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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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Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Oral Answer

People with No Recourse to Public Funds

Bob Doris (SNP): Last week, the Prime Minister expressed shock that people with no recourse to public funds cannot access financial support. It was not a shock to many, including the Kurdish development association in Glasgow which contacted me recently. The association told me of the impact of the rule on many Glasgow residents, including many who have temporary leave to remain and who have lived and worked in the United Kingdom for a number of years, and yet who have been forced into destitution due to their immigration status and the impact of Covid-19.

Now that the Prime Minister has been made aware of the situation, does the First Minister agree that he must ensure that the UK Government takes decisive action to support those who are affected by that dreadful immigration rule?

Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon): Yes, I agree very strongly. I find it inexplicable that any member of Parliament or member of the Scottish Parliament could be unaware of the issues that are created by not having recourse to public funds. In my constituency—the same will be true in Bob Doris’s constituency—those issues cross my desk and arrive in my constituency mailbag every single day. They are real issues for very many people.

For a number of years, and over the course of the pandemic, the Scottish Government has consistently raised the issue with the Home Office. Now that the Prime Minister has realised that there are people who face destitution and hardship because they cannot access much-needed support, I hope that that appalling policy will be reversed.

At this time of crisis, in particular, people who have come to the UK to work, study or be with their families, or because they need a place of safety, must be appropriately supported as restrictions are lifted, so that they can be safe and wider public health can be protected. That is absolutely essential if we are to ensure that our communities and economy can recover from this unprecedented situation. I very much hope that we will see a change of policy from the UK Government soon.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12671&i=114648#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Motions

S5M-21943 Kenneth Gibson (SNP): UK Government Acts to Discourage EU Citizens

– That the Parliament understands that, on 15 May 2020, the UK Government Home Office updated its guidance on naturalisation as a British citizen by discretion; further understands that the new guidance determines that now “grant of settled status (also known as indefinite leave to enter or remain) will not confirm that they were here lawfully under the EEA Regulations during that time, as defined by the British Nationality Act 1981 as this is not a requirement of the EU Settlement Scheme”; believes that Home Office staff are given discretion to “request further information from the applicant to demonstrate this” for those who hold Indefinite Leave to Remain via Settled Status and “must” request it from applicants who hold Pre-settled Status; notes with concern the instruction that “where appropriate”, they “must also be satisfied that the person was lawfully in the UK, with comprehensive sickness insurance (CSI)” during periods when they were studying or self-sufficient, a requirement that it understands is not part of the Settled Status nor the Pre-Settled Status application process; denounces that the new policy will, it understands, be applied retrospectively to all current outstanding applications with, it considers, the UK Government effectively moving the goalposts; believes that what it views as an unnecessary and unreasonable requirement was surreptitiously introduced to discourage EU nationals from applying for and obtaining the same basic rights as UK citizens, including both active and passive voting rights in UK Parliament elections and any other elections or referenda under the UK Parliament franchise, and urges the UK Government to reverse what it sees as this damaging policy with immediate effect and to offer refunds of the £1,330 application fee, the £19.20 biometric data fee and the £50 Life in the UK Test fees, and to compensate any legal costs incurred in the process by those who would not have applied if they had, at the time of their application, been asked to provide evidence of CSI.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-21943>

S5M-21931 Bob Doris (SNP): Kurdish Development Association Campaign Against No Recourse to Public Funds Restrictions – That the Parliament recognises that the

"no recourse to public funds" restrictions placed on many forms of leave to remain in Scotland and across the UK are a source of significant financial hardship; appreciates that a great many people have been living, working and contributing economically, socially and culturally to life in Scotland and the UK while being excluded from accessing any public funds; is concerned that these restrictions, which can be a cause of hardship at the best of times, are pushing people and families into destitution during the COVID-19 crisis; acknowledges that people from all backgrounds have found their livelihoods and incomes under threat due to COVID-19 and not all of those affected have been able to access financial assistance through government support schemes; understands that this situation is particularly desperate for those subject to "no recourse to public funds" restrictions, who are also excluded from the social safety net, which would be able to provide support such as housing benefit or universal credit; recognises the work of the Kurdish Development Association and, in particular, Shakha Sattar for their work in highlighting these issues and campaigning for change; believes that it is essential that everyone should have access to a social safety net as a basic human right, and calls on the UK Government to immediately lift the "no recourse to public funds" restrictions and ensure that everyone who needs it can access support during this crisis and the recovery that follows.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-21931>

S5M-21924 Bruce Crawford (SNP): Forth Valley Welcome Charity Recognised for Refugee Support – That the Parliament congratulates Forth Valley Welcome on receiving the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the highest award possible for voluntary groups in the UK; acknowledges the positive impact of its campaigns and work in Stirling and Clackmannanshire communities; commends their 70+ volunteers who dedicate their time to supporting and welcoming refugees settle into new lives in Scotland, and recognises the important role that organisations such as Forth Valley Welcome play in forging the inclusive, tolerant and welcoming Scotland that this Parliament and its representatives strive for.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-21924>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

British Nationality: Ceremonies

Catherine West (Labour) [52306] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of holding virtual citizenship ceremonies during the covid-19 outbreak.

Reply from Kevin Foster: We are considering the impacts of current social distancing measures on the delivery of citizenship ceremonies and what options are available.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-01/52306/>

Migration

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [52068] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the effect of her proposed future immigration policy on net international migration to (a) the UK and (b) each of the devolved nations.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The effect of the proposed future immigration policy on net migration to the UK and impact on inflows to regions and devolved nations has been assessed in the corresponding Impact Assessment (IA) for the Immigration

and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill. This analysis does not account for the impact of COVID-19.

The published IA can be found here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/885682/2020-05-18_IA_ImmSSC_Bill_v21_with_Signature.pdf

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-01/52068/>

Immigration Controls: Au Pairs

Kirsten Oswald (SNP) [38002] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the effect of introducing a points based immigration system on the number of people entering the UK to work as au pairs from 2021.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Government set out its plans for the UK's future points-based immigration system on 19 February.

As has been the case since 2008, the UK's points-based immigration system will not offer a dedicated route for Au Pairs, but there are other immigration routes which will exist for people who may wish to take up these roles. For example, the UK operates youth mobility schemes with eight countries.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-20/38002/>

Plans for the future points-based immigration system, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uks-points-based-immigration-system-policy-statement/the-uks-points-based-immigration-system-policy-statement>

Immigration Controls: Personal Income

Barry Sheerman (Labour Co-op) [37465] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to take steps to (a) support people applying to bring non-EEA partners into the country that are required to meet the Minimum Income Requirement but are facing financial difficulties as a result of the covid-19 outbreak and (b) protect the health of those applicants in the event that they continue to work during the covid-19 outbreak as a result of that requirement.

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

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-20/37465/>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Immigrants: Health Services

Brendan O'Hara (SNP) [52049] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the Immigration Health Surcharge exemption will extend to international volunteers from other countries working in (a) Camphill communities and (b) other health and social care settings under the Tier 5 arrangements.

Brendan O'Hara (SNP) [52050] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the Immigration Health Surcharge exemption will extend to people from other countries who are (a) applying and (b) plan to apply for visas under the Tier 5

arrangements to work as volunteers in (i) Camphill communities and (ii) other health and social care settings.

Alison Thewliss (SNP) [52121] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of to Question 45288 and with reference to the Government's announcement on the Immigration Health Surcharge, whether people working in health and social care who have already paid that surcharge will be refunded on backdated basis.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Prime Minister has asked the Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to work together to exempt overseas NHS and care staff from the Immigration Health Surcharge.

Home Office and Department of Health and Social Care officials are currently working on how to implement this and further details will be announced in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-01/52049/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-01/52050/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-01/52121/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-11/45288/>

Visas: New Businesses

Hywel Williams (Plaid Cymru) [51624] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reason time when employees are furloughed does not count towards the 12 month period for the purposes of Tier 1 entrepreneur visa despite employees being considered as employed during furlough; and if she will take steps to change that policy and ensure that the period of furlough does count towards meeting the conditions of the visa.

Reply from Kevin Foster: To extend leave or apply for settlement, Tier 1 Entrepreneurs must demonstrate they are undertaking ongoing business activity. The Covid-19 pandemic has caused disruption to many businesses and in light of this a number of Tier 1 Entrepreneur requirements have been relaxed to make sure applicants are able to remain in the UK.

Ordinarily, applicants must show they have created jobs for at least two people for 12 consecutive months. They will be allowed to include non-consecutive periods, as well as amalgamate multiple jobs to make the equivalent of two full time employees. For those applicants who are still unable to meet these requirements before the expiry of their visa, the Government will allow more time to qualify via temporary extensions of leave.

The Government continue to keep policies under review to ensure individuals, including those on a Tier 1 Entrepreneur visa, do not suffer any detriment as a result of this pandemic.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-01/51624/>

Migrant Workers: Visas

Paul Girvan (DUP) [37830] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether immediate family members of people with a Tier 2 Visa working in the NHS will be given leave to remain if that person dies of covid-19.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Secretary confirmed, in a letter to the Home Affairs Select Committee on 29 April, families of eligible frontline healthcare workers who sadly pass away due to contracting the COVID-19 virus, will be granted immediate Indefinite Leave to Remain free of charge.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-20/37830/>

The letter referred to above can be read at

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/835/documents/5378/default/>

Migrant Workers: Visas

Gavin Robinson (DUP) [38934] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to not deport family members of health care workers in the UK on Tier 2 visas who die of covid-19 as a result of their work.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Secretary confirmed, in a letter to the Home Affairs Select Committee on 29 April, families of eligible frontline healthcare workers who sadly pass away due to contracting the COVID-19 virus, will be granted immediate Indefinite Leave to Remain free of charge.

In the tragic circumstances suggested the dependents of the Tier 2 visa holder concerned would not have their leave curtailed or be removed from the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-22/38934/>

The letter referred to above can be read at

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/835/documents/5378/default/>

Migrant Workers: Coronavirus

Barry Sheerman (Labour Co-op) [37451] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assurances her Department has provided to the families of frontline healthcare workers on their eligibility to remain in the UK during the covid-19 outbreak.

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

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-20/37451/>

Immigrants: Coronavirus

Mhairi Black (SNP) [38034] To ask the Secretary for the Home Department, if she will allow people who are able to work on their visa but have no access to public funds to be temporarily granted access to public funds for income during the covid-19 outbreak.

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

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

Migrants with leave under the Family and Human Rights routes can apply to have the restriction lifted by making a 'change of conditions' application if there has been a change in their financial circumstances. The Home Office has recently digitised

the application form to make sure it is accessible for those who need to remain at home, and I can assure you that the applications are being dealt with swiftly and compassionately.

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-20/38034/>

Unemployment: Immigrants

Emma Lewell-Buck (Labour) [52025] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what support her Department is providing to people who have been made unemployed as a result of the covid-19 outbreak and who do not have recourse to public funds following their indefinite leave to remain settlement.

Reply from Justin Tomlinson: Access to DWP income-related benefits such as Universal Credit flows from an individual's immigration status. The Home Office determine whether persons granted leave to enter or remain in the UK are eligible to access public funds.

Those unable to access DWP income-related benefits, such as Universal Credit, may be eligible to access DWP contributions-based benefits, providing they meet eligibility criteria.

Government measures to support workers and their families through Covid-19 are also available for those who meet the eligibility criteria. These include the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, the Self-employed Income Support Scheme and Statutory Sick Pay.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-01/52025/>

Immigrants: Finance

Chi Onwurah (Labour) [43017] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effect of covid-19 on people with no recourse to public funds.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office is working closely with other government departments, including the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, the Department for Education and the Department of Health and Social Care to support people, including migrants with no recourse to public funds (NRPF), through this crisis. Departments are sharing what they are learning from other bodies and charities with each other to ensure we continue to take a compassionate and pragmatic approach to an unprecedented situation.

Migrants with leave under the Family and Human Rights routes can apply to have the NRPF restriction lifted by making a 'change of conditions' application if there has been a change in their financial circumstances. The Home Office has recently digitised the application form to make sure it is accessible for those who need to remain at home, and applications are being dealt with swiftly and compassionately. Many of the wide-ranging Covid-19 measures the government has put in place are not public funds and therefore are available to migrants with NRPF. The Government has published advice and information about the support available to migrants living here, including where they are subject to NRPF. This information covers statutory sick pay, the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and Self-Employment Income Support Scheme and can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-get-support-if-youre-a-migrant-living-in-the-uk>

Local authorities may also provide basic safety net support if it is established that there is a genuine care need that does not arise solely from destitution, for example, where there are community care needs, migrants with serious health problems or family cases where the wellbeing of a child is in question. The Government has provided more than £3.2 billion of funding to local authorities in England, and additional funding under the Barnett formula to the devolved administrations to enable them to respond to Covid-19 pressures across all the services they deliver, including services helping the most vulnerable.

In addition, on the 8th April the Chancellor announced an additional £750m package of support for charities across the UK to ensure they can continue their vital work during the Covid-19 pandemic.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-04/43017/>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

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

Asylum: Finance

Alex Norris (Labour Co-op) [49810] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment her Department has made of the adequacy of the asylum support rate of £37.75 per week during the covid-19 outbreak.

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/2020-05-20/49810/>

Asylum: Finance

Caroline Lucas (Green) [49636] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reasons asylum support rates are lower in 2020 than they were in 2002; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Chris Philp: Asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute are provided with free accommodation (with utility bills and council tax paid) and a weekly cash allowance to meet their other essential living needs (the legal test).

The current level of the allowance is £37.75 per week for each person in the asylum seeker's household and is assessed using a methodology adopted in 2014. The methodology has been recognised by the Court of Appeal as rational and lawful. Details of how it works are set out in the reports published at:

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

The allowances provided in 2002 were generally linked to mainstream benefits provided by the Department of Work and Pensions. The amount provided depended on a variety of factors, including the age of the asylum seeker. Those asylum seekers aged over 25 received a higher rate (£37.77) than those aged between 18-24 (£29.88). From 2009, however, all new asylum seekers were placed on the lower rate previously only applicable to those aged under 25.

The current asylum support allowances are not linked in any way to mainstream benefit levels.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-20/49636/>

The following four questions all received the same answer

Boats: Undocumented Migrants

Alexander Stafford (Conservative) [45526] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many boats illegally transporting migrants have arrived in the UK in each month of the last three years.

Alexander Stafford (Conservative) [45527] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many boats transporting migrants to the UK have been turned back in each month of the last three years.

Alexander Stafford (Conservative) [45528] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many boats illegally transporting migrants to the UK have been sent back to France in each month of the last three years.

Alexander Stafford (Conservative) [45529] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many boats illegally transporting migrants to the UK have been stopped in French waters in each month of the last three years.

Reply from Chris Philp: To provide information regarding the number of boats illegally transporting migrants have arrived in the UK in each month of the last three years would require a manual check of individual records which would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold.

However, we can provide information that the number of migrants arriving in the UK crossing the Channel by small boats for the months of January to March 2020 is approx. 450. These are provisional figures based on operational management information. The figures for April have not passed through a data quality check and cannot be assured. The final figures for all months will be published at a later date, once they have been verified and fully quality assured.

Interceptions of migrants at sea is carried by UK and French authorities, migrants will be taken to the appropriate country determined by the interception's location in territorial waters.

In April 2020 more than 500 migrants have been stopped from getting to the UK using a small boat. This includes French law enforcement at sea, on beaches and on the inland roads network.

The UK continues to work closely with France and other countries to return migrants who have entered the UK by small boat in order to provide a strong deterrent against these dangerous crossings.

Since January 2019, over 155 people who entered the UK illegally on small boats have been returned to Europe. However, as a result of COVID-19 the vast majority of EU member states have temporarily paused accepting returns under the Dublin Regulations, but we are tracking those individuals and where appropriate will seek to return them when routes are available.

The Home Secretary together with her French counterpart have reaffirmed their shared commitment to end the crossings and have put forward new measures and approaches to tackling the issue – looking again at ways to return more migrants to France.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-11/45526/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-11/45527/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-11/45528/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-11/45529/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Julian Lewis (Conservative) [51517] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what (a) instructions and (b) procedures respectively have been (i) issued to UK Border Force vessels, and (ii) agreed between the UK Border Force and the French authorities, for the safe handover of overloaded inflatables containing illegal immigrants by French escorting vessels to British vessels once they enter UK territorial waters; and whether any representations have been made to the French Government that such journeys should be impeded while still within French territorial waters.

Bill Wiggin (Conservative) [51641] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the accuracy of recent reports of French naval vessels escorting illegal immigrants into British waters where those immigrants have been picked up by UK Border Force officials.

Reply from Chris Philp: Border Force vessels covering the South East Channel are usually tasked to identified migrant events by the Coastguard, with the priority being search and rescue and the safety of life. BF work closely with the Coastguard and French Authorities to ensure we provide an effective response to migrant events at sea. Migrants undertaking these dangerous journey's in unsuitable and overloaded small boats are putting the lives of themselves and others at considerable risk and the priority at sea for all assets deployed is safety.

At sea, under international law, the preservation of life is paramount. In some cases, French boats will remain with migrants if they refuse rescue. But we are clear no-one should be crossing at all and we are developing plans to re-form policies and laws to help to stop these crossings completely.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-01/51517/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-01/51641/>

Immigration: Detention Centres

Alison Thewliss (SNP) [52122] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the monthly cost is of running each immigration removal centre.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Costs of individual Removal centres are commercially sensitive. The department publishes data setting out the average daily cost of all removal centres, which are calculated as below. For the most recent period published, the total average monthly cost of all centres was £9.16m (monthly cost per bed multiplied by the number of bed spaces)

The costs are derived at by dividing the Total Resource Costs of running Detention Centres (Contracts, staff, Rent, Rates, Utilities and Depreciation) by the average number of bed spaces (currently 3185).

The average cost to detain an individual in immigration detention is provided on a per day basis. The current daily cost per detainee is £94.56, which corresponds to an annual cost of £34,514 (£94.56 multiplied by 365 days) and monthly £2876 (£34,514 divided by 12 months). Data can be found at the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-enforcement-data-february-2020>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-01/52122/>

Detention Centres: Coronavirus

Jess Phillips (Labour) [37707] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to (a) prevent cross-infection and (b) tackle

transmission of covid-19 in (i) Yarl's Wood and (ii) other immigration removal centres.

Reply from Chris Philp: We take the welfare of the detainees in our care very seriously. In line with Public Health England guidance, measures such as protective isolation are considered on a case by case basis to minimise the risk of COVID-19 spreading to vulnerable groups 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. In light of this, detainees have been provided with additional mobile phone credit to ensure they are able to contact friends and families while social visits have been stopped.

Detainees arriving at an Immigration Removal Centre are medically assessed by a nurse within two hours of their arrival and are offered an appointment with a doctor within 24 hours. Detainees also have access to medical assistance whilst they are in an IRC.

There are currently no cases of Covid-19 in IRCs. On 26 March, the High Court ruled that our approach to detention and Coronavirus was sensible, with the appropriate precautionary measures in place.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-20/37707/>

Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre

Jess Phillips (Labour) [49711] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 20 May 2020 to question 34992, on Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre: Coronavirus, how many new detainees that centre has accepted since the start of covid-19 outbreak.

Reply from Chris Philp: The safety and health of people in the detention estate are of the utmost importance. We are following all Public Health England guidance and have robust contingency plans in place.

The Home Office publishes data on people in immigration detention in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release'. Data on the number of entries into immigration detention by place of initial detention are published in table DET_D01 of the immigration detention detailed datasets. Figures covering the first quarter of 2020 were released on 21st May 2020. In this dataset, figures for Yarl's Wood include the individuals entering the Yarls Wood immigration removal centre, and clandestine arrivals entering the adjacent Midlands Intake Unit (a short-term holding facility) who are processed before being dispersed through appropriate routes. Those being held for processing spend very short periods of time at the Yarl's Wood short-term holding facility and may only be held for a maximum of seven days.

Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the 'Research and statistics calendar'.

There are currently no cases of COVID-19 in IRCs

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-20/49711/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-25/34992/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Nadia Whittome (Labour) [52636] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people were detained in immigration detention centres as of 21 May 2020; and for what reasons each of those people has not been released.

Reply from Chris Philp: Immigration Enforcement is responding to the unique

circumstances of the coronavirus outbreak and following the latest guidance from Public Health England. We continue to remove people through available commercial routes.

Statistics relating to COVID-19 and the immigration system can be viewed by accessing the following link.

[The link has been omitted from the answer. The link intended was probably <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/statistics-relating-to-covid-19-and-the-immigration-system-may-2020>]

The Home Office also publish quarterly statistics on the numbers of individuals detained under immigration powers. This data can be found by accessing the following link.

All decisions to detain or release are taken on the basis of a careful consideration of the facts of each case. Factors arguing in favour of detention include the risk of harm to the public presented by the individual concerned and the risk of absconding. Ultimately, the Home Office detains individuals to facilitate their deportation from the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-01/52636/>

Deportation: EU Nationals

Helen Hayes (Labour) [52273] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many nationals of EU Members States have been deported from the UK in each financial year since 2016-17.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office publishes data on returns from the UK in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release'. Data on the number of returns, by year, nationality and type of return are published in table Ret_D01 within the returns detailed dataset.

The term 'deportations' refers to a legally-defined subset of returns which are enforced either following a criminal conviction or when it is judged that a person's removal from the UK is conducive to the public good. Information on those deported is not separately available and therefore the published statistics refer to all enforced returns.

Additionally, the Home Office publishes a high-level overview of the data in the 'Summary tables', available from the above link. The 'contents' sheet contains an overview of all available data on returns. The latest data relates to the year ending March 2020.

Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the 'Research and statistics calendar'.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-01/52273/>

The Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>

The Research and Statistics Calendar, referred to above, can be read at https://www.gov.uk/search/research-and-statistics?content_store_document_type=upcoming_statistics&organisations%5B%5D=home-office&order=release-date-oldest

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Immigration: Fees and Charges

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL4062] To ask Her Majesty's

Government what plans they have to review their policy on immigration fees.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Border, Immigration and Citizenship System (BICS) is predominately funded by the user and we think it is right that those who use it contribute to its cost, thereby reducing the burden on the UK taxpayer.

We keep our fees for immigration and nationality applications under regular review and ensure they are within the parameters agreed with HM Treasury and Parliament, as set out in Section 68 (9) of the Immigration Act 2014.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-06/HL4062/>

Immigrants: Health Services

Lord Bassam of Brighton (Labour) [HL4811] To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the net financial benefit to the NHS from the immigration health surcharge in each year since the surcharge was introduced; and what proportion of total annual income from the immigration health surcharge comes from foreign nationals working in the health and care sector.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office does not collate or publish the breakdown of Immigration Health Surcharge income collected from foreign nationals working in the health and social care sector.

Income data for the Immigration Health Surcharge is published annually in the Home Office Annual Report and Accounts.

Please see page 137 of the Home Office 2018-19 Annual Report and Accounts for the most recent disclosure of Immigration Health Surcharge income:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/807126/6.5571_HO_Annual_Report_201920_WEB.PDF

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-21/HL4811/>

Asylum: Immigration

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL4094] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the open letter to the Prime Minister from a coalition of charities and church leaders asking that all migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees are given temporary leave to remain.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We have received the letter and will respond in due course.

The Government remains committed to an immigration policy which welcomes and celebrates people here legally but deters illegal immigration. The Immigration Rules already provide for undocumented migrants, who have not broken the law except for remaining here without lawful immigration status and who have been in the UK for a long time, to regularise their status. Migrants may make an application for leave to remain where there are grounds to do so.

If appropriate, in light of the situation in their country of origin, irregular migrants may claim asylum. The UK has a long and proud history of providing protection to those who need it and we will continue to uphold our obligations under the Refugee Convention during this time. Therefore, whilst ensuring that the Home Office is adhering to Public Health England's advice in relation to the Covid-19 outbreak, claims can still be made, and decisions are continuing to be served on asylum claims on a case by case basis where there is sufficient evidence for us to make an accurate and well-informed decision in-line with published policy.

Even if an application is refused, measures we have implemented guarantee that an individual can remain safely accommodated and able to follow public health guidance, whilst maintaining access to financial support and healthcare until the

end of June, and this will be kept under review.

As a result of this, there are no plans to provide temporary leave to remain to all asylum claimants or those with insecure status.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-06/HL4094/>

The open letter referred to above can be read at

<https://bemis.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/EMNRN-Letter-NRPF.pdf>

Immigrants: Finance

Baroness Jones of Whitchurch (Labour) [HL4690] To ask Her Majesty's Government how they consider that people designated as "no recourse to public funds" under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 will have access to food during the lockdown.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office is working closely with other government departments, including the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs to support people, including migrants with no recourse to public funds (NRPF), through this crisis. Departments are sharing what they are learning from other bodies and charities with each other to ensure we continue to take a compassionate and pragmatic approach to an unprecedented situation.

Many of the wide-ranging Covid-19 measures the Government has put in place, including the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, Self-employment Income Support Scheme and rental and mortgage protections are not public funds and therefore are available to migrants with NRPF.

Local authorities can provide basic safety net support if it is established there is a care need which does not arise solely from destitution, for example, where there are community care needs, migrants with serious health problems or family cases where the wellbeing of a child is in question. The Government has provided more than £3.2 billion of funding to local authorities in England, and additional funding under the Barnett formula to the devolved administrations to enable them to respond to Covid-19 pressures across all the services they deliver, including services helping the most vulnerable. In addition, on the 8th April the Chancellor announced an additional £750m package of support for charities across the UK to ensure they can continue their vital work during the Covid-19 pandemic.

More information on the support available for migrants affected by Covid-19 can be found on Gov.uk

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-get-support-if-youre-a-migrant-living-in-the-uk>

We will keep the situation under review and consider further measures if needed.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-19/HL4690/>

Refugees: Finance

Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle (Green) [HL4813] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to (1) maintain the extension of housing provision for newly recognised refugees to three months, introduced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, as a permanent measure, and (2) ensure financial support for such refugees whilst they wait for receipt of Universal Credit payments.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: As part of the Government's response to the pandemic, newly recognised refugees are not currently being asked to leave asylum accommodation. We will be reviewing the policy before the end of June, but there are no plans to make the arrangement permanent. When normal arrangements resume, the refugees will receive notice that they are no

longer eligible to receive asylum support after a 28 days “grace period” and assisted to transition to mainstream benefits and housing services if they wish to apply for them.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-21/HL4813/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Finance

Lord Stunnell (Liberal Democrat) [HL4583] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 11 May (HL3390), what plans they have to include consideration of extending the current weekly validity of the Aspen card for asylum seekers alongside the quantum in the current review.

Lord Stunnell (Liberal Democrat) [HL4584] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 11 May (HL3390), on what date the current review into the level of cash allowances for asylum seekers will be published.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The asylum support cash payments are currently made on a weekly basis. There has been some suggestion that these payments should be made fortnightly, and we are currently seeking views on this issue.

We are currently reviewing the level of the cash payments, as we do each year, to ensure that they remain capable of meeting the essential living needs of asylum seekers and will announce the outcome as soon as we can.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-18/HL4583/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-18/HL4584/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-04-23/HL3390/>

Asylum: Finance

Lord Judd (Labour) [HL4558] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to make Wi-Fi available for people living in all forms of asylum accommodation so that they can contact essential mental health support services, currently only offered online, during the COVID-19 pandemic without having to spend any portion of their £37.50 weekly allowance on such data.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: 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. The level of the cash allowance provided take into account communication needs, including the cost of buying and using a mobile phone. 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 are looking at practical ways of providing internet access to this group and other ways to enable them to communicate effectively.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-18/HL4558/>

Refugees: Children

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL4832] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to participate in discussions with UNHCR about the relocation of unaccompanied

refugee children now in Europe, in particular those in Greece; and if not, why not.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The UK maintains an ongoing dialogue with UNHRC and has a strong and constructive relationship across a range of asylum and resettlement issues.

In 2016 Parliament agreed a one-off commitment to relocate 480 unaccompanied children from Europe to the UK under Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 ('the Dubs amendment'). 478 children from Greece, Italy and France have now successfully transferred to the UK under this scheme and we remain committed to completing the final two transfers as soon as it is safe to do so.

Under the Dublin III Regulation, the UK will also continue to transfer children from Greece if they have family in the UK until the end of the transition period. The UK remains fully committed to meeting our obligations under the Dublin Regulation. Despite covid-19 restrictions, the UK is ready to accept transfers under Dublin whenever Member States are in a position to make those arrangements. Following close collaboration with the Greek Government, 50 asylum seekers arrived in the UK from Greece on 11 May in order to unite with family members who were already lawfully present in the UK.

Protecting vulnerable children is a key priority for the Government. In 2019, the UK received more asylum applications from unaccompanied children than any country in the EU and accounted for approximately 20% of all reported UASC claims made in the UK and the 27 EU Member States.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-21/HL4832/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Children

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL4110] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have put in place to ensure that children can continue to be transferred to the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Refugees: Children

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL4111] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the implications for the UK of successful transfers of separated children from Greece to other countries in Europe under the European Commission's relocation scheme for transfers of unaccompanied children.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 committed the Government to transfer 480 unaccompanied children from Greece, Italy and France to the UK; 478 have now successfully transferred. We remain in contact with our counterparts in Italy to complete the transfer of the final two children as soon as it is safe to do so. We welcome the pledges made by other countries to support Greece and stand ready to offer advice and guidance to those developing their own schemes.

The UK remains fully committed to meeting our obligations under the Dublin Regulation. Despite covid-19 restrictions, the UK is ready to accept transfers under Dublin whenever Member States are in a position to make those arrangements. Following close collaboration with the Greek Government, 50 asylum seekers arrived in the UK from Greece on 11 May in order to unite with family members who were already lawfully present in the UK.

Protecting vulnerable children is a key priority for the Government. In 2019, the UK received more asylum applications from unaccompanied children than any country in the EU and accounted for approximately 20% of all reported UASC claims made in the UK and the 27 EU Member States.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-06/HL4110/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-06/HL4111/>

New Publications

Migration statistics: What is changing and why?

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/home-affairs/immigration/migration-statistics-what-is-changing-and-why/>

Guidance for immigration removal centres (IRCs) and residential short-term holding facilities (RSTHFs) during the COVID-19 pandemic

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/890462/detention-and-escorting-services-guidance-during-covid-19-v1.0ext.pdf

News

Migrant crossings hit single day record

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-52909112>

More migrants have crossed the Channel illegally this year than the whole of 2019, as a record 166 arrive on nine boats

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/06/03/migrants-have-crossed-channel-illegally-year-whole-2019-record/>

Failure to clamp down on migrants crossing the Channel risks being a tragedy in the making

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/2020/06/04/failure-clamp-migrants-crossing-channel-risks-tragedy-making/>

The pro-migrant support you're seeing from the public is under threat – and this is what could turn things sour

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/coronavirus-immigration-hostile-environment-windrush-mujinga-alien-nation-a9550386.html>

Help The Hungry: How we are helping refugees forced to live on £5 a day

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/help-the-hungry-refugees-asylum-seekers-food-kitchens-a9550736.html>

TOP

Equality

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

NHS: BAME workforce

S5W-28975 Monica Lennon (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government (a) how many and (b) what proportion of the (i) NHS and (ii) social care workforce belong to BAME groups.

Reply from Jeane Freeman: The information requested is available at

i) NHS Workforce Data

https://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Workforce/NES-Publication/Equality_and_Diversity_S2019.xls

ii) Social Care Annual Workforce Data:

<https://data.sssc.uk.com/data-publications/22-workforce-data-report/216-scottish-social-service-sector-report-on-2018-workforce-data>

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-28975>

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-21923 Neil Findlay (Labour): STUC Demands for BAME Workers Across Scotland – That the Parliament notes the concerns outlined by the Scottish Trades Union Congress (STUC) Black Workers Committee regarding social, economic and health inequalities that it considers have been exposed by coronavirus pandemic; understands that black and minority ethnic (BAME) people are overrepresented in the "at-risk" communities that have been identified by the Scottish Government, therefore highlighting long-standing inequalities faced by the BAME community in accessing and health services and treatment; further understands that BAME groups are more likely to fall into the key worker category and therefore are more likely to be exposed to COVID-19, as well as issues around protection in the workplace and access to PPE; believes that, on average, BAME workers are likelier to be paid less than their white counterparts; calls on the Scottish Government to analyse and produce the disaggregated data on the number of deaths in the BAME community as a result of COVID-19, and asks that it additionally produces an action plan to tackle what it sees as the systemic inequalities faced by BAME groups that have been brought acutely to the fore by the coronavirus pandemic.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-21923>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Ethnic Groups: Maternity Services

Marsha De Cordova (Labour) [49115] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to reduce racial disparities in maternal healthcare.

Reply from Nadine Dorries: The commitment in the NHS Long Term Plan to rolling out continuity of carer will ensure that thousands of women receive safe and personal maternity care, improving outcomes for both mother and baby, and reducing health inequalities.

By 2024, 75% of women from Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities, and a similar percentage of women from the most deprived groups, will receive this continuity of care from their midwife throughout pregnancy, labour and the postnatal period, as a key part of our ambition to achieve 50% reductions in stillbirth, mother and child deaths and serious brain injury.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-19/49115/>

Pupils: Travellers

Conor McGinn (Labour) [52159] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps he is taking to tackle the effect of digital exclusion on the levels of educational attainment among children from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller backgrounds during the covid-19 outbreak.

Reply from Nick Gibb: The Department has met with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) stakeholders to discuss the issues faced by children and young people during the COVID-19 outbreak. Their input has been shared with teams working on vulnerable children, exclusions and remote education to help inform policy decisions. The Department recognises that GRT children are a particularly vulnerable group at this time.

Laptops and tablets have been ordered for vulnerable and disadvantaged children and young people who do not have access to one and are preparing for exams in Year 10, receiving support from a social worker or are a care leaver. Where care leavers, children with a social worker at secondary school and disadvantaged children in Year 10 do not have internet connections, we will be providing 4G wireless routers.

Schools and families are also able to access support from the BBC, which is broadcasting lessons on television, and may choose to draw on the many educational resources offers made by publishers across the country.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-01/52159/>

Religious Freedom: Employment

Jeffrey M Donaldson (DUP) [49887] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what assessment he has made of the implications for his policies of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Resolution 2318 (2020) on the protection of freedom of religion or belief in the workplace.

Reply from Luke Hall: Freedom of religion or belief is a fundamental human right, and one which underpins many of the others. Britain has a proud tradition of religious tolerance, within the law. The UK is committed to defending Freedom of Religion or Belief and promoting respect between communities of different religions and those of no religion. Promoting the right to Freedom of Religion or Belief is one of the UK's human rights policy priorities. In the UN, OSCE, Council of Europe and other multilateral fora, the UK works with like-minded partners on Freedom of Religion or Belief.

The Government is committed to ensuring that people are protected against discrimination because of religion or belief, and that they are able to exercise the right to hold and manifest their beliefs in a reasonable manner.

Resolution 2318 concerns the protection of freedom of religion or belief in the workplace. Domestic anti-discrimination provisions covering religion or belief are contained in the Equality Act 2010. Anyone who feels that they have suffered discrimination because of religion or belief can contact either The Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS), for issues related to the workplace, or the Equality Advisory and Support Service (EASS) for non-employment matters. Both services provide free advice to members of the public.

ACAS and the EASS refer appropriate cases to the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), which is the country's national equality and enforcement body. Both the EHRC and ACAS have published guidance for employers and employees about religion or belief and the workplace.

The UK Government thanks the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) for its recent debate, report, and Resolution 2318 (2020) on the protection of freedom of religion or belief in the workplace. Working with partners and key stakeholders, the UK Government will continue to consider actively, and across departments, the important topics raised by Resolution 2318 (2020).

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-20/49887/>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://tinyurl.com/yavfnh9n>

The debate referred to above can be read at

<https://pace.coe.int/en/verbatim/2020-01-29/am/en#theme-586>

The resolution referred to above can be read at

<http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-EN.asp?fileid=28556&lang=en>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Government Departments: Equality

Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne (Conservative) [HL4854] To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures are in place in (1) Government departments, and (2) Government-funded institutions, to ensure that no person is discriminated against on the grounds of (a) age, (b) disability, (c) marriage and civil partnership, (d) pregnancy and maternity, (e) race, (f) religion or belief, (g) sex, and (h) sexual orientation.

Reply from Baroness Berridge: The Equality Act 2010, which applies to all employers and providers of services and functions including Government departments and Government funded institutions, proscribes discrimination on the grounds of each of the protected characteristics listed in the Question.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission has produced statutory codes to support understanding of the Equality Act 2010, including on Employment and Services, Public Functions and Associations.

In addition, under the Public Sector Equality Duty, set out in the Equality Act 2010, all public authorities and those delivering public functions must have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act; advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not; and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. The protected characteristics covered by the duty include all those listed in the Question.

In 2015, GEO published a guide on 'Providing services for transgender customers', which was applicable, but not limited, to the public sector. There are many examples of Government produced guidance to help with the provision of services that take protected characteristics into account, such as the Inclusive Transport Strategy and www.gov.uk guidance on disability and pregnancy.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-21/HL4854/>

The Equality and Human Rights Commission codes referred to above can be read at

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/equality-act-codes-practice>

The GEO guide referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/484857/Providing_services_for_transgender_customers-a_guide.pdf

The other UK Government guidance referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/728547/inclusive-transport-strategy.pdf

and

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/570382/Equality_Act_2010-disability_definition.pdf

and

<https://www.gov.uk/working-when-pregnant-your-rights>

Richard Leonard accused of backflip over Scottish election BME pledge

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/richard-leonard-accused-backflip-over-scottish-election-bme-pledge-2876696>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Statistics on religious hate crime

S5W-29070 James Kelly (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government when the latest disaggregated statistics on religious hate crime will be published.

Reply from Humza Yousaf: We announced in June 2018 that the annual bulletin on religiously aggravated offending reported to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) would be paused, whilst we support Police Scotland to review the potential of their data systems to provide new information in this area. As part of this project we published the research report *Developing Information on Hate Crime Recorded by the Police in Scotland*^[1] in February 2019. The report provides an update on work by Scottish Government statisticians and Police Scotland to review the availability of information on police recorded hate crime and includes summary information on hate crimes recorded by the police (in relation to race, religion, sexual orientation, disability and transgender identity) during 2014-15 to 2017-18.

Scottish Government statisticians are continuing to engage with Police Scotland as they develop the information they hold on hate crime with a view to publishing further data, including on religiously aggravated offending. It was anticipated that a report on the findings of this exercise would have been published in June 2020. However due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic this has been postponed, as collection and review of all the supporting data by statisticians is not possible when working from home. We will inform users through the SCOTSTAT network^[2] of future updates in relation to this study.

In addition to this, the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) publish annual Official Statistics on Hate Crime in Scotland^[3]. These figures relate to charges aggravated by race, religion, sexual orientation, disability or transgender identity, reported to COPFS, and include information on how those charges were proceeded. Hate Crime in Scotland 2019-20 will be published on 12 June 2020.

[1] <https://www.gov.scot/publications/developing-information-hate-crime-recorded-police-scotland/>

[2] Network for users and providers of Scottish Official Statistics
<https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/scotstat>

[3] <https://www.copfs.gov.uk/publications/statistics>

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-29070>

Statistics on racially-aggravated hate crime

S5W-29071 James Kelly (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government when the latest statistics on racially-aggravated hate crime will be published.

Reply from Humza Yousaf: The National Statistics on Recorded Crime in Scotland (Table A7)^[1] includes offences of Racially aggravated harassment and Racially aggravated conduct, under Section 50A of the Criminal Law (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 1995, recorded by the police. This does not include cases where racism was considered an aggravator to any other types of crime/offence (such as Threatening or abusive behaviour or Common assault, etc.) as it is not possible to distinguish these cases within the recorded crime data. Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20 will be published in September 2020.

In addition to this, the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) publish annual Official Statistics on Hate Crime in Scotland^[2]. These figures relate to charges aggravated by race, religion, sexual orientation, disability or transgender identity, reported to COPFS, and include information on how those charges were proceeded. Hate Crime in Scotland 2019-20 will be published on 12 June 2020.

[1] <https://www.gov.scot/publications/recorded-crime-scotland-2018-19/pages/21/>

[2] <https://www.copfs.gov.uk/publications/statistics>

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-29071>

Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill

S5W-29137 Liam Kerr (Conservative): To ask the Scottish Government which advocacy groups and organisations it has consulted regarding the protection of rights to freedom of speech and assembly in relation to the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill.

Humza Yousaf: Following recommendations made by Lord Bracadale's Independent Review of Hate Crime Legislation in Scotland, the Scottish Government engaged extensively with stakeholders and the wider public. On 14 November 2018 the Scottish Government launched the 'One Scotland: hate has no home here' consultation and ran 11 public awareness events throughout Scotland. A series of stakeholder engagement events and bilateral meetings were also undertaken.

The 'One Scotland: hate has no home here' consultation asked respondents if they agreed with Lord Bracadale's recommendation that there should be a protection of freedom of expression provision for offences concerning the stirring up of hatred. Altogether, there were 108 organisational responses to the consultation. This included responses from: Amnesty International UK; Humanist Society Scotland; Equality and Human Rights Commission; and many more third sector, faith, and public sector organisations.

Subsequently the Scottish Government contracted independent external analysts who undertook the analysis of the consultation responses and produced a report, published by the Scottish Government in June 2019. You can view the report – which includes a list of organisational respondents – here:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/consultation-amending-scottish-hate-crime-legislation-analysis-responses/>

The responses to the consultation and public awareness events have yielded valuable information both from individual and organisational perspectives; helping to inform the development of the Bill.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-29137>

Lord Bracadale's review, referred to above, can be read at

<https://tinyurl.com/y8of8le6>

Scottish Parliament Motions

S5M-21893 James Dornan (SNP): Black Lives Matter – That the Parliament condemns in the strongest possible terms what it sees as President Trump's hateful, cavalier and alarmingly racist comments about the protesters who have taken to the streets after the reported murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on 25 May 2020; believes that George Floyd's death has once again demonstrated disturbing levels of police brutality towards the African American community and has acted as a catalyst for protests demanding justice both across the US and the wider world; considers that African Americans continue to live in a climate of potential violence at the hands of US law enforcement personnel, with recent studies suggesting that around 100 African American men per 100,000 are at risk of being killed by the police, more than double the risk relative to their white counterparts, and strongly believes that Black Lives Matter.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-21893>

S5M-21894 Fulton MacGregor (SNP): Death of George Floyd – That the Parliament is shocked and appalled at what it considers the abhorrent death of the American, George Floyd, at the hands of police in Minneapolis; believes that this incident is symptomatic of ongoing prejudices faced by black and minority ethnic (BAME) communities; notes that the actions of the police officers involved have resulted in mass protest and civil unrest throughout the US at the time of the COVID-19 global pandemic, to which people from BAME backgrounds are often already exposed to the worst of the health and economic consequences; further notes that demonstrations have taken place in cities all over the world with the powerful message that #BlackLivesMatter, and reaffirms its position that there is no place for racism in Scotland or anywhere else.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-21894>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Hate Crime

Stella Creasy (Labour Co-op) [49672] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, when the Law Commission will publish its consultation paper on hate crime; and whether the review has been delayed from its original time frame of 18 months.

Reply from Alex Chalk: The Law Commission continues to make good progress on the Hate Crime Consultation Paper, although some delay is inevitable given the impact of Covid-19.

The Law Commissioners are considering when to publish consultations on a case-by-case basis, based on whether they will be able to undertake sufficiently open and transparent consultation during the current circumstances. That is an essential aspect of the way they work. It is particularly important in relation to the Hate Crime project.

The Commissioners are keeping the situation under review and they will announce their decision on publication as soon as they can.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-20/49672/>

Information about the review referred to above can be read at

<https://www.lawcom.gov.uk/project/hate-crime/>

Religious Hatred: Islam

Caroline Lucas (Green) [49639] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, with reference to the Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group's report entitled Coronavirus, fear and how Islamophobia spreads on social media, what steps his Department is taking to work with (a) social media companies and (b) relevant statutory bodies to (i) address a potential rise in Islamophobia as a consequence of the coronavirus pandemic and (ii) prevent a future increase in hate crimes when the covid-19 lockdown comes to an end.

Reply from Luke Hall: The Government takes hate crime and discrimination of any kind very seriously.

The Government is working closely with the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC), civil society partners and social media platforms to encourage victim reporting of both online and offline hate crime and ensure social media companies continue to prioritise the removal of hateful content during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Government is also working with communities, civil society partners and the police to monitor and address any developments in hate crime as government Covid-19 restrictions change.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-20/49639/>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://antimuslimhatredworkinggrouphome.files.wordpress.com/2020/04/research-briefing-report-7-1.pdf>

Press Releases

Protesting against racism

<https://www.gov.scot/news/protesting-against-racism/>

Statement from Chief Constable Iain Livingstone in relation to racism, events in the United States and the values of Police Scotland.

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/whats-happening/news/2020/june/statement-from-the-chief-constable-2-june-2020>

Independent rights experts urge US to address systemic racism and racial bias

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/06/1065722>

New Publications

Black Lives Matter protests: UK reaction to the killing of George Floyd

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/world-affairs/americas/black-lives-matter-protests-uk-reaction/>

Migrant groups have higher levels of education, but some experience higher unemployment than people born in Ireland

<https://www.esri.ie/news/migrant-groups-have-higher-levels-of-education-but-some-experience-higher-unemployment-than>

Second European Union Minorities and Discrimination: Survey Being Black in the EU

https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2018-being-black-in-the-eu_en.pdf

News: George Floyd #BlackLivesMatter

Scots anti-racism protesters told to avoid weekend 'mass gatherings' by Humza Yousaf

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/scots-anti-racism-protesters-told-avoid-weekend-mass-gatherings-humza-yousaf-2875005>

Stay away from big Black Lives Matter rallies, Matt Hancock urges

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/anti-racism-protesters-vow-to-keep-fighting-for-change-after-george-floyd-rallies-in-london-p6xtf5jk6>

Humza Yousaf: 'No way Scotland is free from racism'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-scotland-52915980>

Sturgeon official Leslie Evans mocked for 'virtue-signalling' anti-racist photo

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/sturgeon-official-leslie-evans-mocked-for-virtue-signalling-anti-racist-photo-xrt7zsj7w>

Coronavirus: Minister Kemi Badenoch rejects 'systemic' racism claims

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-52913539>

Coronavirus: Government accused of using 'racist policy' to drive black people back to work during pandemic

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/coronavirus-government-racist-black-people-work-lockdown-a9548521.html>

UK police stand with those appalled by George Floyd death

<https://www.faith-matters.org/uk-police-stand-with-those-appalled-by-george-floyd-death/>

George Floyd death: Thousands turn out for UK anti-racism protests

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-52949014>

George Floyd: London anti-racism protests leave 27 officers hurt

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-52954899>

London Black Lives Matter protests: Thousands descend on Parliament Square as they join rallies around UK

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/06/06/thousands-set-attend-black-lives-matter-protests-across-uk-despite/>

George Floyd death: Why US protests resonate in the UK

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/newsbeat-52877803>

Why American racism demands Scotland reflects on its own shameful past of white supremacy

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18495243.opinion-neil-mackay-american-racism-demands-scotland-reflects-shameful-past-white-supremacy/>

George Floyd is America's Sheku Bayoh – Scotland's Black Workers Demand End to Racist Police Violence

<http://www.stuc.org.uk/media-centre/news/1453/george-floyd-is-america-s-sheku-bayoh-scotland-s-black-workers-demand-end-to-racist-police-violence>

The racism that killed George Floyd was built in Britain

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/jun/03/racism-george-floyd-britain-america-uk-black-people>

George Floyd protests give fresh impetus to UK anti-racism campaign

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/jun/06/george-floyd-protests-uk-anti-racism-campaign>

White people, the responsibility of ending racist systems rests on your shoulders

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/george-floyd-racism-police-brutality-black-white-trump-a9541911.html>

George Floyd: UK urged to 'take the knee' at doorsteps in solidarity with US anti-racism protests

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/george-floyd-protests-uk-black-lives-matter-coronavirus-stand-up-to-racism-a9545651.html>

George Floyd death: How many black people die in police custody in England and Wales?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/52890363>

If you are not angry about George Floyd murder, you haven't been paying attention

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18498092.opinion-uzma-mir-not-angry-george-floyd-murder-havent-paying-attention/>

Systemic racism and police brutality are British problems too

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/jun/04/systemic-racism-police-brutality-british-problems-black-lives-matter>

Rabbi Wittenberg Speaks About Judaism & Equality After the Murder of George Floyd

<https://www.faith-matters.org/9068/>

Campaigners rename Glasgow streets linked to slave owners

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-52950006>

Anti-racism activists place plaques with alternative street names on Glasgow's most famous roads

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18500264.anti-racism-activists-place-plaques-alternative-street-names-glasgows-famous-roads/>

Black Lives Matter: Anti-racism campaigners rename streets across Glasgow

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/uk-news/black-lives-matter-anti-racism-campaigners-rename-streets-across-glasgow-2876961>

Glasgow slave trade street names 'must change after George Floyd killing'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/glasgow-slave-trade-street-names-must-change-after-george-floyd-killing-xntq8rzt3>

News: Other Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK equality watchdog to launch inquiry into entrenched racism

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jun/05/uk-equality-watchdog-to-launch-inquiry-into-entrenched-racism>

Florence Eshalomi: Black MP mistaken for colleagues condemns racism

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-52938162>

Fife MP 'welcomed back' into SNP after six-month suspension

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/local/fife/1343906/fife-mp-welcomed-back-into-snp-after-six-month-suspension/>

Corbyn questions impartiality of body conducting antisemitism inquiry

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/jun/01/jeremy-corbyn-questions-impartiality-ehrc-conducting-antisemitism-inquiry>

Jeremy Corbyn casts doubt on impartiality of watchdog investigating Labour antisemitism claims

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/jeremy-corbyn-antisemitism-labour-watchdog-report-ehrc-a9542851.html>

Jeremy Corbyn attacks inquiry into antisemitism

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/jeremy-corbyn-attacks-inquiry-into-antisemitism-qlqk6jc7z>

Racism isn't just a US problem; to fight it in the UK we need to change how it's taught in schools

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/education-and-careers/2020/06/05/racism-isnt-just-us-problem-fight-uk-need-change-taught-schools/>

Group of men shout racist comments at women in Scottish city

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/crime/group-men-shout-racist-comments-women-scottish-city-2870169>

Black Oxford students plan rally against global racism

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/black-oxford-students-plan-rally-against-global-racism-rhxtf0pxk>

Police launch 'hate crime' probe into letters in Basildon

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-essex-52869117>

Mental health group in racist swastika storm

<http://thirdforcenews.org.uk/tfn-news/mental-health-group-in-racist-swastika-storm>

Race relations charity criticised over attacks on Prevent and MP

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jun/04/race-relations-charity-criticised-over-attacks-on-prevent-and-mp>

Amazon UK website defaced with racist abuse

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-52867334>

Kelli-Leigh: Black soul singers can feel 'defeated' in the music industry

<https://www.bbc.com/news/newsbeat-52936461>

Drama schools accused of hypocrisy over anti-racism statements

<https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2020/jun/06/drama-schools-accused-of-hypocrisy-over-anti-racism-statements>

Police investigate alleged racist abuse of Pontarddulais rugby player

<https://www.bbc.com/sport/rugby-union/52943453>

Racism is everywhere, says Jermain Defoe

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/racism-is-everywhere-says-jermain-defoe-thdq5cw5m>

No society is free from racism but Scotland's record isn't bad

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18501176.ian-macwhirter-no-society-free-racism-scotlands-record-isnt-bad/>

Exposed. The virus keeps showing us who we are. This time it's racist.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18501379.vicky-allan-exposed-virus-keeps-showing-us-time-racist/>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Releases

Parliamentary and local election terms extended

<https://www.gov.scot/news/parliamentary-and-local-election-terms-extended/>

Impact of COVID-19 on crime

<https://www.gov.scot/news/impact-of-covid-19-on-crime/>

New Publications

Recorded Crime in Scotland: April 2020

<https://tinyurl.com/yatqmb6o>

Review of the 2016 Independent Report on Marches, Parades and Static Demonstrations in Scotland

<https://tinyurl.com/y7697flv>

Scottish Government Response to the Review of the 2016 Independent Report on Marches, Parades and Static Demonstrations in Scotland

<https://tinyurl.com/yaxve3cq>

TOP

Health Information: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

NHS

NHS Inform (Scotland)

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

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

Healthcare for overseas visitors

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

Healthcare for refugees and asylum seekers

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

NHS Near Me (Scotland)

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

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

NHS (England and Wales)

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

Scottish Parliament Oral Answer

Covid-19 (Impact on Black and Minority Ethnic Groups)

Patrick Harvie (Green): As if the pandemic itself was not enough to deal with, the world is watching with horror events in the United States, where systematic police brutality is being endorsed and encouraged by racism at the highest political level. We stand in solidarity with those who are taking to the streets in the US and around the world to express their anger and to make it clear that black lives matter.

Expressing that solidarity does not mean just looking at other countries; it means challenging ourselves, as well. The First Minister recently received a letter from the Scottish Trades Union Congress black workers committee regarding Covid-19, which highlighted that black and minority ethnic groups “remain over-represented in the ‘at-risk’ communities identified by the Government”.

Public Health England’s report on the issue has been criticised for simply telling us what we already know instead of offering any explanation or solution.

When will the Scottish Government publish its own up-to-date analysis of the impact of Covid-19 on black and minority ethnic people? Will the First Minister commit to acting on all the issues that are raised in the black workers committee’s letter?

Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon): I, too, feel total solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement. We are all looking on with concern and horror at the scenes that are unfolding in the United States. I believe that the President of the United States has a duty to address the underlying causes of the legitimate protests that we are seeing instead of continuously attacking those who are protesting.

I could not agree more about taking responsibility ourselves. I made that point yesterday. No country or society is immune from racism. We all have to look at ourselves in the mirror and consider what we are going to do to combat racism. As First Minister, I certainly rededicate myself to that.

I have received the letter from the STUC black workers committee, and this morning I signed a response to it that will go to it this afternoon, which I hope the committee will see as a comprehensive response to the very reasonable and legitimate points that it raised.

As Patrick Harvie is possibly aware, Public Health Scotland released some initial analysis of the impact of Covid — two weeks ago today, on 20 May, if I am getting

my dates correct—in which it said that it had undertaken an initial analysis “to investigate whether COVID-19 outcomes vary by ethnic group”.

It said in that report that “further work is required” and that, based on the available data to date, “the proportion of ethnic minority patients among those seriously ill with COVID-19 appears no higher than the proportion in the Scottish population generally”, but it caveated that by saying that “further work is required”. Further work will be done, and, “in parallel, work will be undertaken to explore and understand emerging patterns” from other parts of the UK. That is work that we take very seriously, and I know that Public Health Scotland will be keen to understand it and report its understanding as quickly as possible. ...

On the point about further analysis, Public Health Scotland made the point that there is still limited data in Scotland, but that as the data increases it will want to do further analysis. I hope that that will be done as quickly as possible, but I will ask Public Health Scotland to write to Patrick Harvie directly to set out the timeline and the process that it is going through. ...

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12671&i=114637#ScotParlOR>

The Public Health Scotland report referred to above can be read at

<https://beta.isdscotland.org/find-publications-and-data/population-health/covid-19/covid-19-statistical-report/>

The Public Health England report referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/889195/disparities_review.pdf

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

COVID-19: BAME workers

S5W-28974 Monica Lennon (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, in light of reports that they might be at higher risk from the virus, what risk assessment has been carried out for the appropriate deployment of BAME workers in health and social care services in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reply from Jeane Freeman: We are aware that there is emerging evidence that people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds may be disproportionately affected by COVID-19. Further research and reviews are still underway and we await the results of these.

Analysts across the Scottish Government, National Records Scotland, Public Health Scotland and the NHS are working together to consider how we can better understand the impact of Covid-19 on those from all minority ethnic communities.

The health and wellbeing of our health and social care staff is a key priority and we are aware that many BAME staff may be feeling anxious and wish to discuss how best to protect themselves and their families at this difficult time. Guidance has been issued to help staff and employers by setting out best practice on risk assessments and support that is available for staff across health and social care.

[Interim Guidance for health and social care employers on staff from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Backgrounds](#)

Once the results of further research and review on ethnicity and COVID-19 are published, we will consider any changes that need to be made to this guidance, based on any new clinical evidence.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-28974>

COVID-19: Deaths

S5W-29060 Miles Briggs (Conservative): To ask the Scottish Government whether it will publish figures on deaths from COVID-19 broken down by ethnicity.

Reply from Jeane Freeman: Analytical partners across the Scottish Government, NRS, Public Health Scotland and the NHS are working together to consider how we can better understand the impact of Covid-19 on those from all minority ethnic communities.

NRS recently published a note describing the limitations of ethnicity data collected via the death registration process (link [here](#)). Ethnicity data is collected on a voluntary basis and is not known for 9% of registered deaths. This means that the true number of COVID-19 deaths broken down by ethnic group categories cannot be accurately ascertained from the registration data.

NRS are looking at how other datasets can be used to improve the quality of ethnicity data. They are testing whether ethnicity data from the 2011 Census can be used to improve the quality of the death registration data. If successful, NRS will add this to other key population data and carry out further analysis to ascertain whether there is a variation in the relative risk of mortality related to COVID-19 by ethnicity.

NRS hope to be able to confirm whether the data improvement work and associated analysis has been successful in the next fortnight. Should the work have been successful, NRS will then confirm a publication date.

Public Health Scotland also released preliminary analysis of COVID-19 and ethnicity data on 20 May. The analysis appears to show, based on the very limited data available, that the proportion of ethnic minority patients among those seriously ill with COVID-19 appears no higher than the proportion in the Scottish population generally. However, given the numbers involved are currently very low, PHS will continue to monitor the situation closely and improve the analysis as more data becomes available.

Other data will also become available in due course and will be published. For example, the University of Glasgow, with support from University College London (and in partnership with Public Health Scotland) are conducting an equity focused rapid review of published evidence on COVID-19, which includes ethnicity alongside other inequalities. This is expected to be completed within 6-8 weeks.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-29060>

The Public Health Scotland report referred to above can be read at

<https://beta.isdscotland.org/find-publications-and-data/population-health/covid-19/covid-19-statistical-report/>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Public Health England Review: Covid-19 Disparities

Gill Furniss (Labour): To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities if she will make a statement on the Public Health England review of disparities in risks and outcomes related to the covid-19 outbreak.

Reply from the Minister for Equalities (Kemi Badenoch): ... On Tuesday, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care confirmed to the House that Public Health England has now completed its review of disparities in the risks and outcomes of covid-19. The review confirms that covid-19 has replicated, and in some cases increased, existing health inequalities related to risk factors including age, gender, ethnicity and geography, with higher diagnosis rates in

deprived, densely populated urban areas. The review also confirmed that being black or from a minority ethnic background is a risk factor. That racial disparity has been shown to hold even after accounting for the effect of age, deprivation, region and sex.

I thank Public Health England for undertaking this important work so quickly. I know that its findings will be a cause for concern across the House, as they are for individuals and families across the country. The Government share that concern, which is why they are now reviewing the impact and effectiveness of their actions to lessen disparities in infection and death rates of covid-19, and to determine what further measures are necessary.

It is also clear that more needs to be done to understand the key drivers of those disparities and the relationships between different risk factors. The Government will commission further data research and analytical work by the Equalities Hub to clarify the reasons for the gaps in evidence highlighted by the report. Taking action without taking the necessary time and effort to understand the root causes of those disparities only risks worsening the situation. That is why I am taking this work forward with the Race Disparity Unit in the Cabinet Office, and the Department of Health and Social Care, and I will keep the House updated.

Gill Furniss: ... The review confirms what we already know: racial and health inequalities amplify the risk of covid-19. It found that those from BAME backgrounds were more than twice as likely to die from covid-19 than white people, and that BAME healthcare workers are at particular risk of infection. These lives matter, and it is time for the Government to take action on the devastating impact that this virus has had on BAME communities.

Public Health England's review fails to make a single recommendation on how to reduce those inequalities, protect workers on the front line, or save lives. That is despite the fact that its terms of reference include to "suggest recommendations" for further action. Will the Minister urgently explain why the review failed to do that? The Government have said that the Race Disparity Unit will publish recommendations on the findings from the review. When will those recommendations be published, alongside a plan for their implementation?

More than 1,000 individuals and organisations supplied evidence to the review. Many suggested that discrimination and racism increase the risk of covid-19 for BAME communities. Will the Minister explain why those views were not included in the review? Does she accept that structural racism has impacted the outcomes of covid-19? Does she agree that it is now time to address underlying socioeconomic inequalities facing BAME communities, and will she confirm that the Government will take action to do so? BAME workers on the frontline of this crisis are anxious for their lives. Will the Minister listen to Labour's demands to call on all employers to risk assess their BAME workforce? Coronavirus thrives on inequality, and there is no more important time to tackle racial injustices in our society and save lives during this crisis. It is now up to the Government to take action and show their commitment that black lives matter.

Reply from Kemi Badenoch: ... It is imperative that we understand the key drivers of those disparities, the relationships between different risk factors, and what we can do to close the gap. That way, we will ensure that we do not take action that is not warranted by the evidence. The hon. Lady is right: Public Health England did not make recommendations, because it was not able to do so. Some of the data needed is not routinely collected, but acquiring it would be extremely beneficial. As I said earlier, I will be taking forward work to fill the gaps in our understanding, and review existing policies or develop new ones where needed. ...

Joanna Cherry (SNP): I wish to reassure Scotland's BAME communities that the SNP takes this issue very seriously. On 20 May, the Scottish Government published Public Health Scotland's preliminary analysis, which suggested that the proportion of BAME patients among those seriously ill with covid is no higher than the proportion in the Scottish

population generally. However, the Scottish Government are treating those findings with caution, given the findings in England and Wales. ...

However, actions speak louder than words and some Government policies impact more strongly on BAME communities. What action will the UK Government take to review their no recourse to public funds policies, given that the Prime Minister revealed that he was unaware that thousands of people are locked out of available support due to those rules? In addition, why will the UK Government not lower the earnings threshold for statutory sick pay, which is forcing people in BAME communities out to work when it is not safe for them to be working?

Reply from Kemi Badenoch: On Public Health Scotland having different results from Public Health England, we are finding this in a range of reports and it is one reason why we are not rushing to recommendations. ... On no recourse to public funds, we have taken extensive action to support those with recourse to public funds. The range of such actions includes: protections for renters from evictions; mortgage holidays for those who need them; support for those who are vulnerable and need assistance with access to medication and shopping; the coronavirus job retention scheme; and the self-employed income support scheme. Those with no recourse to public funds do have access to statutory sick pay, ... Furthermore, if an individual has been working in the UK and sufficient national insurance contributions have been made, they may be entitled to claim contributory employment and support allowance. ...

Alison Thewliss (SNP): ... it is one thing to say that black lives matter and quite another to force black people and people from BAME backgrounds out to work who have no choice other than to go to work because they have no recourse to public funds. No recourse to public funds is a racist policy. Will she abolish it now?

Reply from Kemi Badenoch: I must push back on some of what the hon. Lady said. It is wrong to conflate all black people with recent immigrants and assume, which is what she just said, that we all have to pay a surcharge. That is wrong. I am a black woman who is out to work. ... It is absolutely wrong to try to conflate lots of different issues and merge them into one, just so that it can get traction in the press. ... We need courage to say the right things, and we need to be courageous in order to calm down racial tensions, not inflame them just so that we have something to put on social media. ...

Rupa Huq (Labour): Anyone in Westminster yesterday could not have failed to notice the Black Lives Matter protest, inspired by Minneapolis. The placard that sticks in my mind most said: "Being black should not be a death sentence". ... Surely we need action. It is not good enough. When will we see a detailed plan, with deliverables, objectives, dates and buy-in from all our diverse communities, so that this does not just look like a box-ticking exercise?

Reply from Kemi Badenoch: I agree that we cannot be seen to be doing a box-ticking exercise, but we also should not just accept statements such as "being black is a death sentence" in this country. It is not true, although it is true there are disparities and other factors that can make outcomes worse. ... Young people out there hear that, do not understand the context and then continue to believe that they live in a society that is against them, when actually this is one of the best countries in the world in which to be a black person. ...

To read the very lengthy question and answer session in full see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-06-04/debates/ABB50B2B-D9B8-4E3C-BC60-A6D039DF2973/PublicHealthEnglandReviewCovid-19Disparities>

The Public Health England report referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/889195/disparities_review.pdf

The Public Health Scotland report referred to above can be read at <https://beta.isdscotland.org/find-publications-and-data/population-health/covid-19/covid-19-statistical-report/>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups

Afzal Khan (Labour) [49819] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to (a) support and (b) protect BAME (i) NHS staff and (ii) other key workers during the covid-19 outbreak.

Reply from Helen Whately: The Department has commissioned Public Health England to complete a rapid review to understand disparities in COVID-19 infection across the population. This will include looking at the impact on different ethnic groups and occupations - as well as by deprivation, age, and sex. The report will suggest recommendations for further steps that should be taken to reduce disparities in risk and outcomes from COVID-19 on the population.

In advance of Public Health England's review, and on a precautionary basis, NHS England and NHS Improvement have recommended that all National Health Service organisations undertake appropriate risk assessments for their Black, Asian and minority ethnic staff and make appropriate arrangements to support and protect them. The Department is also working to support the care sector to ensure the safety of all staff in social care.

All NHS and social care staff can access emotional, psychological and practical support.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-20/49819/>

The report of the review referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/889195/disparities_review.pdf

Ethnic Groups: Coronavirus

Marsha De Cordova (Labour) [49113] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what assessment the Government has made of the effect of covid-19 on BAME pregnant women.

Reply from Nadine Dorries: A new national collaborative study has just begun to help guide the prevention and management of COVID-19 in pregnant women and their infants. The study, funded by the National Institute for Health Research, will use the [UK Obstetric Surveillance System](#) to collect information about all pregnant women admitted to hospital who are confirmed to have the virus infection including the influence of demographic characteristics on outcomes for mother and infant. The information will be analysed to inform ongoing guidance for women and maternity staff as we respond to the pandemic.

It is known that some viral infections are worse in pregnant women but at the moment, there is no evidence that this is the case for COVID-19, but the amount of evidence available is still quite limited.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-19/49113/>

Coronavirus: Religious Buildings

Catherine West (Labour) [46116] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether the Government plans to publish for what reasons places of worship are not

included in the initial easing of covid-19 lockdown measures.

Reply from Helen Whately: The ongoing closure of places of worship reflects the need to limit social contact in indoor spaces, where the risk of infection is higher. We recognise that transparency is important in these unprecedented times. We have therefore published the statements and the accompanying evidence to demonstrate how our understanding of COVID-19 has continued to evolve as new data emerges, and how the advice from the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies has quickly adapted to new findings that reflect a changing situation. The scientific evidence supporting the government response to COVID-19 can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/scientific-advisory-group-for-emergencies-sage-coronavirus-covid-19-response>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-12/46116/>

Religious Buildings: Coronavirus

Afzal Khan (Labour) [52457] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps he is taking to ensure the safe re-opening of places of worship as covid-19 social distancing measures are lifted.

Reply from Simon Clarke: On 11 May, the Government launched the document “Our Plan to Rebuild”, which outlined the steps it would be taking to ease the lockdown restrictions;

[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)

The current assumption that places of worship will open no earlier than 4 July. As part of the steps to ease the restrictions, the Government launched a Places of Worship Taskforce to look at how they can reopen and operate safely to ensure those who visit and those who work there, are protected. Meetings are being led by the Secretary of State for Communities, or the Faith Minister, and comprise of representatives from the country’s major faiths. The taskforce is working towards the safe reopening of places of worship as soon as possible, including for individual prayer, and services and ceremonies such as weddings. It will also 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 them to reopen them as soon as we can. However, no place of worship will be able to reopen before a final decision by the Government and the accompanying changes to the legal position in the published regulations. Even after we permit places of worship to reopen fully, some may choose to reopen in stages or at a slower pace depending on their local circumstances.

Guidance to support the safe reopening of our places of worship will be published in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-01/52457/>

Religious Buildings: Coronavirus

Afzal Khan (Labour) [52458] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, whether he has had discussions with representatives from the Muslim Council of Britain on the safe re-opening of mosques as covid-19 social distancing measures are lifted.

Reply from Luke Hall: No discussions have taken place with the Muslim Council of Britain regarding the safe reopening of places of worship. The Government has set up a taskforce through which the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities

and Local Government has met with national faith leaders to prepare for places of worship to re-open safely at the appropriate time. Membership of the taskforce includes representation from the Muslim community.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-01/52458/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups

Baroness Lawrence of Clarendon (Labour) [HL4030] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by the Institute of Fiscal Studies Are some ethnic groups more vulnerable to COVID-19 than others?, published on 1 May; and what comparison they have made of the findings of that report and their own analysis of COVID-19 and the incidence and impact of that virus within BAME communities.

Reply from Lord Bethell: Public Health England (PHE) led a review to better understand how different factors such as ethnicity, deprivation, age, sex (male and female) and obesity can impact on how people are affected by COVID-19. PHE's report *Disparities in the risk and outcomes of COVID-19* was published on 2 June 2020 and is attached.

[Disparities review](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-05/HL4030/>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.ifs.org.uk/inequality/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Are-some-ethnic-groups-more-vulnerable-to-COVID-19-than-others-V2-IFS-Briefing-Note.pdf>

Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups

Baroness Lawrence of Clarendon (Labour) [HL4031] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the accuracy of the measurement of the differential incidence of COVID-19 within BAME communities.

Reply from Lord Bethell: Public Health England led a rapid review to better understand how different factors such as ethnicity, deprivation, age, sex (male and female) and obesity can impact on how people are affected by COVID-19.

The review found that people from Black ethnic groups were most likely to be diagnosed with COVID-19. Also, death rates from COVID-19 were highest among people of Black and Asian ethnic groups.

These findings did not account for the effect of occupation or comorbidities. These are important factors because they are associated with the risk of acquiring COVID-19, the risk of dying, or both.

A copy of *Disparities in the risk and outcomes of COVID-19* is attached.

[Disparities review](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-05/HL4031/>

NHS: Ethnic Groups

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL4808] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to offer NHS front-line BAME staff alternative roles during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reply from Lord Bethell: NHS Employers has recently published guidance to employers on risk assessments, advising them to consider issues such as pregnancy, ethnicity, age and disability. Since 30 April, numerous extensive expert

publications have been produced by organisations such as the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

As a result, many National Health Service trusts are updating their risk assessment procedures. Human resources directors are considering a range of mitigating actions, including redeploying staff into alternative roles, and measures such as additional hygiene measures, stringent fit testing procedures, equity of personal protective equipment provision and training, and improved occupational health support.

NHS Employers will publish updated guidance shortly to reflect the range of approaches being taken by trusts.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-20/HL4808/>

Ethnic Groups: Coronavirus

Baroness Garden of Frognall (Liberal Democrat) [HL4291] To ask Her Majesty's Government what considerations they have made of BAME households in developing plans to re-open schools during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reply from Baroness Berridge: We have developed plans to open schools to more children and young people in line with our responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010, including the Public Sector Equality Duty. This means we have had due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act; advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic, including race, and persons who do not share it; and foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

We are aware that there is emerging evidence that BAME individuals can be more severely affected than their peers by the virus, though this is not yet fully understood. On 4 May, Public Health England launched a review into the factors affecting health outcomes from COVID-19, to include ethnicity, gender and obesity. This will be published by the end of May and will help to inform our approach. In the meantime, schools should be especially sensitive to the needs and worries of BAME members of staff, BAME parents and BAME pupils, and consider if any additional measures or reasonable adjustments may need to be put in place to mitigate concerns.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-12/HL4291/>

The report of the review referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/889195/disparities_review.pdf

Coronavirus: Travellers

Baroness Whitaker (Labour) [HL4738] To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to the impact of COVID-19 on Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities; and whether these communities have been included in their assessments of the effects of the virus on BAME individuals.

Reply from Lord Bethell: There is emerging evidence of an association between ethnicity and COVID-19 incidence and adverse health outcomes. We are working hard to understand more about COVID-19 and establish robust data on the factors impacting the number of COVID-19 cases and health outcomes for different groups within the population. As part of this, we have commissioned Public Health England to consider the impact of various factors such as ethnicity, obesity, age, gender and geographical location, where data is available.

The Minister of State for Home Affairs and Housing, Communities and Local Government (the noble Lord Greenhalgh) has written to councils outlining their responsibility to support all communities, including Gypsy and Traveller communities, and to ensure they have access to water, sanitation and waste collections. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Rough Sleeping and Housing (Luke Hall MP) has written to owners and managers of caravan sites making clear they should keep sites open to allow people to remain if they would otherwise have nowhere to live.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-19/HL4738/>

The report of the Public Health England review referred to above can be read at
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/889195/disparities_review.pdf

Coronavirus: Travellers

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Conservative) [HL4385] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bethell on 21 April (HL3176), when health guidance for members of Gypsy, Traveller and Boater communities will be disseminated; and in what format.

Reply from Lord Bethell: We have been in close contact with Gypsy and Traveller Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations and are working hard to support these communities through the pandemic. VCS organisations have used existing Public Health England (PHE) guidance as a basis for producing targeted guidance and videos to inform and advise communities.

In collaboration with the Local Government Association, Association of Directors of Public Health and NHS England and NHS Improvement, PHE has collated a suite of resources 'COVID-19: Place-based approach to reducing health inequalities' to complement existing work being led at a local level.

On 11 April the Minister of State for Home Affairs and Housing, Communities and Local Government, the noble Lord Greenhalgh, wrote to all local authority chief executives to highlight that some Gypsies and Travellers may need specific support to enable them to access to essential basic amenities such as water, sanitation and waste disposal facilities. A copy of the letter is attached.

[HL4385 letter](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-13/HL4385/>

The answer referred to above can be read at
<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-04-21/HL3176/>

Scottish Government Press Releases

Next steps for NHS Scotland

<https://www.gov.scot/news/next-steps-for-nhs-scotland/>

Thanks for pandemic volunteers

<https://www.gov.scot/news/thanks-for-pandemic-volunteers/>

Scottish Government Publications

Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's speech 5 June 2020

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-speech-05-june-2020/>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): trends in daily data

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

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Scotland's route map - what you can and cannot do

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-what-you-can-and-cannot-do/>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): updated guidance on support, information, food and other essentials

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-support-information-food-and-other-essentials/pages/overview/>

Re-mobilise, Recover, Re-design: the framework for NHS Scotland

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/re-mobilise-recover-re-design-framework-nhs-scotland/>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): information for bereaved families

<https://www.copfs.gov.uk/media-site-news-from-copfs/1885-coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-bereaved-families>

Updated: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Guidance for funeral directors on managing infection risks when handling the deceased and funeral services

<https://tinyurl.com/y8nqelkg>

Updated: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Guidance for cremation authorities and burial authorities on managing their services and funeral services

<https://tinyurl.com/y9vmnzyo>

UK Government Press Releases

Number of coronavirus (COVID-19) cases and risk in the UK

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

Face coverings to become mandatory on public transport [England only]

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/face-coverings-to-become-mandatory-on-public-transport>

Next steps for work on COVID-19 disparities announced

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/next-steps-for-work-on-covid-19-disparities-announced>

Places of worship to re-open for individual prayer [England only]

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/places-of-worship-to-re-open-for-individual-prayer>

Other Organisations

Public Health England

Disparities in the risk and outcomes of COVID-19

Report

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/889195/disparities_review.pdf

Data Pack

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/889167/Disparities_risks_outcomes_of_COVID19_data_pack.ods

Welsh Government

Guidance for those supporting gypsy and traveller communities: COVID-19

<https://gov.wales/guidance-those-supporting-gypsy-and-traveller-communities>

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator

COVID-19 Impact on Charities

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/media/3925/oscr-covid-19-research-summary-report-020620-002.pdf>

COVID-19 Guidance for Charities

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/guidance-and-forms/covid-19-guidance-for-charities/>

Video: Charities and Coronavirus - An update from the Regulator

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/news/video-charities-and-coronavirus-an-update-from-the-regulator/>

Doctors of the World

An Unsafe Distance: the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Excluded People in England

https://www.doctorsoftheworld.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/covid19-brief-rna-report.pdf?mc_cid=dca4e612c1&mc_eid=ae74a1e475

Sharpening the global focus on ethnicity and race in the time of COVID-19

<https://www.thelancet.com/action/showPdf?pii=S0140-6736%2820%2931102-8>

Uncensored Conversations: A discussion with Professor Raj Bhopal on the disproportionate effects of COVID-19 on ethnic minorities and migrants

<https://tinyurl.com/yawylmbv>

News

Coronavirus: WHO advises to wear masks in public areas

<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-52945210>

Coronavirus: Watchdog to investigate racial inequalities

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-52925412>

Coronavirus: Risk of dying is higher for ethnic minorities

<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-52889106>

How coronavirus tore through Britain's ethnic minorities

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-52894225>

'Black lives matter,' insists Hancock, as review shows black, Asian and minority ethnic people more at risk from virus

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18491624.black-lives-matter--insists-hancock-review-shows-black-asian-minority-ethnic-people-risk-virus/>

Labour accuses government of cover-up over BAME Covid-19 report

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/jun/06/labour-accuses-government-of-cover-up-over-bame-covid-19-report>

Ethnic minorities face double the risk of death from virus

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/ethnic-minorities-face-higher-virus-death-risk-q8zpd3gsq>

Why are so many people from BAME backgrounds dying from coronavirus?

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/06/06/bame-coronavirus-deaths-black-ethnic-minority-background/>

Coronavirus: Black health expert did not lead BAME report

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-52922046>

Coronavirus: BAME nursing staff 'find it harder to access PPE' than white counterparts

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/coronavirus-nhs-bame-staff-ppe-access-gloves-masks-aprons-survey-a9535321.html>

BAME people more likely to be arrested under coronavirus laws, figures suggest

<https://www.faith-matters.org/bame-people-more-likely-to-be-arrested-under-coronavirus-laws-figures-suggest/>

Scots could be asked book places and wear masks when churches reopen

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18500896.scots-asked-book-places-wear-masks-churches-reopen/>

Coronavirus: Places of worship to reopen for private prayer [England only]

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-52951853>

Coronavirus: Mosques told not to reopen despite government plan

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-52956280>

Coronavirus: What is the future of religious worship in the UK?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-52882744>

Synagogues to ban singing, introduce online bookings, and ask congregants to bring their own prayer books

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/06/02/synagogues-ban-singing-introduce-online-bookings-ask-congregants/>

Coronavirus: The chaplains at the front line of end-of-life care

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-norfolk-52820028>

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Other News

Another Milestone for “an incredibly useful resource”

https://www.scojec.org/news/2020/20vi_pad/2000.html

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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>

Proposed amendments for Stage 3

<https://beta.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/current-bills/disclosure-scotland-bill/stage-3/first-marshalled-list-of-amendments-at-stage-3-disclosure-scotland-bill.pdf?la=en>

Revised Explanatory Notes

<https://beta.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/current-bills/disclosure-scotland-bill/stage-2/revised-explanatory-notes-disclosure-scotland-bill--accessible.pdf>

Stage 3 Briefing

<https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdneq.azureedge.net/published/2020/6/4/Disclosure--Scotland--Bill--Briefing-for-Members-at-Stage-3/SB%2020-39.pdf>

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

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

YouthLink Scotland Briefing for youth workers

<https://actiononprejudice.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/2020/06/Hate-Crime-Bill-for-Youth-Workers.pdf>

Post-mortem Examinations (Defence Time Limit) (Scotland) Bill

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

UK Parliament

Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) Bill

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

Asylum Support (Prescribed Period) Bill

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

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

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

Proposed amendments

https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-01/0104/amend/immigration_rm_pbc_0604.1-7.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>

**** COVID-19 Police powers review** (closing date 1 September 2020)

<https://covid19iag.citizenspace.com/>

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

**** *this week!***

Ethnic Minority National Resilience Network

11 June 2020 online (10.00–12.00)

The Ethnic Minority National Resilience Network will be joined by senior officials from the Scottish Government's Race Equality Unit who will provide an update on the Scottish Government's response to the ongoing COVID-19 challenges. Following the update from the officials, members will have the opportunity to respond to points raised and give updates on your areas of work and local communities. To participate in the meeting, contact danny.boyle@bemis.org.uk by 3pm on 9 June.

**** *this week!***

Who Are We? Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Identity in Conversation

11 June 2020 online (7.00–10.30pm)

Progress in Dialogue event to discuss how young Gypsies, Roma, and Travellers see their identities today, and their perspectives on the main challenges that their communities face. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/ya3s9kpy>

**** The Overlooked Crossovers: Intersectionality of Marginalisation**

17 June 2020 online (6.00–7.30)

Progress in Dialogue event to discuss the intersections of marginalisation with Gypsy and Traveller advocates, insights into the lived reality of intersectionality, good practice in challenging intersectional inequality, and how we can better recognise intersectionality and build alliances between communities. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yao2gogq>

**** Meet the Charity Regulator**

23 June 2020 online (10.00–12.00)

Presentation of the findings of recent Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator surveys, and Q&A with OSCR Chair Lindsay Montgomery, and Chief Executive Maureen Mallon. For information and to register see <https://tinyurl.com/yc7qkv9n>

**** How has coronavirus changed volunteering?**

23 June 2020 online (11.00–12.30)

Volunteer Scotland and the Scottish Volunteering Forum evidence session and conversation about making sense of how Covid-19 has changed volunteering. To register see <https://tinyurl.com/ydxju4r3>

**** What's in a Word? Languages of the Travelling people**

24 June 2020 online (6.00–6.30)

Progress in Dialogue panel discussion to panel discussion to learn more about the often wrongly seen as 'secret', languages of Gypsy/Traveller communities. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/ycpmosop>

3rd International Conference on Migration and Mobilities

8–10 July 2020 in St Andrews

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

TOP

Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Refugee Survival Trust <https://www.rst.org.uk/>

Freedom from Torture <https://www.freedomfromtorture.org/>

Interfaith Scotland <https://interfaithscotland.org/>

Equality and Human Rights Commission <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en>

Equality Advisory Support Service <http://www.equalityadvisoryservice.com/>

Scottish Human Rights Commission <http://www.scottishhumanrights.com/>

ACAS <http://www.acas.org.uk/>

SCVO <https://scvo.org.uk/>

Volunteer Scotland <https://www.volunteerscotland.net/>

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) <https://www.oscr.org.uk/>

Scottish Fundraising Standards Panel <https://www.goodfundraising.scot/>

Disclosure Scotland <https://www.mygov.scot/working-jobs/finding-a-job/disclosure/>

Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services

<https://www.volunteerscotland.net/for-organisations/disclosure-services/>

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/>



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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