



MEMO is produced by the [Scottish Council of Jewish Communities \(SCoJeC\)](#) in partnership with [BEMIS – empowering Scotland's ethnic and cultural minority communities](#). It provides an overview of information of interest to minority ethnic communities in Scotland, including parliamentary activity at Holyrood and Westminster, new publications, consultations, forthcoming conferences, and news reports.

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

Please send information for inclusion in MEMO to MEMO@scojec.org and [click here](#) to be added to the mailing list.

The Scottish Parliament is in recess until 9 August 2020 but may meet sooner to respond to any urgent business.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-22110 John Mason (SNP): World Refugee Day – That the Parliament acknowledges that 20 June 2020 is World Refugee Day; understands that, every minute, 20 people leave their lives and belongings behind to escape war, persecution or terror; recognises refugees as being among the most vulnerable people on the planet; further recognises that the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees help protect them; considers what it regards as disgraceful recent events in Glasgow caused by a very small minority; stands resolutely with refugees and welcomes asylum seekers to Scotland, and believes that all asylum seekers and refugees must be

treated with dignity and that their human rights must be respected.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-22110>

UK Parliament Debate

Windrush Day 2020

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-06-23/debates/4075E526-5226-4666-A1C5-1410ADCC7B5D/WindrushDay2020>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Ministerial Statement and Q&A

Windrush Compensation Scheme

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Priti Patel): ... Yesterday, we celebrated Windrush Day, which marks the 72nd anniversary of the arrival of the Empire Windrush at Tilbury docks. The ship carried hundreds of people who had left their homes to build a new life in the United Kingdom, and to help this country rebuild following the destruction of the second world war. These men and women built their lives and went on to build their homes in the United Kingdom. They, alongside with many thousands of others who made similar journeys, and their descendants, have made an immeasurable contribution to the social, economic and cultural life of our country. When Britain was in need, they answered the call.

Yet as we all know, they were the very people who went on to suffer unspeakable injustices and institutional failings spanning successive Governments over several decades. I have apologised for the appalling treatment suffered and, on 19 March, I made a statement after I received the long awaited Windrush lessons learned review from Wendy Williams. I have apologised for the appalling treatment suffered by the Windrush generation.

The review was damning about the conduct of the Home Office and unequivocal about the “institutional ignorance and thoughtlessness towards the...race and the history of the Windrush generation” by the Department. There are serious and significant lessons for the Home Office to learn in the way it operates. I and the permanent secretary are currently reviewing its leadership, culture and practices, and the way it views and treats all parts of the community it serves.

These reforms are only the start. I was clear that when Wendy Williams published her lessons learned review, I would listen and act. I have heard what she has said, and I will be accepting the recommendations that she has made in full. I am committed to ensuring that the Home Office delivers for each part of the community it serves and I will come back to update the House before the summer recess on how we will be implementing the recommendations. I look forward to discussing the plans further with Wendy this week.

We have been working tirelessly to support the most urgent cases and those most in need. In April 2018, the Home Office set up the Windrush taskforce to ensure that those who needed documentation immediately could get it. A month later, the Windrush scheme was launched, providing free citizenship to those eligible for it.

The Home Office has a dedicated vulnerable persons team in place to provide immediate support to people suffering with a range of vulnerabilities, including the financial hardships and destitutions that have been well documented. The team also administers the urgent and exceptional payments scheme, which provides immediate financial payments. To the end of March this year, the team has made 35 payments, totalling more than £46,000.

Work is continuing unabated to ensure that those who suffered receive the documentation and the compensation that they need. So far, more than 12,000 people have been granted documentation by the Windrush taskforce, including more than 5,900 grants of citizenship,

and the compensation scheme continues to make payments to compensate the losses and impacts that individuals suffered as a result of not being able to demonstrate their lawful status. The scheme was set up and designed with the backing of Martin Forde QC, in close consultation with those who were affected by the scandal, and in February I announced that I would extend it until April 2023 to give those who need our help as much time as they need to apply.

We are continuing to process individual claims as quickly as possible. The first payment was made within four months of the scheme launching, and many interim awards are being made where parts of the claim can be resolved more easily and more quickly than others. But let me be clear: it is not a blanket one-size-fits-all scheme. It was deliberately designed with community leaders and Martin Forde QC so that the claimant is at the heart of each and every claim.

Cases deserve to be processed individually with the care and sensitivity that they deserve, so that the maximum payment can be made to every single person. I simply will not call for targets when it comes to dealing with claims. These are incredibly personal cases—individual cases—that must be treated with the care, the dignity and the respect that they deserve.

I want everyone who has been wronged to get the maximum compensation to which they are entitled, and through this bespoke scheme, we are working to achieve that. This compensation covers a very wide range of categories—far more than any comparable compensation scheme. It covers immigration fees; it covers loss of earnings; it covers benefits; it covers homelessness; it covers destitution. Overall, it covers 13 separate categories. Assessing claims in this way is ultimately beneficial to those who are making them, but it takes time to assess them and it takes time to get it right. While claims are being processed in full, many interim and exceptional payments have been made to make sure that people have access to money—to the funds that they need now.

Clearly, I share the desire to see more claims completed. The rate of claims has already increased significantly in the past few months: as of the end of March, more than £360,000 had been awarded, and further offers have been made of approximately £280,000. I can confirm today that more than £1 million has been offered in claims so far, and more payments and offers are being made each week, but we can—and of course we must—do more. My determination to right the wrongs and the injustices suffered by the Windrush generation is undiminished, and I will do all I can to ensure that more people are helped and more people are compensated in full. If additional resources are needed, they will be provided.

Now is the time for more action. We all have a duty to help those affected by this terrible injustice. Individuals will benefit from the compensation scheme only if they are sought out and encouraged to apply. We are working extensively with community groups and leaders to raise awareness of the Windrush taskforce and the compensation scheme, including with vulnerable people through the vulnerable persons team. Anyone who needs help or support to make a claim will receive it. The Home Office has funded Citizens Advice to provide free independent advice and support, and has hosted or attended more than 100 engagement and outreach events throughout the United Kingdom. As Members know, my door is always open, so I urge Members of the House to ensure that their constituents' cases or concerns are raised immediately with me and my team so that they are progressed and resolved.

Throughout the coronavirus pandemic, I have made sure that no one is left behind. Working with community leaders, I have launched a digital engagement programme so that outreach can continue despite the current social distancing measures. The first virtual support event was held on 21 May, and on 19 March I announced a dedicated new communications campaign to promote the Windrush schemes, as well as a £500,000 fund for community organisations to run outreach, promotional and support activities to increase awareness.

We know, however, that there are a range of other issues and injustices affecting the Windrush generation and their families. Yesterday, I announced a new Windrush cross-Government working group, which I will co-chair with Bishop Derek Webley. The group brings together community leaders with senior representatives from a number of Government Departments to address the challenges faced by the Windrush generation and their descendants, spanning programmes on education, work, health and much more. The Prime Minister and I spoke to members of the group yesterday to discuss many of the actions needed and to deliver solutions. The first formal meeting of the group will take place this Thursday. I look forward to taking the work of the group forward, alongside the inspirational co-chair, Bishop Derek Webley.

Nothing can ever undo the suffering experienced by members of the Windrush generation. No one should have suffered the uncertainty, complication and hardships brought on by the mistakes of successive Governments. Now is the time for more action across the Government to repay that debt of gratitude and to eliminate the challenges that still exist for them and their descendants. Only then can we build a stronger, fairer and more successful country for the next generation. ...

Nick Thomas-Symonds (Labour): ... I would like to start by celebrating the enormous contribution the Windrush generation and their families have made. The arrival of the Empire Windrush at Tilbury docks in 1948 was an important moment in our nation's history: people from the Caribbean answering the call to help to rebuild the nation recovering from the second world war. Since then, the Windrush generation and their families have had a huge impact on every facet of national life: our NHS, our transport system, across public and private sectors, the arts, culture, religion and sports. But we also know that many who made new lives here did not get the welcome they were expecting. Many faced appalling racism, were locked out of jobs and homes, and were subject to terrible abuse in the streets.

We may have hoped that all aspects of that had been consigned to the past, but 70 years later we have seen an incredibly strong reaction to the Black Lives Matter movement's call for change here in the UK and little wonder. Compounded injustices over generations have created deep frustrations and hurt. The brave testimonies black people have shared about the impact racism has on their lives and their family histories has underlined that there is an undeniable case for action. Addressing unfairness and injustice begins at the door of the Home Office, with the appalling mistreatment of the Windrush generation.

The Windrush scandal is a cause of national shame and the Wendy Williams lessons learned review is a damning indictment. It exposes callousness and incompetence that caused deep injustice, while making clear the impact of jobs lost, lives uprooted and untold damage done to many individuals and families. The review sets out 30 important and urgent recommendations, a number of which speak to a deeply worrying culture that has been allowed to develop over the past 10 years. Frankly, it is shameful that one of the recommendations called for the Department to develop "a clear purpose, mission and values statement" rooted in "fairness, humanity, openness, diversity and inclusion", and that such a statement was not in place already. There are also recommendations which show the work required on issues relating to race and the need for better community outreach and engagement. It is, frankly, shocking that it took a scandal on this scale to bring such core failings to light. ...

Reply from Priti Patel: ... I have been unequivocal on the change that is required at the Home Office. ... I apologised for the absolutely appalling scandal that took place and I will continue not just to apologise but to ensure that the Home Office in particular learns the lessons and fundamentally changes its culture, the leadership and the way in which it treats people, and becomes far more representative of the communities that it serves. ...

Of course, that will take time. There is no silver bullet to do this overnight, but the

first step that we can take is to ensure that we continue to work together collaboratively across our society and across Government to tackle the injustices that were suffered. ...

The hon. Gentleman referred to the compensation scheme, and I agree: the payments and the way payments have been made have been far too slow. I am not apologising for that at all. I have outlined in my statement that it is right that we treat each individual with the respect and dignity they deserve. These are complicated cases. ...

For the benefit of those Members who are not aware of this, when offers of payments are made to individuals, those individuals have a period to consider the payment they are being offered. If they would like to discuss the payment or if they decline it and want a review, that review is conducted not by the Home Office but by HMRC, an independent body. ...

... although we know that the Windrush generation has faced many, many injustices, recent events have shone a spotlight on a whole range of injustices across many communities in our country. The Prime Minister's new commission is very much looking at how we can level up and at how we can address and tackle those injustices. ...

Joanna Cherry (SNP): ... The Windrush scandal brought shame on the United Kingdom and shame on the Conservative Government, who caused it to happen. Make no mistake about it, Mr Deputy Speaker, what happened was a direct result of the hostile environment policy. ...

I am concerned that, in today's statement, the Home Secretary does not unequivocally commit to the sort of root and branch review of the hostile environment policy recommended by the lessons learned review. It is all very well to agree that black lives matter, but actions speak louder than words, and the reality is that many of this Government's immigration policies continue to have disproportionate impacts on black, Asian and minority ethnic communities. ...

The Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants has correctly identified that policies such as the right-to-rent scheme, which outsource the enforcement of immigration control to untrained members of the public, cannot be adequately reformed in such a way as to avoid the sort of discrimination that we have seen result. It is these policies that have resulted in real suffering for people from the Windrush generation and beyond, with people losing their jobs, unable to rent their homes and denied hospital treatment, including for serious diseases such as cancer.

Can the Home Secretary tell us, in direct terms, that she will be carrying out the review of the hostile environment that was recommended by Wendy Williams? ... Will the Home Secretary state unequivocally for the record that this review of the hostile environment policy will happen, and will she give us a timescale today? ...

Reply from Priti Patel: ... Wendy Williams was clear in her report that lessons must be learned at all levels by all political parties. ...

The reasons the scandal occurred are more complex and can be traced back not just to the Department. The root causes can be traced back to legislation from the 1960s and 1980s, much of which is complex. ...

Brendan Clarke-Smith (Conservative): The UK has always welcomed those from other nations, and we can rightly be proud of our open and inclusive society. ... We can also be thankful for the contribution of those who have chosen to make the UK their home and who add greatly to our society ...

Yvette Cooper (Labour): ... in our Home Affairs Committee report on Windrush two years ago, we raised four personal cases of injustice. Sadly, two of them have since died without receiving anything at all. I have heard from several people who were told in January that their case was near finalised and was in quality assurance, but have had no progress since ...

Does the right hon. Lady accept that keeping people in hardship and waiting in limbo like this compounds the injustice that they have already felt? Will she tell the House how many cases have now received payments? What proportion are still outstanding? Is it true that that is still over 90%? How many people have been waiting more than a year? Will she increase the staffing of the compensation unit, so that we can urgently get people support and compensation for the injustice that was so wrongly meted to them?

Reply from Priti Patel: ... where individuals are waiting for a final settlement through the vulnerable persons scheme, we are still able to release financial assistance and cash directly before the final claim is assured and accepted. ...

I have been specifically told by the permanent secretary overseeing this at the Home Office that additional resources are not required for the Windrush compensation claim team. ... These claims take time, for the reasons that I have outlined. ...

Aaron Bell (Conservative): We debate in this place how firm an immigration system should be and the exact parameters of it ... But I think it is common cause across the House and the country that an immigration system must be fair, and that is why what happened to the Windrush generation was such a scandal—it was manifestly unfair. ...

Reply from Priti Patel: ... For all Members who have read the Wendy Williams report, it is devastating reading—there are no two ways about that. That is why we should all come together to understand the sense of injustice, because the cases in the report are absolutely devastating. It is my priority to ensure that we give people the justice and support that they desperately need and deserve. ...

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

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-06-23/debates/3B28F83E-EAFA-49E1-BEE0-B4AAB31318D1/WindrushCompensationScheme>

The “Windrush Lessons Learned Review”, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874022/6.5577_HO_Windrush_Lessons_Learned_Review_WEB_v2.pdf

The Home Secretary’s statement on the “Windrush Lessons Learned Review”, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/windrush-lessons-learned-review>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Ministerial Statement and Q&A

Windrush Compensation Scheme

The Home Secretary’s statement, included above, was repeated in the House of Lords.

Lord Rosser (Labour): The Windrush scandal is a national cause of shame, and the Wendy Williams review exposed the callousness and incompetence that caused such deep injustice. The Windrush generation and their families have made an enormous contribution to every aspect of our national life since the arrival of the “Empire Windrush” 72 years ago. However, many faced appalling racism, extending beyond abuse to a lack of fair access to the basic necessities of life, including housing and jobs. ...

At the moment we are still at the stage of words, not actions, from the Government, which still have other reports, including the David Lammy review, on which they have so far failed to act. This Government are quick to set up reviews and working groups, but slow to act on findings and slow to right the wrongs identified.

In her Statement, the Home Secretary informs us that she has established another cross-government working group to address the challenges faced by the Windrush generation and their descendants. ...

... do the Government believe that an average compensation settlement, on the Government’s figures, of somewhere between less than £8,000 and just below £22,000

represents a fair figure in the light of Wendy Williams's words that: "The many stories of injustice and hardship are heartbreaking, with jobs lost, lives uprooted and untold damage done to so many individuals and families ... They had no reason to doubt their status, or that they belonged in the UK"? ...

The progress in dealing with claims to date has been painfully slow. Apparently just 60 people were granted compensation in the first year of the scheme's operation. The Home Secretary declines to apologise for the delay, but rather accepts it and simply implies that the pace is now increasing. ... The number of those who have received payment is small compared with the Government's estimate of eligible claims. Does the Minister think that the number of claims to date reflects a lack of confidence in a Home Office that Wendy Williams said showed "a lack of empathy"? ...

Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat): ... The Home Secretary says in her Statement: "I have apologised for the appalling treatment suffered".

A sincere apology is not something made and then done with; it must be constant and its sincerity demonstrated by action. The Statement later refers to the challenges faced by the Windrush generation and their descendants. It is wider than that. As Wendy Williams wrote in her first recommendation: "The sincerity of this apology will be determined by how far the Home Office demonstrates a commitment to learn from its mistakes by making fundamental changes to its culture and way of working, that are both systemic and sustainable." ...

I am pleased to hear that the Home Secretary will be accepting Wendy Williams' 30 recommendations in full. ...

The Statement refers to the urgent and exceptional payments scheme. ...

The figures seem woefully small. ...

I cannot make the amounts mentioned add up to anywhere near "over £1 million". Can she break that figure down? Can she explain "offered"? That suggests conditionality. Are claimants expected to agree that an offer is accepted in full and final settlement? If so, what advice can they access before doing so, and is this in the spirit of the apology? ...

Finally, the Home Secretary is committed to ensuring that the Home Office delivers "for each part of the community it serves". That is all of us, not only those with whom it has direct contact, but those on whose behalf it acts. We would all like to feel it acted in our name. ...

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford):

... My right honourable friend the Home Secretary made clear yesterday that she will come to Parliament before the Summer Recess to set out in more detail the terms of the implementation of the recommendations. It is good news that she has accepted every single recommendation. ...

My right honourable friend the Home Secretary will be co-chairing a cross-government working group, with Bishop Webley as co-chair, and other community leaders who are equally driven to bring about the difference that we want. This is not a single-department issue; it goes right across government. ...

It is not just whole of Home Office; there is a lesson to be learned across government in weeding out prejudice and bias and ensuring that all people in this country can make the best of their talents and abilities. The Home Office is leading on this, but it is an endeavour for the whole of the Government. I would go further and say that it is a societal endeavour, given what we saw recently with Black Lives Matter. ...

Baroness Verma (Conservative): My Lords, the Windrush scandal identified a number of serious failings: institutional ignorance and institutional racism. I praise the Home Secretary's decision to implement in full the recommendations of the independent review; she has demonstrated her commitment to ensuring that she responds to a challenging hostile environment. However, will my noble friend ensure that, alongside financial compensation, there is also mental health support, and that both are delivered speedily?

Will she ensure that, as she rightly said, all departments review their processes and policies to reflect on how they, too, respond to and approach such matters?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My noble friend is absolutely right to highlight the other issues. This is not just about money; it is about a whole-of-government approach to looking at the wider inequalities faced in society. That is precisely what the cross-government working group will seek to do. Not only will it provide strategic input into the Home Office's response to Wendy Williams's *Windrush Lessons Learned Review*, but it will support the design and delivery of a range of practical solutions to address the wider challenges that disproportionately affect people from black and minority ethnic backgrounds. ...

The Lord Bishop of St Albans: My Lords, we are all implicated in the conscious and unconscious bias which bedevils our society. It will change only if we all take responsibility to make that change come about. ...

Baroness Goudie (Labour): My Lords, the Windrush generation and their families have made an enormous contribution to our national life but have suffered massive racial injustice, aggravated by the way they have been mistreated by the Home Office over seven decades. The Williams review is damning in its conclusion of a lack of empathy. Compensation has been far too slow. There has been a lack of a sense of urgency. Implementation of the compensation scheme must now be given the highest priority and must not be slowed down by process. ...
me timelines.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: ... We have got to get a balance on streamlining the process on often quite complicated situations. ... There is a balance to be struck between making sure that everyone gets the full amount to which they are entitled and doing it in a timely fashion. ... we need to do it thoroughly and properly and ensure that everyone gets the full amount to which they are entitled. ...

To read the question and answer session in full see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-06-24/debates/F510CBD5-BBCD-43ED-BFF2-7DCB74DD5A97/WindrushCompensationScheme>

The "Windrush Lessons Learned Review", referred to above, can be read at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874022/6.5577_HO_Windrush_Lessons_Learned_Review_WEB_v2.pdf

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

British Nationality: Assessments

Patrick Grady (SNP) [62495] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 17 June 2020 to Question 57247 on British Nationality: Assessments, how long after testing resumes will applications for indefinite leave continue to be held.

Reply from Kevin Foster: We have plans in place to conclude applications in process as quickly as possible once customers submit their certificates. Once test centres are fully reopened and services have resumed to a level where they can again meet demand, we expect that customers will submit their certificates within a reasonable timescale.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-22/62495/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-09/57247/>

Immigrants: Finance

Stella Creasy (Labour Co-op) [61489] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to conduct a pilot project to assess the needs of migrant women with no recourse to public funds; on what basis the decision to carry out that pilot was made; and what the findings are of the internal review conducted by her Department into that matter.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Government committed to review its overall response to migrant victims of domestic abuse in response to the recommendations of the Joint Committee on the Draft Domestic Abuse Bill in June 2019.

The evidence gathering phase of the review has been completed and detailed findings will be published by Commons Report stage.

This will provide further information on the rationale behind conducting a pilot project to assess the needs of migrant victims with no recourse to public funds and the basis upon which the decision to carry out the pilot was made.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-18/61489/>

Immigrants: Finance

Stephen Timms (Labour) [62253] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the Answer of 16 June 2020 to Question 903194 on Immigrants: Finance, what funding streams local authorities are permitted to use to offer financial support to people with no recourse to public funds; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Luke Hall: No recourse to public funds (NRPF) is a condition imposed on someone due to their immigration status. Section 115 Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 states that a person will have 'no recourse to public funds' if they are 'subject to immigration control'

A person with NRPF is prohibited from accessing specified benefits and public housing. These are set out in section 115 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. More information is available online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-funds--2/public-funds>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-22/62253/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-15/903194/>

Immigrants: Finance

Fleur Anderson (Labour) [62713] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what covid-19 related funding and support is available to people with Leave to Remain.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Government has published advice and information about the support available to migrants with Leave to Remain during the coronavirus pandemic:

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

Most migrants with Leave to Remain in the UK are subject to no recourse to public funds (NRPF). Successive governments have set the threshold for migrants qualifying for public funds at Indefinite Leave to Remain, reflecting the strength of connection to the UK of those who hold this status. However, many of the measures introduced to support people through the coronavirus pandemic, including the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and protections for renters, are available to

those with NRPF.

Individuals whose basis of stay in the UK is based on their family life or human rights can apply to have the NRPF condition lifted by making a 'change of conditions' application if there are exceptional circumstances in their case relating to financial circumstances.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-22/62713/>

Universal Credit: Immigrants

Stephen Timms (Labour) [59665] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, whether a UK citizen who is married to a person with leave to remain in the UK but has no recourse to public funds is permitted to claim universal credit; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Justin Tomlinson: Where only one member of a couple is eligible for UC (for example the other adult in the couple is subject to immigration control) then that ineligible person's circumstances will not be brought to bear in calculating how much the maximum amount of UC payable is. Their capital, income and earnings will, however, be taken into account in adjusting the actual UC award. The term 'assessment unit' is used to capture both members of a couple where one adult is not eligible for UC.

Non-UK nationals and family members who are issued with a residence permit with a NRPF condition are not eligible to access taxpayer-funded benefits such as Universal Credit, Child Benefit or housing assistance for the duration of their leave. Contributions-based benefits and the State Pension are not classed as public funds. DWP has no powers to award taxpayer-funded benefits to an individual whose Home Office immigration status specifies no recourse to public funds.

DWP decision makers undertake rigorous training and are expected to offer a high standard of support to help people identify the evidence they need to provide as part of their application for income-based benefits.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-16/59665/>

Legal Aid Scheme: Immigrants

Richard Holden (Conservative) [59916] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what estimate he has made of the cost of extending legal aid to EEA and Swiss nationals to enable them to apply for rights to enter and remain in the UK after the transition period.

Reply from Alex Chalk: The legal aid scheme is designed to target legal aid at those who need it most. Publicly-funded immigration legal advice is available to particularly vulnerable individuals such as victims of modern slavery. Legal aid may also be available through the Exceptional Case Funding scheme, subject to the relevant criteria being met.

Therefore, no estimate has been made as to the cost of extending legal aid to EEA and Swiss nationals to apply for rights to enter and remain in the UK after the transition period.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-16/59916/>

Migrant Workers: Doctors

Abena Oppong-Asare (Labour) [62693] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, on what date she plans to commence the NHS surcharge exemption for migrant doctors.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Government is committed to introducing the NHS surcharge exemption as soon as practicable.

The Prime Minister has confirmed that health and care staff who have paid the fee since 21 May will be refunded.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-22/62693/>

The following five questions all received the same answer

Visas: British National (Overseas)

Caroline Lucas (Green) [59415] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Prime Minister's article in The Times newspaper of 3 June 2020, what steps she is taking to ensure that the pathway to citizenship, referred to by the Prime Minister, is straightforward and accessible for students who hold BN(O) passports.

Stephen Kinnock (Labour) [59784] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the extension from six months to 12 months of the rights of BN(O) passport holders to work in the UK in the event that China imposes its national security law on Hong Kong will be conditional on having a sponsor and a job offer that meets a minimum-salary threshold.

Stephen Kinnock (Labour) [59785] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, under the terms of the Government's offer to extend the rights of BN(O) passport holders to work in the UK from six months to 12 months should China's national security law be imposed on Hong Kong, for how long will BN(O) passport holders need to be resident in the UK before they can apply for citizenship.

Stephen Kinnock (Labour) [59786] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the extension from six months to 12 months of the rights of BN(O) passport holders to work in the UK in the event that China imposes its national security law on Hong Kong, if she will confirm whether people wishing to apply for British citizenship will not be deported back to Hong Kong when their 12 months comes to an end.

Stephen Kinnock (Labour) [59787] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the offer to extend the rights of BN(O) passport holders to work in the UK from six months to 12 months should China's national security law be imposed on Hong Kong, whether people wishing to apply for British citizenship will be allowed to remain in the UK for as long as it takes for them to qualify for citizenship rights, and for their applications to be processed.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The UK will continue to defend the rights & freedoms of the people of Hong Kong. Should China push ahead and impose national security legislation on Hong Kong then we will provide a generous offer to BN(O)s of a bespoke immigration route providing unrestricted access to work and study with a pathway to apply for citizenship.

We are working closely with the Foreign & Commonwealth Office and domestic departments on the offer to British Nationals (Overseas) and will set out more detail in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-15/59415/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-16/59784/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-16/59785/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-16/59786/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-16/59787/>

The newspaper article referred to above can be read at
<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-boris-johnson-article-on-hong-kong-3-june-2020>

Visas: Coronavirus

Patrick Grady (SNP) [59814] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of extending all visa categories to compensate for the time lost during the covid-19 lockdown.

Reply from Kevin Foster: This government has taken the unprecedented measure of extending visas until 31 July in order to support people unable to leave the UK, due to circumstances outside of their control.

The Home Office has put in place a range of measures to support those affected by the covid-19 outbreak, full details of which are published on GOV.UK at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-uk-visa-applicants-and-temporary-uk-residents>.

We continue to monitor the situation closely and take exceptional circumstances into account.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-16/59814/>

Visas: Coronavirus

Dan Jarvis (Labour) [61500] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 4 May 2020 to Question 40621, on Visas: Married People, whether she has plans to waive fees for visa holders applying for extensions to family visas who are unable to marry before those visas expire as a result of the covid-19 outbreak.

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

A fiancé, fiancée or proposed civil partner whose wedding or civil partnership is delayed due to COVID-19, can request an extension until 31 July by updating their records with the Coronavirus Immigration Team.

(https://gov.smartwebportal.co.uk/homeoffice/public/ho_form.html)

The family Immigration Rules currently allows for an extension of leave if there is good reason for a wedding or civil partnership not taking place during the initial six-month period of leave to enter. Restrictions on giving notice to marry or delay to a wedding or civil partnership due to Covid-19 will be considered a good reason under this policy. Applicants are still required to pay the application fee and charges. They may otherwise be eligible to remain on the basis of exceptional circumstances.

These are unprecedented times and we may make further temporary adjustments to requirements where necessary and appropriate.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-18/61500/>

The answer referred to above can be read at
<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-27/40621/>

Migrant Workers: Social Services

Dan Poulter (Conservative) [61460] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans her Department has to extend the eligibility to apply for the proposed NHS Visa to social care staff.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Government is committed to introducing an NHS

visa which will provide eligible doctors, nurses and other allied health professionals, and their families, with fast-track entry, reduced visa fees and dedicated resource. In addition, as announced by the Prime Minister on 21 May, NHS workers and wider health and social care workers, including those coming on the NHS Visa, will be removed from having to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge.

Further details, including regarding eligibility, will be published in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-18/61460/>

Migrant Workers: Visas

Lisa Cameron (SNP) [59804] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to reverse her Department's plans to not issue visas to low-skilled migrants in response to the covid-19 pandemic.

Reply from Kevin Foster: We will not be introducing a route for employers to recruit at or near the legal minimum wage those the member believes are "low-skilled migrants" based on job offers which do not meet the requirements of the new skilled worker route.

Immigration policies should be considered as part of, not as an alternative to, efforts to get those UK based workers who have lost their employment due to the impacts of Covid-19 back into work or ensuring those who work in key roles are offered appropriate salary packages.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-16/59804/>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Afzal Khan (Labour) [61573] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Tier 4 Student Visas were granted in the period January to June (a) 2018, (b) 2019 and (c) 2020.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office publishes data on Tier 4 visas in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release'

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

Data on grants of Tier 4 visas are published in table Vis_D02 of the entry clearance detailed datasets

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/managed-migration-datasets#entry-clearance-visas-granted-outside-the-uk>).

Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data relates to year ending March 2020. Data for April to June 2020 are due for future publication on 27 August 2020.

Additionally, the Home Office publishes a high-level overview of the data in the entry clearance summary tables

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2020/list-of-tables#entry-clearance-visas>).

The 'contents' sheet contains an overview of all available data on entry clearance visas.

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

(https://www.gov.uk/search/research-and-statistics?keywords=immigration&content_store_document_type=upcoming_statistics&organisations%5B%5D=home-office&order=relevance).

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-18/61573/>

The following four questions all received the same answer

Immigration: EEA Nationals

Jamie Stone (Liberal Democrat) [3285] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many EEA (a) nationals and (b) family members have permanent residence in the UK.

Jamie Stone (Liberal Democrat) [3286] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of EEA nationals that applied for permanent residence (a) applied for and (b) were granted settled status.

Jamie Stone (Liberal Democrat) [3287] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many EEA nationals that applied for permanent residence (a) applied for and (b) were granted British Citizenship.

Jamie Stone (Liberal Democrat) [3288] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government is taking to ensure that EEA nationals with permanent residence apply for (a) settled status or (b) British citizenship before 30 June 2021.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The latest published information on decisions on applications for permanent residence documents by EEA nationals and their family members can be found in the Home Office's quarterly 'Immigration Statistics' publication, available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2020>.

Specifically, table ee_02_q 'Issue and refusal of residence documentation (excluding EU Settlement Scheme) to EEA nationals and their family members, by country of nationality' available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2020/list-of-tables#european-economic-area-eea>.

The latest published information on EU Settlement Scheme applications received and decided can be found in the Home Office's 'EU Settlement Scheme monthly statistics' available at:

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

The total number of EUSS applications received up to 31 May 2020 was more than 3.6 million (3,612,400).

The latest published information on applications and decisions in respect of British citizenship can be found in the Home Office's quarterly 'Immigration Statistics' publication, available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2020>

Specifically, datasets Cit_D01 – Applications for British citizenship, by application type and nationality and Cit_D02 – Grants of British citizenship, by application type, nationality, sex and age available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2020/list-of-tables#citizenship>.

In order to ensure resident EEA nationals and their family members understand how and by when to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme, the Home Office has put in place a comprehensive communications and engagement plan, using all available channels to reach our audiences – such as marketing, presentations, email updates, toolkits and webinars.

The Home Office delivered a £4 million marketing campaign last year to encourage resident EEA nationals to apply and further campaign activity was undertaken earlier this year. Alongside this, we have also undertaken extensive engagement and outreach with stakeholder groups, including employers, local authorities and community organisations. No-one will be left behind, which is why we are working

in partnership with representatives of vulnerable groups and other experts to make sure everyone knows what they need to do and has the right level of support.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-14/3285/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-14/3286/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-14/3287/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-14/3288/>

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

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Hywel Williams (Plaid Cymru) [7123] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to increase the proportion of EU27 citizens in Wales who apply for settled status.

Hywel Williams (Plaid Cymru) [7124] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if her Department will increase the number of scanning centres in Wales to improve access for EU27 citizens applying for settled status through the EU Settlement Scheme.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The latest published information shows more than 3.6 million EU Settlement Scheme applications had been received up to 31 May 2020. Of these, 59,400 applications had been received in Wales. The latest figures can be found here:

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

In order to ensure resident EEA and Swiss nationals, and their family members, understand how and by when to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme, the Home Office has put in place a comprehensive communications and engagement plan, using all available channels to reach our audiences – such as marketing, presentations, email updates, toolkits and webinars.

The Home Office has delivered a £4 million marketing campaign to encourage resident EEA and Swiss nationals to apply. During the first burst of campaign activity billboards were placed in 186 locations in Wales with 50% of these posters in Welsh and 50% in English.

No-one will be left behind, which is why we are working in partnership with representatives of vulnerable groups and other expert organisations to make sure the right level of support is available. This includes £9 million of funding awarded last year to 57 voluntary and community sector organisations across the UK to assist vulnerable and at-risk EEA and Swiss citizens and their family members. Five organisations are providing support for EEA and Swiss citizens in Wales: Newport Mind Association, Tros Gynnal Plant, International Organisation for Migration, Royal Association for Deaf People, and Rights of Women.

There are multiple ways applicants can have their identity documents checked as part of the application process, including using the EU Exit: ID Document Check smartphone app or by posting identity documents to the Home Office.

The identity document scanner locations are currently closed due to the COVID pandemic, following the latest public health guidance to protect staff. However, the

Home Office and its delivery partners are keeping this situation under constant review and will endeavour to reinstate identity document scanner locations to their original capacity in line with public health guidance.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-23/7123/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-23/7124/>

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

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

Immigration: EU Nationals

Neale Hanvey (SNP) [23400] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps will be taken by UK Border Force to ascertain whether EU citizens entering the UK have settled status after the transition period.

Reply from Kevin Foster: After the Transition Period EU citizens will not be routinely asked to prove they have been granted status under the EU Settlement scheme in order to re-enter the UK, but systems will be in place to allow border officials to make such checks where necessary.

Once the new points-based immigration system is fully introduced, Border Force will be able to identify those individuals granted status digitally without the need for the individual to provide evidence.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-02/23400/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Caroline Lucas (Green) [8209] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Answer of 16 October 2019 to freedom of information request 54536, for what reason 89.5 per cent of administrative reviews of EU Settlement Scheme applications resulted in an initial decision being overturned; what steps her Department is taking to (a) improve decision making to ensure the accuracy of initial decisions and (b) issue guidance to claimants undertaking the application process on the evidence required for settled status; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The number of administrative reviews of decisions under the EU Settlement Scheme is very low compared to the number of applications concluded (more than 3.3 million) to 31 May 2020.

Where EU Settlement Scheme decisions are overturned at administrative review, in the majority of cases this is a result of applicants providing new information or evidence which was not provided with their original application.

There are a small number of cases where a caseworker error has occurred, and in such cases the application fee for the administrative review is refunded. Our administrative review teams provide feedback to the initial decision-making teams to reduce the likelihood of such errors being repeated.

There is a wide range of guidance and support available for applicants and, where necessary, our caseworkers will work with applicants to help them provide the evidence required to qualify for status under the scheme. More information on the evidence required when making an application is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families/what-youll-need-to-apply>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-27/8209/>

The Freedom of Information release with the reference number listed above was issued on 31 July 2019 (not 16 October) and can be read at

<https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/589318/response/1407470/attach/5/FOI%2054536%20Response.pdf>

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

Immigration: EU Nationals

Neale Hanvey (SNP) [23399] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the funding allocated to charitable organisations to support vulnerable EU citizens to apply for EU Settled Status will be continued beyond March 2020.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The current grant funded organisations have had their funding extended until September 2020. In March, the Home Office announced a further £8 million would be made available to ensure funding for support organisations could continue through to March 2021. A new grant scheme has been launched and the bidding process started in May 2020.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-02/23399/>

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

The following three questions all received the same answer

Asylum

Anneliese Dodds (Labour Co-op) [28753] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the date of receipt was of the oldest outstanding asylum claim.

Asylum: Interviews

Anneliese Dodds (Labour Co-op) [28755] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will publish the information she holds on trends in the level of time taken from the date of an asylum claim to the date of a substantive asylum interview in the last five years.

Anneliese Dodds (Labour Co-op) [28756] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to reduce the time between the date of an asylum claim and the date of a substantive asylum interview.

Reply from Chris Philp: The date of receipt of the oldest outstanding asylum claim is 23rd August 2012.

There are cases in particular where more complex issues arise around a claimant's entitlement to asylum and there is a need for us to engage in wider stakeholder involvement, alongside additional analysis and scrutiny. These cases continue to be processed as quickly as possible, but the Secretary of State has to be satisfied that our decisions are compliant with the 1951 Refugee Convention prior to service as this is a mandatory requirement.

The Home Office does not routinely publish information on the trends in the level of time taken from the date of an asylum claim to the date of a substantive asylum interview as this information is not held in a reportable format

However, the Home Office do publish information on the number of main asylum applications awaiting an initial decision, by duration from the period end of March 2020, and can be found in table ASY_04 of the published Immigration statistics www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2020/list-of-tables#asylum-and-resettlement

Over the last 18 months, UK Visas and Immigration have increased the number of Asylum decision makers and support staff as part of a rolling recruitment campaign and mobilised a transformation programme that seeks to simplify, streamline and digitise processes as part of the plans to speed up the asylum decision making process and reduce the time from date of claim to substantive interview.

In line with the Home Office's commitment to protect the health and wellbeing of its staff and applicants as a top priority in response to COVID-19, Asylum Operations made the decision to cease face to face substantive asylum interviews with effect from Thursday 19th March 2020.

However, it is crucial to our applicants that we restart processing their applications for protection as soon as it is safe to do so. The Home Office has successfully used video technology to support remote interviewing for more than 2 years and has appropriate operating procedures that are designed to ensure participants are able to give the best account of their circumstances.

To keep people safe but allow the Home Office to gather the additional information needed to make a decision on their claim for protection, Asylum Operations have secured additional mobile digital and video interviewing kit that enables more applicants to be interviewed remotely. 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/2020-03-12/28753/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-12/28755/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-12/28756/>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Asylum

Patrick Grady (SNP) [59811] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when reporting requirements are due to be reinstated for asylum seekers in each (a) nation and (b) region of the UK.

Patrick Grady (SNP) [59812] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of extending the current exemption from reporting requirements for asylum seekers.

Patrick Grady (SNP) [59813] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what notice period will be provided to asylum seekers before reporting requirements are reinstated.

Reply from Chris Philp: Reporting centres will only begin to open when social distancing and other preventative measures are in place to keep those that we require to report safe. Centres will only open in line with each of the four nations public health guidelines.

Before inviting individuals back into reporting, case owners will assess cases based on the persons harm they pose to the public, their vulnerability and personal circumstances.

All individuals required to return to a reporting centre will be given a minimum of seven days' notice before their first appointment.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-16/59811/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-16/59812/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-16/59813/>

Asylum

Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat) [59205] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of enabling people to apply for asylum at Regional Intake Units.

Reply from Chris Philp: We take the wellbeing of asylum seekers extremely seriously.

As part of our response to COVID-19, we have introduced regional intake units to allow asylum claims to be registered in a safe way that adheres to social distancing guidance and minimises travel. The introduction of the regional intake units in Glasgow, Belfast, Liverpool, Leeds, Solihull and Cardiff, is a temporary measure in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and these changes do not represent a new operating model. These are contingency measures put in place to allow asylum claims to be registered in a safe manner and ensure those that are at immediate risk of destitution can access support.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-12/59205/>

Asylum

Zarah Sultana (Labour) [60876] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking during the covid-19 outbreak to improve the (a) provision and (b) accessibility of Government guidance and information on asylum to people seeking asylum.

Reply from Chris Philp: In March, we set up a dedicated engagement channel with key stakeholders to cover the impact of Covid-19 on asylum and resettlement, and to ensure that the necessary guidance and information was reaching asylum seekers across the UK. The British Red Cross were nominated by the sector as the single point of contact; officials speak to them on a regular basis and calls are often accompanied by written updates, which the British Red Cross share with the wider sector, and onto asylum seekers. We have also set up a similar engagement channel with the Strategic Migration Partnership, which also includes a weekly call and regular written updates.

Our liaison with British Red Cross as a single point of contact has successfully ensured that asylum seekers have the information they require in recent months. We are now in the process of drafting additional guidance, which will be published on GOV.UK, on asylum interviewing and decision-making during the period in which our operations are still affected by the Covid-19 outbreak in the UK. This will provide greater provision of information to asylum seekers.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-17/60876/>

Asylum

Zarah Sultana (Labour) [60877] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been waiting more than six months for an asylum decision; and if she will grant those people the right to work and access education.

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

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

Data on the number of asylum applications awaiting an initial decision or further review are published in table 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 the year ending September 2019. Additionally, the Home Office publishes a high-level overview of the data in the 'summary tables' (attached). 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.gov.uk/search/research-and-statistics?content_store_document_type=upcoming_statistics&organisations%5B%5D=home-office&order=release-date-oldest).

Asylum seekers can work in the UK if their claim has been outstanding for 12 months, through no fault of their own. Those allowed to work are restricted to jobs on the Shortage Occupation List, which is published by the Home Office and based on expert advice from the Migration Advisory Committee.

Asylum seeker right to work is a complex issue. A review of the policy is ongoing, and we are considering the evidence put forward on the issue.

There is nothing in the Immigration Rules to prevent asylum seekers studying. However, asylum-seekers who wish to access higher education courses can expect to be charged the full cost of their course by the university concerned.

[Asylum summary tables](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-17/60877/>

Asylum

Zarah Sultana (Labour) [60878] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been waiting more than 12 months for an asylum decision; and if she will grant those people Discretionary Leave to Remain.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office does not publish data on the number of people waiting for more than 12 months for an asylum decision.

The latest Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release, on data to the year ending March 2020, can be accessed at the following link:

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

Table Asy D03 of the 'asylum and resettlement detailed datasets' contains information on the number of asylum applications awaiting an initial decision or further review and are published in. Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook.

All asylum claims are carefully considered on their individual merits on the evidence available to the decision maker. We are committed to ensuring that asylum claims are considered without unnecessary delay, so that those who need protection are granted as soon as possible.

Discretionary Leave (DL) is granted outside the Immigration Rules in accordance with published Home Office policy. DL covers those few individuals who do not qualify for any leave under the Rules, but where there are exceptional or compassionate reasons for allowing them to remain in the UK; as such, it is intended to be used sparingly and decisions are made on a case-by-case basis. Delays in decision making occur for a number of reasons, some of which are outside of the Home Office's control, and it would generally not be appropriate to grant DL under these circumstances.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-17/60878/>

Asylum

Zarah Sultana (Labour) [60879] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department,

what feedback mechanism her Department has put in place for asylum seekers to communicate how well the Department has met their needs throughout their application process; and what recent assessment her Department has made of the quality of the support it provides to asylum seekers.

Reply from Chris Philp: UKVI uses feedback from complaints, reports and audits, surveys and customer focus groups to make sure that we are continually improving the service we provide to those who seek asylum in the UK.

UKVI work closely with our key partners and stakeholders to seek and share this feedback to identify ways in which we can improve the quality of experience of people seeking asylum in the UK.

We have recently set up a Customer Experience Management Team, based across the UK, who will work closely on a local level with stakeholders, to identify key areas to improve the overall experience for people seeking asylum in the UK.

Asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute are provided with free accommodation and a weekly cash allowance to cover their other essential living needs. With effect from 15 June, the allowance was raised from £37.75 to £39.60, an increase of around 5%. The increase is significantly higher than general inflation, which Office of National Statistics data shows was only 0.8% in the 12 months period to April 2020. Food inflation over the same period was only 1.4%. Asylum seekers also receive free NHS healthcare and free education for their children.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-17/60879/>

Asylum: Interviews

Daniel Zeichner (Labour) [59790] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when asylum seeker interviews that have been put on hold in response to the covid-19 outbreak will restart.

Reply from Chris Philp: Asylum Operations have secured a digital solution that can support remote interviewing and are working with delivery partners to enable the use of this technology. Asylum Ops remain committed to restarting substantive asylum interviews as soon as they 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/2020-06-16/59790/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Coronavirus

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [61728] To ask the Secretary of State for Home Department, pursuant to to the Answer of 7 May 2020 to Question 42081 on Asylum: Detention Centres and the Answer of 19 May 2020 to Question 46686 on Asylum: Housing, if he will publish the guidance issue by Public Health England to the Home Office that informed (a) the decision on 27 March 2020 to pause asylum support cessations and evictions and (b) the current review of this pause to be completed by end of June 2020.

Reply from Chris Philp: We have been working closely with National and Local health Colleagues throughout the pandemic to inform our approach. PHE guidance focused initially on the provision to self-isolate and social distance and, in the review, to follow MHCLG guidance in relation to moving home and social bubbles which was supported by PHE.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/government-advice-on-home-moving-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

and

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/meeting-people-from-outside-your-household>.

We also sought specific advice in relation to the pause of asylum support cessations and the subsequent review.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-19/61728/>

The answers referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-01/42081/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-13/46686/>

Asylum: Housing

Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat) [59206] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to end enforced room sharing between non-related persons in asylum support accommodation.

Reply from Chris Philp: Room sharing take place in a number of sectors and is not limited to supported asylum seekers.

There asylum accommodation contracts set out clearly when room sharing can take place and the numbers of people sharing rooms is minimal.

There are currently no plans to end room sharing for unrelated asylum seeking adults.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-12/59206/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Greek Islands: Asylum

Catherine West (Labour) [61752] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied children the Government plans to resettle from the Greek Islands under the Dublin Agreement in 2020.

Asylum: Children

Catherine West (Labour) [61753] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of taking additional child refugees and asylum other than the quota provided in Dublin agreement.

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

The UK remains fully committed to meeting its obligations under the Dublin Regulation and we will continue to accept request for transfer until the end of the transition period.

The number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children transferred to the UK under the Dublin Regulation is dependent on the number of requests received from EU Member States and how many of those requests are accepted. 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>

The UK committed to a one-off relocation of 480 unaccompanied children from Europe to the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016. We have now transferred 478 unaccompanied children from participating States, including Greece and will complete the final transfers as soon as it is safe to do so. We welcome the pledges made by other countries to support Greece and stand ready

to offer advice and guidance to those developing their own schemes.
<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-17/61752/>
and
<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-17/61753/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Immigrants: Health Services

Lord Jones of Cheltenham (Liberal Democrat) [HL5379] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 4 June (HL4833), what assessment they have made of the cost of removing the requirement to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge for all workers from overseas and their families.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The purpose of the Surcharge is to benefit the NHS, help to care for the sick and save lives. It has raised approximately £900million since its introduction in 2015. This income goes to the NHS, funding life-saving work right across the UK.

An Impact Assessment was published alongside the laying of the latest SI. This can be found at the following link:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukia/2020/30/pdfs/ukia_20200030_en.pdf.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-08/HL5379/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-21/HL4833/>

Visas: Married People

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL5529] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that a temporary reduction in earnings due to the COVID-19 pandemic does not affect entitlement to a family visa for a spouse or partner.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: 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/Lords/2020-06-10/HL5529/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Home Office: Staff

The Lord Bishop of Southwark [HL5623] To ask Her Majesty's Government what advice and training they have given to Home Office caseworkers about (1) the right of abode in the UK, and (2) the level of discretion that caseworkers can use when dealing with Commonwealth Citizens who have resided for a long time in the UK, but who do not have correct documentation.

Immigration

The Lord Bishop of Southwark [HL5624] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) gaps in national insurance records where the fault does not lie with the individual, and (2) whether Home Office caseworkers should be able to use discretion when dealing with Commonwealth Citizens, including those with right of abode, who have resided for a long time in the UK, but who do not have correct documentation.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Caseworkers considering right of abode applications are experienced and suitably trained.

In February 2020, as part of the reinspection report into failed right of abode applications, the Independent Chief Inspector for Borders and Immigration (ICIBI) reviewed current training packs and materials used to train Right of Abode (RoA) caseworkers. The report can be found at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/865201/ICIBI_Failed_Right_of_Abode_Web_version.pdf

Paragraph 3.20 on page 7 of the report in particular states "According to the evidence provided for this reinspection, the numbers of RoA applications received each year are small, around 1,200; the trend is downwards; the refusal rate is low, 10 to 12% in the last two business years; guidance and SOPs are up-to-date; and, caseworkers are experienced and appear genuinely committed to providing good customer service."

Caseworkers have discretion when dealing with Commonwealth Citizens who have resided for a long time in the UK. The caseworker guidance can be found on gov.uk:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/807365/windrush-scheme-casework-guidance-v3.0-ext.pdf

Page 11 of the caseworker guidance states "You should recognise that people may not have documents that are over 30 years old and help people to build a picture of their life in the UK, using documentation and evidence provided, or that you can access through systems available to you, including through use of cross-departmental data sharing."

Furthermore, the guidance is clear on page 13 that caseworkers "must take a rounded view where evidence is not provided that proves matters of fact and decide the case on balance of probability, taking into account the picture of life in the UK, evidence in the round and criminality."

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-11/HL5623/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-11/HL5624/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration Controls: Musicians

Lord Stevenson of Balmacara (Labour) [HL5417] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the impact of COVID-19 on live music events, what plans they have to consult with music industry representatives on how that sector can be supported through amendments to the Immigration Rules.

Visas: Musicians

Lord Stevenson of Balmacara (Labour) [HL5420] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the commercial and cultural cases for facilitating continued ease of movement for musicians between the UK and EU; and what steps they are taking to ensure that this is reflected in the Immigration Rules.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government continues to engage with the creative sector to ensure the future immigration system will enable the UK's cultural life to continue to thrive.

Currently, visiting artists, entertainers and musicians can perform at events, take part in competitions and auditions, make personal appearances and take part in promotional activities for up to 6 months without the need for formal sponsorship or a work visa.

Artists wishing to come to the UK for longer-term work will need to do so under the future points-based system. There will continue to be special arrangements for creative workers, which in future will encompass both EEA and non-EEA citizens.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-08/HL5417/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-08/HL5420/>

Musicians: Brexit

Lord Stevenson of Balmacara (Labour) [HL5419] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the likelihood of any restrictions introduced on EU musicians touring in the UK following the completion of the transition period being reciprocated for UK musicians touring in the EU.

Reply from Baroness Barran: DCMS has engaged extensively with union bodies, artists and cultural organisations to help understand the needs of the creative and cultural sector on their preparations for the ending of the transition period. We understand the diverse circumstances of companies, organisations and individual practitioners and how they may need to adapt as the transition period ends.

On temporary entry for business purposes (mode 4) as part of a free trade agreement, we want a reciprocal agreement that would enable UK citizens will be able to undertake some paid business activities in the EU without a work permit, on a short-term basis. The precise details, including range of activities, documentation needed, and the time limit, is a matter for negotiation

We are confident that such a free trade agreement based on friendly cooperation can be achieved. However, in all circumstances, we expect UK musicians' work to continue to be an export that is highly valued in the EU as it is across the world.

We will continue to work with these stakeholders in the coming months and we will continue to keep Parliament informed with analysis at appropriate times in a way that does not impede our ability to strike the best deal for the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-08/HL5419/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Lord Broers (Crossbench) [HL5584] To ask Her Majesty's Government when the proposal for a two-year graduate work visa for international students will take effect.

Lord Broers (Crossbench) [HL5585] To ask Her Majesty's Government how long international students in the academic year 2020–21 will have to be physically present in the UK to qualify for the two-year graduate work visa.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Graduate route will be introduced in the summer of 2021. To give assurance to those who begin their course overseas this year, the Government published guidance for international students on 16 June confirming that those who enter the UK to complete their course before 6 April 2021 will be eligible for the route if they meet the requirements.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-11/HL5584/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-11/HL5585/>

Refugees: Children

The Lord Bishop of St Albans [HL5618] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the conditions for child refugees in Greece; what humanitarian and medical aid they have provided to those refugees; and what plans they have, if any, to allow them to come to the UK.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The UK Government has previously raised concerns about the conditions in the migrant camps with the Greek Government and in light of our strong bilateral relationship will continue to do so when necessary. On 22 April the UK and Greece signed the UK-Greece Migration Action Plan, which aims to improve overall management of irregular migration in the Eastern Mediterranean

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/historic-uk-greece-migration-action-plan-signed>).

As part of this ongoing cooperation the UK will continue to provide further practical support when possible – this recently included the provision of over £500,000 for urgently needed humanitarian goods and in 2019 the UK helped finance the Metadrasi children's shelter on Samos, which provides a safe place to stay and professional support to the most vulnerable unaccompanied children who arrive on Samos.

Protecting vulnerable children remains a key priority of this Government and we have a proud record of doing so through our asylum system and our resettlement schemes. The UK remains fully committed to meeting its obligations under the Dublin III Regulation, and unaccompanied children can continue to transfer to the UK from Greece under Dublin. Despite covid-19 restrictions, the UK is ready to accept transfers under Dublin whenever Member States are in a position to make those arrangements. We recently worked closely with Greece to complete the transfer of vulnerable people, including unaccompanied children, on 11 May who were united with family members in the UK. We continue to liaise with our counterparts in Member States on what actions can be taken during this period and to effect transfers as soon as it is safe and practical to do so

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-11/HL5618/>

Asylum

Lord Marlesford (Conservative) [HL5537] To ask Her Majesty's Government

what requirements have to be fulfilled before a person who has been granted political asylum in the UK can (1) be granted UK citizenship and (2) be issued with a British passport; and what is the shortest period in which this process can be completed.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The requirements for naturalisation as a British citizen can be found on gov.uk at:-

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-citizenship-indefinite-leave-to-remain>

Before applying for citizenship, a person granted political asylum in the UK should normally apply for permanent residence after they have lived in the UK for five years.

To become a British citizen, you normally need to have held permanent residence in the UK for 12 months, before you submit your application to naturalise, unless you are married or in a civil partnership with a British citizen. The service standard for applications for citizenship to be decided is six months.

After you have become a British citizen, you can apply for British passport which can take approximately four weeks to be processed.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-10/HL5537/>

Asylum

Lord Marlesford (Conservative) [HL5389] To ask Her Majesty's Government in what circumstances individual applications for asylum are referred to ministers; what proportion of Home Office decisions on asylum applications are notified to ministers' private offices (1) before, and (2) after, those decisions are communicated to the applicant for asylum; and how many such decisions have been so notified during the first five months of 2020.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Individual applications for asylum are referred to ministers when they are identified as potentially sensitive or high-profile. Such cases may be referred to Ministers by the relevant case working team if they feel it appropriate or, dependant on the circumstances of the case, when they are raised through MPs representation, or in Parliament; or when specific Ministerial authorisation is required.

The Home Office is unable to state what proportion of decisions on asylum applications are referred to Minister's private offices, before and/or after those decisions are communicated to the applicant for asylum or how many such decisions have been notified during the first five months of 2020, as this does not form part of any routinely published data and is not held in a reportable format.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-08/HL5389/>

Asylum

Lord Marlesford (Conservative) [HL5391] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many grants of asylum were granted in (1) 2017, (2) 2018, and (3) 2019; and what was the breakdown of nationality of those granted asylum in each of those years.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office publishes data on asylum applications in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release'

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

Data on the number of grants of asylum are published in tables Asy_D02 of the 'Asylum applications, initial decisions and resettlement' (attached) datasets, and are broken down by nationality and type of grant (asylum, humanitarian protection, discretionary leave etc.) for all requested years.

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 March 2020.

Additionally, the Home Office publishes a high-level overview of the data in the

'summary tables' (attached). 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.gov.uk/search/research-and-statistics?keywords=immigration&content_store_document_type=upcoming_statistics&organisations%5B%5D=home-office&order=relevance).

Annex A (attached) provides the published data from Asy_D02. The data relate to grants made at initial decision and include main applicants only. The pivot table can be used to show data on nationality.

[Asylum applications, initial decisions](#)

[Asylum summary tables](#)

[Annex A](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-08/HL5391/>

Asylum: Finance

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL5484] To ask Her Majesty's Government what (1) financial, and (2) other forms of, support are available to asylum seekers awaiting decisions on their status.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: If any asylum seeker would otherwise be destitute they are provided with accommodation and a weekly allowance to cover their essential living needs, although the allowance is not provided if they are accommodated in a full-board facility.

The level of the weekly standard allowance from 15 June 2020 is £39.60. The allowance is also provided to asylum seekers who have adequate accommodation provided by their families or friends but need help to cover their essential living needs. Council tax and utilities are also paid for, and free NHS healthcare and education for their children are provided.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-09/HL5484/>

Asylum: Finance

Baroness Ister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL5527] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 12 May (HL4183), what proportion of the increase of 26p a day in asylum support is attributable to the additional costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, such as those arising from increased hygiene needs.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We review the level of financial support provided to asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute annually, using a methodology that has been in place since 2014 and which the courts have agreed is rational and lawful. The methodology takes account of the costs of food, clothes, toiletries and other items.

The standard weekly allowance has been raised to £39.60 from £37.75, an increase of around 5%, because the methodology showed this is now the amount the average asylum seeker needs to meet their essential living needs. This increase is considerably higher than current year to year rise in general inflation, which was reported to be 0.8% in April.

This allowance is only one part of the package of support provided. We also provide free accommodation, utilities are paid for, council tax is paid for, and there is free access to the NHS and free education for their children.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-10/HL5527/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

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

The following four questions all received the same answer

Detention Centres: Risk Assessment

Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat) [HL5672] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any additional guidance has been issued to Home Office immigration detention case workers on completing IS91RA risk assessments as a result of COVID-19.

Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat) [HL5673] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their current policy on classifying those with COVID-19 comorbidities under the Adults at Risk in Immigration Detention policy; and how that policy has been disseminated to (1) detainees, (2) stakeholders, (3) providers, and (4) caseworkers.

Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat) [HL5674] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether a person at risk of severe illness from COVID-19 due to an underlying health condition will be automatically assessed as Level 3 under the Adults at Risk in Immigration Detention policy.

Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat) [HL5675] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any additional guidance has been issued to Home Office immigration detention case workers on making assessments under the Adults at Risk in Immigration Detention policy as a result of COVID-19.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The most recent guidance for staff operating in immigration removal centres (IRC) and residential short-term holding facilities (RSTHF) on the principles for managing COVID-19 in places of detention came into force on 5 May 2020 and has been published on Gov.UK. This guidance includes advice on the circumstances in which an IS91RA form should be completed and submitted to the Home Office.

Supplementary guidance on managing cases of individuals with COVID-19 comorbidities under the adults at risk in immigration detention policy (AAR) came into force on 20 March 2020. Under this policy, individuals suffering from one of the conditions set out in Public Health England guidance on COVID-19 are automatically regarded as falling within level 3 of the AAR. The policy was made available to Home Office staff and to contracted staff in immigration removal centres, and it has been published on Gov.UK. As of 19 June, there are currently no cases of Covid-19 in immigration removal centres.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-15/HL5672/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-15/HL5673/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-15/HL5674/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-15/HL5675/>

Updated versions of the guidance referred to above can be read at

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

and

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adults-at-risk-in-immigration-detention/detention-considerations-covid-19>

and

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-prisons-and-other-prescribed-places-of-detention-guidance/covid-19-prisons-and-other-prescribed-places-of-detention-guidance>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Claudia Webbe (Labour) (658) Leave to Remain status – That this House notes that currently in the UK there are an unknown number of persons who are not UK citizens, who do not have leave to remain in this country, who lack any entitlement to support from the state, who are therefore entirely without funds to feed, clothe and house themselves and their families and who are unable to comply with Government guidance on self-isolation and social distancing; and considers it essential that the Government takes immediate action to ensure that leave to remain in the UK is granted to all such persons who are within the UK but are not citizens, irrespective of their nationality or immigration status, so that they can access healthcare, food and housing to enable them to adhere to Government advice on social distancing, ensure the health of themselves and their families and help protect the health of all people in the UK.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/57173/leave-to-remain-status>

Press Releases

Over £1 million offered in compensation to the Windrush generation

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/over-1-million-offered-in-compensation-to-the-windrush-generation>

New working group launched to address challenges faced by Windrush generation

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-cross-government-working-group-launched-to-address-challenges-faced-by-windrush-generation-and-their-families>

New Publications

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

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

To access any of the following factsheets in Italian, Lithuanian, Polish, Romanian, and Spanish, see

<https://justcitizens.scot/EU/>

EU Citizens and Your Right to Work

https://justcitizens.scot/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/1_JRScot_Factsheet_Eng_RightWork.pdf

EU Citizens and Your Right to NHS Healthcare

https://justcitizens.scot/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2_JRScot_Factsheet_Eng_RightHealth.pdf

EU Citizens and Your Right to Vote

https://justcitizens.scot/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/3_JRScot_Factsheet_Eng_RightVote.pdf

EU Citizens and Your Right to Study

https://justcitizens.scot/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/4_JRScot_Factsheet_Eng_RightStudy.pdf

EU Citizens and Your Right to Access Benefits and Social Work Support

https://justcitizens.scot/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/5_JRScot_Factsheet_Eng_RightBenefit.pdf

EU Citizens and Your Housing Rights

https://justcitizens.scot/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/6_JRScot_Factsheet_Eng_RightHousing.pdf

News

Home Office criticised by statistics watchdog after refusing to give data on controversial immigration policy for 'confusing and unclear' reasons

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-watchdog-immigration-policy-uk-statistics-a9581091.html>

Rule that forces migrant workers to choose between 'financial ruin' or risking their lives to work during pandemic must be scrapped, say MPs

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/coronavirus-migrant-workers-nrpf-universal-credit-dwp-home-office-a9578706.html>

Windrush: Priti Patel promises to implement recommendations

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-53150758>

Priti Patel 'not apologising' after just 60 Windrush victims compensated in a year

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/18536848.priti-patel-not-apologising-just-60-windrush-victims-compensated-year/>

Windrush: 'Grave risk' of scandal repeat, warns review author

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-53129844>

Windrush generation migrant may die before citizenship granted, family says

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/windrush-generation-citizenship-uk-jamaica-a9580371.html>

Windrush scandal: cross-government group aims to tackle 'terrible' treatment

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/jun/22/windrush-scandal-cross-government-group-aims-to-tackle-terrible-treatment>

UK government to act on all 30 Windrush recommendations

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/jun/23/uk-government-to-act-on-all-30-windrush-recommendations>

Tackling the lack of compensation for Windrush victims

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/jun/24/tackling-the-lack-of-compensation-for-windrush-victims>

UK Border Force detained pregnant woman for 24 hours, inspectors find

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/jun/24/uk-border-force-detained-pregnant-woman-for-24-hours-inspectors-find>

Glasgow stabbings: Concerns over asylum hotel plan ahead of incident

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-53205396>

Mears breaks silence over bloodbath at Glasgow hotel it used to house asylum seekers

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18546061.mears-breaks-silence-bloodbath-glasgow-hotel-used-house-asylum-seekers/>

Scottish Refugee Council Statement in response to violence in Glasgow hotel

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/statement-in-response-to-violence-in-glasgow-hotel/>

Home Office under fire for ignoring refugees' 'appalling' accommodation problems

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18546000.home-office-fire-ignoring-refugees-appalling-accommodation-problems/>

Lock change evictions threat lifted

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/lock-changes-threat-lifted/>

Lock-change eviction threat lifted for asylum seekers in Glasgow

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/jun/25/lock-change-eviction-threat-lifted-for-asylum-seekers-in-glasgow>

Glasgow attack: Hotel's asylum seekers 'suffering depression'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/glasgow-attack-hotels-asylum-seekers-suffering-depression-8rfhrdq7c>

Fears rise over mental health of refugees during lockdown

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18546094.fears-rise-mental-health-refugees-lockdown/>

Refugees and asylum seekers 'at risk of homelessness' as Home Office suspends evictions ban

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/refugees-asylum-seekers-evictions-ban-homelessness-home-office-lockdown-a9582946.html>

Scrap UK rule that has left 1m migrant workers at risk of destitution, say MPs

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/jun/22/scrap-no-recourse-to-public-funds-rules-left-1m-migrants-on-edge-of-destitution-say-mps>

Tory revolt grows over end to child migrant deals

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/tory-revolt-grows-over-end-to-child-migrant-deals-23hnfjknf>

Final bid to force Boris Johnson to let child refugees reunite with relatives in UK

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/boris-johnson-child-refugees-family-asylum-seekers-eu-a9585966.html>

Britain is No 1 destination for children seeking asylum in EU

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/britain-is-no-1-destination-for-children-seeking-asylum-in-eu-jwrf8xwz2>

'It wasn't an interview – it was an interrogation': How asylum seekers are made to feel 'like criminals' during Home Office questioning

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-seekers-uk-home-office-interviews-interrogation-a9576301.html>

Thousands of potential trafficking victims 'not given vital support'

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/jun/24/thousands-of-potential-trafficking-victims-not-given-vital-support>

Reading attacks: Priti Patel vows to end delays in deportation

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/reading-attacks-priti-patel-vows-to-end-delays-in-deportation-c90r3x98n>

The deportation of foreign criminals and asylum seekers: Unwelcome Guests

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/the-times-view-on-the-deportation-of-foreign-criminals-and-asylum-seekers-unwelcome-guests-tjvd59592>

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

The following five questions all received the same answer

Ethnic Groups: Equality

Yasmin Qureshi (Labour) [62369] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, with reference to the Race Disparity Audit, whether his Department has undertaken an impact assessment of the explain or change approach adopted by the Race Disparity Unit when working with the Department for Health and Social Care; and what changes to that Department's policies has the unit recommended as a result of data it has gathered since its inception.

Yasmin Qureshi (Labour) [62370] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, with reference to the Race Disparity Audit, whether his Department has undertaken an impact assessment of the explain or change approach adopted by the Race Disparity Unit when working with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government; and what changes to that Department's policies has the unit recommended as a result of data it has gathered since its inception.

Yasmin Qureshi (Labour) [62371] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, with reference to the Race Disparity Audit, whether his Department has undertaken an impact assessment of the explain or change approach adopted by the Race Disparity Unit when working with the Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy; and what changes to that Department's policies has the unit recommended as a result of data it has gathered since its inception.

Yasmin Qureshi (Labour) [62372] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, with reference to the Race Disparity Audit, whether his Department has undertaken an impact assessment of the explain or change approach adopted by the Race Disparity Unit when working with the Ministry of Justice; and what changes to that Department's policies has the unit recommended as a result of data it has gathered since its inception.

Yasmin Qureshi (Labour) [62373] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, with reference to the Race Disparity Audit, whether his Department has undertaken an impact assessment of the explain or change approach adopted by the Race Disparity Unit when working with the Department of Education; and what changes to that Department's policies has the unit recommended as a result of data it has gathered since its inception.

Reply from Chloe Smith: The 'Explain or Change' communications campaign concluded in June last year, and the Race Disparity Unit (RDU) continues to work with other Government departments to address disparities. This includes working with the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC), Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and the Department for Education (DfE). This work includes, for example, considering recommendations from an independent review of the Mental Health Act, acting on the recommendations of the Lammy Review and taking forward recommendations from the Timpson Review into school exclusions. As has been the case under successive administrations, details of internal discussions are not normally disclosed.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-22/62369/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-22/62370/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-22/62371/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-22/62372/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-22/62373/>

The Race Disparity Audit, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/686071/Revised_RDA_report_March_2018.pdf

Assessments: Ethnic Groups

Afzal Khan (Labour) [59881] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what discussions he has had with representatives from (a) Ofqual and (b) exam boards to ensure that BAME students are not disadvantaged by grade predictions.

Reply from Nick Gibb: The independent qualifications regulator, Ofqual, the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation, has been working with awarding organisations to develop a robust process for awarding grades this year.

Whilst these are matters for Ofqual, the Department has been keeping in close touch with Ofqual as it has worked up its proposals and has joined some meetings that Ofqual has held with the awarding organisations. Our shared aim is that the arrangements should deliver the fairest possible outcomes for all students, including Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) students.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-16/59881/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Pensions: Income

Angela Eagle (Labour) [62301] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what steps her Department taking to tackle the gap in pension income for (a) people who are BAME, (b) women and (c) low paid earners.

Pensions: Ethnic Groups

Angela Eagle (Labour) [62303] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what steps her Department is taking to increase the proportion of BAME workers who are part of the workplace pensions system.

Reply from Guy Opperman: The level of earnings at which workers are automatically enrolled (the earnings trigger) is subject to an annual statutory review. The review includes analysis of the equalities impact and an assessment of reducing the trigger to the National Insurance threshold.

Since 2014/15, the annual reviews have concluded that the earnings trigger be frozen at £10,000. People earning below the trigger have a right to opt in, and if they are earning above the lower earnings limit (£6,240 in 2020-21) they will receive an employer contribution.

Automatic enrolment has hugely increased women's pension participation, participation across all ethnic groups, and among lower earners. Among eligible women in the private sector, participation has increased from 40% in 2012 to 86% in 2019, equal to men. Among eligible employees in the private sector earning between £10,000 and £20,000, 19% were participating into a workplace pension in 2012. As of 2019, this rate had increased to 79%, a 60 percentage point increase.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-22/62301/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-22/62303/>

Mental Health Services: Ethnic Groups

Alexander Stafford (Conservative) [61633] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to ensure the adequacy of the provision of mental health services for BAME children.

Reply from Nadine Dorries: We want to ensure that all children, including those from a black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) background, can access services according to clinical need. National Health Service mental health services have remained open throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and our community, talking therapies and children and young people's services have deployed digital tools to connect with people and provide ongoing support.

NHS England and NHS Improvement are working closely with BAME experts and others to support rapid knowledge and information sharing to encourage timely access to NHS mental health services, and just as importantly, good BAME experiences within those services.

The Government has provided £9.2 million of additional funding for mental health charities to support adults and children. This includes charities that offer some support to BAME communities, such as the What? Centre.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-18/61633/>

Treatment of, and Outcomes for, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Individuals in the Criminal Justice System Independent Review

Steve Baker (Conservative) [59745] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, if he will implement the recommendations of the final report of the Lammy Review - An independent

review into the treatment of, and outcomes for, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic individuals in the Criminal Justice System; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Alex Chalk: We are committed to publishing routinely progress on the implementation of the Lammy Review and, as of 16 June 2020, the status of the recommendation are as follows:

Out of the 35 recommendations;

- i. 16 have been completed (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 22, 23, 33, 35)
- ii. 17 recommendations are still in progress, of which:
 1. 1 recommendation is in the initial stages (34),
 2. 11 recommendations aim to be completed within 6 – 12 months (15, 17, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30)
 3. 5 recommendations will take longer than 12 months to be completed (1, 9, 10, 31, 32)
- iii. In the Government's response to the Review in December 2017, it was stated that two recommendations specific to a target for judicial appointments and appraisal (14, 16) would not be taken forward.

The Government is committed to advancing each recommendation of the Review in some way and where a recommendation could not be implemented in full or exactly as set out, alternative approaches have been sought to achieve the same aim. The Government's response also identified actions going beyond the Review's recommendations. Progress on recommendations and additional actions, and decisions on other areas of disparity where the principle of "explain or change" needs to apply, are overseen by a CJS Race and Ethnicity Board. The Board was created in response to the Review.

The Government provided a detailed public update on progress against each of the 35 recommendations of the Lammy Review, and the other related activities, in February 2019 in the "Tackling racial disparity in the Criminal Justice System" update:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tackling-racial-disparity-in-the-criminal-justice-system-2020>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-16/59745/>

The Lammy Review, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/643001/lammy-review-final-report.pdf

Administration of Justice: Ethnic Groups

Mike Amesbury (Labour) [60860] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, whether his Department plans to review racial inequalities in access to justice.

Reply from Alex Chalk: Access to justice is a fundamental right and one which this government is committed to protecting. We want people to have confidence in a justice system that is fair, open and accessible— one where no person faces discrimination and access to justice is available for all.

We undertake equalities assessments of the direct and indirect impact on racial inequality of policy changes we bring forward relating to access to justice, in line with our duties under the Equality Act 2010. In addition, we engage with stakeholders who represent particular communities to ensure our policy development remains alive to issues raised.

In response to the Lammy Review we have already committed to embedding a programme of work to address racial disparity within the Criminal Justice System, and we remain committed to addresses inequalities across the justice system,

including in relation to access to justice.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-17/60860/>

The Lammy Review, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/643001/lammy-review-final-report.pdf

Education: Ethnic Groups

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [62714] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what (a) estimate he has made of the proportion and (b) assessment he has made of the adequacy of BAME representation among (a) pastoral and (b) disciplinary staff in the education system.

Reply from Nick Gibb: The Department for Education does not collect data on pastoral and disciplinary staff within the School Workforce Census. The School Workforce Census captures data for non-teaching staff, auxiliary staff, teaching assistants and support staff, as well as for classroom teachers and leadership roles. BAME teachers represented 9% of the teaching population in state funded schools in November 2018. 9% of classroom teachers, 6% of deputy and assistant headteachers and 4% of headteachers came from BAME backgrounds. 11% of non-teaching staff were from a BAME background in November 2018. This was 12% for auxiliary staff and 11% for both teaching assistants and other support staff.

This data is available in Tables 5 and 6 of the publication, School Workforce in England, 2018, available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/school-workforce-in-england-november-2018>

Information for 2019 data was published on the 25 June 2020.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-22/62714/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Football: Ethnic Groups

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL5878] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the Football Association about the number of black football managers.

Reply from Baroness Barran: We are in regular dialogue with the Football Association (FA) across a range of matters, including diversity. I welcome the FA's recent announcement of a new voluntary code for Equality in Football Leadership, which aims to champion equality in football and tackle all forms of discrimination in the game. The government is committed to working with sports to ensure opportunities to progress are open to all, from athletes to administrators, to board members. As an example of this, on 11 June 2020 the Minister for Sport announced a review of the Code for Sports Governance. The Code sets out the levels of transparency, accountability and financial integrity required from those who ask for government and National Lottery funding. It currently says that organisations must show a "strong and public commitment" to progressing ethnic diversity. However, it is right to review this to ensure that opportunities to progress are open to all. Government will be working with UK Sport and Sport England to set new expectations and ensure the sport sector leads by example.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-17/HL5878/>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

<http://www.thefa.com/news/2020/jun/18/equality-in-football-leadership-letter-paul-elliott-180620>

The Code for Sports Governance, referred to above, can be read at

http://direct.sportengland.org/media/11193/a_code_for_sports_governance.pdf

News

Calls to increase number of Muslim MSPs at next year's Holyrood election

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/calls-increase-number-muslim-msps-22233081>

SNP seek legal advice on boosting number of BAME MSPs in Holyrood

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/snp-seek-legal-advice-boosting-22246302>

BAME: 'I hit a dead end in Wales and had to leave'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-53156103>

More BAME undergraduates win places at Oxford University

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-53151217>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill

S5W-29826 James Kelly (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, other than that set out in the findings of the Independent Review of Hate Crime Legislation in Scotland in 2018 and the responses to the 2019 hate crime consultation, what evidence it has to support the expansion of the "stirring up hatred" offences in the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill to cover all protected characteristics and not just race, and whether it will place a copy of this in the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe).

Reply from Humza Yousaf: The published policy memorandum which accompanies the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill details the Scottish Government's reasoning for the proposed expansion of the "stirring up hatred" offences to cover all the listed characteristics covered by the Bill and the evidence which was taken into account to inform this decision.

This includes the responses to the 2019 consultation on amending Scottish hate crime legislation and the published findings of Lord Bracadale's Independent Review of Hate Crime Legislation in Scotland, which was itself informed by a wide range of sources including independent expert advice, academic research and learning, and extensive consultation.

In considering which characteristics should be included in any extension of stirring up offences, Lord Bracadale noted that in 2007 and 2010 the then UK Government introduced stirring up hatred offences in England and Wales to cover religion and sexual orientation respectively.

In recommending that stirring up hatred offences should be introduced in respect of all characteristics covered by the Bill, Lord Bracadale recognised the distinct nature of stirring up hatred offences and the special capacity for harm that they may cause. Stirring up hatred can contribute to an atmosphere in which prejudice and

discrimination are accepted as normal. It can result in entire communities feeling isolated, scared and vulnerable to attack. In the most serious cases, the effect can be that it directly encourages activity which threatens or endangers life. The Scottish Government considers it is vital, therefore, that the criminal law protects people from this type of offending behaviour.

The proposed expansion of the stirring up hatred offences are supported by a wide range of stakeholders including equality groups and a number of faith and belief organisations.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-29826>

The findings of the Independent Review of Hate Crime Legislation in Scotland, referred to above, can be read at

<https://tinyurl.com/y8of8le6>

The Policy Memorandum referred to above can be read at

<https://beta.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/current-bills/hate-crime-and-public-order-scotland-bill/introduced/policy-memorandum-hate-crime-and-public-order-scotland-bill.pdf>

Additional information about the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill can be read at

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

Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill

S5W-29827 James Kelly (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, other than that set out in the findings of the Independent Review of Hate Crime Legislation in Scotland in 2018 and the responses to the 2019 hate crime consultation, what evidence it has to support the proposed extension of protected characteristics in the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill, and whether it will place a copy of this in the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe).

Reply from Humza Yousaf: The published policy memorandum which accompanies the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill details the Scottish Government's reasoning for the proposed extension of the characteristics protected by the Bill and the evidence which was taken into account to inform this decision. This includes the responses to the 2019 consultation on amending Scottish hate crime legislation and the published findings of Lord Bracadale's Independent Review of Hate Crime Legislation in Scotland, which was itself informed by a wide range of sources including independent expert advice, academic research and learning, and extensive consultation.

In recommending the extension of characteristics protected in Scotland's hate crime legislative framework, Lord Bracadale highlighted why it is important that the criminal law is capable of dealing with hate crime in a way which is distinct from offending which does not have an element of prejudice related to identity. Hate crime legislation helps recognise the particular impact and harm caused by hate crime, making it clear that such behaviour is not acceptable and that it will not be tolerated.

With these principles in mind the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill thus provides for the modernising, consolidating and extending of hate crime legislation in Scotland.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-29827>

The findings of the Independent Review of Hate Crime Legislation in Scotland, referred to above, can be read at

<https://tinyurl.com/y8of8le6>

The Policy Memorandum referred to above can be read at

<https://beta.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/current-bills/hate-crime-and-public-order-scotland-bill/introduced/policy-memorandum-hate-crime-and-public-order-scotland-bill.pdf>

Additional information about the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill can be read at

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

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Racial Discrimination

Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [62534] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, if she will publish the (a) terms of reference for and (b) names of the (i) chair and (ii) commission members of the commission on race.

Reply from Kemi Badenoch: On 14 June, the Prime Minister announced a new Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities. The Commission will drive forward work to understand why disparities exist, what works to address disparities and what does not, and will present recommendations for action across Government and other public bodies, bridging the gap between data and policy. It will report by the end of the year. The aim of the Commission is to set out a new, positive agenda for change - balancing the needs of individuals, communities and society, maximising opportunities and ensuring fairness for all. The terms of reference, and names of the chair and commission members will be published in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-22/62534/>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-ministers-article-in-the-telegraph-15-june-2020>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Civil Service: Racial Discrimination

Steve Reed (Labour Co-op) [62437] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what the Government's policy is on the use of non-disclosure agreements in the civil service for settling cases involving racial discrimination or abuse grievances.

Government Departments: Racial Discrimination

Steve Reed (Labour Co-op) [62439] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, many non-disclosure agreements have been used by each Government department for settling discrimination cases in each of the last five years.

Reply from Chloe Smith: The Cabinet Office publishes guidance on the use of confidentiality clauses in the Civil Service. This is publicly available [here](#). It makes clear that such clauses should not be used to prevent staff from raising or discussing allegations of bullying, harassment or discrimination.

As part of the Government's evidence for the Women and Equalities Committee report on the use of non-disclosure agreements in discrimination cases, we provided details on the number of non-disclosure agreements used in the Civil Service including those that were used in cases of alleged discrimination. This represents the latest data we have available.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-22/62437/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-22/62439/>

Schools: Bullying

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [62572] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the KiVa anti-bullying programme on tackling (a) bullying and (b) racist bullying.

Reply from Vicky ford: We have not made an assessment of the KiVa anti-bullying programme. All schools are legally required to have a behaviour policy with measures to prevent all forms of bullying. They also have the freedom to develop their own anti-bullying strategies and monitoring approaches to best suit their environment.

Our Preventing and Tackling Bullying guidance sets out that schools should develop a consistent approach to monitoring bullying incidents and evaluating the effectiveness of their approaches. It also directs schools to organisations who can provide support with tackling bullying related to race, religion and nationality. The guidance is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying>.

On 7 June, we announced more than £750,000 for the Diana Award, the Anti-Bullying Alliance and the Anne Frank Trust – to help hundreds of schools and colleges build relationships between pupils, boost their resilience, and continue to tackle bullying both in person and online. More information is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-mental-health-support-for-pupils-and-teachers>.

The department has also made resources available through the Educate Against Hate website. This website provides teachers, school leaders and parents with the information, guidance and support they need to challenge radical views, including racist and discriminatory beliefs, and is available here:

<https://educateagainsthate.com/>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-22/62572/>

Information about the KiVa programme referred to above can be read at

<http://www.kivaprogram.net/>

Armed Forces: Racial Discrimination

Jamie Stone (Liberal Democrat) [61568] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what estimate he has made of the number of reported complaints of racist incidents in the Armed Forces between (a) 2015 - 2016, (b) 2016 - 2017, (c) 2017 - 2018, (d) 2018 - 2019, and (e) 2019 - to 17 June 2020.

Reply from Johnny Mercer: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) recognises that unacceptable behaviour, including racism, still occurs. MOD and the UK Armed Forces are committed to taking action to eradicate it and have a zero-tolerance approach. Defence, like many other organisations, does not yet represent society and it is essential that it does. We recognise that the pace of change needs to quicken; that is why we are renewing our levels of ambition at the highest levels in Defence as we work to fulfil the key objective in our 2018-2030 Diversity and Inclusion Strategy to eliminate discrimination and improve diversity throughout Defence. We continue to implement all the recommendations made by Air Chief Marshal Wigston in his 2019 review into inappropriate behaviour.

All allegations of illegal or unacceptable behaviour are taken extremely seriously and investigated thoroughly; Service personnel have a number of routes to raise the issue, either with the police, within the Chain of Command or with Diversity and Inclusion Advisers. MOD is working to prevent unacceptable behaviour from occurring in the first place and has also designed an Active Bystander training so that personnel have the skills to challenge unacceptable behaviour effectively when

it does occur.

The requested information is not available in the format requested and an answer could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Allegations of racism are captured through various mechanisms, including internal and external disciplinary proceedings, the Service Complaints system, informal complaints and the Armed Forces Continuous Attitude Survey. Defence is working to improve its data capture of all unacceptable behaviour across the department.

The Service Complaints Ombudsman for the Armed Forces (SCOAF)'s annual report does not provide a full picture for ascertaining levels of racism in the Armed Forces. The Ombudsman's report deals with issues of overrepresentation by BAME complainants, but these complaints do not only concern racial discrimination. However, information from the single Services' annual statistical returns on Service Complaints to the SCOAF indicates that in 2019, five per cent of all bullying, harassment or discrimination Service Complaints concerned racial discrimination.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-18/61568/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Racial Hatred: Primary Education

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL5423] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to ensure that primary school children in England are taught about racism.

Reply from Baroness Berridge: We want to support all young people to be happy, healthy and safe. We also want to equip them for adult life and to make a positive contribution to society. That is why from September 2020, we are making relationships education compulsory for primary school-age pupils, relationships and sex education compulsory for secondary school-age pupils, and health education compulsory for pupils in all state-funded schools.

The statutory guidance sets out that as part of relationships education, all primary-aged pupils will be taught the importance of respecting others, even when they are very different from them, or make different choices or have different preferences or beliefs. Pupils will also be taught what a stereotype is, and how stereotypes can be unfair, negative or destructive.

Schools can also teach about racism in personal, social, health and economic education and citizenship education where pupils can develop their understanding of the diverse national, regional, religious and ethnic identities in the United Kingdom and the need for mutual respect and understanding. There is also flexibility within the history curriculum for teachers to teach about Black history across the spectrum of themes and eras.

Schools are required to actively promote fundamental British values, including democracy as well as the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faith and beliefs.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-08/HL5423/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Biometrics: Ethnic Groups

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL5494] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to regulate the use of facial recognition technology to ensure that it is not discriminatory towards people from BAME communities.

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL5495] To ask Her Majesty's Government

what steps they are taking to ensure that commercial facial recognition technology is (1) registered, (2) accurate, and (3) not discriminatory towards people from BAME communities.

Reply from Baroness Barran: Uses of facial recognition technology in the UK, both private and public, are regulated by the GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018 that set standards for protecting personal data. Organisations have an obligation to ensure that any personal data they hold is accurate and processed in a manner that is lawful, fair and transparent.

Facial images, which constitute 'special category' data for the purposes of the legislation are subject to heightened safeguards and can only be processed if specific conditions in the legislation are met. Processing must be necessary, proportionate and justified. The legislation is enforced by the Information Commissioner's Office, which has shown a willingness to take action against commercial organisations that are acting unlawfully.

To ensure a safe use of facial recognition technology (FRT) in all sectors, the government tasked the Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation (CDEI) to produce a Snapshot briefing paper looking at the uses and potential implications of facial recognition technology's deployment in the UK. The paper was published on 28 May and we are considering its findings. The CDEI are currently working on a review into bias in algorithmic decision-making and will continue to examine the impacts of FRT and algorithms on society and provide recommendations on how to minimise bias.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-09/HL5494/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-09/HL5495/>

News

Justice secretary accused of confusion over hate crime bill

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/justice-secretary-accused-of-confusion-over-hate-crime-bill-nrvb8qvm9>

Boris Johnson accused of misleading MPs over race review response

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-53184674>

Black Lives Matter: Have racial inequality reviews led to action?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/53053661>

Labour's Rebecca Long-Bailey sacked in anti-Semitism row

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-53183085>

Labour frontbencher Rebecca Long-Bailey sacked in anti-semitism row

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/labour-frontbencher-rebecca-long-bailey-sacked-anti-semitism-row-2895414>

Rebecca Long Bailey sacked after sharing 'antisemitic conspiracy' online

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/rebecca-long-bailey-sacked-after-sharing-antisemitic-conspiracy-online-cprxfwlgv>

Rebecca Long-Bailey sacking reignites Labour turmoil over antisemitism
<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/jun/25/keir-starmer-sacks-rebecca-long-bailey-from-shadow-cabinet>

A guide to Labour Party anti-Semitism claims
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-45030552>

Politicians demand police answers after 'fascist thugs were able to run wild' in George Square
https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18544157_politicians-demand-police-answers-fascist-thugs-able-run-wild-george-square/

Aberdeen City Council brands racist graffiti 'abhorrent'
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-53181791>

Black Lives Matter: 'White supremacist' Scots must change
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/black-lives-matter-white-supremacist-scots-must-change-8j5lbpm3x>

'Left on the scrapheap': Higher proportions of black and minority ethnic women suffer domestic abuse but 'face racism from public agencies'
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/domestic-abuse-bame-women-services-a9586111.html>

Black Lives Matter: Racism in UK policing 'reflects an imperfect society', senior officer says
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/black-lives-matter-uk-racism-george-floyd-society-martin-hewitt-a9583371.html>

Former officer claims racism forced her out of Met police
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/jun/24/bame-ex-officer-claims-racism-forced-her-out-met-police>

Racist stereotypes stopping black and ethnic minority victims of child sexual abuse receiving help, report finds
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/child-sexual-abuse-racism-black-ethnic-minority-iicsa-a9585271.html>

Eton apologises to Nigerian ex-student Onyeama for racism
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-53139325>

Eton College: Nigerian author recalls racist abuse
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-53062502>

Eton headmaster apologises for racism experienced by first black student
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/06/23/eton-headmaster-apologises-racism-experienced-first-black-student/>

Eton's first black student said he never wanted an apology over racism he faced as a student
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/06/23/etons-first-black-student-said-never-wanted-apology-racism-faced/>

Eton apologises to first ever black pupil who was banned after calling out racism
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/eton-college-racism-nigerian-dillibe-onyeama-black-lives-matter-simon-henderson-a9580471.html>

Eton apologises to Nigerian pupil Dillibe Onyeama for racist abuse
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/eton-apologises-to-nigerian-pupil-dillibe-onyeama-for-racist-abuse-dhg375pm7>

Eton pledges to 'decolonise' its teaching after parents' appeal
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/eton-pledges-to-decolonise-its-teaching-after-parents-appeal-dbw9hjdsn>

Police called in to investigate allegations of racism at leading boys' school
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/06/25/police-called-investigate-allegations-racism-leading-boys-school/>

Veiled racism: How the law change on Covid-19 face coverings makes Muslim women feel
<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/face-covering-mask-racism-muslim-hate-crime-niqab-burqa-a9587476.html>

Coca-Cola suspends social media advertising despite Facebook changes
<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-53204072>

Nazi dog salute Scot to take bigotry case to European Court of Human Rights
<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/nazi-dog-salute-scot-take-22227891>

Mel Gibson and Winona Ryder at odds over anti-Semitism claims
<https://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-53162246>

Black Lives Matter: What is it like being mixed-race in Kent?
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-kent-53158483>

Black Lives Matter: Talking about racism 'my job as a parent'
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-53043817>

Black Lives Matter: Parents and children talk about racism
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-53113271/black-lives-matter-parents-and-children-talk-about-racism>

Think racism hasn't affected me? It's there almost every day
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/athletics/2020/06/25/think-racism-hasnt-affected-almost-every-day/>

Racism has been the grinding backdrop to my life. Is a different future now possible?
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/jun/26/racism-future-mixed-race-child-london-suburb>

Be honest about the nature of racism in Scotland
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18541151.honest-nature-racism-scotland/>

Britain's persistent racism cannot simply be explained by its imperial history
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/jun/24/britain-persistent-racism-imperial-history>

Black Lives Matter: the anti-racism movement explained – and why All Lives Matter is offensive

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/world/black-lives-matter-anti-racism-movement-explained-and-why-all-lives-matter-offensive-2873155>

In calling out the anti-Semitic elements of a mass movement, I invited spitting derision

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/life/calling-anti-semitic-elements-mass-movement-invited-spitting/>

Premier League to get tough on online racism

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/premier-league-to-get-tough-on-online-racism-6hfdnj0q>

Premier League to take legal action against those who racially abuse players online

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/football/2020/06/24/premier-league-take-legal-action-against-racially-abuse-players/>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Petition

PE01813: Reform the national curriculum to include all African Scottish history

<https://www.parliament.scot/GettingInvolved/Petitions/afroscotshistorycurriculum>

New Publication

Recorded Crime in Scotland: May 2020

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/recorded-crime-scotland-2020/>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Death Certificates: Ethnic Groups

Sarah Owen (Labour) [62647] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans the Government has to include ethnicity on death certificates.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The statistical information currently recorded in a death registration (and subsequently on certificates) is determined by the Office for National Statistics and prescribed by law. There are currently no plans to record ethnicity.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-22/62647/>

Ethnic Groups: Homicide

Lord Blencathra (Conservative) [HL5462] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will publish for each of the last five years the number of black and minority ethnic

(BAME) people who were killed either by murder or manslaughter by people who were (1) white British, and (2) BAME, British or otherwise.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office Homicide Index holds information recorded by the police in England and Wales on the ethnicity of victim and convicted suspects of homicide. The requested data are given in the table.

Due to the time it can take for the police to investigate homicide offences and for cases to be heard in court, the number of suspects who have been convicted of homicide is likely to increase as additional court outcome information is received by the Home Office.

[Table: ethnic appearance of homicide suspect](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-09/HL5462/>

Forced Marriage

Jess Phillips (Labour) [56015] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) made reference to forced marriage in the last full reporting year; of those how many people were (a) accepted into the NRM and (b) had their application declined.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Home Office publishes quarterly and annual high-level statistics on the number of referrals made to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for adults and children which can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-referral-mechanism-statistics>.

The Home Office does not currently produce data on references to forced marriage within cases referred to the NRM.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-08/56015/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Prayer: Islam

Lord Pearson of Rannoch (Non-affiliated) [HL5470] To ask Her Majesty's Government which local authorities have authorised the broadcasting by loudspeaker of the Muslim call to prayer; and what assessment have they made of the effect of such broadcasts on community cohesion.

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: We understand that some Mosques across the country have been given permission to broadcast the call to prayer, particularly during Ramadan, due to the closure of all Places of Worship during the Covid-19 pandemic. Places of Worship play an important role in spiritual and mental health for many, and in bringing our communities together, which is why we want to reopen them as soon as we can. Local councils understand best the needs of their communities and it is a matter for them to work with their local community. We will continue to engage with stakeholders on matters relating to integration, and the Government remains committed to building strong integrated communities.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-09/HL5470/>

New Publications

Forced Marriage Unit statistics 2012

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/895083/Stats_2012.pdf

Forced Marriage Unit statistics 2013

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/895084/FMU_2013_statistics.pdf

Forced Marriage Unit statistics 2014

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/895078/FMU_Stats_2014.pdf

Forced Marriage Unit statistics 2019

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/894428/Forced_Marriage_Unit_statistics_2019.pdf

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Health Information: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

NHS

NHS Inform (Scotland)

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

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

Healthcare for overseas visitors

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

Healthcare for refugees and asylum seekers

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

NHS Near Me (Scotland)

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

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

NHS (England and Wales)

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

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority Health and Social Care Workers (Covid-19 Risk Assessments)

Alison Johnstone (Green): To ask the Scottish Government what proportion of BAME health and social care workers have been risk-assessed for Covid-19. (S5O-04442)

Reply from the Minister for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing (Joe FitzPatrick): Risk assessments are carried out independently by health and social care employers and occupational health services.

International guidance for BAME health and social care staff specified that individual assessments and practical support should be offered to all BAME staff. We will update that guidance following engagement with BAME staff to ensure that it is culturally competent. Later, we will ask those staff how they were supported during the pandemic and if concerns are raised, we will ask employers to take urgent action. There are five strands of work under way to respond to the impact of Covid-19 on BAME communities; I will not rehearse them.

Alison Johnstone: I welcome the minister's response. However, the British Medical Association has warned that doctors across the United Kingdom have not been risk assessed. A poll of almost 7,500 doctors working in the UK found that 36 per cent were unaware of any risk assessment in their place of work, and only 11 per cent said that they had personally been risk assessed. What action can the minister take to ensure that health boards and care providers are conducting proper risk assessments for BAME staff?

Reply from Joe FitzPatrick: That issue is why it is really important that one of our five strands of work is about engaging with the BAME community to understand their experience. We are also looking at how we can get better data in the workplace. However, listening and speaking directly to BAME staff is a really important part of ensuring not only that we get the language of the guidance right, but that the guidance is applied appropriately across Scotland.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12720&i=115051#ScotParlOR>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Covid-19: BAME Health

Karen Buck (Labour) What assessment [has the Minister] made of the effect of covid-19 on the health of people in BAME communities. [903682]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health and Social Care (Jo Churchill): There was a passionate debate on this issue last Thursday. As I said then, there is no doubt that covid-19 has upended our lives. The virus cruelly discriminates by many factors, including age, gender and ethnicity. There are still gaps in our understanding of occupational risks and co-morbidity that need attention. My hon. Friend the Minister for Equalities will be taking forward important cross-Government work with the Equality Hub, Public Health England and others.

Karen Buck: We now know the full extent to which covid and other health inequalities affect black and minority ethnic communities, and the extent to which that is reflected in regional inequalities, but does the Minister also understand how much such inequality prevails within boroughs? In my local authority, there is a 16-year life expectancy gap between the poorest communities and the wealthiest, which reflects the disparity with black and minority ethnic communities. Will she ensure that an equalities review tackles inequality within boroughs as well as between them, and will there be funding to support that?

Reply from Jo Churchill: We know that health inequalities are stubborn, persistent and difficult to change — we knew that before covid-19, but that is not a reason to

accept them. We fully agree that more needs to be done to reduce the disparity in health outcomes within the BAME community and the broader community. That is why we will ensure that the work on health inequalities goes on at pace.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-06-23/debates/0C1AE84D-2A0A-43E6-9A03-AC0637599B64/Covid-19BAMEHealth>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups

Lord Kennedy of Southwark (Labour) [HL5784] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that BAME people are adequately represented in COVID-19 clinical trials.

Reply from Lord Bethell: The Department, through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), is working in partnership with the Centre for Black and Minority Ethnic Health in Leicester to ensure that black, Asian and minority ethnic communities have the information they need to take part and stay informed about COVID-19 research. The NIHR also requires a limited amount of demographic data on participants in all prioritized urgent COVID-19 studies to be collected to ensure recruitment is representative of the population. It is also actively supporting researchers to tackle the barriers that might stop some communities participating.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-16/HL5784/>

Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups

Apsana Begum (Labour) [61616] To ask the Secretary of State for Women and Equalities, with reference to Public Health England's report, Beyond the data: understanding the impact of covid-19 on BAME groups, published June 2020, what plans he has to to implement the recommendations on reducing the risk to black Asian Minority Ethnic, BAME, people catching and dying of covid-19.

Reply from Kemi Badenoch: On 4 June the Government announced its next steps following the Public Health England (PHE) Report, 'Disparities in the risk and outcomes of COVID-19', which was published on 2 June.

PHE also engaged with a significant number of individuals and organisations within the BAME community to hear their views about the impact of COVID-19. This work informed a separate report, 'Beyond the Data: understanding the impact of COVID-19 on BAME groups', which was published on 16 June 2020.

Many of the recommendations from the second report are already in train. For example, NHS Employers has published – and continues to update – robust occupational risk assessment tools; and the Race Disparity Unit continues to work to with Covid teams across Departments to improve communications, outreach and engagement with ethnic minority communities. Furthermore, many of the recommendations are being taken forward through the terms of reference published on 4 June. This includes steps to assess and improve the quality of data collected by ethnicity; and further strengthening and improving public health communications to ensure they can reach and inform all communities across the country.

It's critical that Government takes into account the voices of people who are impacted by our actions. It's also critical that Departments base their actions on robust evidence, so that we can be sure that they will have a positive impact.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-17/61616/>

"Disparities in the risk and outcomes of COVID-19", referred to above, can be read at

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

“Beyond the Data: understanding the impact of COVID-19 on BAME groups”, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/892376/COVID_stakeholder_engagement_synthesis_beyond_the_data.pdf

The announcement referred to above can be read at

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

Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups

Neil Gray (SNP) [59483] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, if the Government will publish the reasons for the higher number of deaths from covid-19 among BAME people; and what steps she plans to take to reduce that higher number of deaths.

Reply from Kemi Bedenoch: On 4 June the Government announced the next steps to address the disparities identified in the Public Health England (PHE) Report. As Minister for Equalities, I will be working with the Race Disparity Unit (RDU) and the Department for Health and Social Care to further understand the drivers of disparities. This includes commissioning further data, research and analytical work by the Equality Hub to clarify the scale, and drivers, of the gaps in evidence highlighted by the Report. This vital work will help the government take appropriate evidence-based action to address the disparities.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-15/59483/>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

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

Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups

Apsana Begum (Labour) [61618] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what assessment his Department has made of the effect of (a) poverty and (b) overcrowding on the likelihood of (i) contracting and (ii) dying of covid-19 for (A) BAME people and (B) people from a Bangladeshi background.

Reply from Luke Hall: Public Health England’s (PHE) review ‘Disparities in the risk and outcomes of COVID-19’ presented an analysis of survival among people with confirmed COVID-19 by sex, age group, ethnicity, deprivation and region. It showed that, after taking these factors into account, some ethnic groups still had a higher risk of death than others.

People from Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities are likely to be at increased risk of acquiring the infection. This is because they are more likely to live in urban areas, in overcrowded households, in deprived areas, and have jobs that expose them to higher risk.

On June 4, the Government’s Equality Hub published how Government will take forward next steps of this work.

This Department is committed to making the housing market work for everyone and will continue to review what further work we need to do to support government objectives, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-18/61618/>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

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

Religious Buildings: Coronavirus

Edward Davey (Liberal Democrat) [61414] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what assessment has he made of the economic effect of covid-19 on places of worship; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Luke Hall: Faith communities have a long history of service supporting many of the most vulnerable members of our society. The rapid response during the current pandemic has been no different and I would like to reiterate how much the government values the work being done to support those in need. Responsibility for faith engagement is led by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, who continue to play a facilitative role in ensuring Government understands the needs of faith communities and the challenges they may be currently facing due to the pandemic.

We are working closely with a range of faith and community groups, including the Places of Worship Taskforce to better understand how Government can support them to respond to the pressures they face on sustaining their organisations during this period of time.

The Government has announced a range of funds available to charities. Further information about what funding is available and how to apply can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/financial-support-for-voluntary-community-and-social-enterprise-vcse-organisations-to-respond-to-coronavirus-covid-19>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-18/61414/>

Religious Buildings: Coronavirus

Stuart Anderson (Conservative) [59249] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what (a) guidance and (b) financial support is available to help places of worship safely resume their activities after the covid-19 situation.

Reply from Luke Hall: We have published guidance for the safe use of places of worship during the pandemic. This includes guidance to assist places of worship to prepare to reopen for individual prayer from 13 June in a manner that is safe and in line with social distancing guidelines.

We will continue to review when it might be safe to ease other restrictions on places of worship, including for communal prayer. This is subject to the five tests for easing measures and further detailed scientific advice. We expect that places of worship will not be permitted to open for communal prayer until 4 July at the earliest.

MHCLG continues to play a facilitative role in ensuring Government understands how it can support faith groups to respond to the pressures they face during this period and throughout the Government's recovery strategy.

There are a range of Government-backed financial support measures that places of worship can access.

The Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme and the Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Scheme are both available to registered charities, and therefore places of worship registered with the Charities Commission. Any organisation, including a place of worship, that is unable to pay any HMRC bill due to COVID-19 should contact the HMRC Coronavirus helpline. If charities or places of worship are VAT registered, they are also able to use the VAT deferral scheme. The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme provides support for any entity with a UK payroll - small or large, charitable or non-profit - to be reimbursed 80 per cent of furloughed worker wages by HMRC, up to a cap of £2,500 per month. However, we know that some charities cannot furlough staff as they are contributing to the frontline response. There is a substantial package of targeted support for charities on the frontline of responding to COVID-19. Further details can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/financial-support-for-voluntary-community-and-social-enterprise-vcse-organisations-to-respond-to-coronavirus-covid-19#further-financial-support>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-12/59249/>

The guidance referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemic/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemic>

Religious Buildings: Coronavirus

Afzal Khan (Labour) [59883] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, pursuant to his Answer of 9 June 2020 to Question 55024 on Religious Buildings: Coronavirus, for what reason his Department has no plans to engage with the Muslim Council of Britain.

Reply from Luke Hall: Our engagement on the issue of reopening places of worship has been broad and has drawn on the expertise of all the key faiths including a broad spectrum of Muslim voices. The decision on who Government engages with is based on a number of factors and the decisions are regularly reviewed on a case by case basis.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-16/59883/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

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

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme: Islam

Gareth Thomas (Labour Co-op) [59338] To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what assessment he has made of the accessibility the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme for businesses that are unable to access that scheme as a result of Sharia law restrictions on taking interest bearing loans.

Reply from Jesse Norman: The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme provides grants. These do not accrue interest.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-15/59338/>

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) Phase 2: staying safe and protecting others (physical distancing)

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-phase-2-staying-safe-and-protecting-others/>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Test and Protect information leaflet

Available in English, Easy-Read English, Arabic, Farsi, Gaelic, Hindi, Hungarian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Punjabi, Romanian, Russian, Simplified Chinese, Slovakian, Traditional Chinese, and Urdu.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-test-and-protect-coronavirus-service/>

Test and Protect (video)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nyGSMcAl8e4>

Test and Protect - Step by Step Guide (video)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nPN_CoSTwQM&feature=youtu.be

Test and Protect - Step by Step Guide in Cantonese (video)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Rm4P9snXw0&feature=youtu.be>

Test and Protect: Stopping the Spread (video)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iswkp6prpSc>

Test and Protect: Reporting Symptoms (video)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iTLqok_Bw8M

Coronavirus (COVID-19): inequalities by disability, age, ethnicity, and gender

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/Inequalities-by-disability-age-ethnicity-and-gender-covid-19/>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): updated guidance for funeral directors

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-funeral-directors/>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): framework to support gypsy/traveller communities

<https://tinyurl.com/yb7gdr7f>

UK Government Publications

Updated: Number of coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in the UK

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

Guidance: Review of two metre social distancing guidance [England only]

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/review-of-two-metre-social-distancing-guidance/review-of-two-metre-social-distancing-guidance>

Welsh Government

Welsh Government

Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) population in Wales

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2020-06/coronavirus-covid-19-and-the-black-asian-and-minority-ethnic-population-154.pdf>

Statement: Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Socio-economic Sub-Group Report

<https://gov.wales/written-statement-black-asian-and-minority-ethnic-bame-socio-economic-sub-group-report>

Report of the BAME Covid-19 Socioeconomic Subgroup

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-06/first-ministers-bame-covid-19-advisory-group-report-of-the-socioeconomic-subgroup.pdf>

News

Publish action taken to support BAME people in pandemic, says Doreen Lawrence

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/jun/23/publish-action-taken-to-support-bame-people-in-pandemic-says-doreen-lawrence>

Coronavirus: 70% of BAME pharmacists have had no risk assessment - survey

<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-53186610>

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New Publications

“People don’t talk about it”: Child sexual abuse in ethnic minority communities

<https://www.iicsa.org.uk/key-documents/19530/view/ethnic-minorities-june-2020.pdf>

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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>

SPICe briefing on the Bill as amended at Stage 2

<https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdnep.azureedge.net/published/DPLR/2020/6/23/Civil-Partnership--Scotland--Bill-as-amended-at-Stage-2/DPLRS052020R37.pdf>

Stage 3 consideration of amendments

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12713&i=114972#ScotParlOR>

Stage 3 debate

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12713&i=114989#ScotParlOR>

Bill as passed

<https://beta.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/current-bills/civil-partnership-scotland-bill/stage-3/civil-partnership-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>

Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill

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

Marriage (Approved Organisations) Bill

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

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

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

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (Legal Advice and Appeals) Bill

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

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Equality and human rights impact of Covid-19 (closing date not stated)
<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/114975.aspx>

Experiences of Islamophobia (closing date not stated)
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/amina-islamophobia>

Raising skills and standards of supporters of refugees and asylum seekers
(closing date not stated)
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/3R8SDYN>

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Job Opportunities

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

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

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Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

Grants online: Coronavirus

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

Third Sector Resilience Fund

Closing date not stated

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

Covid-19 Transition Fund

Closing date not stated

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

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

For information and to apply see
<https://bemis.org.uk/emnrrn/transition-fund/>

Covid-19 Rapid Response Fund

Closing date not stated

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

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

Fife Centre for Equalities Diversity Week Activity Fund 2020

Closing date not stated

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

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

3rd International Conference on Migration and Mobilities

Registration now closed

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

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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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