalgh:** The Government has been working closely with all major faith groups on a wide variety of issues relating to its response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and this engagement will continue.

The Faith Minister has held meetings with Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh and Hindu faith leaders and representatives since the outbreak. Officials also maintain regular contact with Faith leaders across all major faiths, ensuring the Government is responding to issues relating to COVID-19 as they arise.

This engagement will continue at both ministerial and official level as the Government looks to lift restrictions, as outlined in the recovery strategy – “Our Plan to Rebuild”, which was launched on 11 May can be found (attached) here:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/884760/Our\\_plan\\_to\\_rebuild\\_The\\_UK\\_Government\\_s\\_COVID-19\\_recovery\\_strategy.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/884760/Our_plan_to_rebuild_The_UK_Government_s_COVID-19_recovery_strategy.pdf)

As the document makes clear in Step 3, the Government's ambition is to open places of worship; the current assumption is that this Step will be no earlier than 4 July.

As part of the recovery strategy, the Government has launched a Taskforce to look at the possible re-opening of places of worship. The Taskforce will be led by the Secretary of State for Communities, or the Faith Minister, and comprise of representatives from the country's major faiths. The aim of the Taskforce is to work towards the safe reopening of places of worship, including for private devotions, services and ceremonies like funerals and weddings. It will address the specific issues that places of worship face in the course of reopening safely.

Places of worship are essential in bringing our communities together, which is why we want to reopen them as soon as we can. However, we will not compromise the safety of those who visit and work at our places of worship. The Government's priority is to protect the public and save lives. We are committed to ensuring our faith communities have access to the latest public health advice, and to support them to adapt their practices in line with the Government's COVID-19 guidance.

[Our Plan to Rebuild](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-12/HL4184/>



## Travellers: Coronavirus

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Conservative)** [HL4197] To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to establishing a task force to deal with specific challenges experienced by Gypsy, Traveller and Roma communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Reply from Lord Greenhalgh:** We have been in close contact with Gypsy and Traveller Voluntary and Community Sector organisations and are doing everything we can to support them through the pandemic.

We have provided £3.2 billion to local authorities to help them respond to the immediate impact of COVID-19. It is for local authorities to determine how best to support vulnerable groups, in line with their public health responsibilities. To enable compliance with COVID-19 public health guidance, access to basic amenities, including water, sanitation and waste disposal facilities is essential.

On 11 April I wrote to all local authority chief executives to highlight that some Gypsies and Travellers may need specific support, including access to basic services such as water, sanitation and waste disposal (attached):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-mitigating-impacts-on-gypsy-and-traveller-communities>.

[Letter to Local Authority](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-12/HL4197/>

## Scottish Government Press Releases

### Lockdown begins to ease in Phase 1

- One household can now meet up with another outdoors. This can be in one household's garden, but physical distancing is still required. It is expected households will only meet one other household within the same day and up to a recommended maximum of eight people in the overall group.
- Public outdoor spaces can now be used for recreational purposes, for example to sit in a park, sunbathe or have a picnic. People should not share food and drink between households and should avoid using shared facilities, such as bathrooms. If eating, each household should bring their own food separately and avoid sharing utensils, dishes or cups and use a hand sanitiser before eating. Physical distancing between households should be maintained at all times.
- You can now travel short distances for outdoor leisure and exercise but should remain in your local area, suggested to be five miles from your house, although we ask people to use their judgement. People are encouraged to walk, wheel or cycle where possible.
- Staff can return to schools subject to risk assessments and appropriate physical distancing and hygiene measures being in place to support this.
- Child minding services and fully outdoor nursery provision will be available, although capacity will be limited. Both measures will be subject to increased hygiene measures, small group working and physical distancing of adults.
- Most outdoor workplaces to resume with physical distancing measures in place once guidance is agreed.
- The construction sector is expected to be able to implement the first phase in its restart plan.
- Food outlets, restaurants and cafes are able to provide delivery, take-away and drive-through food options in line with guidance and complying and safe physical distancing measures.

- Unrestricted outdoor exercise and some non-contact outdoor activities within the local area – such as golf, outdoor tennis and angling – can resume provided physical distancing is followed. It does not mean that taking part will always be safe. You should use judgement and take part only if you can do so safely, maintaining physical distancing and not putting yourself or others at risk.
- Household Waste Recycling Centres to begin to reopen. Sites must operate safely, ensuring physical distancing is maintained, and should only be visited when absolutely necessary to minimise journeys.

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/lockdown-begins-to-ease-in-phase-1/>

**Test and Protect rolled out nationally**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/test-and-protect-rolled-out-nationally/>

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's speech 29 May 2020**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-speech-29-2020/>

**Coronavirus (COVID-19): staying at home and away from others (physical distancing)**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-staying-at-home-and-away-from-others/>

**Contact tracing information gathering**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/contact-tracing-information-gathering/>

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

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-trends-in-daily-data/>

**Support for measures to prevent spread of virus**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/support-for-measures-to-prevent-spread-of-virus/>

## Scottish Government Publications

**Coronavirus (COVID-19): framework for decision making – Phase 1 update**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-framework-decision-making-scotlands-route-map-through-out-crisis-phase-1-update/>

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) Phase 1: returning to work**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-phase-1-returning-to-work/>

**Coronavirus (COVID-19): framework for decision making – supporting evidence for moving to phase 1**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-framework-decision-making-scotlands-route-map-through-out-crisis-supporting-evidence-moving-phase-1/>

## UK Government Press Releases

**Government launches NHS Test and Trace service**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-nhs-test-and-trace-service>

### **Prime Minister hails resilience of shielders as restrictions set to ease**

*[England and Wales only – see above for the new regulations in Scotland]*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-hails-resilience-of-shielders-as-restrictions-set-to-ease>

### **Prime Minister: Six people can meet outside under new measures to ease lockdown**

*[England and Wales only – see above for the new regulations in Scotland]*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-six-people-can-meet-outside-under-new-measures-to-ease-lockdown>

## **UK Government Publications**

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

*[England and Wales only – see above for the new regulations in Scotland]*

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

### **Updated Guidance: Staying alert and safe (social distancing)**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing>

### **Updated Guidance: Staying safe outside your home**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-safe-outside-your-home/staying-safe-outside-your-home>

### **Updated Guidance: Coronavirus (COVID-19): Information for individuals and businesses in Scotland**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-individuals-and-businesses-in-scotland>

### **Updated Guidance: Number of coronavirus (COVID-19) cases and risk in the UK**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

## **Other Organisations**

### **Police Scotland**

Statement from the Chief Constable on lockdown changes

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/whats-happening/news/2020/may/statement-from-the-chief-constable-on-coronavirus-lockdown-changes>

### **Office of National Statistics**

**Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain: 29 May 2020**

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandwellbeing/bulletins/coronavirusandthesocialimpactsongreatbritain/29may2020/pdf>

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

BEMIS is now in a position to sustain the Multicultural Counselling Support Project until the end of July 2020. This Project focuses on supporting mental health needs for ethnic minority individuals and families by providing multilingual culturally- and religiously-sensitive counselling support and facilitating complementary conduits to mainstream

provision.

The counselling, which is in line with the ethical standards of BACP and other counselling authorities, will be delivered remotely by telephone or online (via WhatsApp, Zoom, Skype, etc.). For more information see <https://bemis.org.uk/emnrrn/counselling/>

## News

### **Coronavirus: 'Slow and steady' approach by Scotland**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-52867284>

### **Coronavirus: What can you do in Scotland from Friday?**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-52835371>

### **Coronavirus: Some people shielding allowed outdoors from Monday**

*[England and Wales only – see above for the new regulations in England]*

<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-52862440>

### **Six in 10 UK health workers killed by Covid-19 are BAME**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/may/25/six-in-10-uk-health-workers-killed-by-covid-19-are-bame>

### **Plans to reopen English schools 'fail to address risk to BAME staff'**

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2020/may/26/plans-to-reopen-english-schools>

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## Other News

### **Eid amid lockdown: Muslims across north and north-east celebrate from home**

<https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/aberdeen/2211605/eid-amid-lockdown-muslims-across-north-and-north-east-celebrate-from-home/>

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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>

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

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

## **\*\* Post-mortem Examinations (Defence Time Limit) (Scotland) Bill**

<https://beta.parliament.scot/bills/post-mortem-examinations-defence-time-limit-scotland-bill>

Bill as introduced

<https://beta.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/current-bills/post-mortem-examinations-defence-time-limit-scotland-bill/introduced/bill-as-introduced-post-mortem-examinations-defence-time-limit-scotland-bill.pdf>

Explanatory Notes

<https://beta.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/current-bills/post-mortem-examinations-defence-time-limit-scotland-bill/introduced/explanatory-notes-post-mortem-examinations-defence-time-limit-scotland-bill.pdf>

Policy Memorandum

<https://beta.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/current-bills/post-mortem-examinations-defence-time-limit-scotland-bill/introduced/policy-memorandum-post-mortem-examinations-defence-time-limit-scotland-bill.pdf>

Financial Memorandum

<https://beta.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/current-bills/post-mortem-examinations-defence-time-limit-scotland-bill/introduced/financial-memorandum-post-mortem-examinations-defence-time-limit-scotland-bill.pdf>

## **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>

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## Consultations

\*\* new or updated this week

**Shortage occupation list** (closing date 24 June 2020)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/shortage-occupation-list-call-for-evidence>

**Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill** (closing date 24 July 2020)

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/115038.aspx>

**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>

**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>

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## Job Opportunities

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

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

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## Funding Opportunities

\*\* new or updated this week

**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/>

### **Covid-19 Transition Fund**

*Closing date not stated*

Ethnic Minority National Resilience Network funding for organisations to respond to the changing needs of their members in a sustainable way. Funding priorities will be to ensure that community organisations can:

- set up sustainable networks that support access to food and sustenance needs initially up until August 2020
- support their communities to be connected to services, information and communication
- provide services to tackle isolation, such as online events and befriending

For information and to apply see

<https://bemis.org.uk/emnrrn/transition-fund/>

### **Covid-19 Rapid Response Fund**

*Closing date not stated*

This small grant fund has been established by the William Grant Foundation, Faith in Community Scotland and the National Lottery Community Fund so that Scotland's network of local faith groups and related community organisations can provide immediate support for individuals and families. For information and to apply see

<https://www.faithincommunity.scot/covid19info>

### **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>

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## **Events, Conferences, and Training**

\*\* new or updated this week

### **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 politic. For information see <http://www.imigmob2020.org/home>

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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**  
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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