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Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Immigration

John Hayes (Conservative): [Will the Minister's] Department introduce a cap on the number of immigrants permitted to enter the UK each year. [903004]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Chris Philp): ... On 1 January, for the first time in decades, the United Kingdom will have full democratic control over our immigration system, giving us power to determine who comes here and for how long. We do not intend to impose a cap, but our points-based system will ensure that only those with the skills our country needs come to the United Kingdom, and it is our expectation that total migration, as a consequence, will reduce.

John Hayes: With the post-covid economy facing unprecedented challenges and the

prospect of job losses, in the same spirit that the Home Secretary showed in condemning this weekend's wicked violence, will the Minister look again at the resident labour market test, which means that jobs have to be offered here before they can be filled from abroad? Rebuilding Britain mean backing British workers.

Reply from Chris Philp: My right hon. Friend is correct that we want to encourage as many people as we can from the UK to take up job opportunities that are available. Our objective, ultimately, is to see a full rate of employment. We have laid out the points-based test that will apply from 1 January next year, ensuring that only people with high skills can come here, but it is up to this House and this Parliament to keep that under review, to ensure that we are striking the right balance in the way he describes.

John Redwood (Conservative): I am grateful for all that the Home Secretary is doing to bring in this new policy, which I hope brings higher wages and higher skills, but does it not also require tougher enforcement against the dreadful people traffickers who are making money out of making a mockery of our laws and undermining all that we stand for?

Reply from Chris Philp: My right hon. Friend is correct: people trafficking and people smuggling is a shocking offence that causes untold human misery. Last year, Immigration Enforcement made 259 arrests in connection with people smuggling and secured 101 criminal convictions, but I would like to assure him that this is an area where we can, must and will go a great deal further.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-06-08/debates/3C652267-8D59-42FC-9444-9820FC052311/Immigration>

Information about the points-based test 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>

Topical Questions: Home Office

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Priti Patel): ... The decision by the Chinese National People's Congress to impose a national security law on Hong Kong is a clear breach of China's international obligation and a threat to the freedom of the people of Hong Kong. If China follows through with this legislation, Britain will not hesitate to act. We will put in place new arrangements to allow those in Hong Kong who hold British national overseas passports to come to the UK, enabling them to live and apply to study and work for extendable periods of 12 months, leading to a pathway to British citizenship. If it proves necessary, the British Government will take this step, and take it willingly. We will never abandon our commitment to the freedom of Hong Kong and its people.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-06-08/debates/1238545B-CD1B-419F-9E2D-BE68EEF05B63/TopicalQuestions#contribution-3D527BB2-D516-418A-A577-4AE3988101E4>

Topical Questions: Home Office

Steve McCabe (Labour): The Home Office says that 9,000 looked-after children and care leavers are eligible for EU settled status. To date, 11% of these children have had such status. Why does the Home Office not consider a blanket approval for these vulnerable children, and spare us all an administrative nightmare and a second Windrush? [903027]

Reply from Priti Patel: When it comes to EU settled status, we are working with local authorities to give them the support that they need. I hope that the hon. Gentleman, and all hon. and right hon. Members across the House, will continue to work in a constructive manner in their constituencies to ensure that children are granted the settled status that they are due.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-06-08/debates/1238545B-CD1B-419F-9E2D-BE68EEF05B63/TopicalQuestions#contribution-5183F1FD-E36A-4046-B42E-097E595D0942>

Illegal Channel Crossings

Julian Lewis (Conservative): What steps [is the Minister's] Department taking to stop migrants crossing the English Channel illegally. [903006]

Sally-Ann Hart (Conservative): What steps steps [is the Minister's] Department taking to stop migrants crossing the English Channel illegally. [903016]

Giles Watlin (Conservative): What steps [is the Minister's] Department taking to stop migrants crossing the English Channel illegally. [903019]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Chris Philp): I am very glad that this question has arisen. We should be absolutely clear that these crossings of the English channel are extremely dangerous. They are crossing the busiest shipping lines in the world. They are facilitated by criminal gangs who are ruthlessly exploiting vulnerable people. The crossings are also entirely unnecessary because France is a safe country and it has a very well-established and functioning asylum system. We are therefore working with our French counterparts around the clock, sharing intelligence between our National Crime Agency and the French authorities, to stop illegally facilitated crossings and to prevent on-the-beach embarkations.

Julian Lewis: That is a very clear answer as far as it goes, but it appears that French patrol boats are escorting these dangerously overloaded inflatables across the channel until they reach English waters—I should say UK waters—whereupon our patrol boats pick up the occupants and ferry them to our shores. I understand that this is because we have to save people who put themselves, and sometimes their families, at serious risk at sea, but how can we remove perverse incentives to behave in such a dangerous fashion?

Reply from Chris Philp: It is worth emphasising that where boats get into difficulties in French waters—for example, if their engine breaks down—the French will pick them up and take them back to France. We must, as my right hon. Friend says, be mindful of safety of life, but we are reviewing our operational practices in these areas, for the reasons he mentions. Half the attempted crossings are intercepted by the French on the beach. We have so far, since last January, returned 155 people who have crossed and we seek to return many more.

Sally-Ann Hart: Migration policy is a core aspect of our national sovereignty. Will my hon. Friend please confirm that the UK will have a fair immigration policy that welcomes people who come to the UK legally, irrespective of nationality or religion, and that we will take back control over illegal immigration?

Reply from Chris Philp: I entirely agree with the point my hon. Friend makes, and with the similar points made by my hon. Friend the Member for Dover (Mrs Elphicke), on this topic. We have a points-based system coming into force shortly. We granted asylum or protection to 20,000 people last year, one of the highest figures in Europe, and we welcomed 3,000 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, the highest number of any country in Europe. Our legal migration methods are entirely fair. We should therefore be policing illegal migration routes with complete effectiveness, and the Home Secretary and I are determined to do that.

Giles Watling: I thank my hon. Friend for his earlier answer, but we know that the migrants, as they cross the channel, sometimes threaten the French navy that they will throw themselves or their children into the sea. That is an appalling act, and we need to get the French navy to step up to the plate and take those people off the boats in international waters. What are we doing now to ensure that this happens?

Reply from Chris Philp: Discussions are under way between the UK Government and the French Government. Indeed, I am speaking to my opposite number, the French deputy Interior Minister, Monsieur Nunez, on Thursday this week. There is more we are doing as well, including working with the French OCRIEST, the French gendarmes and the Police aux Frontières—the PAF—to ensure that as many of those embarkations are stopped before they even get on to the water. About 50%

are stopped before they get on to the water, but we would like that number to be a great deal higher.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-06-08/debates/5FDB57F0-C4E8-4EA0-BBBA-34B3AF51F371/IllegalChannelCrossings>

Information about the points-based 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>

Covid-19: No Recourse to Public Funds

Edward Davey (Liberal Democrat): [Will the Minister] hold discussions with the Prime Minister on the suspension of the “no recourse to public funds” condition during the covid-19 outbreak. [903001]

Reply from the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Priti Patel): The Government have made it our priority to protect the vulnerable throughout this national emergency, but we do not believe it is necessary to suspend the NRPF condition to do so. It is right that migrants coming to the UK are financially independent; however, practical support, such as rent protections and the coronavirus job retention scheme, apply to those NRPF conditions. We have allocated more than £3.2 billion to local authorities and £750 million to charities to support the most vulnerable.

Edward Davey: The Home Secretary does not get it. People who have worked here and paid taxes here for years are being denied support and falling into destitution. People who have lost their jobs or seen their income slashed can be excluded from the very protections that the Home Secretary cites. Given that the rule disproportionately impacts people in our black and minority ethnic communities the hardest, will the Home Secretary suspend the “no recourse to public funds” rule for the duration of the pandemic?

Reply from Priti Patel: I thank the right hon. Gentleman for his question and his comments. The answer is no. Local authorities have provided a basic safety net, and that is because of the significant financial provisions that the Government introduced and the range of measures to support those people who had been working. Because of coronavirus—because of the national health pandemic situation we find ourselves in—we will support people with “no recourse to public funds”, and that assistance is being given under the coronavirus retention scheme and also the self-employed income support scheme, so funds are available. It is wrong to imply that safety nets are not in place. I hope the right hon. Gentleman will pay tribute to local authorities which, throughout this pandemic and this crisis, have been resourced with an extra £3.2 billion to provide vital financial help.

Holly Lynch (Labour): Further to the comments that the Home Secretary just made, Ministers from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government wrote to all councils on 26 March asking them to utilise alternative powers and funding to assist those with “no recourse to public funds”, so it seems that the Government have understood in principle that NRPF is counterproductive during the pandemic, but the lack of clarity from the Home Office means that in practice people are still facing destitution. With that in mind, will the Home Secretary look again at the spirit of the Prime Minister’s comments to the Liaison Committee and outline how the Government intend to support these families?

Reply from Priti Patel: It is important to put on the record that this is not just about the Home Office; we work across Government and MHCLG—the Department responsible for local government and communities—is obviously central to this issue. In terms of the resources that have been provided, practical support, such as rent protections and the coronavirus job retention scheme, apply to those under the “no recourse to public funds” conditions. The hon. Lady specifically mentioned MHCLG and local authorities; £3.2 billion has been provided. I have been working

directly with the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, and I have also been part of discussions with the devolved Administrations, throughout the past 10 weeks, looking at the protective measures and the support that can be provided through the resources provided from central Government.

Joanna Cherry (SNP): The Black Lives Matter movement and Public Health England's review of the disparities in risks and outcomes in the covid-19 outbreak have highlighted the inequalities suffered by black and minority ethnic people in our society. Does the Home Secretary accept that the "no recourse to public funds" policy disproportionately affects people from black, Asian and minority ethnic communities? If she does, why will she not push for it to be suspended, as a concrete step towards tackling the inequalities that so appal many of our constituents?

Reply from Priti Patel: I have a number of points to make to the hon. and learned Lady. First, the Government published the report last week on the impact of coronavirus on black, Asian and minority ethnic communities. The findings are indeed shocking and it is right that the Government invest their time and resources, particularly through the Minister for Equalities, to look at the measures that can be put in place. The "no recourse to public funds" policy is one of many policies, and it is right that as a Government we look at all policies that affect all communities in the round, without singling out one particular policy.

Joanna Cherry: I am glad to hear that the Home Secretary is looking at the policy, but I urge her to read a report that came out this time last year by Agnes Woolley called, "The Cost of the No Recourse to Public Funds Policy". It found that most families with "no recourse to public funds" in the United Kingdom have at least one child who is British by birth, and nearly all those families are black and minority ethnic. Accordingly, "no recourse to public funds" is inherently more likely to affect BAME British children than white British children. Therefore, given this evidence that "no recourse to public funds" is a policy with racially discriminatory impacts, why will she not accept that it needs to go?

Reply from Priti Patel: If I may say, it is wrong to characterise the policy as racially discriminatory. It is a fact, however, that, for all communities and people of all backgrounds, there are many financial protections in place through the safety net of the welfare state. In addition, when it comes to children, funds have been made available through the Department for Education in the pupil premium. There are a plethora of support packages, which, combined collectively, are based on individual needs and individual circumstances. It is right that we treat people as individuals and not just categorise them. It is important to recognise that a plethora of issues affect people from black, Asian and minority ethnic communities, but we cannot assume that there is a one-size-fits-all approach, or a single-policy solution, to address those issues. It is right, as I have already indicated, that my right hon. Friend the Minister for Women and Equalities looks at the report that was published last week and that the Government provide a collective response to the many challenges facing the community.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-06-08/debates/6B356DFF-8309-4AAB-A014-7760BFFA38FA/Covid-19NoRecourseToPublicFunds>

The letter to local councils, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876466/Letter_from_Minister_Hall_to_Local_Authorities.pdf

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

The report by Agnes Woolley, referred to above, can be read at

Covid-19: Support for People in the Asylum System

Catherine West (Labour): What recent assessment she has made of the adequacy of levels of financial support for people in the asylum system during the covid-19 outbreak. [903009]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Chris Philp): I have been making an assessment of this matter in recent weeks, and following publication of the most recent Office for National Statistics data, I can announce to the House today that, with effect from 15 June, the asylum support rate will be increased by 5%, from £37.75 a week up to £39.60 a week. That is about five times higher than the prevailing rate of inflation, which is currently 0.8%.

Catherine West: That is rather an ungenerous increase, I have to say, given that the rate can be as low as £37 a day for certain people seeking asylum. However, any increase is something I welcome. Could the Minister tell me whether he could live on under £40 a day?

Reply from Chris Philp: Well, it is per week: the rate is £39.60 per week. It is calculated by a methodology that is approved by the courts, and it is done with reference to ONS data, based on the incomes of people in the bottom 10% of the population. It is done with reference to figures, by a court-approved method, and that is the right way to fix this thing. I say again that a 5% increase is very substantially higher than inflation.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-06-08/debates/9E6EF7DC-2E82-4318-86C7-4DE38519ADA6/Covid-19SupportForPeopleInTheAsylumSystem>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

British Nationality

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [53472] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether settled status is admissible as evidence of lawful residence in the UK for the purpose of making an application for British citizenship.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Settled status is a grant of Indefinite Leave to Remain. It can therefore be used to demonstrate the date on which an applicant became free from immigration time restrictions under the Immigration Rules. Additional evidence may be required to demonstrate an individual meets the statutory requirements for naturalisation.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-02/53472/>

British Nationality: Learning Disability

Vicky Foxcroft (Labour) [53537] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what support the Government has made available to people with learning disabilities who wish to apply for British Citizenship but are unable to complete the application without assistance.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office provides a free Assisted Digital service for customers within the UK who don't have the appropriate access, skills or confidence to use UK Visas & Immigration online services on their own. This service is made available to everyone who needs it, including those with learning difficulties. A paper application form is still available for those who have difficulties with digital applications.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-02/53537/>

British Nationality: Applications

Vicky Foxcroft (Labour) [53538] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether there are concessions for fees for citizenship applications for British citizenship whose income is prohibitively low.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office does not provide for the reduction or waiver of fees for citizenship applications based on income.

Applying for British Citizenship is not mandatory and many individuals who have Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) in the UK choose not to do so. This is because a person with ILR continues to benefit from full access to the UK labour market, education and healthcare, and the ability to sponsor family member residence in the UK. This means the application can be made once the individual is ready to do so.

The Home Office keeps fees under regular review.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-02/53538/>

Immigration

Luke Evans (Conservative) [52542] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure the adequacy and appropriateness of immigration policy during the covid-19 outbreak.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office regularly reviews immigration policy and has taken a number of steps to ensure no one will be penalised for circumstances outside of their control.

We have acted on feedback from customers and stakeholders and worked with other Government departments to take a compassionate and pragmatic approach to an unprecedented situation.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-01/52542/>

Immigration Controls

Mark Logan (Conservative) [903017] What progress [has the Minister's] Department made on introducing a points-based immigration system.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Government has set out our plans for a new points-based system to control immigration, that will deliver for the UK for years to come. We have been clear that there will be no extension to the Transition period with the EU, and the introduction of the Immigration (and Social Security Co-ordination) Bill was a key part of delivering on that commitment.

From 1 January, our new system will provide simple, effective and flexible arrangements and lay the foundations for a firmer, fairer, skills-led immigration system. It will support our economic recovery by prioritising and investing in people in the UK while continuing to attract the talent and expertise we need from abroad.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-08/903017/>

Information about the 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

Colum Eastwood (SDLP) [21283] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, what comparative assessment she has made of the potential effect of the points-based system for immigration announced by her Department on 19 February 2020 on the skills requirements of (a) Northern Ireland and (b) Great Britain.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Government published “The UK’s Points-Based System: Policy Statement” on 19 February.

The new system will ensure we can attract the high-skilled workers we need to contribute to our economy, our communities and our public services.

In delivering on its manifesto commitments for a new points-based system, the Government has considered relevant views, evidence, and analysis. We will also keep labour market data under careful scrutiny.

Following advice from the independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) we will reduce both the general salary and skills thresholds for skilled workers.

The MAC has advised against regional variations. We will deliver a system which works for the whole of our United Kingdom.

The Home Office will publish further detail on the points-based system in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-26/21283/>

Information about the 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>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration Controls: Social Services

Edward Davey (Liberal Democrat) [21877] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, which organisations from the care sector her Department consulted while developing the proposed points-based immigration policy.

Edward Davey (Liberal Democrat) [21878] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the care sector will be included in communication and engagement programmes to help UK employers understand the new points-based immigration system; and what those programmes will entail.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Following our departure from the European Union, Freedom of Movement is coming to an end and we are taking back control of our borders.

The Government published “The UK’s Points-Based System: Policy Statement” on 19 February. Senior care workers who meet the criteria will be able to come to the UK through the points-based system.

The Government has considered relevant views, evidence, and analysis. We are also working alongside employers across the whole of the UK to ensure the workforce has the right number of people to meet increasing demands and have recently launched a national recruitment campaign.

The Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) has been clear immigration is not the solution to addressing staffing levels in the social care sector. A point the Government agrees with as the vision for this sector cannot just be based on paying the lowest wages possible. Employers need to invest in technology, innovation and their existing workforce, focusing on making jobs more attractive for UK workers, especially considering the economic impact of Covid-19 where many may need to find new employment.

We will deliver a comprehensive programme of communication and engagement in the coming months.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-27/21877/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-27/21878/>

Information about the 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

Valerie Vaz (Labour) [54853] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what the current backlog is of cases awaiting a first tier immigration tribunal hearing.

Reply from Chris Philp: The number of appeals in the First-tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) that have either not had a final hearing or been resolved prior to hearing, as at 31 March 2020, is 17,661, a reduction of 4,475 appeals from the same period in 2019.

Published statistics can be found at:

www.gov.uk/government/statistics/tribunal-statistics-quarterly-october-to-december-2019

and

www.gov.uk/government/collections/hmcts-management-information

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-04/54853/>

Immigration

Navendu Mishra (Labour) [52589] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to suspend the minimum income requirements for people applying for (a) Further Leave to Remain and (b) Indefinite Leave to Remain as a spouse or partner during the covid-19 outbreak.

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

To ensure a spouse or partner applying for entry clearance, leave to remain or indefinite leave are not unduly affected by circumstances beyond their control, for the purpose of the minimum income requirement:

- A temporary loss of employment income between 1 March and 31 July 2020 due to COVID-19, will be disregarded provided the requirement was met for at least six months up to March 2020.
- An applicant or sponsor furloughed under the Government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme will be deemed as earning 100% of their salary.
- A temporary loss of annual income due to COVID-19 between 1 March 2020 and 31 July 2020 will generally be disregarded for self-employment income, along with the impact on employment income from the same period for future applications. Income received via the Coronavirus Self-Employment Income Support Scheme will also be taken into account.
- Evidential flexibility may be applied where an applicant or sponsor experiences difficulty accessing specified evidence due to COVID-19 restrictions.

These concessions are set out for customers on GOV.UK here:

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

The minimum income requirement can also 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/2020-06-01/52589/>

Immigrants: Health Services

Claire Hanna (SDLP) [52596] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she make an assessment of the potential merits of ending the NHS surcharge for all migrant workers.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The overall purpose of the Surcharge is to benefit the NHS, help to care for the sick and save lives.

NHS and wider health and social care workers from abroad make a fantastic contribution. However, it is fair to expect people arriving in the UK to work in non-healthcare roles to make a contribution to the brilliant NHS services to which they can access.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-01/52596/>

Child Benefit: Immigrants

Stephen Timms (Labour) [51543] To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether child benefit is payable in respect of a child who is a UK national but whose parents have leave to remain in the UK with no recourse to public funds; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Steve Barclay: I refer the Hon. Member to the answer given on 21st October 2019. Access to Child Benefit follows the long-standing Government policy that those who have not established their right to remain permanently in the UK should not have welfare provision on the same basis as those whose citizenship or status here gives them an entitlement to benefits. All those admitted to the UK for a temporary purpose are required, under the immigration rules, to be able to maintain and accommodate themselves without recourse to public funds.

For this reason, apart from specified exceptions – set out in the Social Security (Immigration and Asylum Consequential Amendments) Regulations 2000 – persons subject to immigration control are not eligible for Child Benefit.

However, individuals who have no recourse to public funds can access many services including the NHS, statutory sick pay and some other work-related benefits. Local Authorities also have a statutory duty to provide support to families subject to the NRPF condition where a child's wellbeing is in question.

In addition, they are able to access support measures put in place to respond to the Covid-19 global pandemic, including the Job Retention and Self-Employed Income Support schemes, free school meals, mortgage payment holidays and protection from eviction.

Eligible immigrants with a condition of NRPF can apply to the Home Office to have this lifted if their financial circumstances change.

Further information on the support that is available for migrants subject to NRPF can be found here:

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-01/51543/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-16/847/>

Immigrants: Finance

Stephen Timms (Labour) [55845] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her Department's target is in weeks, for determining Change of Conditions applications made by destitute families with no recourse to public funds.

Reply from Chris Philp: No service standards apply to the assessment of whether the applicant qualifies for a change of condition code, but caseworkers will make reasonable efforts to decide such requests promptly, especially those involving a child or an applicant who is street homeless, disabled or otherwise in vulnerable circumstances.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-08/55845/>

Immigrants: Finance

Owen Thompson (SNP) [53508] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of people who have no recourse to public funds under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

Reply from Chris Philp: We do not have estimates of the number of migrants in the UK who are in the UK and subject to no recourse to public funds (NRPF) at any given time. All visitors to the UK are subject to NRPF as are all illegal migrants. The Office for National Statistics publishes quarterly statistics for those who enter or extend their stay in the UK, the vast majority of whom will have the NRPF condition attached to their leave, but these statistics are unable to capture all of those in the UK subject to NRPF.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-02/53508/>

The following four questions all received the same answer

Immigrants: Finance

Stephen Timms (Labour) [55661] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will publish her Department's equality impact assessment on the No Recourse to Public Funds policy.

Patrick Grady (SNP) [55706] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her department has made of the effect of the No Recourse to Public Funds restrictions on (a) BAME communities and (b) other communities.

Patrick Grady (SNP) [55707] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what equality impact assessments her Department has undertaken on the effect of No Recourse to Public Funds' restrictions in relation to (a) race and (b) other protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.

Immigrants: Health

Patrick Grady (SNP) [55709] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what equality impact assessments his Department has undertaken in relation to the effect of No Recourse to Public Funds restrictions on health outcomes by (a) race and (b) other protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office has published its policy equality statement on the impact of the No Recourse to Public Fund (NRPF) policy on migrants on the 10-year human rights route. It can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/application-for-change-of-conditions-of-leave-to-allow-access-to-public-funds-if-your-circumstances-change>.

The NRPF policy, which is based on the principle that migrants coming to the UK are expected to maintain and support themselves and their families without posing a burden on the UK's welfare system. NRPF conditions were introduced in the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. Access to benefits and other publicly funded services reflects the strength of a migrant's connections to the UK and, in the main,

only become available to migrants when they have become settled in the UK with indefinite leave to remain.

People on the 10-year human rights route can apply to have the condition lifted and other groups, such as refugees, are exempt from the condition.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-05/55661/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-05/55706/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-05/55707/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-05/55709/>

The following four questions all received the same answer

Immigrants: Finance

Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [54983] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of people with dependants under the age of 18 who have No Recourse to Public Funds attached to their immigration status.

Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [54984] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of individuals with limited leave to remain in the UK that have no recourse to public funds attached to their immigration status.

Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [54985] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of applicants with dependants under the age of 18 who are on the 10 year route to settlement with no recourse to public funds attached to their leave to remain application.

Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [54986] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether local welfare provision is classified as a public fund for immigration purposes.

Reply from Chris Philp: We do not currently have estimates of the number of migrants who are in the UK and subject to no recourse to public funds (NRPF) at any given time.

Migrants coming to the UK are expected to maintain and support themselves and their families without posing a burden on the UK's welfare system. Access to benefits and other publicly funded services reflects the strength of a migrant's connections to the UK.

The Home Office publish a range of statistics on entry clearance visas, and extensions of leave in the UK in the quarterly Immigration Statistics

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>).

However, these do not show the number of people subject to NRPF.

Local welfare provision is not classed as a public fund for immigration purposes as set out in the Immigration Rules on GOV.UK

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-index>

The Home Office is working closely with other government departments to support people, including migrants with NRPF, through this pandemic. We have announced a range of measures to ensure people can stay safe and many of these are available for those with a NRPF condition, such as protection for renters from evictions, a mortgage holiday for those who need it.

I can confirm the assistance being given under the Coronavirus Job Retention

Scheme and the Self-employed Income Support Scheme are not classed as public funds and are available to all those in work or self-employment respectively, including those with NRPF status and those on zero-hour contracts. Statutory sick pay and some other work-related benefits are also not classed as public funds and so are also available to all.

The Government has outlined the support available to migrants, including those with NRPF, which can be found at

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-04/54983/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-04/54984/>

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-04/54985/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-04/54986/>

Immigrants: Finance

Drew Hendry (SNP) [53489] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of removing No Recourse to Public Funds visa stipulations for people applying to courses in the health and social care sectors during the covid-19 outbreak.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Government does not believe it is necessary to suspend the No Recourse to Public Funds condition. We have acted decisively to ensure we support people through this crisis and are confident we have measures in place to support those who have no recourse to public funds at this difficult time. Many of the wide-ranging Covid-19 measures the government has put in place are not public funds and therefore are available to migrants with no re-course to public funds (NRPF). 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. Similarly, the support the Government is providing to the rented sector and in respect of mortgages is available to all regardless of their immigration status.

The Government has temporarily lifted restrictions in the hours that Tier 4 students or Tier 2 workers in the NHS can work or volunteer. It has also extended the deadline for pre-registration nurses to sit the Occupational Structured Clinical Examination to 31 December 2020. Tier 4, Tier 2 and Tier 5 visa holders are also being allowed to start courses or employment before their visa applications have been determined.

The Government has published guidance on the support available for migrants living in the UK, including those with NRPF on Gov.uk.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-02/53489/>

Immigrants: Finance

Stephen Timms (Labour) [903023] [Will the Minister] suspend the no recourse to public funds condition for families with children that have leave to remain in the UK for the duration of the covid-19 outbreak.

Reply from Chris Philp: This Government has made it our priority to protect the vulnerable through this national emergency. We have put in place a range of measures for everyone to stay safe as we fight Coronavirus, including those with NRPF. ...

Families with leave under family and human rights routes can apply, free of charge, to have no recourse to public funds conditions lifted. We encourage anyone eligible to submit an application and these will be considered compassionately.

Practical support such as rent protections and the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme apply to those with NRPF conditions, and we have allocated more than £3.2billion to local authorities and £750million to charities to support the most vulnerable.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-08/903023/>

Free School Meals: Immigrants

Nadia Whittome (Labour) [52641] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if he will extend eligibility for free school meals to pupils with no recourse to public funds during the covid-19 outbreak.

Reply from Vicky Ford: During the COVID-19 outbreak, we are temporarily extending free school meal eligibility to include some children of groups who have no recourse to public funds. These groups are children of Zambrano carers, children of families with a right to remain in the UK under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, children of families receiving support under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 and children of a subset of failed asylum seekers supported under Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. These groups are a subject to a maximum income threshold of £16,190 per annum.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-01/52641/>

Visas

Damien Moore (Conservative) [52446] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to extend the automatic visa renewal to people who are working on a dependent visa.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The automatic visa extension offer for key frontline health workers, applies to anyone subject to UK immigration control, who works in one of the defined eligible occupations, and whose visa expires between 31 March and 1 October. It also covers immediate family members of those who are eligible.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-01/52446/>

Visas

Virendra Sharma (Labour) [51793] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of expanding in-country switching for visa applicants unable to return to their home country due to lock-down constraints.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office has put in place a range of measures to support those affected by measures connected to Covid-19 (Coronavirus). Those measures include a provision for switching in-country by visa applicants. Full details can be found at:

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

These are unprecedented times and we may make further adjustments to requirements where necessary and appropriate, to ensure people are not unduly

affected by circumstances beyond their control.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-01/51793/>

Visas

Ian Murray (Labour) [51863] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to introduce a further extension of visas for people that are unable to travel home after 31 May 2020.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Individuals who are in the UK legally and whose visa expires between 24 January 2020 and 31 July 2020 can have their visa extended to 31 July 2020, if they cannot leave the UK because of travel restrictions or self-isolation related to coronavirus.

The latest information can be found on GOV.UK at:

www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-uk-visa-applicants-and-temporary-uk-residents

This is being kept under regular review in case further extensions are needed

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-01/51863/>

Visas: Repayments

Claire Hanna (SDLP) [53660] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the changes to the Immigration Rules announced on 14 May 2020, if her Department will refund people who have had to apply to extend their visas in the UK as a family member of a British citizen who has dual nationality.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The statement of changes to the Immigration Rules laid before Parliament on 14 May will amend the EU Settlement Scheme so that family members of the People of Northern Ireland can apply for immigration status on broadly the same terms as family members of Irish citizens. This delivers the commitment made in the 'New Decade, New Approach' agreement which restored the Northern Ireland Executive in January 2020.

Family members of the people of Northern Ireland will be able to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme from 24 August.

Family members of the people of Northern Ireland who have paid a fee to secure immigration status under another route, such as the UK's family Immigration Rules, or who do so in order to come to the UK or to extend their stay before 24 August, will not be refunded.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-02/53660/>

The changes to Immigration Rules referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/885021/CCS207_CCS0520583832-001_Statement_of_changes_in_Immigration_Rules_CP_232_PRINT.pdf

Visas: Carers

Dan Jarvis (Labour) [55980] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether care workers will be eligible to apply to the scheme to offer free one-year visa extensions during the covid-19 outbreak to people whose visas expire before 1 October 2020.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Government has announced we will extend the visas for a range of healthcare professionals working for the NHS and independent health and care providers, where their current visa expires between 31 March and 1 October. This offer also applies to their families.

Details of immigration changes, including the extended list of healthcare professionals covered by this offer, as guided by the Department of Health and Social Care, relating to COVID-19 can be found at:

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

This offer is just one part of the Government's response to Coronavirus. We are continuing to work closely with the Department of Health and Social Care on how we can best support frontline health and care workers.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-08/55980/>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

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

Migrant Workers: Health Professions

Alexander Stafford (Conservative) [49882] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will extend the visa extensions given to foreign NHS staff to include private healthcare staff who also provide part time services to the NHS.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Government has already announced we will extend the visas for a range of healthcare professionals working for the NHS and independent health and care providers, where their current visa expires between 31 March and 1 October. This offer also applies to their families.

The 12-month extension is automatic and free of charge and those benefitting will not have to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-20/49882/>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

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

Immigration: Applications

Caroline Lucas (Green) [49637] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what support her Department is providing to (a) asylum seekers and (b) migrants who are (i) vulnerable and (ii) digitally excluded, to complete their immigration applications during the covid-19 pandemic.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office has temporarily introduced additional locations to register asylum claims which began taking appointments on 19 April 2020. The Asylum Intake Unit in Croydon continues to provide an appointment service to those looking to claim asylum in London and the South East, with available appointments being increased week on week. This is supported by limited operations in Glasgow, Belfast, Liverpool, Leeds, Solihull and Cardiff. These are temporary arrangements which will be kept under review to align with HMG guidance. These changes do not represent a new operating model - they are contingency measures put in place during the COVID-19 epidemic in order to ensure that asylum seekers are able to safely register their claims. Asylum Operations have secured a mobile digital and video interviewing solution to support remote interviewing and are working with delivery partners, to enable the use of this technology. We remain committed to restarting substantive asylum interviews as soon we can establish a process that allows the participants - applicants, representatives, interpreters and interviewers - to do so safely. Asylum Operations continue to make and serve decisions on cases where there is enough information to do so. We continue to review these on a case by case basis, ensuring those with

significant safeguarding concerns or vulnerabilities are only served with decisions if appropriate to do so. These are unprecedented times and we are adjusting processes and procedures where necessary and appropriately to adapt to these changes.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, We-Are-Digital, the Home Office's assisted digital provider has maintained its telephone service providing support for digitally excluded visa and European Settlement scheme applicants. This service assists applicants who do not feel confident in using a computer or mobile phone or do not have internet access. Currently, the face to face services that they offer are not available due to Covid-19 restrictions. We-Are-Digital are working closely with the Home Office around safely resuming all services.

Additionally, UK Visas & Immigration Service and Support Centres are operating a limited service for customers with compelling and compassionate circumstances. At this time, customers can send supporting information via email or through the post.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-20/49637/>

Windrush Generation: Compensation

Helen Hayes (Labour) [52275] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the level of potential delay in issuing payments under the Windrush Compensation Scheme as a result of the covid-19 outbreak; and what steps she is taking to ensure that applications to that scheme continue to progress during the covid-19 lockdown.

Reply from Priti Patel: We are processing claims as quickly as possible, but all claims are different, and the time taken will depend on many factors, including the complexity of the case. We are committed to working with the claimant to ensure all possible information is taken into account and this will have an impact on the length of time it takes to process the claim. Wherever possible, we will make interim payments on parts of the claim that are straightforward to determine, such as immigration fees, thereby speeding up the provision of compensation. We recently published statistics on the payments made under the Windrush Compensation Scheme at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/windrush-compensation-scheme-data-may-2020>

These show a clear increasing trajectory of payments: £362,997 paid in the first 12 months of the scheme, of which £300,799 was paid in the most recent three months of that period, which includes the initial period of the covid-19 lockdown. The Windrush Compensation Scheme continues to operate throughout the covid-19 lockdown. Business continuity measures are in place which allow claims to continue to be processed. Payments continue to be made.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-01/52275/>

Immigration: South Asia

Apsana Begum (Labour) [2035] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the effect of the hostile environment policies on (a) current and (b) potential migrants from (i) India, (ii) Pakistan and (iii) Bangladesh.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Government is committed to a firm, fair and humane immigration policy which distinguishes effectively between those with lawful status and those here illegally.

In common with other comparable countries, the UK has in place a framework of

laws, policies and administrative arrangements, introduced under successive governments ensuring access to work benefits and services is permitted for those with the right access to them. Key measures were the subject of public consultations and/or impact assessments before they were introduced. These measures incorporate important safeguards, including the ability to exercise discretion where there are genuine barriers to persons leaving the UK or there are exceptional compassionate factors.

Eligibility checks are based on checking lawful status, not the nationality of those accessing work and key services, applying equally to all.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-13/2035/>

Undocumented Migrants

Paul Girvan (DUP) [52374] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many illegal immigrants have been apprehended by enforcement officers since 1 January 2020.

Reply from Chris Philp: To maintain the highest standards of accuracy, the Home Office prefers to refer to published data, as this has been subject to rigorous quality assurance under National Statistics protocols prior to publication.

Information about enforcement visits is not available in our published data.

Our published data is available at the following links:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-enforcement-data-august-2019>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-september-2019/summary-of-latest-statistics>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-01/52374/>

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Jonathan Gullis (Conservative) [49874] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to prevent migrants from illegally crossing the English Channel.

Reply from Chris Philp: Keeping our border secure is the Government's highest priority and it is committed to doing everything it can to stop these dangerous Channel crossings which are putting vulnerable lives at risk.

Through joint-working with France, the UK has funded the continued deployment of gendarme reservists along the coast of northern France, who are patrolling constantly in order to detect attempted crossings by migrants. Funding has been allocated, among other projects, for further improvements at ports in northern France and on the ground, this now includes drones, specialist vehicles and detection equipment to stop small boats leaving European shores.

Intelligence flows are also key to dismantling the organised crime groups behind crossings. We have restructured and repurposed our approach to support the growing intelligence feeds which is used to inform and direct how and where resource is deployed.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-20/49874/>

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Alexander Stafford (Conservative) [49881] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she is taking steps to increase the presence of Border Security forces in the English channel to stop immigrants reaching Britain illegally.

Reply from Chris Philp: Border Force and Immigration Enforcement will always

have the resources needed to tackle these illegal and dangerous crossings. We are using all the skills of Border Force BF, the national Crime Agency, Immigration Enforcement and French law enforcement to dismantle and arrest the criminal gangs who trade in people smuggling. Assets on the ground in France have been enhanced and now provide 24/7 cover of the northern beaches.

And we're also continuing efforts to crack down on the criminal gangs who facilitate the crossings. The NCA and the Home Office introduced a permanent presence France, with operational leads now based in Paris and Calais, to aid intelligence sharing between the two countries and target the criminal networks involved.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-20/49881/>

Undocumented Migrants

Bill Wiggin (Conservative) [51640] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many illegal migrants have arrived in the UK by boat in May 2020.

Reply from Chris Philp: People crossing the Channel to enter the UK have come from a safe country – usually France – and so there is no reason why they need to make this trip in order to claim asylum. Those fleeing persecution should stay in the first safe country they enter.

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 and May 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.

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.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-01/51640/>

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Bill Wiggin (Conservative) [51644] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent discussions she has had with her French counterpart on tackling the illegal movement of immigrants from France to the UK across the English Channel.

Reply from Chris Philp: The UK and France maintain a strong relationship on the issue of migration and those attempting to access the UK illegally, ensuring that the necessary support is delivered to vulnerable migrants whilst upholding security at our shared border. Officials from both governments maintain a regular pattern of engagement on tackling the issue.

The Home Secretary and French Interior Minister Christophe Castaner spoke most recently on the 6th May and discussed cooperation on tackling Covid-19 as well as our bilateral response to migrants crossing the English Channel using small boats.

They are due to hold a follow-up call within the coming week.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-01/51644/>

Undocumented Migrants

Bill Wiggin (Conservative) [51639] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to tackle criminal gangs involved in the smuggling of illegal immigrants into the UK.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Organised criminal groups (OCGs) continue to

facilitate the majority of migrant journeys to the UK. The threat we are facing from organised immigration crime spans multiple countries, nationalities and criminal methodologies.

It is complex, and we are working to tackle the criminal groups who facilitate the travel from source countries to Europe and the United Kingdom.

The migrants making the dangerous journey to Europe include illegal migrants who have paid to travel, trafficked people, as well as refugees and asylum seekers. Each of these groups of individuals has very different needs in terms of our response towards them. However, in all cases we are tackling the OCGs who make profit from them all.

The UK is playing a leading role in tackling organised immigration crime and protecting UK borders is just one element of that. We work with and support our European partners to detect and pursue these OCGs as well as raising awareness of the dangerous methods they use to move migrants and the exploitation that occurs in many cases.

Preventing organised immigration crime upstream is a core objective of Immigration Enforcement. Its network of staff based in embassies and consulates in over 30 key source and transit countries carries out the following key activities:

- Working with carriers around the world to reduce the threat of inadequately documented people (IDPs) reaching the UK by air, through training and a 24/7 advice service which is staffed both locally and in the UK;
- Developing intelligence packages related to the visa or air threat for subsequent criminal investigations and prosecutions overseas and in the UK;
- Targeted capacity building programmes to improve capability of local partners to tackle immigration crime; and
- Providing intelligence support to the visa operation.

Additionally, the UK has established the Organised Immigration Crime Taskforce, which brings together officers from Border Force, the National Crime Agency, Immigration Enforcement and the Crown Prosecution Service. The Taskforce takes a “whole of route” approach to identify and tackle the groups involved in organised immigration crime, seeking to use every opportunity to disrupt them in source countries, in Europe and in the other countries migrants travel through to reach the UK. It has successfully disrupted organised crime groups involved in immigration crime through participating in intelligence development and sharing, as well as arrests and prosecutions.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-01/51639/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Theresa Villiers (Conservative) [51696] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will take steps to prevent unlawful migration via small boats crossing the Channel.

John Hayes (Conservative) [53300] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to prevent migrants from crossing the English Channel illegally.

Reply from Chris Philp: Keeping our border secure is the Government’s highest priority and we are committed to doing everything we can to stop these dangerous Channel crossings which are putting vulnerable lives at risk.

The Home Office liaises directly with the French Interior Ministry on addressing the issue of illegal migration, engaging at an official, diplomatic level and supported at an operational level through regular UK-French Migration Committees.

Through joint-working with France, the UK has funded the continued deployment of French law enforcement along the coast of northern France, who are patrolling constantly in order to detect attempted crossings by migrants. Funding has been allocated, among other projects, for further security improvements at ports in northern France and on the ground, which includes drones, specialist vehicles and detection equipment to stop small boats leaving European shores.

Intelligence flows are also key to dismantling the organised crime groups behind crossings. We have restructured and repurposed our approach to support to better inform and direct how and where law enforcement is deployed.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-01/51696/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-02/53300/>

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Royston Smith (Conservative) [52207] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many migrants have attempted to illegally cross the English Channel since the start of 2020.

Reply from Chris Philp: People crossing the Channel to enter the UK have come from a safe country – usually France – and so there is no reason why they need to make this trip in order to claim asylum. Those fleeing persecution should stay in the first safe country they enter.

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.

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.

It should be noted that, by definition, we cannot be certain of the total number of people attempting to cross the English Channel via clandestine means.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-01/52207/>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Royston Smith (Conservative) [52208] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many migrants have been intercepted by Border Force whilst attempting to illegally cross the English Channel since the start of 2020.

Royston Smith (Conservative) [52209] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many migrants have illegally crossed the English Channel since the beginning of 2020.

Undocumented Migrants

Royston Smith (Conservative) [52210] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many migrants who have illegally crossed into the UK by boat have been rescued by Border Force or other authorities since the beginning of 2020.

Reply from Chris Philp: People crossing the Channel to enter the UK have come from a safe country – usually France – and so there is no reason why they need to make this trip in order to claim asylum. Those fleeing persecution should stay in the first safe country they enter.

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.

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.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-01/52208/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-01/52209/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-01/52210/>

Refugees: Children

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [49750] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many children from refugee camps she has facilitated to be relocated to the UK in each of the last 12 months.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office does not publish a breakdown of individuals who were resettled from refugee camps. We work closely with UNHCR to identify those who would benefit most from resettlement to the UK, whether they are living in formal refugee camps, informal settlements or host communities. We also do not hold detailed information on the location of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children within European Member States.

In the year to March 2020, 4,968 people received sanctuary in the UK through our resettlement schemes, almost half of whom were children (2,380).

The Home Office is committed to publishing data in an orderly way as part of the regular quarterly Immigration Statistics, in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. The latest resettlement statistics, which include arrivals under our schemes up to the end of March 2020, can be found at

www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-statistics

Outside of our resettlement schemes, children have also been transferred to the UK under both the Dublin III ('Dublin') Regulation and section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 ('s67').

Dublin data are published on an annual basis (each February) in the Immigration Statistics. This includes the number of acceptances and transfers broken down by article and Member State. The latest data, covering up to 2019, can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/asylum-and-resettlement-datasets#dublin-regulation>

In 2016, the Government committed to transfer 480 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children displaced in Europe under s67. On 21 May 2020, we published the data for the current number of children who have been transferred under the scheme. These data can be accessed at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2020/how-many-people-do-we-grant-asylum-or-protection-to> “

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-20/49750/>

Dublin Convention

Paul Girvan (DUP) [52372] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been transferred from the UK to a EU member state under the Dublin Convention in each of the last five years by nationality; and which countries those people were transferred to.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Dublin Convention was replaced by the Dublin Regulation in 2003. The Dublin III Regulation is a long-standing mechanism between EU Member States to determine responsibility for examining asylum claims. It is not an application route for transfer to the UK.

The Home Office publishes data on the number of asylum seekers transferred under the Dublin regulation in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release'. Data on the number of asylum seekers transferred out of the UK under the Dublin Regulation, broken down by the EU member state they have been transferred to are published in tables Dub_D01 of the asylum and resettlement detailed datasets. Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data relates to the year ending December 2019.

Please note, that we do not publish the breakdowns of the nationality of those being transferred under the Dublin regulation.

Additionally, the Home Office publishes a high-level overview of the data in the 'summary tables'. The 'contents' sheet contains an overview of all available data on asylum and resettlement.

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

Full guidance on Dublin III Regulation was published on 30/04/2020 and can be found via the link below:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/882400/Dublin-III-regulation-v3.0ext.pdf

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-01/52372/>

The Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>

Asylum

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [49790] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum cases were pending in each of the last six months.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office publishes data on asylum applications awaiting a decision in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release'.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>

Data on the number of people who are awaiting a decision on their asylum application are published in the asylum applications awaiting a decision data table in Asy_D03 of the asylum and resettlement detailed datasets.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/asylum-and-resettlement-datasets>

Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data relates to as at the end of March 2020.

Additionally, the Home Office publishes a high-level overview of the data in the 'summary tables'. The 'contents' sheet contains an overview of all available data on asylum and resettlement.

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/2020-05-20/49790/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Scotland

Mhairi Black (SNP) [49720] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to help ensure that asylum seekers living in hotel accommodation in Scotland are re-homed.

Mhairi Black (SNP) [49721] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department is taking to help ensure that asylum seekers living in Scotland are (a) aware of and (b) follow the Scottish Government's social distancing advice.

Reply from Chris Philp: It is Home Office policy to move people into suitable Dispersed Accommodation (DA) once their claim for support has been assessed, however we have had to restrict movement during COVID on public health advice. Glasgow is currently the only dispersal area in Scotland and therefore procurement of longer term accommodation is limited to the city. Mears are working to procure suitable longer term accommodation across Glasgow and it is our intention, once restrictions on movement are lifted, to move all individuals in contingency accommodation into suitable DA, in consultation with Glasgow City Council. We are working closely with public health colleagues (Greater Glasgow PHU) and local health leads (Asylum Health Bridging Team) to ensure their guidance on social distancing and self-isolation is properly applied, while ensuring that people can continue to access essential services. Accommodation providers have taken appropriate steps to comply with public health guidelines by limiting access to communal areas, sequencing food service, serving food to rooms, applying controls for distancing (e.g. tape markings) and providing translated public health guidance and instructions.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-20/49720/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-20/49721/>

Asylum: Linlithgow and East Falkirk

Martyn Day (SNP) [54179] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reasons asylum applicants who reside in Linlithgow and East Falkirk constituency who have outstanding asylum applications are not provided with a timeframe for completion of those applications.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office does not provide applicants with a timeframe for completion of asylum decisions irrespective of where they reside in the UK.

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

Where a decision on an application for asylum cannot be taken within six months of the date it was recorded, as stated in the Immigration Rules paragraph 333A, the applicant can write to the to request a time frame.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-03/54179/>

The following four questions all received the same answer

Asylum: Interviews

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [49787] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum interviews have been conducted (a) in person and (b) remotely in each of the last 12 weeks.

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [49788] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he has taken to support asylum seekers whose interviews have been cancelled due to the covid-19 outbreak.

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [49789] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when his Department plans to resume asylum interviews or allow for the majority of those interviews to take place remotely during the covid-19 outbreak.

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [49791] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum interviews have been cancelled due to the covid-19 outbreak.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office takes the wellbeing of asylum seekers extremely seriously and has already put in place a range of measures to support asylum seekers affected by the covid-19 outbreak. In line with the Home Office's commitment to protect the health and wellbeing of its staff and customers as a top priority, Asylum Operations made the decision to cease face to face substantive asylum interviews with effect from Thursday 19th March 2020.

This meant that a small number of interviews were cancelled, and no interviews have been scheduled since this date. It is not possible to say how many interviews would have taken place had the pandemic not occurred.

Asylum Operations have secured a mobile digital and video interviewing solution to support remote interviewing and are working with delivery partners, to enable the use of this technology. We remain committed to restarting substantive asylum interviews as soon we can establish a process that allows the participants - applicants, representatives, interpreters and interviewers - to do so safely.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-20/49787/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-20/49788/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-20/49789/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-20/49791/>

Asylum: Interviews

Barry Sheerman (Labour Co-op) [49587] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that the correct information is obtained from asylum interview to ensure that the process of making a decision on an application is expedited.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office takes the wellbeing of asylum seekers extremely seriously and has already put in place a range of measures to support asylum seekers affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. In line with the Home Office's commitment to protect the health and wellbeing of its staff and customers as a top priority, Asylum Operations made the decision to cease face to face substantive asylum interviews with effect from Thursday 19th March 2020.

Asylum Operations have secured a mobile digital and video interviewing solution to support remote interviewing and are working with delivery partners, to enable the use of this technology. We remain committed to restarting substantive asylum interviews as soon we can establish a process that allows the participants - applicants, representatives, interpreters and interviewers - to do so safely.

Asylum Operations continue to make and serve decisions on cases where there is enough information to do so. We continue to review these on a case by case basis, ensuring those with significant safeguarding concerns or vulnerabilities are only

served if appropriate to do so.

These are unprecedented times and we are adjusting processes and procedures where necessary and appropriately to adapt to these changes.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-20/49587/>

Legal Aid Scheme: Asylum

Barry Sheerman (Labour Co-op) [49588] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps he is taking to ensure that legal aid for refugees and asylum seekers is effective in providing fair and high quality representation and advice.

Reply from Alexander Chalk: Every practitioner who provides immigration and asylum advice in the UK is required to be regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority or by the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner. These bodies ensure that practitioners are competent and act in the best interest of the client.

To hold a legal aid contract, an individual must also be accredited under the Law Society's Immigration and Asylum Accreditation scheme, ensuring a high standard and competency for practitioners advising on immigration and asylum law.

Legal aid contracts explicitly set out quality standards, including additional requirements for those advising child clients or where their client is in immigration detention.

Providers are monitored by the Legal Aid Agency in meeting these requirements on a regular basis, including through an independent peer review of case files.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-20/49588/>

Asylum: Finance

Gill Furniss (Labour) [52313] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the adequacy of financial support available for people in the asylum system during the covid-19 outbreak.

Reply from Chris Philp: We have been reviewing the level of the cash allowances provided to asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute, as we do each year to ensure that they remain capable of meeting their essential living needs.

As a result of this work, the standard allowance has been raised to £39.60 per week from £37.75 per week, an increase of around 5%.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-01/52313/>

Asylum: Finance

Kenny MacAskill (SNP) [52514] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 26 May 2020 to Question 47460, when the review into cash allowances for asylum seekers commenced; what evidence or information is being sought; and what the timescale is for the conclusion of that review.

Reply from Chris Philp: We have been reviewing the level of the cash allowances provided to asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute, as we do each year to ensure that they remain capable of meeting their essential living needs. As a result of this work, the standard allowance has been raised to £39.60 per week from £37.75 per week, an increase of around 5%.

In March 2018, we made public the methodology for calculating the asylum support rates and the underpinning research. This can be found at:

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-01/52514/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

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

Asylum: Housing

Barry Sheerman (Labour Co-op) [51582] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure the adequate provision of self-contained accommodation for asylum seekers to enable effective social distancing.

Reply from Chris Philp: We are carefully following PHE Guidance which recommends that separate rooms should be provided for symptomatic people, or they should be moved to hotels. Those with underlying health conditions and people over 70 years of age should also be moved to the appropriate hotel accommodation following PHE guidance, unless individuals do not wish to be moved. We are reviewing each case on an individual basis and continue to work with our providers to ensure the guidance is followed.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-01/51582/>

Asylum: Housing

Afzal Khan (Labour) [53586] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the adequacy of support for people applying for asylum during the covid-19 outbreak; and what steps she has taken to investigate the recent death of a Syrian man in asylum accommodation provided by a Home Office subcontractor at McLay's Guest House in Glasgow.

Reply from Chris Philp: Any asylum seeker, who would otherwise be destitute can apply for asylum support.

The circumstances around the death of an asylum seeker in his accommodation have not been fully established, and we feel it would be inappropriate to speculate on the cause of death at this time.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-02/53586/>

Asylum: Housing

Kate Green (Labour) [53426] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will ensure broadband provision in asylum accommodation occupied by families to support children's education.

Reply from Chris Philp: Guidance for families (in England) wishing to access support with their children's education can be found on the following government website:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-help-with-technology-for-remote-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-02/53426/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [52073] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been newly detained under immigration detention powers since the beginning of the covid-19 lockdown in (a) immigration removal centres and (b) prisons, broken down by nationality.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office publishes data on people entering detention in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release'. Data on the number of people entering detention under immigration powers by quarter and nationality are published in table Det_D01 of the immigration detention detailed datasets.

Additionally, the Home Office publishes a high-level overview of the data in the 'Summary tables'. The 'contents' sheet contains an overview of all available data on detention.

A statistical report Statistics relating to Covid-19 and the immigration system, May 2020, released on 28 May 2020 provides further high-level information relating to detention and Covid-19.

Figures covering the second quarter of 2020 will be released on 27 August 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/2020-06-01/52073/>

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

Deportation: Poland

Caroline Lucas (Green) [49638] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the deportation flight on 30 April 2020 from Stanstead Airport to Poland, what assessment she has made of its effect on (a) international efforts to contain the covid-19 pandemic and (b) the health and safety of (i) passengers and (ii) staff onboard that flight.

Reply from Chris Philp: We routinely help people with no right to remain in the UK return to their country of origin and we make no apology for our commitment to removing foreign national offenders wherever possible.

The flight on 30 April was arranged for Polish nationals who had been required to leave the UK and who requested assistance to return to Poland.

We take the welfare of those in our care very seriously. A safer system of work was adapted in line with Public Health England guidance; this included social distancing in transit and on the flight and appropriate Personal Protective Equipment for both escorting staff and returnees.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-20/49638/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Windrush Generation: Compensation

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL4706] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people who have made claims under the Windrush Compensation Scheme have so far received payment; and how much money they have allocated to be used by that scheme.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Information on the total number of applications made to the Windrush Compensation Scheme that have so far received payment is available to view on GOV.UK at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/windrush-compensation-scheme-data-february-2020>

Updated data will be published shortly. Information relating to estimated costs including compensation payments are referred to in the Home Office's Impact Assessment No: HO 0329 – dated 29/01/2020, available to view at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/864199/Windrush_compensation_policy_Impact_Assessment.pdf
[Windrush Compensation Scheme - Feb 2020](#)
[Windrush Compensation Policy Impact Assessment](#)

Immigrants: Domestic Abuse

Baroness Uddin (Non-affiliated) [HL4065] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans are in place to mitigate the impact of any increase in the incidence of domestic abuse on those women who have no recourse to public funds.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government is committed to supporting people, including those with no recourse to public funds, through this crisis. We are taking a compassionate and pragmatic approach and will continue to review the situation to consider if more can be done.

Following increases in calls to domestic abuse helplines and online services, the Home Secretary announced an additional £2m to bolster organisations' capacity on April 11. This is in addition to £28m of Government funding for domestic abuse charities to help survivors of domestic abuse and their children by providing more safe spaces, accommodation and access to support services during the coronavirus outbreak.

We have also launched a campaign to raise awareness of domestic abuse and signpost victims to the support services available. The campaign, under the hashtag #YouAreNotAlone, aims to reassure those affected by domestic abuse that support services remain available during this difficult time. Details of these services can be found at www.gov.uk/domestic-abuse

A £3.2 billion package of funding has been allocated to local authorities to help them respond to pressures across all the services they deliver and support any individual on the basis of any 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.

People granted leave under the family and human rights routes can also apply to have a no recourse to public funds condition lifted or for access to benefits if their financial circumstances change.

Immigrants: Detainees

The Lord Bishop of Gloucester [HL4966] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many residents of immigration removal centres (1) have displayed, or (2) are currently displaying, symptoms of COVID-19; and of those, how many have been tested.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: 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.

All immigration removal centres have dedicated health facilities run by doctors and nurses which are managed by the NHS or appropriate providers. The Home Office, its suppliers and NHS England healthcare providers in immigration removal centres are following PHE guidelines for the management of COVID-19. Universal testing is not currently recommended under these guidelines for those in detention or those being released. Testing of individuals in immigration detention will be dependent on individual circumstances.

To reduce the risk of COVID-19 in IRCs, all centres are following a reverse cohorting process which commenced on 20 April 2020. This requires new arrivals to be isolated from the main population for a period of 14 days to verify that each individual is asymptomatic. If a detainee shows symptoms during this time, they are be moved to protective isolation for seven days.

As of 3 June 2020, there are no cases of COVID-19 in immigration removal centres.

There have been two confirmed cases of COVID-19 in detainees, a third individual was identified but after his release from detention had been agreed. Local management information indicates that for the period 9 March to 31 May 2020, fifty-seven detainees have been placed in protective isolation for displaying COVID-19 or flu-like symptoms. There is currently one detainee in protective isolation after showing symptoms of COVID-19. Historic information on the number of COVID-19 tests conducted in IRCs is not held.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-02/HL4966/>

Press Releases

Civil news: revised fees for immigration and asylum work

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/civil-news-revised-fees-for-immigration-and-asylum-work>

Further funding uplift announced for councils caring for children seeking asylum

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-funding-uplift-announced-for-councils-caring-for-children-seeking-asylum>

Home Office actions affecting the Windrush generation under review

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/home-office-actions-affecting-windrush-generation-under-review>

News

Catholic leaders condemn Priti Patel's immigration crackdown for shutting out people trying to 'contribute to society'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/immigration-bill-priti-patel-catholic-leaders-commons-debate-boris-johnson-a9559046.html>

Border Force staff 'will face violence' when fingerprinting migrants

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-52936239>

Home Office's migrant fingerprint ruling fuels unrest at England's border with France

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/home-office-s-migrant-fingerprint-ruling-fuels-unrest-at-england-s-border-with-france-6q59r7m6x>

Councils ask for UK to lift bars on emergency help for migrants

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/jun/12/councils-ask-for-uk-to-lift-bars-on-emergency-help-for-migrants>

Home Office claims non-EU spouses won't be disadvantaged due to coronavirus – then deletes guidance hours later

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/coronavirus-home-office-non-eu-spouse-immigration-guidance-a9556186.html>

Non-EU spouses of UK nationals in visa limbo after job cuts and furloughs

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/jun/08/non-eu-spouses-of-uk-nationals-in-visa-limbo-after-job-cuts-and-furloughs>

Windrush: Human rights watchdog to review hostile environment policy in light of scandal
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/windrush-scandal-human-rights-hostile-environment-home-office-theresa-may-a9561891.html>

The Windrush generation deserves justice – not video chats with the home secretary
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/jun/12/windrush-generation-justice>

Over 220 organisations write to the Home Secretary demanding an increase to asylum support rates
<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/over-220-organisations-write-to-the-home-secretary-demanding-an-increase-to-asylum-support-rates/>

Channel migrants: Windsurfing boards used as makeshift raft
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-53000773>

Home Office ordered to pay for hotel for family in unsafe accommodation
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/jun/11/home-office-ordered-to-pay-for-hotel-for-asylum-seeker-family-in-unsafe-accommodation>

Refugee on hunger strike over age dispute with Home Office
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/jun/11/refugee-on-hunger-strike-over-age-dispute-with-home-office>

Home Office going ahead with deportations despite UN warning they risk spreading coronavirus
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/coronavirus-home-office-deportations-un-immigration-removals-a9560606.html>

Foreign ex-servicemen not exempt from deportation
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/foreign-ex-servicemen-not-exempt-from-deportation-0fddc5nm>

A refugee's story: 'The execution order came for my mum'
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-52969145>

Refugees, resettlement and our communities: Why does it matter to conduct research in Arabic?
<https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/superdiversity-institute/news/2020/refugees-resettlement-communities.aspx>

TOP

Equality

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Black and Minority Ethnic People (Underrepresentation in Teaching)

Jamie Greene (Conservative): To ask the First Minister what analysis the Scottish Government has undertaken of the underrepresentation of BAME people in teaching, and how it plans to address this. (S5F-04202)

Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon): In 2018, we acknowledged—as we should have—the underrepresentation of BAME people in teaching at all levels.

The report “Teaching in a diverse Scotland” by Professor Rowena Arshad, who is the former head of Moray House school of education and currently the co-director of the Centre for Education for Racial Equality in Scotland, was published in November 2018. It contained 17 recommendations. On publication of that report, the Deputy First Minister announced that, by implementing the recommendations, he aimed to double the number of BAME teachers in Scottish schools by 2030. The associated working group, which is chaired by Professor Arshad and comprises a range of CERES stakeholders, is currently working with partners to implement those recommendations.

Jamie Greene: Everyone needs role models in life—in politics, media, business and education—so it is disappointing that only 1.6 per cent of teachers in Scotland are from a black or minority ethnic group, despite their percentage of the population being more than double that. In a recent survey, nearly half of BAME teachers surveyed believed that their ethnicity had been a barrier to promotion. BAME people account for only 0.6 per cent of teachers who are in promoted positions.

It is vital that we identify the structural barriers that exist behind those statistics. However, we must also empower teachers of all backgrounds, so that they have the confidence and tools to tackle inappropriate language and behaviour in the classroom. In the light of everything that is going on right now, that is an area in which we can and must do better. What better way to start than by committing, today, to ensuring that our schools and businesses, and even our Parliament, look and feel more like the world outside them?

Reply from the First Minister: I whole-heartedly agree with those sentiments. I will focus on teachers and then, perhaps, very briefly address the issue more generally. BAME people are woefully underrepresented among our school teachers and in education generally. To give a little bit of context, the number in Scotland’s schools has increased by just over 5 per cent in 2019, compared with 2018, and by 26.4 per cent since 2015. However, there is still much more to do. The underrepresentation is still unacceptable, and we know from work that has been carried out with BAME teachers that one of the key issues is a lack of diversity of role models and senior leaders in the teaching profession, which is why the recommendations that we are taking forward with the working group that is chaired by Professor Arshad are so important. There is also a more general issue, and now is an opportunity for all of us to both recognise that and dedicate ourselves to doing more to tackle it—and tackle it more fundamentally—whether that is in our schools, in businesses or in this Parliament, which must look more like, and be more representative of, modern Scotland. As far as this Parliament is concerned, all parties have a responsibility. We are now less than a year away from an election for this Parliament, so it is a matter for all of us. I can speak only as the leader of the Scottish National Party, but I am determined to see progress on this, and I hope that the leaders of the other parties make the same commitment.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12685&i=114753#ScotParlOR>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://tinyurl.com/yaqnsqxp>

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Social and economic inequalities: BAME people

S5W-29599 Neil Findlay (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has to publish an action plan on health, social and economic inequalities experienced by black and minority ethnic (BAME) people, which have been highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reply from Christina McKelvie: On 20 March 2020 we published the Year 2 progress update on our Race Equality Action Plan. A final year report of this Plan will be published in 2021, which will include consideration of activity across all relevant portfolios, including particular attention to the issues which have been highlighted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Furthermore, the Race Equality Action Plan Programme Board met on 5 May to discuss the specific impact of Covid-19. A new Expert Reference Group on the impact of Covid-19 on Minority Ethnic communities has also been established to advise and support the Programme Board in this important agenda.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-29599>

The Progress Update referred to above can be read at
<https://tinyurl.com/wkvvtuh>

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-21965 Neil Bibby (Labour): STUC Break the Race Ceiling Campaign – That the Parliament acknowledges and supports the STUC Black Workers’ Committee’s Break The Race Ceiling campaign, which was launched on social media during the Black Lives Matter, We Cannot Breathe event held on 7 June 2020, which calls for seismic change across the whole of the Scottish public sector in order to not just recruit and employ more black and minority ethnic (BAME) people in the workforce, but also support them to succeed into positions of management, decision-making and authority across the whole of the Scottish public sector, including national and local government, public bodies, and other services that serve Scotland’s diverse communities.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-21965>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answer

Prime Minister’s Questions

Keir Starmer (Labour): ... The Prime Minister on Monday said that feelings of black and minority ethnic groups about discrimination are “founded on a cold reality”, and I agree with him about that. There have been at least seven reports into racial inequality in the past three years alone, but precious little action. For example, most of the recommendations in the Lammy report into inequality in the criminal justice system have yet to be implemented, three years after the report was published. Similarly, the long-delayed and damning report by Wendy Williams into the Windrush scandal has yet to be implemented.

I spoke last night to black community leaders, and they had a very clear message for the Prime Minister: “Implement the reports you’ve already got.” Will the Prime Minister now turbocharge the Government’s responses and tell us when he will implement in full the Lammy report and the Windrush recommendations?

Reply from the Prime Minister (Boris Johnson): ... I am grateful to the right hon. and learned Gentleman, and of course I understand, as I said, the very strong and legitimate feelings of people in this country at the death of George Floyd. Of course I agree that black lives matter. We are getting on with the implementation, not just of the Lammy report but also of the report into Windrush. For instance, on the Lammy report, which this Government commissioned, and for which I thank the right hon. Member for Tottenham (Mr Lammy), we are increasing already the number of black and minority ethnic people in the Prison Service, as he

recommended. We are increasing the use of body-worn cameras, and we are trying to ensure, among other things, that young BME people are not immediately prosecuted as a result of the trouble they find themselves in. We try to make sure that we give people a chance, but I must stress that on the Lammy report and all these matters, it is absolutely vital at the same time that we keep our streets safe and that we back our police, and that is what we are going to do.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-06-10/debates/9FE27C8E-39E9-4936-AB62-C622C12A17C1/Engagements#contribution-780098B8-AEA1-4131-A744-B41FF38C919D>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Police: Ethnic Groups

Matthew Offord (Conservative) [54898] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many police officers are employed in England and Wales, by ethnicity.

Reply from Kit Malthouse: The Home Office collects and publishes data on the ethnicity of police officers in England and Wales on an annual basis. The latest available data, as at 31 March 2019, can be found in Table D2 of the published workforce statistics, available here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/831666/police-workforce-mar19-tables.ods

Data as at 31 March 2020 are due to be published on 30 July 2020.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-04/54898/>

Prison Officers: Ethnic Groups

Matthew Offord (Conservative) [54897] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many prisoner officers are employed on the prison estate, by ethnicity.

Reply from Lucy Frazer: We have committed to increasing the diversity of our workforce and our target is to hire 14% of recruits from a BAME background by December 2020.

We have also conducted an independent review of the prison officer recruitment process and are implementing improvements to reduce the time and cost to hire, increase the diversity of new recruits and ensure we attract the right people with the right skills.

The number of band 3 to 5 prison officers in public sector prisons, by ethnicity as of 31st March 2020 is given in the following table.

Table 1- Number of Band 3 to 5 Prison Officers¹ in post in public sector prisons, by Ethnicity², as at 31st March 2020

Ethnicity	Headcount
Asian ³	332
Black	623
Mixed	360
Other Ethnic Group	100
White	16,681
Unknown	4,264
Total	22,360

Notes

¹. Includes Band 3-4 / Prison Officer (incl specialists), Band 4 / Supervising Officer and Band 5 / Custodial Managers.

². Race is a self-declared, optional field.

³. Includes Chinese

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-04/54897/>

Magistrates: Ethnic Groups

David Lammy (Labour) [51549] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many magistrates there are in England and Wales, and what proportion of magistrates are from a Black, Asian or Ethnic Minority background.

Reply from Chris Philp: As at 1st April 2019, there were 14,348 magistrates in England and Wales. Approximately 12% (1,653) identified themselves as from a Black, Asian or Ethnic Minority background. This data is published in the annual Judicial Diversity Statistics.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-01/51549/>

Armed Forces: Ethnic Groups

Matthew Offord (Conservative) [54895] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many service personnel there are in (a) the Royal Navy, (b) the Army and (c) the Royal Air Force, by ethnicity.

Reply from Johnny Mercer: The number of Service personnel, by service and ethnicity, is published in the Biannual Diversity Statistics. The information as of 1 October 2019 can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-biannual-diversity-statistics-2019>

This publication will be updated with data as of 1 April 2020 on 25 June 2020.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-04/54895/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Kirsten Oswald (SNP) (599) STUC Break the Race Ceiling Campaign – That this House acknowledges and supports the Break The Race Ceiling Campaign which was launched on social media by the Scottish Trades Union Congress Black Workers' Committee during the Black Lives Matter, We Cannot Breathe event held on 7 June 2020 and endorses the campaign's call for seismic change across the public sector in Scotland, not just to recruit and employ more black and minority ethnic people in the workforce, but also to support them to progress into positions of management, decision-making and authority across the whole of the public sector in Scotland, including the UK and Scottish Governments and their agencies, local government, public bodies, and other services that serve Scotland's diverse communities.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/57111/stuc-break-the-race-ceiling-campaign>

News

Labour has pledged to carry out a diversity audit of its staff amid Black Lives Matter protests

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/06/11/labour-has-pledged-carry-diversity-audit-staff-amid-black-lives/>

Black Scottish Business Fund launched to support BME entrepreneurs

https://www.heraldscotland.com/business_hq/18512368.black-scottish-business-fund-launched-support-bme-entrepreneurs/

The black British history you may not know about

<https://www.bbc.com/news/newsbeat-52939694>

How many statues of black people does the UK have?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/53014592>

Education secretary 'ignoring' warnings that poor and ethnic minority pupils will suffer when predicted grades replace exams

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/gcse-a-level-exam-grades-predicted-schools-lockdown-poor-bame-a9558096.html>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Debate

Showing Solidarity with Anti-racism

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12685&i=114774#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

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

John Mason (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government how the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill could impact on sectarianism, in the light of that not being specifically mentioned in it as a characteristic that might attract expressions of hatred. (S5O-04405)

Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Justice (Humza Yousaf): We remain committed to tackling all forms of sectarianism. We continue to invest in community work to address the issue, having invested an unprecedented £14.5 million in that work since 2012.

In line with Lord Bracadale's findings in his independent review of hate crime legislation in Scotland, we consider that sectarian behaviour can be captured using the race and religious aggravations provisions. That is what happens at the moment. Where appropriate, both aggravations can be used together. Our public consultation found that a majority of respondents—almost 60 per cent—did not think there was a need to address and define sectarianism in hate crime legislation, primarily citing the reason that they believed that sectarianism was already adequately covered in existing legislation. Therefore, although the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill does not provide for a specific statutory aggravation of sectarianism, or for a stirring-up of hatred offence, it will be possible for its provisions to be applied in respect of sectarian-based offending.

John Mason: I agree with a lot of what the cabinet secretary has said. Sectarianism is a particularly toxic mix, because it brings together religion, race, culture and other issues. That sets it apart from a situation when just one issue on its own—such as race—is being looked at. Would the cabinet secretary reconsider whether sectarianism needs some extra examination?

Reply from Humza Yousaf: I agree with John Mason's general point. The Government does focus on sectarianism: I have just given a couple of examples of where we have invested heavily in anti-sectarian projects. The issue deserves a focus.

The question is whether a sectarian prejudice aggravator would be the best way to

deal with that offending behaviour. I assure John Mason that there was very careful consideration, but it was my view that the bill would not be the best place to deal with that particular offending behaviour.

I look forward to seeing the submissions that come in following the Justice Committee's call for evidence and to the parliamentary debate. As I always do when I introduce legislation, I will keep an open mind. ...

Donald Cameron (Conservative): Part 2 of the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill has been seen in many quarters as a direct attack on freedom of speech. We all wish to stamp out hate crime, but with religious groups, the National Secular Society and academics lining up against the bill, will the cabinet secretary reconsider the part 2 provisions?

Reply from Humza Yousaf: As I said in my previous answer, I will listen to the debate, but I do not agree with the premise of Donald Cameron's question. I met faith groups. I met the Catholic Church, the Church of Scotland, the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities and the Muslim Council of Scotland, the Ahl Al Bait society and many others. I would not characterise them as opposing the bill, including part 2. They raised some concerns, but they understood that this is not an attack on freedom of speech because part 2 of the bill sets a very high threshold. Behaviour would have to be not only abusive and threatening but likely to stir up, or having the intention of stirring up, hatred. ...

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12689&i=114804#ScotParlOR>

Information about the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill, referred to above, can be read at

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

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

<https://tinyurl.com/y8of8le6>

Scottish Parliament Motions

S5M-22004 Christina McKelvie (SNP): Showing Solidarity with Anti-Racism – That the Parliament understands and shares the deep concern and horror that many feel about racism and racial injustice across the world; expresses and shares the sympathy, grief and anger of so many at the death of George Floyd; stands in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement; discourages mass gatherings at this time in the interests of public health and to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and encourages people to find alternative ways to lend their voice to protest peacefully on this important matter; believes that there is a responsibility on us all to identify and dismantle barriers of structural racism that exist in our society and institutions; agrees that it is up to all in society to tackle racism and advance race equality, and believes that racism is a societal evil that we must all stand united against, and work to eradicate.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-22004>

S5M-22004.1 Pauline McNeill (Labour): Showing Solidarity with Anti-Racism – As an amendment to motion S5M-22004 in the name of Christina McKelvie (Showing Solidarity with Anti-Racism), insert at end "; welcomes the establishment of the Scottish Government expert advisory group on COVID-19 and the impact on ethnic minority communities, and calls for action now to best support black and minority ethnic (BAME) workers and their families as the health and economic crisis unfolds and for the collection of detailed data through Public Health Scotland on the impact of COVID-19 on BAME groups, to assist in identifying the reasons for differential impacts".

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-22004.1>

S5M-22004.2 Patrick Harvie (Green): Showing Solidarity with Anti-Racism – As an amendment to motion S5M-22004 in the name of Christina McKelvie (Showing Solidarity with Anti-Racism), leave out from “across the world” to end and insert “and police brutality across the world; expresses and shares the sympathy, grief and anger of so many at the death of George Floyd; stands in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement and considers that the UK Government must immediately suspend all export licences for tear gas, rubber bullets and riot gear to the US; recognises that public protest should be conducted safely in the current public health crisis; encourages people to continue to find safe ways to lend their voice to protest against racism in all its forms; believes that there is a responsibility on us all to identify and dismantle barriers of structural racism that exist in our society and institutions; agrees that it is up to all in society to tackle racism and advance race equality, and believes that racism is a societal evil that we must all stand united against, and work to eradicate; agrees that Scotland should establish a slavery museum to address our historic links to the slave trade; regrets the fact that so many monuments and street names still celebrate the perpetrators and profiteers of slavery, and calls on all levels of government to work to address this toxic legacy.”

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-22004.2>

S5M-22008 John Finnie (Green): Shetland Staands Wi Black Lives Matter – That the Parliament supports Shetland Staands Wi Black Lives Matter’s campaign to end the use of so-called blackface at Up Helly Aa, understands that blackface is part of a long history of oppression and dehumanisation against black people, welcomes the assurances from some Up Helly Aa committees that blackface will not be tolerated, calls on other committees to follow this example, and believes that blackface should have no place in modern society.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-22008>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Covid-19: Hate Crimes

Olivia Blake (Labour): What steps [is the Minister] taking to help prevent hate crimes against (a) people and (b) places of worship while covid-19 lockdown measures are eased. [903007]

Kim Johnson (Labour): What steps [is the Minister] taking to help prevent hate crimes against (a) people and (b) places of worship while covid-19 lockdown measures are eased. [903008]

Reply from the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Priti Patel): The Home Office is committed to rooting out hate crime across our society, and we are in continued conversations and discussions with the police and partners across Government to ensure that these criminals face justice. The Government have a zero-tolerance approach to the vicious misinformation that seeks to blame any race or religion for the spread of all sorts of coronavirus rumours and misinformation. The deliberate spreading of false information in order to undermine our respect and tolerance for each other has been disgraceful, and obviously we are working across Government to stamp this out.

Olivia Blake: Last month in South Yorkshire there was a tripling in hate crime and, even more shockingly, a doubling in the amount directed at people of east or south Asian

descent. Muslim communities have also been attacked and singled out over Ramadan and Eid. What engagement has the Home Secretary had with those communities at risk?

Reply from Priti Patel: First, the figures that the hon. Lady has cited are simply shocking, disgraceful and unacceptable. That speaks to a small minority of individuals and their lack of tolerance and respect for the communities she mentions. She specifically asks me about the engagement I have had, but of course across Government, and in the Home Office as well, we are engaging with different groups and different leaders of organisations at a ministerial level, but also at an individual level. I would say to her and all colleagues that we absolutely condemn the appalling racial discrimination and the hateful way in which misinformation has been spread, but also the way in which this has been targeted against specific communities.

Kim Johnson: As we are all aware, there has been a disproportionate number of deaths of black people as a result of the coronavirus, with a number of equality organisations raising concerns about closed online groups mobilising to incite hatred and violence against communities that are becoming covid-19 scapegoats. Stop Hate UK claims that the real number of hate crimes is likely to be much higher as incidents against people and places of worship are significantly under-reported. Can the Secretary of State confirm what specific plans have been put in place proactively to address the feared increase in hate crime?

Reply from Priti Patel: I thank the hon. Lady for her very important question and the points she has made. Any form of hate crime is of course completely unacceptable, and we expect the perpetrators of such crimes to be brought to justice. I suggest and ask that anybody who is a victim ensures that they engage with the police and has crimes reported. On the Government's response and work across Government, obviously the Home Office and MHCLG continue to work closely with the National Police Chiefs' Council, importantly to ensure that all police forces—we police by consent in this country—are providing assistance to communities and community organisations, and having the right kind of dialogue and support. But we are also encouraging that hate crimes—throughout this pandemic, there are no excuses for them—are reported. I and we, across police and across Government, continue to work with civil society partners. That is absolutely the right thing to do, and we will continue to do so.

Bambos Charalambous (Labour): As the Secretary of State has mentioned, there has been a sharp increase in online hate crime during the coronavirus lockdown. Organisations providing advice and support for victims are predicting a big surge in hate crime following the relaxation of lockdown measures, so what steps are the Government taking to introduce counter-messaging for religious, ethnic and LGBT+ groups that fear an escalation in hate attacks, and what additional funding will be given to the organisations responding to increased demand for advice and support?

Reply from Priti Patel: I thank the hon. Gentleman for his question, and he is right to ask about the cross-Government work that we do, and the support that we give to organisations, in the Home Office, but also with MHCLG. It is clear, in particular, that we see a lot of this activity taking place online. We are absolutely making sure that we can tackle that. We have robust legislation in place to deal with cyber-attacks, internet trolls, harassment, and perpetrators of grossly offensive, menacing and obscene behaviour, and we will continue to do so. Of course, through other means, such as places of worship funds and other activities across Government, we will absolutely continue to make sure that such organisations are resourced in the right way and, importantly, that we continue such community engagement and dialogue.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-06-08/debates/1605F5CF-6AAB-4A8F-8945-AA768911153B/Covid-19HateCrimes>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Prosecutions: Racial Discrimination

Catherine West (Labour) [53545] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many incidents of racism were recorded in each year from 2015 to 2020; and how many of those incidents resulted in a prosecution.

Reply from Kit Malthouse: The Home Office collects and publishes statistics annually on the number of racially motivated hate crime offences recorded by the police in England and Wales.

The latest 'Hate Crime, England and Wales' statistical bulletin contains the number of racially motivated hate crimes in Table 2 and is available here:

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

Data on prosecutions are published by the Ministry of Justice. These data include outcomes for 'racially or religiously aggravated' offences only as it is not possible to separately identify other hate crimes which are prosecuted under the specific offence in legislation that they fall under. The latest data can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/criminal-justice-system-statistics-quarterly-december-2019>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-02/53545/>

Hate Crime: Internet

Bambos Charalambous (Labour) [52338] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what progress has been made on the Online Hate Speech Dashboard created in partnership with the National Police Chief's Council and Cardiff University.

Reply from Kit Malthouse: The National Police Chief's Council's (NPCC) partnership with Cardiff University is still in development and is intended to design a tool for understanding trends in hateful sentiment online. The tool is currently in a pilot stage.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-01/52338/>

Discrimination: Ethnic Groups

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [53493] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that policing activity does not (a) directly and (b) indirectly discriminate against BAME people in the UK.

Reply from Kit Malthouse: The public rightly expect police officers to meet high standards of professional conduct and the vast majority of officers do. In this country, the power of the police to fulfil their duties is wholly dependent on public approval of their existence, actions and behaviour and on their ability to secure and maintain this public respect.

We have put in place measures to ensure that policing is subject to appropriate levels of transparency and accountability – with regular inspections of the way forces engage with communities, frequent publication of data on use of police powers and strengthening the police complaints system. If an officer does commit a serious breach of the standards expected of them, disciplinary proceedings and, if appropriate, criminal proceedings should follow.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-02/53493/>

Police: Racial Discrimination

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [54950] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, what steps she has taken in 2020 to investigate potential institutional racism in the police.

Reply from Kit Malthouse: Racism, in any form, is abhorrent and has no place in our society.

In this country, the power of the police to fulfil their duties is wholly dependent on their ability to secure public support for their actions and behaviour and to maintain public respect. Police forces that reflect the communities they serve are crucial to tackling crime and maintaining public trust and confidence in a modern diverse society. The police have worked hard to improve equality and diversity in policing - the workforce is more diverse than ever before, but there is still much more to be done.

Police training has improved and professionalised, and we continue to work with the College of Policing to support forces in their efforts to address under-representation in the recruitment, retention and progression of officers, including those from BAME backgrounds. Our drive to recruit 20,000 officers over the next three years gives us a significant opportunity to attract a wide range of people into a career in policing and support the police to achieve this aim.

We have also ensured that there is greater transparency and accountability in many areas of policing and continue the drive for improvements. If there is a death or serious injury following contact with the police, or if there are allegations of racially aggravated misconduct, these matters must be referred to the independent police “watchdog”, the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC). In February of this year, the Government implemented reforms to provide the IOPC with a power to investigate serious police conduct matters on its own initiative.

However, we know that we cannot be complacent and we continue to work across policing to ensure that those we trust to protect us meet the high standards of professional conduct expected by the public.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-04/54950/>

George Floyd

Andrew Gwynne (Labour) [55900] To ask the Prime Minister, what discussions he had on the death of George Floyd during his phone call with the President of the United States on 29 May 2020.

Reply from Boris Johnson: Details of my telephone call with President Trump can be found on the gov.uk website.

As I have said, I was appalled and sickened to see what happened to George Floyd. Racism and racist violence has no place in our society. This country has made huge strides. But there is so much more to do – in eradicating prejudice, and creating opportunity, and the government I lead is committed to that effort.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-08/55900/>

Information about the phonecall referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-call-with-president-trump-29-may-2020>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Black Lives Matter

Lord Collins of Highbury (Labour): To ask Her Majesty’s Government what representations they have made to the government of the USA regarding their response to the ongoing protests in support of the Black Lives Matter movement, following the death

of George Floyd, and what are they doing to address racism, discrimination and injustice experienced by those here in the UK.

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development (Baroness Sugg): My Lords, as one of America's closest allies, we join the American people in their grief. We condemn George Floyd's death and trust that justice will be done. The violence we have seen is very alarming; the right to peaceful protest is an essential part of any free society. The protests are a reminder that, despite decades of progress, we must listen and learn from communities that face discrimination and work together to put an end to such injustices.

Lord Collins of Highbury: ... George Floyd's murder has rightly triggered international condemnation. The voices we have seen on the streets in the US, here and globally need to be not only heard but acted upon. For too many people, racism and discrimination are an everyday experience in work, health and public life. What is the United Kingdom doing to ensure that the call of the United Nations Human Rights Council on systematic racism is acted upon not only by the US but by all nations, including us?

Reply from Baroness Sugg: My Lords, I agree that there is injustice that needs to be tackled. We are tolerant and open, but more can always be done to help people realise their potential. ...

Lord Robathan (Conservative): My Lords, the appalling death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, at the hands of a policeman who has now been charged with murder, cannot be used as an excuse for illegal and violent behaviour here in the UK. Nor can understandable strong feelings about racism and discrimination in America—or indeed in Asia, Africa, Europe and the UK—be any excuse. ...

Reply from Baroness Sugg: My Lords, the Government fully support peaceful protest ... but violence and criminal behaviour are never acceptable ... It is absolutely essential that those who perpetrate criminal acts face justice.

Baroness Lawrence of Clarendon (Labour): ... What will Her Majesty's Government do to make sure that "black lives matter" is in policies in the UK?

Reply from Baroness Sugg: ... across all our policy we must make sure we reflect that black lives matter. We are absolutely committed to tackling racism and levelling up. ...

Baroness Benjamin (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, 50 years ago I was stopped in my car and aggressively questioned by the police. My three brothers have all been stopped and searched aggressively. Twenty years ago my 16 year-old nephew was stopped and brutally beaten up in the back of a police van, then falsely charged. Shockingly, in 2020 during lockdown we saw excessive force used when a black man was tasered in front of his toddler. Today's protests have shown that we are at a tipping point. What action do the Government plan, especially through education, to reassure the black community, including children, that their lives matter?

Reply from Baroness Sugg: ... The Government are clear that no one should be stopped and searched based on their race or ethnicity. We are working with the College of Policing to update guidance on community engagement and scrutiny over the use of stop and search powers and are ensuring that the law requires detailed records and scrutiny. ...

Baroness Hussein-Ece (Liberal Democrat): ... Do the Government understand that black, Asian and minority-ethnic people dying disproportionately during the Covid pandemic has laid bare the gross inequalities that exist in this country? Does the Minister agree that we need a clear, strong, consistent message, and leadership from this Government, that recognises that racism exists? ...

Reply from Baroness Sugg: ... The noble Baroness refers to Covid-19, and we fully recognise that some people have been disproportionately impacted by the virus. ...

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

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-06-08/debates/75FF71C2-A050-48CD-A06B-A9B4EABB6A37/BlackLivesMatter>

UK Parliament Early Day Motions

Liz Saville-Roberts (Plaid Cymru) (576) Black Lives Matter protests in Wales – That this House congratulates Ysgol Glan y Môr student Sophia Machnik-Thomas of Pwllheli, Gwynedd for organising a stay at home protest in support of the Black Lives Matter movement; stands in solidarity with those protesting against institutional racism, inequality and police brutality affecting black people across the world; notes with regret that institutional racism is not confined to the United States but an issue prevalent in the UK; condemns all forms of racism and supports initiatives to tackle this scourge; commends Black Lives Matter protests all across Wales for remaining peaceful and socially distanced; encourages people in Gwynedd and beyond to join Sophia in making a sign or poster supporting Black Lives Matter and to share pictures kneeling in solidarity with protesters at 12:00 on Tuesday 9 June; and calls on the UK and Welsh Governments to challenge racism in all its forms.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/57082/black-lives-matter-protests-in-wales>

Jim Shannon (DUP) (572) Freedom of religion or belief and the covid-19 pandemic – that this House expresses great concern about the increasing stigmatisation and persecution of religious or belief minorities in countries around the world in response to the covid-19 pandemic; condemns the spread of misinformation and hate speech by extremist groups who seek to blame minorities for that pandemic; notes with great concern reports of increasing anti-Semitism and rising hate crimes against those of Chinese descent globally; condemns Government crackdowns on minority rights under the pretence of combating the spread of the covid-19 virus; urges Governments around the world to respect human rights in their responses to the covid-19 crisis and to take necessary measures to protect minority groups; encourages the UK Government's Department for International Development to learn the lessons of the Ebola crisis by engaging faith leaders in its covid-19 pandemic response; and calls on all Governments to release those who are imprisoned for their faith or beliefs because those people are so detained in violation of Article 18 of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and are extremely vulnerable during the covid-19 pandemic due to limited opportunities for social distancing and self-isolation in what are often overcrowded prisons.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/57078/freedom-of-religion-or-belief-and-the-covid19-pandemic>

Press Releases

Prime Minister message on Black Lives Matter

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-minister-message-on-black-lives-matter>

Lord Advocate welcomes publication of hate crime figures

<https://www.copfs.gov.uk/media-site/media-releases/1888-lord-advocate-welcomes-publication-of-hate-crime-figures-4>

New Publications

Hate Crime in Scotland 2019-20

<https://www.copfs.gov.uk/images/Documents/Statistics/Hate%20Crime%20in%20Scotland%202019-20/Hate%20Crime%20in%20Scotland%202019-20.pdf>

Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hatred in North East England

<https://www.tellmamauk.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/ISLAMOPHOBIA-AND-ANTI-MUSLIM-HATRED-IN-NORTH-EAST-ENGLAND-090620.pdf>

News: George Floyd #BlackLivesMatter

Black Lives Matter: Boris Johnson says UK 'not a racist country'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/boris-johnson-uk-racist-country-black-lives-matter-protests-colston-a9554356.html>

Boris Johnson: Anti-racism protests 'subverted by thuggery'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-52960756>

UK anti-racism protests: 'Justice will follow' the 'thuggery', Patel says

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-52964839>

Black female MPs condemn racist abuse and death threats they have received for supporting George Floyd protests

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/black-lives-matter-protests-uk-labour-mp-death-threat-abuse-george-floyd-a9558566.html>

Coronavirus: Thousands join Scottish anti-racism protests

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-52949904>

Thousands join anti-racism protests across Scotland in defiance of government pleas and warnings

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/thousands-join-anti-racism-protests-across-scotland-defiance-government-pleas-and-warnings-2877302>

Peaceful Black Lives Matter protesters praised by police after no arrests made in Edinburgh

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/people/peaceful-black-lives-matter-protesters-praised-police-after-no-arrests-made-edinburgh-2877509>

Anti-racism walks held in Shetland

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-53034757>

George Floyd: Machynlleth mosaic laid as virus fears stop march

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-52956871>

Black Lives Matter protests: March held in Liverpool

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-merseyside-53033810>

George Floyd: Welsh black history lessons backed by race council chief

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-52950562>

Justice Secretary Humza Yousaf questions presence of slave owner statues

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/justice-secretary-questions-presence-slave-22154943>

SNP minister backs debate over future of street names and statues that 'celebrate slave owners'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/06/08/snp-minister-backs-debate-future-street-names-statues-celebrate/>

Humza Yousaf backs statue removal

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/humza-yousaf-backs-statue-removal-9qxqjgzt>

Boris Johnson criticises 'shameful' vandalism of statues

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/violent-protesters-to-be-jailed-within-24-hours-hx69wwwxwq>

London statues with slavery links 'should be taken down'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-52977088>

Edinburgh graffiti: St Andrew Square statue of pro-slavery politician damaged in protest

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/crime/edinburgh-graffiti-st-andrew-square-statue-pro-slavery-politician-damaged-protest-2877485>

Edinburgh's slavery links to be added to Melville Monument

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-52978121>

Anti-racist protesters defiant over plan to topple Glasgow's Peel statue - despite 'targeting wrong man'

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/18512185.anti-racist-protesters-defiant-plan-topple-glasgows-peel-statue---despite-targeting-wrong-man/>

Robert Milligan: Slave trader statue removed from outside London museum

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-52977088>

George Floyd death: Protesters tear down slave trader statue

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-52954305>

Bristol slave trader statue 'was an affront'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-bristol-52962356>

Campaigners call for education over revision when it comes to slaving past

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/18504698.campaigners-call-education-revision-comes-slaving-past/>

Bristol Colston row: A city's unease with its slave-built history

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-bristol-52964741>

George Floyd protests: The statues being defaced

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-52963352>

Ashbourne black man's head pub sign removed amid racism row

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-derbyshire-52976741>

Raheem Sterling speaks out on racism following the death of George Floyd.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/football/52959292>

We shouldn't generalise about 'racism'. This movement is about fighting anti-black racism

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/jun/13/we-shouldnt-generalise-about-racism-this-movement-is-about-fighting-anti-black-racism>

News: Other Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

MSP calls for greater diversity in politics as Scots elect just five BAME people to parliament

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18504289.msp-calls-greater-diversity-politics-scots-elect-just-five-bame-people-parliament/>

Aberdeen Conservative suspension lifted for 'unacceptable' comments

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-52963074>

Black Lives Matter organiser 'utterly devastated' as councillor reinstated after Tory probe

<https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/aberdeen/2246621/black-lives-matter-organiser-utterly-devastated-as-councillor-reinstated-after-tory-probe/>

Jewish group anger as Tories readmit holocaust row councillor

<https://www.thenational.scot/news/18504860.jewish-groups-concerned-aberdeen-tory-readmitted/>

'I will never stand back again' vows Tory MSP over race attack

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/i-will-never-stand-back-again-vows-tory-msp-over-race-attack-2880968>

Matt Hancock accuses ethnic minority MPs of 'identity politics' in Black Lives Matter row

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/matt-hancock-labour-mps-black-lives-matter-a9561801.html>

Priti Patel clashes with Labour MPs over experiences of racism

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-53012937>

Priti Patel describes own experiences of racism as she vows to bring violent BLM 'thugs' to justice

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/06/08/home-secretary-describes-experiences-racism-vows-bring-violent/>

BAME MPs accuse Priti Patel of gaslighting in racism debate

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/jun/11/bame-mps-accuse-priti-patel-of-gaslighting-in-racism-debate>

Priti Patel: I will not be silenced over race

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/06/11/labour-mps-accuse-priti-patel-using-race-gaslight-bame-communities/>

I won't be silenced, Priti Patel tells Labour in race row after Hackney police attack
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/sickening-attack-on-police-officers-condemned-by-priti-patel-r8sl7w8hj>

Priti Patel may have experienced one form of racism. That doesn't mean she gets to dismiss others
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/jun/12/priti-patel-racism-home-secretary-blac>

Tory councillors accused of racist posts on social media
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jun/10/tory-councillors-accused-of-racist-posts-on-social-media>

Extremism body examines new hate crime
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-52985510>

Racism: More than 600 hate crimes reported to PSNI [Police Service of Northern Ireland]
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-53029899>

Racism in Northern Ireland: 'Nobody born to be a racist'
<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-northern-ireland-52943775/racism-in-northern-ireland-nobody-born-to-be-a-racist>

More work needed to tackle racism says Met officer
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-52989109>

Racial discrimination: Armed forces told to do more to tackle issue
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-53007813>

Head of Armed Forces reveals 'issues of racism' in military focused in wake of Black Lives Matter
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/06/11/head-armed-forces-reveals-issues-racism-military-focused-wake/>

Discrimination forced me to leave the army, says soldier
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/discrimination-forced-me-to-leave-the-army-says-soldier-vrdmzw5c>

NHS blood unit systemically racist, internal report finds
<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/jun/09/nhs-blood-unit-systematically-racist-internal-report-finds>

C of E must investigate systemic racism, leading BAME bishop says
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jun/10/c-of-e-systemic-racism-guli-francis-dehqani-bame-bishop-says>

UK institutions need more black people, says Pentecostal church leader
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jun/10/uk-institutions-need-more-black-people-says-pentecostal-church-leader>

University of St Andrews apologies for 'letting down' BAME students and staff
<https://www.scotsman.com/education/university-st-andrews-apologies-letting-down-bame-students-and-staff-2883437>

Glasgow University student athletes allege racist bias

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/glasgow-university-student-athletes-allege-racist-bias-r958lmk2v>

Jewish man repeatedly stabbed in 'hate crime'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/jewish-man-repeatedly-stabbed-in-hate-crime-xmjrbnt6s>

Blackface 'will not be tolerated' at Up Helly Aa festival

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-52991046>

BBC and Netflix ditch Little Britain over blackface characters

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/bbc-and-netflix-ditch-little-britain-over-blackface-characters-grmtfxndj>

Little Britain removed from BBC iPlayer, Brit Box and Netflix over blackface concerns

<https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/news/little-britain-blackface-removed-bbc-iplayer-brit-box-netflix-racism-a9556876.html>

Amnesia, denial, and awakening - Black Lives Matter stirs Scotland into confronting its ties to slavery

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/uk-news/amnesia-denial-and-awakening-black-lives-matter-stirs-scotland-confronting-its-ties-slavery-2883767>

National Action: 'Miss Hitler' hopeful among four jailed

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-leeds-52965672>

Former Miss Hitler pageant contestant among four Nazi 'diehards' jailed

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/crime/former-miss-hitler-pageant-contestant-among-four-nazi-diehards-jailed-2879104>

Former Miss Hitler beauty pageant contestant jailed with three others for being National Action members

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/06/09/former-miss-hitler-beauty-pageant-contestant-jailed-three-others/>

Miss Hitler contestant sent to jail for National Action membership

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/diehard-neo-nazis-jailed-for-national-action-membership-v23r8wcv8>

Four UK neo-Nazis jailed for membership of National Action

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/jun/09/four-uk-neo-nazis-jailed-for-membership-of-national-action>

Hate Fuel: the hidden online world fuelling far right terror

<https://cst.org.uk/news/blog/2020/06/11/hate-fuel-the-hidden-online-world-fuelling-far-right-terror>

Loughborough Grammar: 'Racially abused' pupil wants 'change'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-leicestershire-52995263>

Loughborough Grammar School racist bullying allegations investigated

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-leicestershire-52980586>

Until private schools stop attempting damage control and listen to their black students, nothing will change

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/private-school-black-students-racism-uk-blm-education-a9562366.html>

Actors offer action plan over drama school racism

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-52968493>

Black Lives Matter: Growing up black in Manchester

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-england-manchester-52988057/black-lives-matter-growing-up-black-in-manchester>

The anti-bigotry campaign born in a 'tragic place'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-51834626>

Black Lives Matter: Woman decides not to erase swastika vandalism

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-53035051>

Dudley man is Facebook friends with childhood racists

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-birmingham-53001418>

Black football coaches: What holds us back

<https://www.bbc.com/news/newsbeat-52979173>

Raheem Sterling says racism is 'the only disease right now' in support of Black Lives Matter

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/premier-league/raheem-sterling-racism-black-lives-matter-comments-a9553726.html>

Chelsea face High Court showdown as players claim careers were ruined by racism in 1980s and 1990s

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/football/2020/06/11/chelsea-face-high-court-showdown-players-claim-careers-ruined/>

Boris Johnson says the UK isn't a racist country. Black Britons disagree

<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/boris-johnson-racism-uk-george-floyd-protests-black-lives-matter-a9556756.html>

We can't deal with racism if white people go on the defensive

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18504591.cant-deal-racism-white-people-go-defensive/>

Black Lives Matter: dismissing Winston Churchill as a racist is too simplistic

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/black-lives-matter-dismissing-winston-churchill-as-a-racist-is-too-simplistic-nv8qfnf17>

'Assume you are infected with racism - but a vaccine is available'

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18516152.jatin-haria-assume-infected-racism---vaccine-available/>

Singer Jamelia says 'ignorance and indifference of white people' has allowed UK racism to flourish

<https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/music/news/jamelia-uk-racism-bbc-news-black-lives-matter-a9556206.html>

US-style culture wars won't end racism in UK. Here's how

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/uk-news/us-style-culture-wars-wont-end-racism-uk-heres-how-ayesha-hazarika-2882205>

If black lives really matter we need to go beyond knocking down a few old statues

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18515444.kevin-mckenna-black-lives-really-matter-need-go-beyond-knocking-old-statues/>

Anti-racism requires more than passive sympathy

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/jun/08/non-racist-isnt-enough-action-george-floyd-death>

TOP

Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic People Injured in Police Custody

Daniel Johnson (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, in light of recent international events, what data it keeps on the injuries incurred by BAME people in police custody. (S5O-04411)

Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Justice (Humza Yousaf): I thank Daniel Johnson for raising an important issue.

The Scottish Government does not collect or hold any data regarding injuries incurred by BAME people in police custody in Scotland. Data collection regarding people who are injured while in police custody is an operational matter for the chief constable. However, I can confirm that Police Scotland has indicated that its national custody system records the ethnicity and details of any injuries of those presenting at a police custody centre. Injuries are referred to and assessed by national health service staff either on site or at a local hospital and a suitable care plan is put in place.

Daniel Johnson will know that the functions of the Scottish Police Authority include maintaining the Police Service of Scotland, promoting and supporting continuous improvement in the policing of Scotland, keeping the policing of Scotland under review, and holding the chief constable to account. In that vein, I will raise the issue with David Crichton and the chief constable during our next trilateral discussion.

I say to Daniel Johnson that, notwithstanding possible challenges in identifying that data—for example, numerous records may have to be manually sifted—he has raised an important issue and I will endeavour to raise it with my colleagues.

Daniel Johnson: Clearly, in the light of George Floyd's tragic death in the United States, we must redouble our efforts in this regard. Does the cabinet secretary agree that we should have regular reporting of that data? Can he also elaborate on the answer that he gave in yesterday's anti-racism debate about disaggregated data on hate crimes?

Reply from Humza Yousaf: In the interests of time, I will write to Daniel Johnson about the disaggregated hate crimes data.

On the first part of Daniel Johnson's question, I could not agree with him more. I have to personally redouble my efforts in these matters, and as a Government we have to redouble our efforts. There is nothing to be lost from having as much transparency as possible on the data. It is not my data, so I cannot give an absolute assurance around publication, but I will raise the issue with the chief constable and the SPA. In principle, I broadly support what Daniel Johnson says.

Press Release

New law for Disclosure regime

<https://www.gov.scot/news/new-law-for-disclosure-regime/>

TOP

Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Arrests and Stop and Search: Ethnic Groups

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [53492] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of (a) stop and search cases, (b) arrests and (c) charges were made against BAME people by the police in each of the last 12 months.

Reply from Kit Malthouse: The Home Office collects and publishes statistics on the number of stop and searches and arrests including the ethnicity of the person searched or arrested. Data are published annually in the 'Police Powers and Procedures, England and Wales' statistical bulletin, the latest of which can be accessed here, and includes data up to the end of March 2019:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/police-powers-and-procedures-england-and-wales>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-02/53492/>

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 Written Answer

Impact of COVID-19 on BAME workers

S5W-29577 Neil Bibby (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to the STUC Black Workers Committee open letter to the First Minister of 22 May 2020 regarding the impact of COVID-19 on BAME workers.

Reply from Christina McKelvie: The First Minister responded to the STUC Black Workers' Committee's open letter on 3 June, outlining some of the work that is ongoing to understand and mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on minority ethnic communities.

The Scottish Government is deeply concerned by reports indicating that ethnic minority communities are disproportionately affected by COVID-19, and it is an issue we are taking extremely seriously.

We have been working to establish and understand the data and evidence in Scotland, and on 20 May we published additional information from Public Health Scotland (PHS), which included preliminary analysis of COVID-19 cases among minority ethnic communities. Although the data is very limited, the current information in Scotland appears to show that there is not a higher level of COVID-19 cases than would be expected, given the size of our Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic population.

We are committed to continuously deepening our understanding of the risk factors and improving our analysis. To support that, analytical partners across the Scottish Government, National Records of Scotland (NRS), PHS and the NHS continue to work together to consider how we can better understand the impact of COVID-19 on people from all minority ethnic communities. We have asked PHS to undertake a review of the available evidence, which will inform future action. NRS are working towards producing an analysis similar to that recently published by ONS for England and Wales.

Also, to support the Scottish Government in making the best possible decisions, informed by appropriate expertise, an Expert Reference Group is being convened on 10 June to challenge and shape our approach moving forward. We are also committed to listening to stakeholder organisations, and the people they support, to ensure that concerns are heard and addressed.

The Scottish Government remains committed to playing its part to eradicate racism, inequality, and injustice, and to build a better, fairer Scotland for everyone.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-29577>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answer

Prime Minister's Questions

Keir Starmer (Labour): ... [the Prime Minister] will appreciate that people do notice when recommendations are made and then not implemented, so it is very important that they are implemented in accordance with those reports. The latest report is the Public Health England report on the disproportionate impact of covid-19. That report concluded that death rates are “highest among people of Black and Asian ethnic groups.” It went on to say—this was the important bit—that “it is already clear that relevant guidance...and key policies should be adapted” to mitigate the risk. If it is already clear that guidance and policy need to be changed, why have the Government not already acted?

Reply from the Prime Minister: Not only is it already clear, but we are already acting. I can tell the right hon. and learned Gentleman that as a result of the report by Professor Fenton, which again we commissioned, we are looking at the particular exposure of black and minority ethnic groups to coronavirus. We should be in no doubt that they have been at the forefront of the struggle against coronavirus, whether that is in the NHS or in public transport. Some 44% of the NHS workforce in London are black and minority ethnic workers. That is why what we are doing first and most directly is ensuring that those high-contact professions get expanded and targeted testing now, and that is what I have agreed with Dido Harding from NHS Test and Trace. I think that is the first and most practical step we can take as a result of Professor Fenton's report.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-06-10/debates/9FE27C8E-39E9-4936-AB62-C622C12A17C1/Engagements#contribution-FE00BF89-00C3-4961-8360-62C3010978CB>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Food Supply: Coronavirus

Christian Wakeford (Conservative) [49138] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps the Government is taking to ensure that food parcels being distributed among Jewish and Muslim communities during the covid-19 outbreak are culturally appropriate and in line with the dietary requirements of those communities.

Reply from Christopher Pincher: The offer has been developed at pace in response to the Covid emergency. The shielding cohort is diverse and we recognise some of the boxes contain products that may not be permitted culturally or for faith reasons by some groups. In the standardised box which is delivered to individuals there is a note which explains that, should the individual have any allergies, or any religious or cultural dietary requirements, and are not able to eat some of the food and feel that the remaining contents of the package are not enough supplies for one week, they should contact their local authority.

The packages include tinned meat and tinned tuna, but as the product is packaged there is no risk of individuals having to touch foodstuffs that are unsuitable.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-19/49138/>

Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups

Stephen Farry (Alliance) [53662] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, with reference the findings in the report published by Public Health England on 2 June 2020 entitled Disparities in the risk and outcomes of covid-19, what steps he plans to take to reduce health inequalities for BAME groups.

Reply from Jo Churchill: Racial disparities in the health of the nation are unacceptable. Following the publication of Public Health England (PHE)'s report, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Equalities (Kemi Badenoch MP) has been asked to urgently review the findings and better understand the drivers behind them. As part of this, we will look very closely at the health inequalities aspects of PHE's report and further action needed to address them.

We remain committed to levelling up and spreading opportunity around this country, which will be an essential part of the economic and social recovery from this crisis.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-02/53662/>

The report referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/892085/disparities_review.pdf

The following three questions all received the same answer

Ethnic Groups: Coronavirus

Helen Hayes (Labour) [56084] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what the timeframe is for the publication of the work of the Racial Disparity Unit in response to the report of Public Health England on disparities in risks and outcomes in relation to covid-19.

Coronavirus: Disease Control

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [54145] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what steps the Government plans to take in response to the report published by Public Health England on 2 June 2020 entitled COVID-19: review of disparities in risks and outcomes.

Cheryl Gillan (Conservative) [55833] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what further report she plans to commission following the publication of the PHE report Covid 19 - Disparities in the risks and outcomes.

Reply from Kemi Badenoch: As Minister for Equalities, I am working with the Race Disparity Unit and the Department for Health and Social Care to carry forward work to identify and fill the gaps in PHE's review; and work across government to take appropriate steps to mitigate disparities identified. The terms of reference for this work, which include quarterly updates to the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Health and Social Care on progress, were published on GOV.UK on 4 June. The timeframe will be announced in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-08/56084/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-03/54145/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-08/55833/>

The terms of reference referred to above can be read at

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

Health Professions: Ethnic Groups

Clive Lewis (Labour) [48552] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to (a) protect and (b) support BAME medical staff working in the NHS during the covid-19 outbreak.

Reply from Helen Whately: NHS Employers, working in partnership with key stakeholders, published guidance for employers on 30 April. The guidance detailed

how to carry out risk assessments particularly for vulnerable groups, to understand the specific risks staff members face from exposure to COVID-19 and actions which employers can take to keep staff safe.

NHS England and NHS Improvement issued directions to the service on 29 April recommending all trusts to undertake appropriate risk assessments for their Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) staff and to put in place any measures to protect and support their BAME staff. They have since developed a five-point programme to address the concerns of BAME staff, covering protection of staff, engagement with staff and staff networks, representation in decision making, rehabilitation and recovery, communications and media.

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.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-18/48552/>

Coronavirus: Travellers

Gill Furniss (Labour) [52312] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, pursuant to the Answer of 20 May 2020 to Question 46117 on Coronavirus: Roma, how Public Health England plans to capture evidence on the outcomes for Gypsies, Travellers and Roma, whose ethnic categories are not part of the NHS Data Dictionary.

Reply from Jo Churchill: It is not currently possible for Public Health England to capture evidence on the outcomes for Gypsies, Travellers and Roma, whose ethnic categories are not part of the NHS Data Dictionary. We will raise this issue as part of the work that the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Equalities (Kemi Badenoch MP) will be taking forward following the publication of PHE's report into disparities in COVID-19 risks and outcomes and we are in discussion with NHS England and NHS Improvement about the equality monitoring data that can and should be gathered.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-01/52312/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-12/46117/>

Churches: Coronavirus

Luke Evans (Conservative) [53638] To ask the Member for South West Bedfordshire, representing the Church Commissioners, what steps he is taking to ensure that places of worship can open for (a) private prayer and (b) active worship in compliance with social distancing measures as covid-19 lockdown restrictions are lifted.

Reply from Andrew Selous: The Government has announced that from the 15th June Church of England places of worship may be opened for individual prayer, alongside those of other faiths.

The Church of England has been developing advice, following information from Public Health England and other bodies, to enable its churches to be opened safely, and has been communicating that to dioceses for planning purposes. Not all buildings will be able to open for individual prayer on the 15th June, and bishops will be discussing with local clergy the needs of each parish. We expect a phased reopening that takes into account local circumstances and the available resources to enable it to be done safely. The House of Bishops will be issuing revised advice once the Government has published its own guidance, further to the statement made by Lord Greenhalgh on Saturday 6th June.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-02/53638/>

The UK Government announcement referred to above, including Lord Greenhalgh's statement referred to above, can be read at

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

The Church of England guidance referred to above can be read at

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches>

Religious Buildings: Coronavirus

Afzal Khan (Labour) [55024] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the Answer of 4 June 2020 to Question 52458 on Religious Buildings: Coronavirus, what steps he is taking to discuss with (a) the Muslim Council of Britain and (b) other major Muslim organisations on the safe re-opening of Mosques.

Reply from Luke Hall: We are currently engaging a broad range of faith communities to discuss the safe re-opening of places of worship through the Places of Worship Taskforce which includes representation from the Muslim community. We currently have no plans to engage with the Muslim Council of Britain.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-04/55024/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

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

Religious Buildings: Coronavirus

Afzal Khan (Labour) [55025] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the Answer of 4 June 2020 to Question 52457 on Religious Buildings: Coronavirus, what steps he has taken to translate Government guidance into other languages.

Reply from Luke Hall: New guidance will be published shortly to ensure the limited reopening of places of worship can be done safely and in line with social distancing guidelines. The Government is currently considering how best to publish this guidance so it reaches the widest possible audience.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-04/55025/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

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

Marriage: Ceremonies

Kevin Brennan (Labour) [55664] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, if he will bring forward legislative proposals to enable faith venues that are approved for the registration of marriages to hold small wedding ceremonies with only the couple, celebrant and witnesses in attendance.

Reply from Luke Hall: We want to allow people to hold small weddings as soon as we can, but this must be done safely. Working with other departments, we will consider how small wedding ceremonies could take place safely in due course. We are working in partnership with faith leaders, through our Places of Worship Taskforce, to develop guidance that will enable the phased and safe reopening of places of worship.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-05/55664/>

The following four questions all received the same answer

Charities: Ethnic Groups

Dawn Butler (Labour) [54027] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of support for BAME charities that are helping people disproportionately affected by covid-19.

Dawn Butler (Labour) [54028] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps he is taking to ensure that BAME charities are receiving support through the charity relief package announced in April 2020.

Dawn Butler (Labour) [54029] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps he has taken to protect BAME charities from closure during the covid-19 outbreak.

Dawn Butler (Labour) [54030] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, if he will ring-fence part of the charity relief package, announced in April 2020, for BAME charities.

Reply from John Whittingdale: My department is committed to ongoing, regular and in depth engagement with the charity and social enterprise sectors during the COVID-19 pandemic. DCMS will continue to work closely to assess how we can support BAME charities and social enterprises in doing their important work. The Minister for Civil Society holds a fortnightly roundtable to hear directly from BAME civil society organisations to highlight concerns and responses to covid-19.

The Government's £750m targeted funding package and a further £150 million from dormant bank accounts will help charities, social enterprises and vulnerable individuals. We are proactively engaging across government and directly with the sector to maintain a complete picture of the impact and to better understand unmet needs at a national and local level that are not already addressed by existing plans. My department and the National Lottery Community Fund (NLCF - our distribution partners for the Coronavirus Community Support Fund) have been - and continue to - engage extensively with BAME organisations during the development of the response and are working with a number of organisations to improve the reach of the Coronavirus Community Support Fund. A diverse advisory panel has been set up to support the distribution process for the fund.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-03/54027/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-03/54028/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-03/54029/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-03/54030/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Public Health England Review: Covid-19 Disparities

... **Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town (Labour):** ... Let us be clear: coronavirus thrives on inequality, and inequality thrives on inaction. Let us have no delay for research on causes but real action now to protect BAME people at risk from the virus. Will the Minister tell the House what actions the Government are taking to mitigate the very real risks BAME communities face right now?

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for

Education and Department for International Trade (Baroness Berridge): ... it is important that we understand the various drivers of the disparities and the relationship between different risk factors. It has been accepted that the report has some limitations; for example, the ethnicity analysis does not adjust for factors such as comorbidities such as underlying health conditions of hypertension and obesity. It is imperative that we do the next stage of looking at the data and the connections to ensure that we fill in the gaps of understanding and developing new policies so that we act on a proper and scientific basis; otherwise, we risk making matters worse, which no one would want us to do.

Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat) New research today shows that more than half of pregnant women in hospital in the UK with coronavirus complications are from a black, Asian or minority ethnic background. Will the Minister commit to an urgent investigation into this?

Reply from Baroness Berridge: ... all aspects that are affecting black and minority ethnic people will be looked into by the Minister for Equalities. ...

Lord Blunkett (Labour): ... does the Minister agree that we probably need targeted health campaigns, not blaming individuals but trying to at least do something in the short term about this division? ...

Reply from Baroness Berridge: ... Alongside this report there has been increased stakeholder engagement—particularly with the black and minority ethnic community—with faith leaders and representatives. As the Government are trying to ensure that the communication of the necessary public health information regarding hygiene and handwashing has been fully promoted within those communities, we are translating much of that advice into additional languages to ensure that that community has heard the messages it needs to hear now. ...

To read the lengthy question and answer session in full see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-06-08/debates/585D9914-B3BA-4425-9CD3-5F2E266FA353/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 research relating to pregnancy and coronavirus, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.bmj.com/content/369/bmj.m2107>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Travellers: Coronavirus

Baroness Whitaker (Labour) [HL5145] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to set up a task force to address the risks to health faced by Gypsies and Travellers living in caravans in camps without amenities such as running water and sanitation during the COVID-19 pandemic, on the lines of the task force for rough sleepers.

Reply from Lord Bethell: We currently have no plans to set up such a task force. We have been in close contact with Gypsy and Traveller voluntary and community sector organisations and are working hard to support these communities through the pandemic.

Ministers have written to councils and caravan and campsite owners about the particular needs of some Gypsy and Traveller communities at this time but it is our view that local authorities are best placed to determine how to support vulnerable groups, in line with their public health responsibilities.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-02/HL5145/>

Scottish Government Press Releases

Action against inequality

<https://www.gov.scot/news/action-against-inequality/>

Updated advice for people shielding

<https://www.gov.scot/news/updated-advice-for-people-shielding/>

New health measures for travellers to Scotland

<https://www.gov.scot/news/new-health-measures-for-travellers-to-scotland/>

Scottish Government Publications

Coronavirus (COVID-19): trends in daily data

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

Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's speech 12 June 2020

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-speech-12-june-2020/>

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/>

Public attitudes to Coronavirus: May summary

<https://tinyurl.com/ybxenheh>

Updated Guidance: Coronavirus (COVID-19): shielding support and contacts

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/covid-shielding/>

UK Government Press Release

PM statement at the coronavirus press conference: 10 June 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-at-the-coronavirus-press-conference-10-june-2020>

UK Government Publication

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

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

Other Organisations

British Medical Journal

Characteristics and outcomes of pregnant women admitted to hospital with confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection in UK: national population based cohort study

<https://www.bmj.com/content/369/bmj.m2107>

News

Coronavirus: BAME safety plan not published

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-53002968>

Coronavirus: Racism 'could play a part in BAME Covid deaths'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-53035054>

Coronavirus: Risk higher for pregnant BAME women

<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-52965722>

Why are more people from BAME backgrounds dying from coronavirus?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-52219070>

Coronavirus response 'harming ethnic minorities and migrants,' warn health experts

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/coronavirus-ethnic-minorities-migrants-covid-19-royal-society-medicine-a9559716.html>

Relaxing of lockdown for places of worship only helps Christians, prominent Muslims and Jews claim

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/06/10/relaxing-lockdown-places-worship-helps-christians-prominent/>

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Other News

Artists to create Black Lives Matter 'mural trail' across Scotland

<https://www.scotsman.com/whats-on/arts-and-entertainment/artists-create-black-lives-matter-mural-trail-across-scotland-2883680>

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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>

Stage 3

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12685&i=114775#ScotParlOR>

Stage 3 debate

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12685&i=114776#ScotParlOR>

Bill as passed

<https://beta.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/current-bills/disclosure-scotland-bill/stage-3/disclosure-scotland-bill-as-passed.pdf>

Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill

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

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

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

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>

**** European Citizens' Rights Bill**

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

**** Illegal Immigration (Offences) Bill**

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

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

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

Committee Stage, House of Commons

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-06-09/debates/bbf9bfc3-15c2-4412-b248-f53270fd7c62/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination\(EUWithdrawal\)Bill\(FirstSitting\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-06-09/debates/bbf9bfc3-15c2-4412-b248-f53270fd7c62/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination(EUWithdrawal)Bill(FirstSitting))

and

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-06-09/debates/7ea96121-3750-46ec-926c-caed790a05d6/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination\(EUWithdrawal\)Bill\(SecondSitting\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-06-09/debates/7ea96121-3750-46ec-926c-caed790a05d6/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination(EUWithdrawal)Bill(SecondSitting))

and

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-06-11/debates/fd6ed550-8cca-44f0-aca0-aa39e81d0de4/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination\(EUWithdrawal\)Bill\(ThirdSitting\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-06-11/debates/fd6ed550-8cca-44f0-aca0-aa39e81d0de4/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination(EUWithdrawal)Bill(ThirdSitting))

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](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 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/emnrn/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!**

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/yao2qoqq>

**** this week!**

The Great Get Together: Black Lives Matter

19 June 2020 online (11.00)

Interfaith Scotland event focussing on tackling racism and standing in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement. The guest speaker will be Marie James, a producer and writer of Jamaican heritage who was born, raised and continues to live in the UK. To register see <https://tinyurl.com/y92q5hmf>

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

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Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services
<https://www.volunteerscotland.net/for-organisations/disclosure-services/>

BBC News <https://www.bbc.com/news>

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SCoJeC
Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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

BEMIS
Empowering Scotland's Ethnic and
Cultural Minority Communities

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



*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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