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

## Immigration and Asylum

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

#### **Covid-19: Support and Accommodation for Asylum Seekers**

**Alison Thewliss (SNP):** To ask the Home Secretary if she will make a statement on support and accommodation for asylum seekers during the covid-19 pandemic. ...

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Chris Philp):** My thoughts and those of the Home Secretary and, I am sure, the entire House are with the victims of the appalling knife attack that happened in Glasgow on Friday afternoon. ...

Last year, the United Kingdom made 20,000 grants of protection or asylum, one of

the highest numbers of any country in Europe. We welcomed more than 3,000 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, the highest number of any country in Europe. Indeed, it made up 20% of Europe's UASC intake.

The UK has a statutory obligation to provide destitute asylum seekers with support while their case is being considered. While asylum cases are being considered, asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute are provided with free accommodation. The utilities are paid for, council tax is paid for and free healthcare on the NHS is available. Free education is available for those with children, and there is a cash allowance to cover other essential living needs, which recently increased by 5%, considerably more than inflation. The package needs to be viewed as a whole.

During the coronavirus pandemic, we have stepped up the help available to go beyond the statutory requirements that I have just laid out. We have paused the usual practice of asking people to move on from supported accommodation when their asylum claim is decided either positively or negatively, so that they can remain in supported asylum accommodation. As a consequence of that decision, which was implemented on 27 March, around 4,000 more people are in supported accommodation than was the case at the end of March, because people are still coming into the system, but nobody is moving on. We have therefore been frantically procuring additional accommodation around the country to meet that additional need. The circumstances in Glasgow are slightly different, but I suspect we will come on to the specifics of Glasgow, so I will answer those questions in due course. That is the principal measure we have taken to ensure that people seeking asylum have been looked after and protected during the coronavirus epidemic.

Where we have procured additional hotels, we provide full-board accommodation, including laundry services, personal hygiene products and feminine hygiene products. Wrap-around services are also provided, including welfare support, healthcare and access to mental health services. Asylum seekers also have 24-hour-a-day access to assistance via Migrant Help through a freephone number.

We are working at pace to increase the available accommodation so that we can move asylum seekers from hotels into more permanent accommodation as quickly as possible, which I think we would all agree is more suitable. Efforts are currently under way to do exactly that. Over time and in due course, we will be returning to a business-as-usual approach in a phased, proportionate and careful way.

We are committed to ensuring that vulnerable asylum seekers are provided with all the support they require. As our nation has been battling coronavirus, we have continued and will continue to look after asylum seekers. We will continue to drive forward the reforms required to support those asylum seekers who are in genuine need. I commend this statement to the House.

**Alison Thewliss:** There have been two deaths in hotel accommodation in Glasgow Central since the start of lockdown ...

At the start of lockdown, the Home Office contractor Mears moved 321 people from initial accommodation in serviced flats across Glasgow into city centre hotels. It did not consult, as it is obliged to do, with Glasgow City Council or anyone else. Contrary to the oral and written evidence to the Home Affairs Committee by Mears boss John Taylor, those people included pregnant women, trafficked women, torture victims, family groups and vulnerable people, young people included, two of whom ended up in hospital on Friday. They were given little notice: according to the Scottish Refugee Council, one family with food on the hob and clothes in the washing machine were given half an hour to gather their belongings. One of my constituents was a friend of Adnan, who died in McLay's Guest House. He has faced extreme trauma because of that and has asked to be moved, but is still in that guest house two months later. ...

Mears has misled Committee members — elected Members — and has now admitted that

no vulnerability assessments were carried out. When did the Minister find out that Mears had lied to everybody about this, and will he suspend its contract? Will he immediately reinstate the meagre £5.37 a day to allow asylum seekers a small but important degree of dignity? Will he halt any evictions while this outbreak is going on? Will he work with Glasgow City Council, organisations in Glasgow, the Scottish Government and asylum seekers themselves to return them to appropriate accommodation as soon as possible? Will he authorise an independent inquiry into asylum accommodation, which is very urgently needed? Lastly, will he take responsibility and apologise for a saga that has heaped trauma on to already vulnerable people in Glasgow and across the UK?

**Reply from Chris Philp:** I thank the hon. Lady for those questions. She started by asking about the move of 321 people in Glasgow from serviced apartments into hotel accommodation, which occurred around the end of March. That was a separate process from the one I described earlier, involving the extra 4,000 places. The contractor, Mears, moved those 321 people from the serviced apartments into hotels because it was judged that, as the coronavirus epidemic took hold, the serviced apartments were not appropriate and not safe. It was done for safety reasons, and that has been entirely borne out by the subsequent statistics. Glasgow accommodates slightly over 5,000 asylum seekers, as the hon. Lady will know—many of them are in her constituency—and during the coronavirus epidemic over the last three months or so, of those over 5,000 service users, only two have tested positive for coronavirus, and both, I am pleased to say, have fully recovered. Among those people accommodated in hotels there has not been a single confirmed case of coronavirus. So the steps being taken to safeguard the public, and to safeguard the asylum seekers in particular, have been successful.

The hon. Lady asked about the plans for the future, and I can confirm that it is our plan to move people out of those hotels into more regular mainstream accommodation as quickly as possible. That was always the intention; it was only ever a temporary measure, and that applies to hotel accommodation, of course, in the rest of the United Kingdom as well as in Scotland. But I would say that these hotels are of good quality. The one involved on Friday was a three-star Radisson hotel; it was a good hotel with substantial facilities, including en suite showers for every single room.

The hon. Lady asked about evictions and whether people are being asked to move on, as would ordinarily be the case. That is currently not happening, as she knows, following the announcement on 27 March, but in due course, as life returns a little bit more to normal and now that the ban on moving home has ended, we will be returning to normal over time, but it will be done in a very careful and phased way. Nothing will be done in a rush, and I would point out that those who have successful asylum grants will actually be better off with universal credit when they move on, so it is in their interests as well. ...

**Aaron Bell (Conservative):** ... I agree with my hon. Friend the Minister that we have a proud history of helping those most in need. Does he agree that those who abuse asylum make it harder for those who are genuinely vulnerable, and so can he confirm that the Home Office is committed to reforming the system, so that it can make swifter judgments and truly work for those most in need?

**Reply from Chris Philp:** I thank my hon. Friend for his question, and he is right. Some asylum claims are meritorious—obviously, many are—and we should work quickly and humanely to grant those applications and offer help on integrating into UK society. But where there are meritless asylum claims, we need to make sure those are equally identified and rejected quickly, because it is unfair on the British public as a whole and on genuine asylum claimants if unmeritorious claims take up too much time in our system.

**Holly Lynch (Labour):** ... We are sympathetic to the speed with which additional

accommodation has had to be sought for asylum seekers, at different stages of the asylum process, in the interests of public health going into lockdown. However, this tragic attack is an important reminder of why it is vital to deliver the correct, balanced approach to housing and related support services for asylum seekers, as well as supporting the wider community. As a result, there are a number of questions I would like to ask the Minister. At the weekend, the Home Secretary suggested that this type of accommodation had been allocated because of the covid-19 crisis. However, we know that there is an ongoing problem, which predates the crisis, of people having been housed in what is deemed to be “initial accommodation” for prolonged periods before being moved into more appropriate dispersal accommodation. Can the Minister clarify how many asylum seekers are in initial accommodation compared with the number in dispersal accommodation across the country? Will he update the House about the duration of stays for asylum seekers at the Park Inn hotel in Glasgow? Will he share with the House what vulnerability and risk assessments the Home Office and service providers are currently conducting when placing people in asylum support accommodation, in order to ensure that people have the support they need, including access to mental health support? Finally, what work is being undertaken to identify the risk factors that could have been spotted in this attacker, and how will that change future practice?

**Reply from Chris Philp:** ... We currently have 44,000 people being supported under section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 and some 4,000 people being supported under section 4; pre-coronavirus, we had about 48,000 people supported. The number has increased dramatically in the past four or five years—it has almost doubled in that period—so we are growing our asylum accommodation estate in order to cater for that growth. Of course, we are trying to get people into dispersed accommodation—the more stable accommodation—as much as we can. As my hon. Friend the Member for Newcastle-under-Lyme (Aaron Bell) alluded to in the previous question, the more we can make sure we can look after meritorious claims quickly but dismiss unmeritorious claims, the less pressure there will be on asylum accommodation in the first place.

Every asylum seeker is subjected to a risk assessment, on health and on other grounds, at the point of receipt into the system. I do not want to comment too much on this individual’s case, but when he first made one of his asylum claims—he made two—he flagged a health vulnerability, but it was a minor physical vulnerability, not anything that could have had anything to do with what happened on Friday. I assure the hon. Lady that those assessments do take place and there are round-the-clock facilities for asylum seekers to report any health or any issues that they may have.

**Bob Blackman (Conservative):** ... Clearly, he is right to extol the virtues, which we in this country hold dear, of extending our hands and arms to those who are fleeing and who are extremely vulnerable. Many of them will have come from war-torn areas of the globe. Some of them will be dangerous to other asylum seekers and the British public, so what measures will he look at to assess those individuals’ risk of violence towards the British public and other asylum seekers?

**Reply from Chris Philp:** My hon. Friend, as always, makes a very good point. As I said in response to the shadow Minister a moment ago, risk assessments take place at the point of arrival and on an ongoing basis. I assure him that with asylum seekers, whenever UKVI identifies risk to others, appropriate action will always be taken. Everybody’s vigilance will be elevated to even higher levels after the incident on Friday.

**Stuart C McDonald (SNP):** ... there must be an independent inquiry, because huge questions persist as to why there was a mass move to hotels, how it was implemented and the extent to which vulnerabilities were or were not assessed. A huge gap has grown between the system that the Minister describes and reality as it has been described to us by people working on the ground.



For now, our focus must be on supporting people, so will the Home Office contribute funding for vital counselling and other support? Will the Minister reinstate even the pitiful cash support for individuals who are still in hotels? Will he ensure that the exit strategy is shared and consulted on with Glasgow City Council and other key partners? Will he maintain the pause in evictions? Will he speak to the leader of Glasgow City Council—a vital partner—as well as the Scottish Government? Finally, will he acknowledge that people are angry about what has happened, and that there are concerns that the Home Office’s approach to the asylum system has become so hands-off that it risks becoming a Cinderella service?

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The hon. Gentleman asked whether we would have discussions with Glasgow City Council about the ongoing asylum accommodation estate in that fine city, and of course we will. I believe that discussions took place this afternoon—in the last two or three hours—between Home Office officials and Glasgow City Council on the very topic of moving people out of hotels and into more stable accommodation.

The hon. Gentleman mentioned healthcare. Healthcare for asylum seekers, wherever they may be in the country, is taken care of by the local NHS or, in the case of Glasgow, by the Bridge Project, which is co-ordinated by Glasgow City Council. I have every confidence in the service that Glasgow City Council and the NHS in Scotland provide. ...

I would be very happy to meet the leader of Glasgow City Council at any time. As I mentioned, I will be meeting Glasgow MPs, if not later this week, certainly next week. On the question of restarting move-ons, I have been very clear that as the country returns to normal, so we would expect the asylum system to return to normal. In a measured, phased and careful way, we will return to the system as it was before, which worked extremely well, but we will be extremely thoughtful in the way we do that. ...

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

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-06-29/debates/2E3382AE-74D6-4D20-BED3-AF5C665ED39F/Covid-19SupportAndAccommodationForAsylumSeekers>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **British Nationality: Children**

**Neil Coyle (Labour)** [6711] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when she will respond to the High Court decision of 19 December 2019 that found that her Department has charged unlawful fees for child citizenship applications.

**Neil Coyle (Labour)** [6712] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people her Department has unlawfully charged child citizenship application fees.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Although the judge ruled there had not been proper consideration of the Government’s section 55 duties, the fees regulations were not in themselves quashed.

The Secretary of State for the Home Department has been granted permission to appeal against the High Court Ruling of 19 December 2019. While the case remains ongoing we continue to charge Child Registration fees as set out in the Fees Regulations.

The Home Office notes the Court’s judgment from the High Court and is considering its implications carefully, while awaiting the appeal hearing.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-22/6711/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-22/6712/>

The High Court decision referred to above can be read at <https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/prcb-v-sshd.pdf>

### Immigration Controls

**Caroline Lucas (Green)** [21961] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the policy statement, the UK's points-based immigration system, published on 19 February 2020, when initiatives for NHS workers will be brought forward; and whether that pathway will include routes for health and social care professionals.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Government is committed to introducing a Health and Care visa which will provide eligible doctors, nurses and other allied health and social care 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, all NHS workers and wider health and social care workers, including those coming on the NHS Visa, will be exempted from paying the Immigration Health Surcharge. Further details, including eligibility, will be published in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-27/21961/>

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

### Immigration Controls

**Caroline Lucas (Green)** [21963] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to her 19 February 2020 policy statement entitled The UK's points-based immigration system, whether she has made an assessment of the potential effect of the (a) exclusion of an immigration route for low-skilled work and (b) general salary threshold of £25,600 on the adequacy of the number of staff in the health and social care sector.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** We will not be introducing an immigration route for those who do not meet the skills and salary threshold for the skilled worker route and to allow employers to recruit at or near the legal minimum wage across the globe. Following advice from the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) the Government has reduced both the general salary and skills thresholds for those who wish to come to the UK to work. There will also be an element of "tradeable" points which will mean that those who do not meet the general salary threshold may still be able to enter the UK if, for example, they have a job in a shortage occupation.

Additionally, we will be introducing a new fast-track Health and Care visa. This will make it easier and quicker for the best global health professionals to work in the NHS, for NHS commissioned service providers, and in eligible occupations in the social care sector.

The MAC has been clear immigration is not the sole answer to the challenges in the social care sector. As we implement the new immigration system, we want employers to focus on investing in our domestic work force, including those who may need to find new employment due to the impact of the present circumstances relating to Covid-19.

The Government is working closely with the sector to go further to recognise the contributions of social care workers. We will keep labour market data under very careful scrutiny to monitor any pressures in key sectors, especially considering recent events.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-27/21963/>

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

### **Youth Mobility Scheme**

**Caroline Lucas (Green)** [62382] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the UK's points-based immigration system: policy statement on 19 February 2020, if she will make it her Department's policy for EU citizens aged 18 to 30 to be eligible for the Tier 5 (Youth Mobility Scheme) visa.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** We have indicated our desire to negotiate a youth mobility arrangement with the EU, or with individual countries within it, ensuring that young people can continue to enjoy the social, cultural and educational benefits of living in the EU and the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-22/62382/>

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

### **Immigration**

**Jim Shannon (DUP)** [33520] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to reduce decision-making timeframes for (a) visa and (b) asylum applicants; and if she will make it her policy to grant Discretionary Leave to Remain to any applicant waiting more than a year for a decision on their application.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office is committed to ensuring that all applications are considered without unnecessary delay.

Information on our immigration routes with service standards and whether they have been processed against these standards is available as part of our transparency data, at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data#uk-visas-and-immigration>

If an application is deemed complex and expected to take longer than the standard processing timescale, UKVI will write to the customer within the standard processing time and explain what will happen next. The published information on processing times for complex/ non straightforward visa applications is published as part of the Migration Transparency data, available at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data>

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/2020-03-23/33520/>

## Immigration: Applications

**Caroline Lucas (Green)** [62384] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the statistics relating to covid-19 and the immigration system, May 2020, published 28 May 2020, what steps her Department is taking to tackle the delays in decisions on immigration applications that have resulted from the covid-19 outbreak, and what the average timeframe is for an immigration decision on (a) a visa application, (b) an application to the EU Settlement Scheme and (c) an asylum application.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Immigrations case-working operations have been impacted by COVID-19 and we have continued to make decisions where we have been able to. The re-opening of case-working offices has commenced and all teams are committed to decide applications as quickly as possible. Information on processing times for visa applications is published as part of the Migration Transparency data, available at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data>.

Due to the digital nature of the EU Settlement Scheme, it has remained open throughout the pandemic for customers able to apply on line using the EU Exit: ID Document Check app.

The current expected processing times are between 5 working days and a month but in some instances may take longer depending on the circumstances of the case and if we need to request further information from an applicant. The extent and length of time taken to complete these enquiries varies according to the prevailing circumstances of each particular application. The expected processing times are based upon current performance and can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-application-processing-times/eu-settlement-scheme-pilot-current-expected-processing-times-for-applications>

Additional support is available to those EU citizens in the UK who do not have the appropriate access, skills or confidence to apply online through Assisted Digital, which can offer assistance over the phone.

The Home Office takes the wellbeing of asylum seekers extremely seriously and has already put in place a range of measures to support asylum applicants affected by the covid-19 outbreak. In line with the Home Office' commitment to protect the health and wellbeing of its staff and applicants as a top priority, Asylum Operations made the decision to cease face to face substantive asylum interviews with effect from Thursday 19th March 2020. Asylum Operations has continued to make decisions where there is enough information on file to allow a decision to be made. The Home Office remains committed to delivering a fair and humane asylum system and minimising delays to decision making; our ability to interview applicants is critical that that. To keep people safe but allow the Home Office to gather relevant 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. Substantive asylum interviews will restart as soon we can establish a process that allows the participants - applicants, representatives, interpreters and interviewers - to do so safely.

The Home Office is committed to ensuring that claims are considered without unnecessary delay, to ensure that individuals who need protection are granted asylum as soon as possible and can start to integrate and rebuild their lives, including those granted at appeal. All asylum claims lodged in the UK are care-fully considered on a case by case basis, based on their individual merits, against a background of relevant case law and up to date country information.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-22/62384/>



The statistics referred to above can be read at

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

### **Immigration: Coronavirus**

**Caroline Lucas (Green)** [62383] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what support her Department is providing to people outside of the UK who are unable to (a) provide their biometric information or (b) take an approved English language test for their immigration applications due to the closure of (i) UK Visa Application Centres and (ii) test centres during the covid-19 pandemic.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Home Office has already implemented a number of measures for visa applicants, including for those who are unable to take an English language tests due to the impact of Covid-19. Details of all published concessions are available at

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

Some specific concessions are in place on English language testing, for example for those applying to enter the UK or remain on the basis of family or private life you can apply for an exemption if the test centre was closed or you couldn't travel to it due to Covid-19. For students, Higher Education Providers (HEP) can self-assess the English ability of those studying at degree level or above and due to Covid-19, this provision has been temporarily extended to allow HEPs to self-assess the English ability of students undertaking pre-sessional courses.

Secure English Language Testing (SELT) centres have started to reopen in England and in a number of overseas locations outside of the UK, where local restrictions have eased.

In order to submit their biometric data, visa customers are required to attend a visa application centre (VAC). The decision to reopen each VAC location is taken in conjunction with our outsourced operators (commercial partners) and is subject to the easing of restrictions in each location. A number of centres have already reopened and details of which centres are open or will be opening are published on the relevant commercial partner websites. UKVI and its partners are ensuring that regular communications are issued to keep customers informed of re-opening dates and appointment availability

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-22/62383/>

### **Migrant Workers: Pay**

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [6765] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether it is her policy to remove the £30,000 minimum salary threshold for immigrants wishing to work in the UK after the UK leaves the EU.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Government has published details relating to the UK's Points-Based Immigration System. Sponsoring employers must pay their workers at least the general salary threshold of £25,600, or the going rate for their particular occupation, whichever is higher. This includes a general salary threshold of £25,600. However, the tradeable points mean a person can earn a lower salary if they are a new entrant to the labour market, working in a job on the Shortage Occupation List or they have a relevant PHD. There is a minimum salary threshold of £20,480.

As recommended by the Migration Advisory Committee for some public sector jobs, the salary will be in line with the occupation's national pay scale.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-22/6765/>

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

### **Immigration: Au Pairs**

**Thangam Debonnaire (Labour)** [63373] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what status and rights au pairs will have in the Government's new immigration policy.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The UK's points-based immigration system will not offer a dedicated route for au pairs, as has been the case since 2008. However, there are other immigration routes which will exist for people who may wish to take up these roles, such as the Youth Mobility Scheme (YMS).

We have indicated our desire to negotiate a YMS with the EU, or with individual countries within it, ensuring young people can continue to enjoy the social, cultural and educational benefits of living in the EU and the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-23/63373/>

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

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Migrant Workers: Conditions of Employment**

**Paul Blomfield (Labour)** [20475] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential effect of the closure of immigration routes to lower paid work on levels of labour market abuse and exploitation.

**Paul Blomfield (Labour)** [20476] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that migrant workers can report labour market abuse to the police and other labour enforcement agencies without their details being passed to immigration enforcement.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Government has been clear free movement is ending and a new immigration system will be introduced from January 2021.

The Government is committed to eradicating exploitation across all sectors of the labour market and migrant workers are no exception.

The focus of the Gangmasters Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA) is on protecting vulnerable and exploited workers, who can raise concerns in confidence with the GLAA through their telephone line.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-25/20475/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-25/20476/>

### **Immigrants: Domestic Abuse**

**Stella Creasy (Labour Co-op)** [65116] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the effect of not including statutory protection for all migrant women in the Domestic Abuse Bill.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** Following the recommendations of the Joint Committee on the Draft Domestic Abuse Bill in June 2019, the Government committed to review our overall response on migrant victims.

We are aiming to publish the conclusions of our review on the definition of domestic abuse ahead of Commons Report stage of the Domestic Abuse Bill on 6 July.

Draft statutory guidance was published today, 1 July, and covers the impact of domestic abuse on migrant victims and highlights the barriers they face in seeking support.

We have also announced that we will be pledging a further £1.5 million towards a pilot later this year to cover the cost of support in a refuge or other safe accommodation for migrant victims who are unable to access public funds. We will use the pilot to assess the level of need for migrant victims of domestic abuse and the pilot will be specifically used to inform future decisions on immediate support provision for migrant victims.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-26/65116/>

*The draft guidance referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/896640/Draft\\_statutory\\_guidance\\_July\\_2020.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/896640/Draft_statutory_guidance_July_2020.pdf)

### **Migrant Workers: NHS**

**Dan Jarvis (Labour)** [63347] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will grant indefinite leave to remain to NHS staff who have worked during the covid-19 outbreak.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** NHS workers from overseas have made a huge contribution in tackling the current pandemic. We are extending the leave of key NHS frontline health workers and their dependants by one year, free of immigration fees and health surcharge, if it was due to expire before October 2020. This offer has also been extended to cover those working in key healthcare roles in the independent health and care sector. However, indefinite leave to remain is based on a number of requirements, including a period of lawful residence in the UK without excess absences, sufficient knowledge of the English language and life in the UK, and any specific requirements of the visa route they are in.

Families and dependants of all health workers who sadly pass away due to contracting the COVID-19 virus will be offered immediate indefinite leave to remain, without a requirement to pay a fee. We hope the number of people who find themselves in this position is very small. Our thoughts go out to the families and friends of all medical professionals who have passed away while fighting to keep us safe.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-23/63347/>

### **Immigration**

**Dan Poulter (Conservative)** [62385] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the potential merits of granting indefinite leave to remain to (a) overseas nationals working as health and social care staff and (b) their spouses and dependents.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** NHS workers from overseas have made a huge contribution in tackling the current pandemic. We are extending the leave of key NHS frontline health workers and their dependants by one year, free of immigration fees and health surcharge, if it was due to expire before October 2020. This offer has also been extended to cover those working in key healthcare roles in the independent health and care sector. However, indefinite leave to remain is based on several requirements, including a period of lawful residence in the UK without excess absences, sufficient knowledge of the English language and life in the UK, and any specific requirements of the visa route they are in.

Families and dependants of all health workers who sadly pass away due to

contracting the COVID-19 virus will be offered immediate indefinite leave to remain, without a requirement to pay a fee. We hope the number of people who find themselves in this position is very small. Our thoughts go out to the families and friends of all medical professionals who have passed away while working to keep us safe.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-22/62385/>

### **Migrant Workers: NHS**

**Matt Western (Labour)** [28676] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to remove immigration restrictions on non-resident health and care workers to fill NHS vacancies; and if she will make a statement.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Government is committed to introducing a Health and Care visa which will provide eligible doctors, nurses and other allied health and social care 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, all NHS workers and wider health and social care workers, including those coming on the NHS Visa, will be exempted from paying the Immigration Health Surcharge.

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-12/28676/>

### **Immigrants: Coronavirus**

**Rachel Reeves (Labour)** [32682] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what support will be made available to migrants with insecure immigration status during the covid-19 outbreak.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Government has put in place a range of measures to ensure people can stay safe and many of these are available for those with a No recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) condition. We have also published advice and information about the support available to migrants living here, including where they are subject to NRPF

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

Testing and treatment for Covid-19 is free of charge to all regardless of immigration status and NHS Trusts have been advised that no immigration checks are required for these patients.

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

The Government has allocated more than £3.2 billion to local authorities in England to help them respond to Covid-19 pressures across all the services they deliver, including services helping the most vulnerable. The funding will mean councils can continue to provide vital services, including adult social care and children's services.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-20/32682/>

### **Immigrants: Coronavirus**

**Stuart C McDonald (SNP)** [64938] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, with reference to his Department's press release,



£105 million to keep rough sleepers safe and off the streets during coronavirus pandemic, published on 24 June 2020, whether that additional funding can be used to support people with no recourse to public funds.

**Reply from Luke Hall:** At the beginning of the crisis, our priority was to urgently bring vulnerable people inside so they could self-isolate and stop the virus spreading. We backed this with £3.2 million in emergency funding for local authorities to support vulnerable rough sleepers, and a further £3.2 billion to help councils to manage the impacts of COVID-19, including supporting homeless people. The £3.2 billion funding is not ringfenced and can be used across any local services facing pressures, including rough sleeping.

On 24 June we announced that we are providing local authorities with a further £105 million to enable them to best support the c15,000 people placed into emergency accommodation during the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding is on top of the £433 million which we announced on 24 May to provide thousands of additional long-term homes for vulnerable rough sleepers. This commitment will help to ensure that as few of these people as possible return to the streets. The funding will cover a range of interventions, from moves into the private rented sector, to extending or procuring interim accommodation such as hotels or student accommodation and supporting individuals to reconnect with friends or family. This could also include provision for people eligible through the suspension of the derogation or support to return home.

It is at the discretion of local authorities to decide who they can support, whether this is British citizens or foreign nationals. The rules relating to eligibility, including those for individuals with no resource to public funds, have not changed. Local authorities must use their judgement in assessing what support they may lawfully give to each person on an individual basis, considering that person's specific circumstances and support needs. Local authorities already regularly make such judgements on accommodating individuals who might otherwise be ineligible, during extreme weather for example, where there is a risk to life. The Government recognises that these are unprecedented times and expects local authorities to support people who are sleeping rough, and also to minimise unnecessary risks to public health, acting within the law.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-25/64938/>

*The press release referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/105-million-to-keep-rough-sleepers-safe-and-off-the-streets-during-coronavirus-pandemic>

### **Immigrants: Health Services**

**Dan Jarvis (Labour)** [33550] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if her Department will suspend the Immigration Health Surcharge for critical workers during the covid-19 outbreak.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** We are grateful for the vital contributions critical workers are providing to essential public services, including healthcare workers, teachers and care professionals, who are at the forefront of the national effort to tackle coronavirus.

On 21 May, the Prime Minister announced NHS and health and care staff would be exempted from the Immigration Health Surcharge. Officials in the Home Office and the Department of Health and Social Care are working through how to implement this change.

NHS, health and care workers who have paid the Surcharge since the announcement will be refunded. Arrangements are being worked out and more

details will be announced in due course.

More generally it is fair to expect people arriving in the UK to work in non-healthcare roles to make a contribution to the NHS services to which they gain immediate access. The Immigration Health Surcharge is paid as part of the visa application process and income generated helps support NHS services across the whole of the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-23/33550/>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Visas**

**Hywel Williams (Plaid Cymru)** [63234] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when Priority Service and Super Priority Service for visa and indefinite leave to remain applications will resume.

### **Entry Clearances: Overseas Students**

**Hywel Williams (Plaid Cymru)** [63235] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to indefinite leave to remain decisions, what assessment she has made of the effect of the suspension of the priority and super priority services on the ability of international students to start university courses in September 2020.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** International students travelling to the UK to commence courses in the Autumn semester are not considered under the indefinite leave to remain route.

We continually review our global visa operation to improve performance and ensure value for money while maintaining excellent customer service.

We have not yet re-introduced Super Priority and Priority visa services, but are keeping the position under constant review as more of our visa application centres reopen. The decision to reopen visa application centres is taken in conjunction with our commercial partners and is subject to the easing of restrictions in locations by host Governments. As centres reopen details of these will be published on our commercial partner websites.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-23/63234/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-23/63235/>

### **Visas: Hong Kong**

**Steve Double (Conservative)** [28648] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to her Department's guidance, Coronavirus (COVID-19): immigration guidance, updated on 27 February 2020, whether (a) Hong Kong nationals and (b) British National (Overseas) passport holders are eligible to have their visas automatically extended.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Hong Kong Nationals, British National (Overseas) Passport holders and foreign nationals in the UK legally and whose visa expired after 24 January are able to extend their visa using this form

[https://gov.smartwebportal.co.uk/homeoffice/public/ho\\_form.html](https://gov.smartwebportal.co.uk/homeoffice/public/ho_form.html)

if they cannot leave the UK because of restrictions related to coronavirus.

The extension will last until 31 July and will apply to anyone whose leave expired after the 24 January and cannot leave the country because of travel restrictions or self-isolation. To help those who want to apply for visas to stay in the UK long-term, the Home Office is also temporarily expanding the in-country switching provisions until 31 July. Those who already had their visa extended to 31 May 2020, will have their visa extended automatically to 31 July 2020.

A dedicated help centre has been established for those who need assistance. The best way to contact the helpline is via email on [CIH@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:CIH@homeoffice.gov.uk) or on 0800 678 1767. It is open 9am-5pm Monday to Friday. Those who contact the Home Office for these visa extensions will be expected to return to their home countries as soon as possible once flight and border restrictions are lifted. No immigration enforcement action will be undertaken during this time for those who email the Home Office as outlined above.

More details can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-visa-extensions-for-those-unable-to-return-home-due-to-coronavirus>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-12/28648/>

*An updated version of the guidance referred to above can be read at*

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

### **Visas: Overseas Visitors**

**Paul Girvan (DUP)** [32221] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will take steps to increase the advice provided on gov.uk for non-Chinese nationals that cannot travel as a result of the covid-19 outbreak but have visitor visas which are due to expire.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Overseas nationals in the UK legally and whose visa expired after 24 January are able to extend their visa if they cannot leave the UK because of restrictions related to coronavirus.

The extension will last until 31 July and will apply to anyone whose leave expired after the 24 January and cannot leave the country because of travel restrictions or self-isolation. To help those who want to apply for visas to stay in the UK long-term, the Home Office is also temporarily expanding the in-country switching provisions until 31 July. Those who have already had their visa extended to 31 May 2020, will have their visa extended automatically to 31 July 2020.

A dedicated help centre has been established for those who need assistance. The best way to contact the helpline is via email on [CIH@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:CIH@homeoffice.gov.uk) or on 0800 678 1767. It is open 9am-5pm Monday to Friday. Those who contact the Home Office for these visa extensions will be expected to return to their home countries as soon as possible once flight and border restrictions are lifted. More details can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-visa-extensions-for-those-unable-to-return-home-due-to-coronavirus>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-19/32221/>

### **Migrant Workers: Visas**

**Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat)** [64305] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many health workers (a) were eligible and (b) applied for a visa extension as a result of the covid-19 outbreak.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Department for Health and Social Care estimated that up to 3000 individuals would be eligible for the NHS Visa Extension; applications are currently on course to exceed that estimate.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-24/64305/>

### Visas: Coronavirus

**Claire Hanna (SDLP)** [32180] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of people with (a) ancestry and (b) other visas who have no recourse public funds; and what support is available to those people if they are made redundant during the covid-19 outbreak.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The number of people who are subject to “no recourse to public funds” is not part of the published statistics. Home Office analysts are looking at the available data to determine what figures could be produced using internal management information. However, given the fluid nature of migration in and out of the country, and the number of individuals making applications to change their status at any given time; it would be too complex to produce an accurate figure of how many people are subject to “no recourse to public funds” at any given time that could be assured to the standard required by the Code of Practice for Statistics for publication.

This Government has taken action across the system to support those with no recourse to public funds, including protections from eviction for renters and mortgage holidays, helping the employed, self-employed and those on zero-hour contracts. Migrants with leave under the Family and Human Rights routes can apply to have the restriction lifted by making a ‘change of conditions’ application if there has been a change in their financial circumstances. The Home Office has recently digitised the application form to make sure it is accessible for those who need to remain at home, and those who do not have internet access or are not confident using a computer can access phone support to complete their application. Individuals with leave under the 5-yr parent route, or the 10-yr family or private life route, can apply for a fee waiver if they are destitute, would be rendered destitute by payment of the fee, or where there are other exceptional circumstances. More information for migrants living in the UK can be found here:

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-19/32180/>

### Windrush Generation: Compensation

**Ruth Cadbury (Labour)** [62461] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, whether payments under the Windrush Compensation Scheme count towards the savings limit of universal credit and other means-tested benefits.

**Reply from Will Quince:** Any payment of capital from the Windrush Compensation Scheme or the Windrush Exceptional Payments Scheme will be disregarded indefinitely for the calculation of capital in Universal Credit and other means-tested benefits.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-22/62461/>

### Immigration Controls: EEA Nationals

**Darren Jones (Labour)** [5503] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when the Government plans to phase out the use of EEA national identity cards as a valid form of identification at the UK border.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The documents that EEA and Swiss nationals need to travel to the UK will not change until at least 2021.

We will announce further details of our plans to phase out the use of EEA national identity cards in due course.

However, EU Settlement Scheme status holders and others who are protected by the Withdrawal Agreement and equivalent agreements with the EFTA states will



continue to be able to use national identity cards for travel to the UK until at least December 2025, in accordance with the terms of those agreements. Thereafter, they will continue to be able to travel here on their national identity card, provided it meets International Civil Aviation Organisation standards.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-20/5503/>

*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**

**Deidre Brock (SNP)** [4359] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of applications by non UK national EU citizens for settled status were submitted through her Department's app.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** We are not able to provide a precise figure because our app statistics include transactions for applications which have been started, but not yet submitted. However, we estimate over 3.2 million applicants have used the EU Exit: ID Document check app to scan their Passport as part of their application to the EU Settlement Scheme.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-16/4359/>

*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**

**Caroline Lucas (Green)** [7182] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 20 January 2020 to Question 3166, what proportion of applicants who have applied to the EU Settlement Scheme without a valid identity document have received (a) settled status and (b) pre-settled status and (c) another outcome.

**Caroline Lucas (Green)** [7183] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 20 January 2020 to Question 3166, what funding will be available after March 2020 to support vulnerable EU citizens who are (a) homeless, (b) elderly and (c) young people in care in applying for the EU Settlement Scheme.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The latest published information shows that more than 3.6 million (3,612,400) EU Settlement Scheme applications had been received up to 31 May 2020. In the same period 3.3 million (3,319,000) applications had been concluded of which 57% were granted settled status and 41% pre-settled status. The latest figures can be found in the Home Office's 'EU Settlement Scheme monthly statistics' available at:

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

The Home Office remains committed to supporting vulnerable and hard to reach groups after March 2020, through a wide range of support available online, over the phone and in person to help people apply.

The Settlement Resolution Centre is in place to provide assistance to applicants with any questions about the scheme or who need help applying. Additional support is also available to those EU citizens in the UK who do not have the appropriate access, skills or confidence to apply. This includes over 300 assisted digital locations across the UK where people can be supported through their application. It is one of several ways people can verify their identity, including by post. There are also over 80 locations where applicants can have their passport scanned and verified across the UK. The Home Office also works closely with other Government departments, including DfE, MHCLG, HMRC and DWP, as well as engaging with

Local Authorities and Devolved Administrations to support and promote the EUSS. The Home Office recently committed a further £8 million of grant funding for FY 2020/21 to ensure important information and assistance continue to get through to those hardest to reach, allowing charities, as well as local authorities to bid for funding to provide support to vulnerable people, including young people across the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-23/7182/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-23/7183/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-14/3166/>

*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**

**Alex Norris (Labour Co-op)** [10444] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans the Government has to bring forward legislative proposals to allow (a) digital and (b) physical documents to be accepted under the terms of the Licensing Act 2003, in line with proof of settled status.

**Reply from Kit Malthouse:** The Government recognises that there needs to be an agreement on what constitutes an acceptable form of digital ID for age verification purposes. We will continue to engage across Government and with companies working to develop digital age-verification so that an appropriate framework can be developed and tested.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-30/10444/>

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Thangam Debbonaire (Labour)** [12351] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 23 January 2020 to Question 3789 on Immigration: EU Nationals, whether her Department has used the electoral roll to contact EU citizens on applying for (a) settled or (b) pre-settled status.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Home Office has not used the electoral roll to contact EU citizens about applying for settled or pre-settled status. In order to ensure that 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.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-04/12351/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-15/3789/>

*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

**Steve McCabe (Labour)** [39473] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will extend the deadline for applications for EU Settled Status during the covid-19 outbreak.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** There are no plans to extend the deadline for applications to the EU Settlement Scheme. There is still a year to go until the deadline of 30 June 2021 and the latest published statistics, to 31 May 2020, show the scheme is performing well, with more than 3.6 million applications having been received and over 3.3 million concluded.

EEA citizens can apply online, free of charge, simply by completing three key steps: proving their identity, showing they live in the UK and declaring any criminal convictions. There is support available online, by email and telephone from our assisted digital provider.

Where a person eligible for leave under the scheme has reasonable grounds for missing the application deadline, they will be given a further opportunity to apply. Our compassionate and flexible approach will ensure individuals who miss the deadline through no fault of their own can still obtain lawful status in the UK. We will publish clear guidance for caseworkers in due course to ensure consistency of approach.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-24/39473/>

*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

**Deidre Brock (SNP)** [6155] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 16 January 2020 to Question 900237 on Immigration: EU Nationals, what her timescale is for the publication of the guidance on what will constitute reasonable grounds for missing the deadline for the EU Settlement Scheme.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Government has made clear, where a person eligible for leave under the EU Settlement Scheme has reasonable grounds for missing the application deadline of 30 June 2021, they will be given a further opportunity to apply.

We have not published a list of reasonable grounds for missing the deadline as it is a year away and the focus should be on encouraging people to apply. We will however publish clear guidance for caseworkers in due course to ensure consistency of approach.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-21/6155/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at <https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-16/900237/>*

*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

**Hilary Benn (Labour)** [65940] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans her Department has to issue reminders to EU citizens who have been granted pre-settled status of the when they should apply to convert to settled status; and if she will make a statement.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** UK Visas & Immigration are committed to sending out reminders to those people whose pre-settled status is due to expire and who have

not yet applied for settled status. This is set out in paragraph 1.18 of the Statement of Intent published in June 2018

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/718237/EU\\_Settlement\\_Scheme\\_SOI\\_June\\_2018.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/718237/EU_Settlement_Scheme_SOI_June_2018.pdf)

As pre-settled status is valid for 5 years from the date of issue, the earliest any reminders will be sent out will be 2023.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-29/65940/>

*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**

**Paul Blomfield (Labour)** [14690] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reason her Department did not include the right to rent in the UK in the list of options for a person with (a) settled and (b) pre-settled status to choose from when requesting a share code and in answer to the question, why are you proving your status.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office is planning to launch an online right to rent status checking service later this year.

The new online service will enable EEA nationals granted status under the EU Settlement Scheme, and non-EEA nationals with biometric residence permits and cards to demonstrate their right to rent.

The online right to rent checking service will build on the general launch of the 'View and prove your settled or pre-settled status' service for those granted status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-10/14690/>

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

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

### **Migrant Workers: EU Nationals**

**Stella Creasy (Labour Co-op)** [18818] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she will take to ensure the Government's proposed immigration policy for EU migration after the transition period does not adversely affect the care sector.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The independent Migration Advisory Committee has been clear immigration is not the solution to addressing staffing levels in the social care sector. Senior care workers who meet the criteria will be able to come to the UK through the points-based system.

We are working alongside employers to ensure the workforce has the right number of people to meet increasing demands and have recently launched a national recruitment campaign.

We are also providing councils with access to an additional £1.5 billion for adults and children's social care in 2020-21.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-21/18818/>

### **Health Services: EU Nationals**

**Neale Hanvey (SNP)** [60875] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 5 March 2020 to Question 23401 which states that confirmation of settled or pre-settled status is not required to access NHS care, for what reason get hospital treatment is listed as a reason on the online EU settled status scheme form for proving one's status to a requesting organisation/individual from 1 January 2021 onwards.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** It is correct European Economic Area and Swiss citizens



do not require Home Office confirmation of settled or pre-settled status granted under the EU Settlement Scheme to access National Health Service care.

Individuals may wish to rely on the fact they have been granted status under the Scheme as part of demonstrating their ordinary residence in the UK. The online View and Prove service therefore offers this as an option, should users wish to share their status for this purpose. It is entirely optional.

EEA and Swiss citizens continue to be able to use their passport or national identity card to evidence their right to access services and this will not change until 30 June 2021.

From 2021, when the new immigration system is introduced, EEA or Swiss patients will be required to demonstrate they are ordinarily resident in the UK, as is already presently the case for non-EEA nationals who are not the family member of an EEA citizen. They can do this by relying on the status they have been granted under the Scheme.

EEA nationals who do not have protected rights will be bound by the new global immigration system.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-17/60875/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-02/23401/>

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

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

### **Immigrants: Health Services**

**Bambos Charalambous (Labour)** [9119] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether (a) EU citizens resident in the UK and (b) UK residents in the EU will be required to pay an immigration health surcharge after the UK leaves the EU.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** EEA and Swiss citizens who are resident in the UK before the end of the transition period on 31 December 2020 will be eligible to apply to secure their status under the EU Settlement Scheme and will have until 30 June 2021 to make their application. Applications under the EU Settlement Scheme are not subject to the Immigration Health Surcharge. This was agreed as part of negotiations on the Withdrawal Agreement with the EU, which also protects the rights of UK nationals in the EU. After the introduction of the new points-based immigration system, migrants to the UK subject to immigration control will be treated the same and should pay the IHS if staying for longer than six months. There are several published exemptions to this rule.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-28/9119/>

*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**

**Wendy Chamberlain (Liberal Democrat)** [65021] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that EU nationals are aware of the requirement to have Comprehensive Sickness Insurance prior to naturalisation.

**Wendy Chamberlain (Liberal Democrat)** [65022] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reason the requirement for EU nationals to have Comprehensive Sickness Insurance prior to naturalisation has been (a) introduced and (b) introduced at this time.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** We have not changed the requirements for naturalisation: it has always been a requirement for a person to have been in the UK lawfully during the residential qualifying period.

EEA Regulations set out the requirements which individuals need to follow if they wish to reside here lawfully before attaining permanent residence. For example, in the case of students or the self-sufficient – but not those who were working here – the possession of comprehensive sickness insurance has always been a requirement. Our customer guidance explains this position.

The British Nationality Act allows us to exercise discretion over this requirement in the special circumstances of a case. The nationality application form and guide encourage applicants to give us relevant information to help us do that.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-25/65021/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-25/65022/>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Migrant Camps: Greece**

**Thangam Debbonaire (Labour)** [3787] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate the Government has made of the number of children in refugee camps in Greece who have an adult relative in the UK.

#### **Refugees: Children**

**Thangam Debbonaire (Labour)** [3788] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government is taking to ensure that any unaccompanied child refugee or asylum-seeker in another European country with an adult relative in the UK has been contacted in order to reunite them with their family member.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The UK maintains close operational links with EU Member States in order to transfer those children who are assessed to be eligible to transfer under the Dublin III Regulation.

It is the responsibility of the EU Member State where the unaccompanied child resides to identify those children who would be eligible for transfer to another Member State under the Dublin III Regulation. The Home Office does not have access to the personal details of all unaccompanied children present in other EU Member States.

The Home Office publishes annual data on the Dublin III Regulation in the Immigration Statistics. This includes data on the number of requests to transfer into and out of the UK and the number acceptances and transfers into and out of, broken down by article and Member State requesting. 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>

Instructions on how to use the data can be found in the 'Notes' sheet.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-15/3787/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-15/3788/>

#### **Refugees: Children**

**Catherine West (Labour)** [5490] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans her Department has to ensure the continuation of family reunions and the safe passage of child refugees.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Government remains committed to the principle of family reunion, as well as to supporting vulnerable children.

The UK will continue to be bound by the Dublin Regulation provisions during the transition period, allowing us to continue to transfer family reunion cases to the UK throughout 2020, and we will continue to process all family reunion requests that have been submitted but not completed under Dublin before the end of the transition period.

The UK has presented a genuine and sincere offer to the EU on a future reciprocal arrangement for the family reunion of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children together with a draft legal text.

The UK provides a safe and legal route to bring families of refugees together through its refugee family reunion policy. This route will not be affected when we leave the EU. In the year ending March 2020, over 7,400 Refugee Family Reunion visas were issued to partners and children of those previously granted asylum or humanitarian protection in the UK.

Additionally, Appendix FM to the Immigration Rules provides for family members wishing to enter or remain in the UK on the basis of their relationship with a family member who is a British citizen or settled in the UK, and those who are post-flight family of a person granted protection in the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-20/5490/>

*Appendix FM to the Immigration Rules, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-fm-family-members>

### **Children: Coronavirus**

**Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [65004]** To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment he has made of the ability of (a) refugee and (b) asylum seeker children to access (i) laptops and (ii) the internet during partial school closures during the covid-19 outbreak; and what steps his Department is taking to tackle the disadvantage gap in relation to those children.

**Reply from Nick Gibb:** The Government has committed over £100 million to support vulnerable and disadvantaged children in England to access remote education and social care services, including by providing laptops, tablets and 4G wireless routers.

We are providing laptops and tablets to disadvantaged children who would otherwise not have access and are preparing for examinations in year 10, those receiving support from a social worker and care leavers. This includes looked after children, including unaccompanied asylum seeking children. It also includes former unaccompanied asylum seeking children who are now care leavers. Where care leavers, children with a social worker at secondary school and children in year 10 do not have internet connections, we are providing 4G wireless routers.

The Department has ordered over 200,000 laptops and tablets and allocated devices to local authorities and academy trusts based on its estimates of the number of eligible children that do not have access to a device. Local authorities and academy trusts are best placed to identify and prioritise children and young people who need devices. This may include children in families who are refugees or who are seeking asylum. The Department is working to provide these devices in the shortest possible timeframe; deliveries to schools and local authorities began in May and have continued throughout June.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-25/65004/>

### Refugees: Syria

**Diana Johnson (Labour)** [13428] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to (a) recruit additional staff and (b) ensure there are adequate resources to process applications for indefinite leave to remain from refugees that have been resettled in the UK under the Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement Programme.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Upon being eligible for Indefinite Leave to Remain, refugees resettled under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme will be able apply using the existing settlement protection route. The Home Office has forecast anticipated intake levels to ensure we have the appropriate resource in place.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-06/13428/>

### Immigrants: Biometrics

**Stella Creasy (Labour Co-op)** [63333] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 23 June 2020 to Question 61486 on UK Border Force: Coronavirus, whether the policy to begin fingerprinting migrants trying to enter the UK irregularly at its French border has been implemented.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Border Force re-started collecting fingerprints of illegal migrants detected at juxtaposed controls on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 2020.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-23/63333/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-18/61486/>

*The following four questions all received the same answer*

### Asylum

**Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op)** [14014] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many inadmissibility decisions based on the concept of safe third country were made by the UK in 2019; and which designated safe third country those decisions related to.

**Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op)** [14015] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many inadmissibility decisions based on the concept of first country of asylum were made for each such country in 2019.

### Asylum: EU Countries

**Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op)** [14016] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she holds information on the average duration of the Dublin III Regulation procedure from the issuing of an outgoing request to the UK until the transfer to the member state responsible; and if she will make a statement.

**Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op)** [14017] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average length of time for a transfer under the Dublin III regulation procedure is from when a Member State accepts responsibility to the transfer from the UK to that Member State.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Dublin III Regulation is a long-standing mechanism between EU Member States to determine responsibility for examining asylum claims. It is not an application route for transfer to the UK. At present we do not publish data on cases covered by the Dublin Regulation. Eurostat, the EU's statistics agency, regularly publishes Member State figures, which can be found at:

[http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=migr\\_dubto&lang=en](http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=migr_dubto&lang=en)

Under the Dublin III Regulation, member states have two months from receiving a request from another participating Member State to accept or reject responsibility for processing the asylum claim. Once a Dublin request has been accepted, the



Regulation provides that the sending Member State has six months to enact the transfer. The Home Office works closely with EU Member State partners to enact transfers as soon as possible and ahead of the six-month timeframe.

The latest guidance on the Dublin III Regulation was published in April 2020 and can be found via the link below:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/797216/Dublin-III-regulation-v2.0ext.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/797216/Dublin-III-regulation-v2.0ext.pdf)

The UK is committed to providing protection to those who need it, in accordance with its international obligations. It is an established principle that those in need of protection should seek asylum in the first safe country that they enter and not put their lives at risk by making unnecessary and dangerous onwards journeys to the UK. Illegal migration from safe countries undermines our efforts to help those most in need.

Controlled resettlement via safe and legal routes is the best way to protect refugees and disrupt the organised crime groups that exploit migrants and refugees. We support these principles by:

- treating asylum claims made in the UK as inadmissible if the claimants have suitable protection in another safe country from where they would not face refoulement (that is, the country would not force the claimant to return to another country where they would be at risk of harm or persecution)
- treating asylum claims made in the UK as inadmissible if the claimant has travelled through or has a connection to another safe country which is not their own, on the basis that the claimant has, or could have lodged their asylum claim there
- progressing to removal stage those who undertake illegal journeys and subvert immigration control, to demonstrate that such action will not lead to entry to, or settlement in the UK.

Information regarding how many inadmissible decisions based on the concept of safe third country, first country of asylum and which designated safe third country those decisions relate to is not recorded or held in a reportable format.

Full guidance on which asylum claims must be treated as inadmissible was published in October 2019 and can be found via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inadmissibility-third-country-cases>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-07/14014/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-07/14015/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-07/14016/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-07/14017/>

### **Immigration: Applications**

**Caroline Lucas (Green)** [62381] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Answer of 8 June 2020 to Question 49637, if she will make it her policy to allow people who are making in-country claims for asylum to complete their applications virtually during the covid-19 pandemic; and what support her Department will provide to asylum seekers to complete those applications digitally.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office does not intend to change the current policy that asylum claims must be made in person. The Home Office has

temporarily introduced additional locations to register asylum claims, with social distancing measures in place at these locations for the safety of claimants and Home Office staff. These are temporary arrangements which will be kept under review to align with HMG guidance. These changes do not represent a new operating model, they are contingency measures put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic in order to ensure that asylum seekers are able to safely register their claims.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-22/62381/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

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

### **Asylum: Interviews**

**Christine Jardine (Liberal Democrat) [62563]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the implications for her policies of the recommendations of the report entitled *Beyond Belief*, published by Freedom from Torture on 16 June 2020, that caseworkers receive appropriate and relevant training when conducting interviews with victims of torture to encourage full disclosure and identify important aspects of claims, avoiding costly appeals; and what plans she has to report to the recommendations in that report.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office remains committed to delivering a fair and humane asylum system that is sensitive to the needs of the claimants, so that sufficient information can be obtained to facilitate fair and sustainable decisions on asylum claims. We ensure that asylum seekers are given every opportunity to disclose information relevant to their claim before a decision is taken, even where that information may be sensitive or difficult to disclose.

The report published by Freedom from Torture acknowledges that there have been signs of progress within the Home Office. Improvements have been made to policy instructions to emphasise the importance of caseworker conduct during asylum interviews, in line with an earlier recommendation made by Freedom from Torture. The report also acknowledges the increase in asylum grant rates at initial decision stage, which is indicative of our efforts to improve asylum decision making and get decisions first time.

Following the publication of the Freedom from Torture report entitled 'Proving Torture', a collaborative response to improving training for asylum caseworkers was initiated to develop a training package which directly addressed concerns raised in the report. This resulted in the training course 'Assessing Evidence: Medical Legal Reports', which has been rolled out to asylum caseworkers, senior caseworkers and technical specialists since December 2018. The training is now mandatory for any caseworker dealing with asylum claims where Medico-legal reports have been submitted.

We will continue to look at the themes raised in the report as part of our on-going commitment to improve decision quality and the customer experience.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-22/62563/>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

[https://freedomfromtorturestories.contentfiles.net/media/documents/Beyond\\_Belief\\_report.pdf](https://freedomfromtorturestories.contentfiles.net/media/documents/Beyond_Belief_report.pdf)

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Asylum: Government Assistance**

**Chris Stephens (SNP) [32181]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department,

what steps her Department is taking to support (a) vulnerable and (b) other (i) asylum seekers and (ii) refugees during the covid-19 outbreak.

#### **Asylum: Finance**

**Mark Tami (Labour)** [62306] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of increasing the rate of asylum support during the covid-19 outbreak commensurate with the increase in the universal credit standard allowance.

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

As a result of this work, the standard allowance has been raised to £39.60 per week from £37.75 per week, an increase of around 5%. The increase is significantly higher than the current general rate of inflation, which Office of National Statistics data shows was only 0.5% in the 12 months period to May 2020. In addition to asylum support payments, asylum seekers are provided with free accommodation, utilities are paid for, council tax is paid for, they have free access to the NHS and their children have free access to education.

In March, we introduced temporary measures to continue supporting those asylum seekers, failed asylum seekers and newly recognised refugees who would normally have had their accommodation and financial assistance stopped. Home office is currently reviewing this additional support,

The UK has a generous record in supporting asylum seekers. Last year, we made around 20,000 grants of asylum or protection (one of the higher figures in Europe), as well as offered protection to 3,000 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children – the highest number of any country in Europe. In addition, we have directly resettled around 20,000 people from the most dangerous areas of the world (especially Syrians) in the UK over the last 5 years. Finally, we spend around £14 billion per year in Overseas Aid, helping millions of people around the world. This is the highest amount of any country in Europe and we are the only G7 country to meet the 0.7% of GNI Overseas Aid target

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-19/32181/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-22/62306/>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Asylum: Finance**

**Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op)** [7663] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to monitor the time taken to issue ASPEN cards to people on asylum support; and what steps she is taking to ensure that back payments are paid in cases where there has been a delay in issuing that card.

**Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op)** [7664] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she has taken to ensure that people in receipt of asylum support are able to access payments via their ASPEN card when moved to dispersal accommodation.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** A dedicated ASPEN team is in place and manages, via the AIRE Service Provider, all enquiries relating to ASPEN Cards which includes a contact email inbox.

The HO does not routinely collect data on the time taken to issue ASPEN cards but we are continuing to work with all accommodation providers to ensure that applicants are able to access financial support upon dispersal. There is an

Emergency Support Payment (ECP) provision available from Providers to ensure that Service Users are supported until receipt of their ASPEN Card.

For service users awaiting payment of backdated support, there is a priority workstream in place which is subject to robust scrutiny to ensure correct levels of backdated support are provided.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-24/7663/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-24/7664/>

### **Asylum: Coronavirus**

**David Linden (SNP)** [28773] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions she has had with Cabinet colleagues on ensuring that refugees and asylum seekers have access to information on the covid-19 outbreak in languages other than English.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office are engaging with the wider Voluntary and Community sector via the British Red Cross to ensure that the refugees and migrants they are supporting are aware of the Government advice and are clear about the importance of adhering to it.

All asylum accommodation providers continue to provide translated public health guidance, available in 12 languages, and instructions to service users. Where appropriate, service users are supported to ensure that they can self-isolate effectively.

Public Health England is also coordinating engagement through its local centres, linking into local authorities and their Directors of Public Health. They have also translated advice on social distancing and self-isolation into multiple languages, in addition to material provided by Doctors of the World, which is based on the Government's advice. This advice can be found within the Migrant Health Guide at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-entitlements-migrant-health-guide#main-messages>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-12/28773/>

### **Asylum: Coronavirus**

**Andrew Rosindell (Conservative)** [63243] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that asylum seekers are tested for covid-19 before being placed in dispersal accommodation.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** There is no routine testing for asylum seekers prior to them being dispersed, but in line with government guidelines anybody with symptoms in England can now be tested. Asylum seekers who test positive or have symptoms will be accommodated in hotel or self contained accommodation while they are isolating.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-23/63243/>

### **Asylum: Housing**

**Thangam Debbonaire (Labour)** [64947] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether it is her Department's policy to serve eviction notices to people who have been granted refugee status to leave their asylum accommodation before the ban on evictions ends due to the covid-19 outbreak; and what discussions she had had with the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government on accommodation needed for people facing eviction in order to prevent them from becoming homeless.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Asylum seekers who are granted refugee status are

normally given notice that they must leave any accommodation that has been provided to them by the Home Office within 28 days, as they may now take employment and have access to mainstream benefits and housing assistance from their local authority. Whilst this process was paused on 27 March for a period of three months, we are currently reviewing plans about appropriate timing to resume issuing notices in individual cases in a carefully phased and measured way and have been having discussions with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Local Authorities and others on the arrangements.

The timing of those decisions is not affected by the current restrictions on evicting tenants from private rental properties. Those arrangements do not apply to those in asylum support accommodation. This is confirmed in paragraph 2.2 of the Government's guidance to landlords and tenants, which can be found at: MHCLG guidance

([https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/888843/Updated\\_Landlord\\_and\\_Tenant\\_Guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/888843/Updated_Landlord_and_Tenant_Guidance.pdf))

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-25/64947/>

### **Children: Asylum**

**Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op)** [64998] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to the Answer of 24 June 2020 to Question 59568 on Department for Education: Overseas Aid, what assessment his Department has made of the potential effect of the reduction in Official Development Assistance in cash terms on the provision of support to child and unaccompanied child asylum seekers.

**Reply from Vicky Ford:** It is the department's policy that asylum seeker children who attend a school or early years setting attract funding in the same way as all other children. This is allocated through the schools national funding formula and other grants like the pupil premium and teachers' pay grant. The department's Official Development Assistance (ODA) contribution is an estimate of how much of the wider core schools funding for England is allocated due to having these children on schools' rolls. Our ODA spending in future years will be primarily dependent on the number of asylum seeker children arriving in the country.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-25/64998/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-15/59568/>

### **Asylum: LGBT People**

**Edward Davey (Liberal Democrat)** [62267] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been granted asylum in the UK as a result of persecution for being LGBTQ+ in their home state in each of the last 15 years.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office is unable to state how many people have been granted asylum in the UK as a result of persecution for being LGBTQ+ in their home states in each of the last 15 years.

The Home Office remains committed to publishing information on the number of people claiming asylum on the basis of sexual orientation.

While the Department does not hold pre-July 2015 data in a reportable format and does not currently break down the data into the separate lesbian, gay or bisexual category, experimental data on asylum claims lodged on the basis of sexual orientation, including the number of claimants who were granted asylum, between July 2015 and August 2019 is available at SOC\_00 and SOC\_04 of the published



immigrations statistics year ending March 2020 and is broken down by nationality: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2020/list-of-tables#asylum-on-the-basis-of-sexual-orientation](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2020/list-of-tables#asylum-on-the-basis-of-sexual-orientation).

The data does not represent the number of asylum claimants who define themselves as LGB. Having an identifier that an asylum case is based on sexual orientation does not indicate that a claimant has any particular sexuality or that sexual orientation is the reason for any grant or refusal of asylum. It also does not signify whether that aspect of the claim has been accepted. Sexual orientation as a basis of claim could be due to imputed assertions or association rather than a defining characteristic of the claimant.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-22/62267/>

### **Detention Centres**

**Andrew Rosindell (Conservative)** [62320] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that local communities are consulted and notified before the opening of

**Reply from Chris Philp:** There are currently no plans to open new Immigration Removal Centres or Residential Short-Term Holding Facilities. When opening or closing immigration detention facilities the Home Office will consult with relevant local authorities as a matter of routine.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-22/62320/>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Detention Centres: Coronavirus**

**Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op)** [62577] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that (a) staff working and (b) people detained in immigration removal centres are tested for covid-19.

### **Detention Centres: Risk Assessment**

**Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op)** [62578] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the risks of covid-19 for (a) staff working in and (b) immigrants detained in immigration removal centres.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The safety and health of staff working in the detention estate and people who are detained are of the utmost importance. The Home Office, its suppliers and NHS England healthcare providers in immigration removal centres are following all Public Health England guidance on COVID-19 for the management of COVID-19. Universal testing is not currently recommended under these guidelines, this includes staff, people who are detained and those being released into the community. Any testing conducted will be dependent on individual circumstances. The Home Office is taking proactive steps to monitor, manage and mitigate the threat of COVID-19 to staff and people who are detained and to reduce the likelihood of the infection spreading. Guidance on managing these risks was implemented on 5 May 2020 and subsequently published on gov.uk on 5 June

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-immigration-removal-centres>.

As of 23 June 2020, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in immigration removal centres.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-22/62577/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-22/62578/>

### **Detention Centres: Closures**

**Jess Phillips (Labour)** [32148] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will close (a) Yarl's Wood and (b) other detention centres as a result of covid-19.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** No. There are currently no plans for the temporary closure of any of our immigration removal centres. The health of those in immigration removal centres is of the utmost importance but we remain committed to removing foreign national offenders or those who violate our immigration rules. Detention plays a key role in securing our borders and maintaining effective immigration control. Decisions to detain an individual are based on all of the information known at the time. As circumstances change, temporary release may then become the most appropriate option.

As of 23 June, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the immigration detention estate.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-19/32148/>

### **Detainees: Coronavirus**

**Stephen Doughty (Labour Co-op)** [42048] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many (a) staff members and (b) residents living in Home Office supported (i) asylum accommodation and (ii) detention facilities have (A) been tested and (B) tested positive for covid-19 since 1 January 2020.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The health of those in asylum accommodation and immigration removal centres (IRC) is of the utmost importance.

The Accommodation providers recognise the challenge of managing COVID 19 within our accommodation estate and are working closely with Public Health England (PHE) on how their guidance on social distancing and self-isolation is properly applied, while ensuring that people can continue to access essential services.

Any individual who has symptoms is able to be tested for covid 19. We do not currently publish figures in relation to the testing of asylum accommodation staff and our service users for Covid-19.

All immigration removal centres have dedicated health facilities run by doctors and nurses which are managed by the NHS or appropriate providers. The Home Office is working closely with NHS England health and justice teams and regional commissioning teams to support their planning and delivery of healthcare services, including testing, in immigration removal centres during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Provisional management information indicates that as of 21 June, there have been 12 confirmed cases of COVID-19 across our detention supplier, healthcare and escorting staff. All of whom have now recovered. In addition, there have been two confirmed cases of COVID-19 in detained individuals. A third individual was identified but after his release from detention had been agreed. Whilst in the IRC the individual was in isolation. He was released as there was no immediate prospect of removal.

As of 26 June, no other detained individuals have tested positive for COVID-19.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-01/42048/>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Deportation**

**Alexander Stafford (Conservative)** [63559] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many deportation notices have been served in each year since 2005.

**Alexander Stafford (Conservative)** [63560] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been deported in each year since 2005.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office publishes data on returns from the UK in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release'

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

Data on the number of returns, by year, from 2010 are published in table Ret\_D01 (<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/returns-and-detention-datasets>)

within the returns detailed dataset. Data prior to 2010 are published in table rt\_01 in the Returns data tables volume 1 of Immigration Statistics, year ending June 2019 second edition (attached).

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

Additionally, the Home Office publishes a high-level overview of the data in the Summary Tables (attached) . The 'contents' sheet contains an overview of all available data on returns. The latest data relates from 2010 to the year ending March 2020.

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

([https://www.gov.uk/search/research-and-statistics?content\\_store\\_document\\_type=upcoming\\_statistics&organisations%5B%5D=home-office&order=release-date-oldest](https://www.gov.uk/search/research-and-statistics?content_store_document_type=upcoming_statistics&organisations%5B%5D=home-office&order=release-date-oldest)).

Information on the number of individuals served with a Deportation Order would require a manual check of individual records which could only be done at disproportionate cost.

[Returns data tables](#)

[Summary Tables](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-23/63559/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-23/63560/>

### **Deportation: Zimbabwe**

**Christine Jardine (Liberal Democrat)** [14778] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the treatment of refused asylum seekers after their return to Zimbabwe.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office does not routinely monitor the treatment of people once they are removed from the UK. Returns are only undertaken when the Home Office and courts deem it is safe to do so.

The UK is under no obligation to monitor the treatment of unsuccessful asylum seekers who have returned to their country of origin. They are, by definition, foreign nationals who have been found as a matter of law not to need the UK's protection, and who have no legal basis of stay in the UK. It would be inappropriate for the UK to assume any ongoing responsibility for them when they return to their own country.

Should the Home Office receive any specific allegations that a returnee has experienced ill-treatment on return to their country of origin, these would be investigated in partnership with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-10/14778/>

### Deportation: Zimbabwe

**Christine Jardine (Liberal Democrat) [14779]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers have been returned to Zimbabwe in each of the last four calendar years.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office publishes data on returns from the UK in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release'.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>  
Data on the number of returns, by year, type of return and asylum and non-asylum are published in table Ret\_05 of the returns summary dataset. In addition, the top 10 nationalities being returned by whether an asylum or non-asylum related case, for the most recent period available are published in table Ret\_04 .

Asylum-related returns relate to cases where there has been an asylum claim at some stage prior to the return. This will include asylum seekers whose asylum claims have been refused, and who have exhausted any rights of appeal, those returned under third country provisions, as well as those granted asylum/protection, but removed for other reasons (such as criminality).

The latest data relates to the year ending March 2020.

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

[https://www.gov.uk/search/research-and-statistics?content\\_store\\_document\\_type=upcoming\\_statistics&organisations%5B%5D=home-office&order=release-date-oldest](https://www.gov.uk/search/research-and-statistics?content_store_document_type=upcoming_statistics&organisations%5B%5D=home-office&order=release-date-oldest)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-10/14779/>

### Human Trafficking: Children

**Barry Sheerman (Labour co-op) [64072]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when her Department plans to publish its most recent evaluation of the Independent Child Trafficking Guardian (ICTG) service; and by what date the Government plans to have rolled out ICTG to all local authorities.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** Last year, the Government successfully rolled out Independent Child Trafficking Guardians (ICTGs) to one third of local authorities in England and Wales.

The next ICTG evaluation, which will have a particular focus on the role and impact of the Regional Practice Co-ordinator, is due to be published later in the year.

The continued national roll-out of ICTGs will be progressed as part of the recently established NRM Transformation Programme, which is designed to make sure we have a system that effectively identifies and delivers needs-based support for child and adult victims of modern slavery, is legally robust, sustainable and resilient to misuse. We will continue to review how the needs of individual children are best met at local level through the programme.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-24/64072/>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

### Immigrants: Finance

**Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL5856]** To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the Local Government Association's call on 12 June to suspend the No Recourse to Public Funds status for immigrants for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office is working closely

with other government departments such as the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government to support people, including migrants with NRPF, through this pandemic. Departments are sharing what they are learning from other bodies and charities with each other to ensure we continue to take a pragmatic approach to an unprecedented situation.

Many of the wide-ranging Covid-19 measures the government has put in place are not public funds and therefore are available to migrants with NRPF. The Government has published advice and information about the support available to migrants living here, including where they are subject to NRPF

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

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-17/HL5856/>

### **Immigrants: Finance**

**Lord Greaves (Liberal Democrat)** [HL5905] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to support people who are (1) destitute, or (2) without accommodation, as a result of having no recourse to public funds (a) during the COVID-19 lockdown, and (b) after the lockdown has been lifted.

**Reply from Lord Greenhalgh:** Thanks to the hard work of local authorities, agencies and the homelessness sector around the country, nearly 15,000 vulnerable people have been housed in emergency accommodation, including hotels, since the start of the COVID-19 lockdown period. This includes people coming in directly from the streets, people previously housed in shared night shelters and people who have become vulnerable to rough sleeping during the pandemic.

We are ensuring local authorities are supported, with £3.2 million in targeted funding to help support individuals who are sleeping rough off the streets, and an additional £3.2 billion provided to local authorities as part of the wider government response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This funding has been provided to help local authorities reduce risks to public health and to support individuals on the basis of need.

The legal position on those with no recourse to public funds has not been amended. The Government recognises that these are unprecedented times, and expects local authorities to support people who are sleeping rough, and also to minimise unnecessary risks to public health, acting within the law.

On 24 June we announced that we are providing local authorities with a further £105 million to enable them to best support the nearly 15,000 people placed into emergency accommodation during the COVID-19 pandemic. This commitment will help to ensure that as few of these people as possible return to the streets.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-18/HL5905/>

### **Visas: Skilled Workers**

**Lord Moynihan (Conservative)** [HL5698] To ask Her Majesty's Government what advice they have provided to sponsored workers currently not in the UK and unable to return due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and what plans they have to take account of COVID-19 travel restrictions when calculating the number of days that a Tier 2 visa applicant has been outside of the UK.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government has published a range of immigration information for those affected by COVID, including those sponsored to work in the UK. COVID immigration information can be found at:



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

The Government will not penalise individuals affected by issues relating to COVID which are beyond their control. Whilst cases will need to be considered on a case by case basis, we will not penalise people who have been outside of the UK for longer than normally permitted where the absence is as a result of COVID travel restrictions, at the point at which they come to apply for a new visa or indefinite leave to remain.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-15/HL5698/>

### **Health Services: Immigrants**

**Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle (Green)** [HL5749] To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will end the Immigration Health Surcharge; whether workers who have paid the fee since the announcement on 21 May will be reimbursed and, if so, when reimbursements will be made.

**Reply from Lord Bethell:** The Department of Health and Social Care and the Home Office are working at pace to deliver the exemption. Any National Health Service or care workers that have paid the surcharge since the Prime Minister's announcement on 21 May will receive a refund and further announcements will be made shortly.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-16/HL5749/>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Health Services: Immigrants**

**Lord Jones of Cheltenham (Liberal Democrat)** [HL5777] To ask Her Majesty's Government (1) when the immigration healthcare surcharge for health and care workers and their families will be removed, (2) whether those who have already paid the surcharge in the current year will receive a refund, and (3) whether any such refund will be backdated to the day on which the Prime Minister made the announcement that the surcharge would be removed.

**Lord Jones of Cheltenham (Liberal Democrat)** [HL5778] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether future health and social care workers and their families will be required to pay the immigration healthcare surcharge.

**Reply from Lord Bethell:** The Department of Health and Social Care and the Home Office are working at pace to deliver this exemption. Any National Health Service or care worker that has paid the surcharge since the Prime Minister's announcement on 21 May will receive a refund. We will announce further details on the scope of the arrangements shortly.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-16/HL5777/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-16/HL5778/>

### **Immigration: Commonwealth**

**The Lord Bishop of Southwark** [HL5625] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the level of oversight of sanctions, including denial of employment, health services, benefits and housing, to Commonwealth Citizens who do not have correct documentation but who have (1) right of abode or (2) right to remain in the UK.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government is committed to a

firm, fair and humane immigration policy which distinguishes effectively between those with lawful status and those here illegally.

In common with other comparable countries, the UK has in place a framework of laws, policies and administrative arrangements, introduced under successive governments, ensuring access to work, benefits and services is permitted for those with the right access to them. Key measures were the subject of public consultations and/or impact assessments before they were introduced.

Eligibility checks are based on checking lawful status and eligibility, not the nationality of those accessing work and key services. We have introduced additional safeguards to ensure that those who are lawfully present in the UK are not disadvantaged by our measures. These include additional support within the checking services provided to employers, landlords and public service providers and temporary restrictions on the parameters of proactive data-sharing, to ensure members of the Windrush generation are not wrongly impacted.

As the Home Secretary said in her statement to Parliament on 23 June, the Government accepts the findings and recommendations in the Windrush Lessons Learned Review report in full, including those relating to measures designed to regulate access to work, benefits and services.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-11/HL5625/>

*The Learned Lessons Review report, 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](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 statement referred to above can be read at*

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

### **Windrush Generation: Anniversaries**

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Conservative)** [HL6042] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the celebration of Windrush Day on 22 June.

**Reply from Lord Greenhalgh:** I would like to reflect on the success of Windrush Day, which was marked on June 22. This was the second annual National Windrush Day, and the third year that Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has supported celebrations since the 70th anniversary. I would like to thank my Noble friend for his role in initiating these earlier celebrations. The day was well recognised in national and international media, with hundreds of broadcast features, including a piece on BBC's *The One Show* and CNN broadcasting live from Brixton. There were tens of thousands of tweets, instagram and facebook posts shared to celebrate the Windrush Generation and their descendants. This was illustrative of the way in which communities and individuals led the way in marking the day. Supportive messages were delivered by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, His Excellency the Jamaican High Commissioner and the Most Reverend Primate, the Archbishop of Canterbury.

In the midst of challenging circumstances, most of the 49 organisations which received funding from MHCLG's Windrush Day Grant have demonstrated admirable willingness, aptitude and innovation to deliver their events through online or virtual means. Celebrations were mostly digital, but there were still plenty of them taking place across the country. From Bristol to Birmingham and Leicester to Leeds, grant recipients hosted online exhibitions, radio documentaries and educational workshops and lectures over zoom.

I was pleased to take part in the day myself by being hosted on a tour of Reading

Museum's online exhibition *The Enigma of Arrival*. The exhibition was part-funded by MHCLG's Windrush Day Grant and was developed in partnership with the University of the West Indies as well as the Barbados Museum and Historical Society and members of the town's Caribbean community. I was particularly moved by images of men working at the town's Huntley and Palmers Biscuit factory and took a moment to reflect upon the truly vast scope of the Windrush Generation's contribution to all aspects of our national life in the aftermath of the Second World War.

I would finally like to reiterate my gratitude to the Windrush Day Advisory Panel, originally convened by my Noble friend, in supporting the funding's delivery and helping ensure that the day is marked appropriately year-on-year.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-23/HL6042/>

### **Refugees: Children**

**The Marquess of Lothian (Conservative)** [HL5930] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their current policy on the resettlement of unaccompanied child refugees in the UK.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government is clear that protecting vulnerable children is a key priority.

Since 2010, the UK has resettled over 29,500 of the world's most vulnerable refugees, almost half of whom were children.

The UK has also granted other forms of protection to more than 44,900 children in the same period, with 7,500 in the last year alone.

Last year we welcomed over 3,000 UASCs – more than any other country in Europe.

Additionally, we have successfully completed the transfer of 478 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016. Amongst some of the most vulnerable children in Europe seeking asylum, this important work has given them an opportunity to start a new life in the UK and builds on our proud history of offering protection to those who need it.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-18/HL5930/>

### **Asylum: Interviews**

**Lord Hylton (Crossbench)** [HL5911] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that all asylum applicants receive sensitive and fair hearings when interviews are resumed in remote form.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office remains committed to delivering a fair and humane asylum system that is sensitive to the needs of all asylum applicants, so that sufficient information can be obtained to facilitate fair and sustainable decisions on asylum claims.

The Home Office takes the wellbeing of asylum seekers extremely seriously and has already put in place a range of measures to support asylum applicants affected by the covid-19 outbreak. In line with the Home Office's commitment to protect the health and wellbeing of its staff and applicants as a top priority, 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/Lords/2020-06-18/HL5911/>

### **Asylum: Interviews**

**Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL5912]** To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by Freedom from Torture Beyond Belief, published on 16 June, on asylum interviewing; and what measures are in place to prevent pre-judgment and a lack of compassion from harming the cases of vulnerable people, who claim to have suffered torture and severe maltreatment.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office remains committed to delivering a fair and humane asylum system that is sensitive to the needs of the claimants, so that sufficient information can be obtained to facilitate fair and sustainable decisions on asylum claims. We ensure that asylum seekers are given every opportunity to disclose information relevant to their claim before a decision is taken, even where that information may be sensitive or difficult to disclose.

The report published by Freedom from Torture acknowledges that there have been signs of progress within the Home Office. Improvements have been made to policy instructions to emphasise the importance of caseworker conduct during asylum interviews, in line with an earlier recommendation made by Freedom from Torture. The report also acknowledges the increase in asylum grant rates at initial decision stage, which is indicative of our efforts to improve asylum decision making.

Following the publication of the Freedom from Torture report entitled 'Proving Torture', a collaborative response to improving training for asylum caseworkers was initiated to develop a training package which directly addressed concerns raised in the report. This resulted in the training course 'Assessing Evidence: Medical Legal Reports', which has been rolled out to asylum caseworkers, senior caseworkers and technical specialists since December 2018. The training is now mandatory for any caseworker dealing with asylum claims where Medico-legal reports have been submitted.

We will continue to look at the themes raised in the report as part of our ongoing commitment to improve decision quality and the customer experience.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-18/HL5912/>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

[https://freedomfromtorturestories.contentfiles.net/media/documents/Beyond\\_Belief\\_report.pdf](https://freedomfromtorturestories.contentfiles.net/media/documents/Beyond_Belief_report.pdf)

### **Asylum: Evictions**

**Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL5855]** To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of extension beyond 30 June of the halt on the eviction of (1) asylum-seekers, and (2) newly-granted refugees, whose claims have been decided.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Asylum seekers who are granted refugee status are normally given notice that they must leave any accommodation that has been provided to them by the Home Office within 28 days, as they may now take employment and have access to mainstream benefits and housing assistance from their local authority. Whilst this process was paused on 27 March for a period of three months, we are currently reviewing plans about appropriate

timing to resume issuing notices in individual cases in a carefully phased and measured way and have been having discussions with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Local Authorities and others on the arrangements.

The timing of those decisions is not affected by the current restrictions on evicting tenants from private rental properties. Those arrangements do not apply to those in asylum support accommodation. This is confirmed in paragraph 2.2 of the Government's guidance to landlords and tenants, which can be found at: MHCLG guidance

([https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/888843/Updated\\_Landlord\\_and\\_Tenant\\_Guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/888843/Updated_Landlord_and_Tenant_Guidance.pdf))

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-17/HL5855/>

## Press Releases

### **Expert Advisory Group on migration and population**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/expert-advisory-group-on-migration-and-population/>

### **One year left to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/one-year-left-to-apply-to-the-eu-settlement-scheme>

### **UK to extend residence rights for British Nationals (Overseas) citizens in Hong Kong**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-to-extend-residence-rights-for-british-nationals-overseas-citizens-in-hong-kong>

### **Detail of EHRC review of 'hostile environment' policies published**

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/detail-ehrc-review-%E2%80%98hostile-environment%E2%80%99-policies-published>

## New Publications

### **UK immigration policy after leaving the EU: impacts on Scotland's economy, population and society – July 2020 update**

<https://tinyurl.com/yav26nz6>

### **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>

### **Guidance: Settled status for EU citizens and their families: translations**

This guidance is available in English, Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Icelandic, Irish, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak, Slovenian, Spanish, Swedish, and Welsh.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/settled-status-for-eu-citizens-and-their-families-translations>

### **Asylum accommodation and support**

<https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Asylum-accommodation-and-support.pdf>



## **Migrant Victims of Domestic Abuse Review Findings**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/897472/Migrant\\_Victims\\_of\\_Domestic\\_Abuse\\_-\\_Review\\_Findings\\_v.3\\_FINAL.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/897472/Migrant_Victims_of_Domestic_Abuse_-_Review_Findings_v.3_FINAL.pdf)

## **Migrant victims of domestic abuse: review factsheet**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/migrant-victims-of-domestic-abuse-review/migrant-victims-of-domestic-abuse-review-factsheet>

## **Family reunification for refugee and migrant children – standards and promising practices**

<https://rm.coe.int/family-reunification-for-refugee-and-migrant-children-standards-and-pr/16809e8320>

## **News**

### **Revised UK immigration system could still halve numbers coming to Scotland**

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/18556629.revised-uk-immigration-system-still-halve-numbers-coming-scotland/>

### **Scotland faces labour shortage if UK Government pushes ahead with migration reform, report warns**

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/scotland-faces-labour-shortage-uk-22284252>

### **MPs pass landmark immigration bill amid concerns for child refugees**

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/18552227.mps-pass-landmark-immigration-bill-amid-concerns-child-refugees/>

### **Salary cap 'may cut immigration in half'**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2020-07-03/scotland/salary-cap-may-cut-immigration-in-half-xh8fmdhn>

### **Hong Kong: UK makes citizenship offer to residents**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-53246899>

### **Channel migrants 'should be returned to France'**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-53238473>

### **Arrests after five migrants found on fishing boat**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-hampshire-53232496>

### **Asylum seekers say Home Office has failed in duty of care as they gather in Glasgow**

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/18554895.asylum-seekers-say-home-office-failed-duty-care-gather-glasgow/>

### **Home Office urged to investigate treatment of asylum seekers in Glasgow**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/jun/28/home-office-urged-investigate-treatment-asylum-seekers-in-glasgow>

### **Glasgow attack: Asylum seekers had been driven to edge of insanity, says charity**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2020-06-29/scotland/asylum-seekers-denied-food-allowance-pushed-to-edge-of-insanity-czdkcgqs7>

**One week on: fears for the wellbeing of people stuck in hotels**

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/one-week-on-fears-for-the-wellbeing-of-people-stuck-in-hotels/>

**Scottish Refugee Council response to devastating Glasgow incident**

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/our-response-to-devastating-glasgow-incident/>

**National Audit Office report reveals damning failures in asylum accommodation contracts**

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news-nao-report-july-2020/>

**Priti Patel accused of 'shameful' bid to deport girl at risk of FGM**

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2020/jul/03/priti-patel-accused-of-shameful-bid-to-deport-girl-at-risk-of-fgm>

**Covid-19 worsening plight of UK migrants, report finds**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/jun/29/covid-19-worsening-plight-of-uk-migrants-report-finds>

**Dr Durga Sivasathiaseelan: 'Charging migrants for NHS services needs to stop'**

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/jun/30/gp-durga-sivasathiaseelan-charging-migrants-nhs-services-rough-sleepers-refugees-coronavirus>

**Woman loses legal challenge to NHS charges for pregnant migrants**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/jul/01/woman-loses-legal-challenge-to-nhs-charges-for-pregnant-migrants>

**'These are women who struggle to afford food and shelter': Court rejects bid to stop destitute migrants being charged for NHS maternity care**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/nhs-maternity-care-migrant-women-high-court-a9595971.html>

**Hundreds of asylum seekers unable to access GPs or schools for months as Home Office contractors failed to meet standards, report finds**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-seekers-accommodation-gps-schools-home-office-watchdog-coronavirus-a9598481.html>

**Pregnant and disabled people among hundreds of asylum seekers placed in hotels for months during lockdown**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-seekers-uk-hotel-lockdown-pregnant-disabled-home-office-a9594426.html>

**Home Office urged to reverse 'unjustified' decision to restart refugee evictions**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-refugee-evictions-asylum-restart-lockdown-a9594051.html>

**Home Office increases support for trafficking victims after lawyers argue rates are 'discriminatory'**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-trafficking-victims-support-modern-slavery-a9596411.html>

**Torture victim still waiting to be granted refugee status seven months after asylum claim accepted**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/torture-victim-home-office-refugee-status-asylum-claim-a9597541.html>

TOP

## Community Relations

### New Publication

**The perceptions and experiences of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic young people in Scottish schools**

[https://actiononprejudice.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/2019/11/IYS\\_EDI\\_Report\\_Artwork\\_1\\_1.pdf](https://actiononprejudice.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/2019/11/IYS_EDI_Report_Artwork_1_1.pdf)

### News

**'Don't call me BAME': Why some people are rejecting the term**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-53194376>

TOP

## Equality

### Scottish Parliament Equalities and Human Rights Committee

**Evidence session: Covid-19: Impact on Equalities and Human Rights**

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12721&i=115069#ScotParlOR>

### Scottish Parliament Petition

**PE01814: Compulsory education of Black, Asian, and minority ethnic history in Scottish schools**

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

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

#### Lammy Review

**David Lammy (Labour):** To ask the Prime Minister if he will make a statement on the Government's implementation of the Lammy review.

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Alex Chalk):** Racism is an abomination. It is morally and intellectually bankrupt, and it strikes at the foundations of a fair and just society. It is particularly corrosive when found within the criminal justice system, because in that context the stakes are particularly high—guilt or innocence; freedom or incarceration.

That is why the Government, back in 2017, commissioned the Lammy review into the treatment of and outcomes for black, Asian and minority ethnic individuals in

the criminal justice system. Although it was an independent review, it was heavily backed by Government resources. ... It is a good report and it has made a big difference.

Not uncommonly when reviews are commissioned, it was clear to Government that not every last recommendation could or indeed should be implemented precisely as requested. The Government made that clear, and they did so openly and publicly in their December 2017 response. Instead of flatly rejecting a large number of the recommendations, the Government were mindful of the importance of progressing the policy intent that lay behind them. That is why the Government undertook to take them forward to the fullest extent possible. ... The position now is that 16 recommendations have been completed, two have been rejected and 17 are in progress. Of those 17 in progress, 11 will be completed within 12 months and six thereafter.

Let me close by saying that enormous progress has been made, particularly in respect of the functioning and fairness of prisons. ...

We have gone further, too, making progress in areas such as setting up the Race and Ethnicity Board to hold key partners across the criminal justice system responsible for improvement in their respective areas. Of course there is more to do, and I hope we can continue the constructive dialogue in taking forward the recommendations of this excellent report. ...

**David Lammy:** In this country, we have two major political parties with different visions of our past and our future, but on some matters of political importance, it is right for us to work across the partisan divide to achieve lasting change. It was in that spirit of good faith that David Cameron asked me to complete an independent review into the disproportionality in the criminal justice system. It was with the same good faith and in the hope of forging political consensus that I completed it.

I was disappointed to hear the Prime Minister break that consensus last week when he claimed that 16 of the recommendations I made in the Lammy review had been, and I quote, “implemented”, when in fact the majority of them had not. ...

There is a huge difference between implementing my recommendations and, as the Minister has said at the Dispatch Box today, completing the actions the Government committed to following my recommendations. ...

Language matters and, as the Black Lives Matter movement makes its voice heard about systemic injustice here and abroad, the very least the Government could do is be honest about their actions.

Last week, the Prime Minister broke the consensus around my review; now I am asking the Minister to correct the record so that we can win it back. History is littered with examples of what happens if we abandon good faith. Without good faith, people get angry. Without good faith, people take to the streets. Without good faith, people give up hope.

The truth is that many of the injustices that I highlighted in my review have since got worse. When I completed the review, 41% of children in prison came from a black, Asian or minority ethnic background—and now the proportion is 51%. The proportion of all stop and searches on black people has increased by 69% over five years. The average custodial sentence for a black person is almost 10 years longer than that for a white person. To recognise the pain of these injustices, the Government need to go further than my review went, not cover up for the recommendations they ignored. Change will happen only when we look in the mirror honestly. Change will happen only when we tell the truth. Change will happen only when we recognise that black lives matter. Do not take the community involved for fools. ...

**Joanna Cherry:** If the words “black lives matter” are to have any real meaning, we must have honest appraisals of whether or not the Government have implemented the recommendations of the many reports that have already explored racial discrimination and disparities in the United Kingdom. There is no point in commissioning yet further reviews

if the Government have not adequately addressed the recommendations in the reviews that have already been completed. In common usage, the word “implementing” in relation to a recommendation means giving it effect; it does not mean looking at it and then discarding it as inconvenient, or getting rid of it because it is too much like effecting real change. ...

Have the Government invented a new meaning for the word “implemented,” or does it still mean “giving effect to recommendations,” and will he be crystal-clear about which recommendations of the Lammy review are to be given effect, and when?

**Reply from Alex Chalk:** ... In December 2017, the Government response to the Lammy review said, at paragraph 8: “We have...sought to mirror the pragmatic, ‘doable’ tone of the Review by setting out how we will address the underlying issues behind recommendations where there are real constraints that prevent us from following it to the letter.” ...

I am proud of the fact that we have gone beyond a lot of what was stated in the Lammy review, so we have more data, more transparency, and a better way of drilling down on manifest injustices. Of course there is more to do, and this report has set us on a much better path.

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

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-06-30/debates/9846E64F-6A5D-44E5-A98F-4CB6D65D90AF/LammyReview>

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/lammy-review-final-report>

*The Government response to the Lammy Review, referred to above, can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/669206/Response\\_to\\_David\\_Lammy\\_Review.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/669206/Response_to_David_Lammy_Review.pdf)

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Civil Servants**

**Edward Davey (Liberal Democrat) [63210]** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many civil servants (a) in each ethnic group and (b) of each gender have been employed by each Government Department in each of the last five years.

### **Civil Service: Recruitment**

**Edward Davey (Liberal Democrat) [63211]** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many people have been recruited into the Civil Service in each Government Department in each of the last five years, by (a) ethnicity and (b) gender.

**Reply from Chloe Smith:** The data requested for 2015-2018 is published here:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/publicsectorpersonnel/datasets/civilservicestatistics>

The data for 2019 is published here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/civil-service-statistics-2019>

Note in all cases the data depends on self-declaration and a significant proportion of civil servants will choose not to do so.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-23/63210/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-23/63211/>



### **Charities: Equality**

**Ruth Jones (Labour)** [64333] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps he is taking to help increase diversity in the charity sector.

**Reply from John Whittingdale:** The Government recognises the importance of diversity within the charity sector at all levels, whether that be trustees, chief executives, staff members or volunteers, in order to meet the needs of the communities the sector serves and it is committed to working with our civil society partners to address this. We welcome the work that sector representative bodies are doing to improve diversity within the sector.

Appointing trustees is a matter for individual charities, but is something the Government takes very seriously. The Government has held a number of conversations with civil society partners to improve understanding of the opportunities and challenges around enabling people from different backgrounds to become involved in trusteeship. The Charity Commission has published resources for charities to encourage people from diverse backgrounds to get involved and make a difference. The Charity Commission also assisted in the creation of the Charity Governance Code, which sets out recommended practice for all charities registered in England and Wales. The Charity Governance Code makes clear the importance of diversity and resulting positive outcomes. We are fully committed to continue working with the charity sector to take action on this issue.

In responding to the Covid-19 pandemic, officials and Ministers have met with a wide range of groups, including women-led organisations and BAME-led civil society organisations to discuss how the Government can engage more with a variety of groups in the sector as we come out of the Covid-19 pandemic.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-24/64333/>

*The Charity Governance Code, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.charitygovernancecode.org/en/pdf>

### **Mental Health Services: Ethnic Groups**

**Stephen Morgan (Labour)** [61764] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that mental health service provision reaches BAME communities as covid-19 lockdown restrictions are lifted.

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

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, which supports young people with furthering their understanding of race, culture and identity in relation to mental health.

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.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-19/61764/>

### **Free School Meals: Ethnic Groups**

**Caroline Nokes (Conservative)** [63320] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if he

will publish the data that his Department holds on eligibility for free school meals by ethnicity.

**Reply from Vicky Ford:** The department publishes the number of pupils who are eligible for free school meals in the 'Schools, pupils and their characteristics' publications, which are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-school-and-pupil-numbers>.

The breakdown of eligibility for free school meals by ethnicity is not available in the publication, however this is available on request. There were 346,055 (18.0%) BAME pupils eligible for free school meals in January 2019.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-23/63320/>

### Free School Meals: Ethnic Groups

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [63494] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many BAME children are in receipt of school meals support in (a) England, (b) the North West and (c) Manchester Gorton constituency.

**Reply from Vicky Ford:** The most recent figures for number of pupils eligible for and claiming free school meals is based on the school census for January 2020. The number of children eligible for and claiming free school meals in January 2020, by major ethnic group and for the requested geographies, are provided in the table below.

#### Number of pupils eligible for free school meals by major ethnic group, 2020

	England	North West region	Manchester, Gorton parliamentary constituency
Asian	139,720	19,470	1,800
Black	127,260	12,070	1,210
Chinese	2,850	480	20
Mixed	121,190	13,770	650
White	982,950	171,650	1,740
Any other ethnic group	44,250	6,940	810
Unclassified	22,390	2,570	100

Figures rounded to the nearest 10, source Spring 2020 School Census  
Further information can be found in the annual 'School, pupils and their characteristics' statistical release:

<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/school-pupils-and-their-characteristics>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-23/63494/>

### Literacy: Ethnic Groups

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [63497] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what recent estimate he has made of (a) child and (b) adult literacy levels by ethnic group.

**Reply from Nick Gibb:** The most relevant measure that we have for children is based on Key Stage 2 reading results. These are broken down by ethnicity and are available here:

<https://www.ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk/education-skills-and-training/7-to-11-years-old/reading-attainments-for-children-aged-7-to-11-key-stage-2/latest>.

For adults, there is a breakdown of literacy skills by ethnicity in Table 2.25 of our England national report of the Survey of Adult Skills 2012 Programme for the

International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) – full report available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/international-survey-of-adult-skills-2012>.  
<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-23/63497/>

*The following four questions all received the same answer*

#### **History: Education**

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [61785] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if his Departments will revise the national curriculum to consider Black British history and the history of racism and discrimination in the British empire.

#### **Literature: Education**

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [61786] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what books by non-white authors are currently required reading on the (a) primary and (b) secondary school curriculum.

#### **Equality and Racial Discrimination: Education**

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [61788] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that textbooks used in the national curricula are (a) race conscious and (b) inclusive.

#### **Ethnic Groups: Education**

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [61789] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment his Department has made of the extent and value of teaching of Black and minority ethnic experience in the national curriculum.

**Reply from Nick Gibb:** Racism in all its forms is abhorrent and has no place in our society. Schools play a significant role in teaching children about the importance of having respect and tolerance for all cultures. The Department is committed to an inclusive education system which recognises and embraces diversity and supports all students to tackle racism and have the knowledge and tools to do so.

The national curriculum is a framework setting out the content of what the Department expects schools to cover in each subject. The curriculum does not set out how curriculum subjects, or topics within the subjects, should be taught. The Department believes teachers should be able to use their own knowledge and expertise to determine how they teach their students, and to make choices about what they teach and the resources they use, this also includes textbooks. The development and content of textbooks is a matter for individual publishers rather than the Department. The Department has not made an assessment of the impact of the National Curriculum on any specific group.

As part of a broad and balanced curriculum, students should be taught about different societies, and how different groups have contributed to the development of Britain, and this can include the voices and experiences of Black and minority ethnic people. The flexibility within the history curriculum means that there is the opportunity for teachers to teach about Black and minority ethnic history across the spectrum of themes and eras set out in the curriculum.

There is scope to include Black and minority ethnic history and experience in other curriculums, such as in:

- Citizenship: At Key Stage 4, students should be taught about the diverse national, regional, religious and ethnic identities in the United Kingdom and the need for mutual respect and understanding.
- PSHE: Schools have flexibility to teach topics such as Black history as part of their Personal, Social, Health and Economic education (PSHE) programme and through the introduction of Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education students will be taught the importance of respectful relationships in particular how

stereotypes, based on sex, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation or disability, can cause damage.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-19/61785/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-19/61786/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-19/61788/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-19/61789/>

### **Teachers: Ethnic Groups**

**Edward Davey (Liberal Democrat)** [63220] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what estimate he has made of the number of (a) primary and (b) secondary school teachers by ethnicity in each of the last five years.

**Reply from Nick Gibb:** The numbers of teachers in state-funded nursery and primary schools and state-funded secondary schools from different ethnic groups for the last 5 years is attached.

[Number of Teachers by Ethnic Group](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-23/63220/>

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

### **Teachers: Ethnic Groups**

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [61777] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps his Department is taking to increase representation of ethnic minorities in the teaching workforce.

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [61779] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps his Department is taking to increase the diversity of the teaching workforce.

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [61780] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what progress his Department has made on increasing the diversity of the teaching workforce since the publication of its Statement of intent on the diversity of the teaching workforce on 11 October 2018.

**Reply from Nick Gibb:** In October 2018, the Department set out its commitment to increasing the diversity of the teaching workforce across all protected characteristics - including race - when it launched the Statement of Intent. This commitment to increasing teacher diversity was made alongside ten co-signatories from the sector (including unions and grassroots organisations, such as BAMEed, WomenEd, LGBTed and Disability Ed) who set out their own individual activities.

The Department has been making progress against its commitments including:

- Providing £2 million of funding in nationwide Equality and Diversity regional 'hubs' to support aspiring leaders, including those from ethnic minority backgrounds, into headship;
- Reflecting the importance of diversity in the Department's Recruitment and Retention Strategy published in January 2019;
- Continuing to engage with our signatories. In July 2019, we held a roundtable to gather progress updates and showcase best practice;
- Encouraging representative recruitment for National Professional Qualifications for school leadership through key performance indicators.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-19/61777/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-19/61779/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-19/61780/>

*The Statement of Intent referred to above is in two parts, and can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/747586/Statement\\_of\\_intent\\_on\\_the\\_diversity\\_of\\_the\\_teaching\\_workforce.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/747586/Statement_of_intent_on_the_diversity_of_the_teaching_workforce.pdf)

and

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/747594/Additional\\_information\\_about\\_the\\_activity\\_of\\_the\\_co-signatories.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/747594/Additional_information_about_the_activity_of_the_co-signatories.pdf)

### **Teachers: Equality**

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [61782] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps the Government has taken to increase the diversity of (a) heads and (b) deputy heads in state-funded secondary schools in England.

**Reply from Nick Gibb:** In October 2018, the Department set out its commitment to increasing the diversity of the teaching workforce when it launched the Statement of Intent.

The Department has been making progress against the activities it committed to in the statement, including:

- Providing £2 million of funding to nationwide Equality and Diversity regional ‘hubs’ to support aspiring leaders, including those from ethnic minority backgrounds, into headship.
- Reflecting the importance of diversity in the Department’s Recruitment and Retention Strategy published in January 2019.
- Encouraging representative recruitment for National Professional Qualifications for school leadership through key performance indicators.

Between 2014 and 2018, over 2,900 teachers have been helped to take the next steps in their career through school-led diversity leadership training because of Equality and Diversity funding.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-19/61782/>

*The Statement of Intent referred to above is in two parts, and can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/747586/Statement\\_of\\_intent\\_on\\_the\\_diversity\\_of\\_the\\_teaching\\_workforce.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/747586/Statement_of_intent_on_the_diversity_of_the_teaching_workforce.pdf)

and

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/747594/Additional\\_information\\_about\\_the\\_activity\\_of\\_the\\_co-signatories.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/747594/Additional_information_about_the_activity_of_the_co-signatories.pdf)

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

### **Lammy Review**

**Alex Chalk’s first answer under “Lammy Review” in the House of Commons Oral Answers above was repeated in the House of Lords.**

**Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede (Labour):** My Lords, the Minister in the other place spoke about the progress the Government had made in implementing the recommendations of the Lammy review. However, my right honourable friend David Lammy spoke of a lack of



trust, which is exacerbated when the Government claim to have implemented some of his recommendations when in fact they have not been implemented. Does the Minister agree that the outcomes of the report matter more than the outputs of the recommendations, and that the outcomes are getting worse ... Does the Minister agree that if the Government aim to build trust in the criminal justice system by the BAME community they need to start by being honest and straightforward about the recommendations that they have implemented from the Lammy review?

**Reply from the Advocate-General for Scotland (Lord Keen of Elie):** My Lords, we responded to the Lammy review by publishing in December 2017 our undertakings at implementation. Where a recommendation could not be implemented in full or as set out in the review, alternative approaches have been sought to achieve the same aim. ... We keep under review the report's aims and make progress on a wide range of areas—indeed, in some areas beyond the Lammy recommendations. But I accept that there is a great deal more to do. ...

**Lord Ramsbotham (Crossbench):** My Lords, in 2000, Zahid Mubarek was murdered by a known racist psychopath in HMYOI Feltham. The case was eventually judicially reviewed by Mr Justice Keith. If more of his 78 recommendations for improving the treatment of BAME prisoners had been implemented, the Lammy review might not have been necessary. Can the noble and learned Lord please tell the House why the Ministry of Justice has been so dilatory in tackling known BAME issues?

**Reply from Lord Keen of Elie:** My Lords, I do not accept that the MoJ has been dilatory in this respect. As the noble Lord's question implicitly acknowledges, the Lammy review was necessary. We are still taking forward the recommendation on prisons and prisoners, in particular the position of BAME prisoners. Indeed, that is also reflected in the steps we have taken in recruitment. ...

**Lord Griffiths of Burry Port (Labour):** My Lords, we have heard ample reference to the fact that a number of aspects of the way racial minorities are treated in the justice system has simply got worse since the Lammy report, which is difficult to square with the assurance given by the Minister that so much is being done. Let me quote someone from the Government Benches: Mr Sajid Javid argues that it is time to shine a light on injustice, but that that is not enough. He says: "We need an action plan ... The Racial Disparity Audit found the data. The commission must deliver the solutions." The Runnymede Trust added that the Government are "knee-deep in evidence". Can the Minister give us the assurance that a sense of urgency is being injected into this whole process? We have heard the same allegations over and over again since Scarman in 1981.

**Reply from Lord Keen of Elie:** My Lords, we are committed to improving the collection and publication of data, and to using the data to identify and tackle disparities across the criminal justice system. We have been working very closely with the Race Disparity Unit since its formation in 2016, and we continue to add and update metrics on the ethnicity facts and figures website as part of our commitment to transparency. ...

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

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-07-02/debates/5073B1FC-A74C-41CA-AFB8-752072110F6C/LammyReview>

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/lammy-review-final-report>

*The Government response to the Lammy Review, referred to above, can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/669206/Response\\_to\\_David\\_Lammy\\_Review.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/669206/Response_to_David_Lammy_Review.pdf)

*The report of the Zahid Mubarek Inquiry, referred to above, can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/231789/1082.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/231789/1082.pdf)

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

The Scarman report, referred to above, is not freely available online

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

### Ethnic Groups: Equality

**Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated)** [HL5808] To ask Her Majesty's Government what will be the terms of reference of the new commission on race and ethnic disparities; and on what areas it will focus.

**Reply from Baroness Berridge:** The new Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities will examine continuing racial and ethnic inequalities in Britain. 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 will be published in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-16/HL5808/>

### Equality and Racial Discrimination

**Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated)** [HL5809] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure that they take action to address racism and inequality as the new commission on race and ethnic disparities is conducting its investigations rather than waiting for the inquiry to end.

**Reply from Baroness Berridge:** The Government is committed to tackling racism and levelling up. The Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities will build on the work of the Government's Race Disparity Unit (RDU), going further to understand why disparities exist and will present recommendations for action across Government and other public bodies. The RDU is already carrying out work across departments and their agencies to identify and address adverse variances in outcomes across education, healthcare, criminal justice and the economy, and will continue to do so as the Commission works.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-16/HL5809/>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### Equal Pay: Ethnic Groups

**Baroness McGregor-Smith (Conservative)** [HL5857] To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will publish the results of the consultation of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy on a mandatory approach to ethnicity pay reporting.

**Baroness McGregor-Smith (Conservative)** [HL5858] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, and if so, when, they intend to introduce mandatory ethnicity pay gap reporting.

**Reply from Lord Callanan:** The Government ran a consultation from October 2018 to January 2019 on Ethnicity Pay Reporting and, we have met with businesses and representative organisations to understand the barriers towards reporting and what information could be published to allow for meaningful action to be taken. We have also run voluntary methodology testing with a broad range of businesses to better understand the complexities outlined in the consultation using real payroll data.

On the 14 June, my Rt. Hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced a new Commission on race and ethnic disparities which will examine continuing racial and ethnic inequalities in Britain and ways Government can address these and improve lives. Further information will be published in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-17/HL5857/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-17/HL5858/>

*The announcement referred to above can be read at*

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

### **History: Curriculum**

**Lord Storey (Liberal Democrat)** [HL5626] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to review the National Curriculum to ensure that it (1) better reflects black history, and (2) gives a more balanced view of the UK's colonial and imperial past.

**Reply from Baroness Berridge:** The department is committed to an inclusive education system which recognises and embraces diversity and supports all pupils and students to tackle racism and have the knowledge and tools to do so.

The national curriculum is a framework setting out the content of what the department expects schools to cover in each subject. The curriculum does not set out how curriculum subjects, or topics within the subjects, should be taught. The department believes teachers should be able to use their own knowledge and expertise to determine how they teach their pupils, and to make choices about what they teach.

As part of a broad and balanced curriculum, pupils should be taught about different societies, and how different groups have contributed to the development of Britain, and this can include the voices and experience of Black people. The flexibility within the history curriculum means that there is the opportunity for teachers to teach about Black history across the spectrum of themes and eras set out in the curriculum. For example, at key stage 1, schools can teach about the lives of key Black historical figures such as Mary Seacole and Rosa Parks or others; and at key stage 3, cover the development and end of the British Empire and Britain's transatlantic slave trade, its effects and its eventual abolition. The teaching of Black history need not be limited to these examples.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-11/HL5626/>

### **History: Education**

**Lord Watson of Invergowrie (Labour)** [HL5817] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that BAME history and colonisation are taught and integrated across the curriculum in (1) primary, and (2) secondary, schools.

**Reply from Baroness Berridge:** The department is committed to an inclusive education system which recognises and embraces diversity. The history curriculum gives teachers and schools the freedom and flexibility to use specific examples from history to teach pupils about the history of Britain and the wider world. Schools and teachers can determine which examples, topics and resources to use to stimulate and challenge pupils and reflect key points in history.

There are opportunities within the themes and eras of the history curriculum for teachers and schools to teach Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic history at Key Stages 1 to 3, and to teach about colonisation.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-16/HL5817/>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Armed Forces: Ethnic Groups**

**Lord Touhig (Labour)** [HL5883] To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of BAME personnel hold senior leadership or managerial roles in (1) the Royal Air Force, (2) the Army, and (3) the Royal Navy.

**Lord Touhig (Labour)** [HL5947] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many BAME personnel hold senior leadership or managerial roles in (1) the Royal Air Force, (2) the army, and (3) the Royal Navy.

**Reply from Baroness Goldie:** Defence has been working hard to achieve a more diverse workforce. However, progress in terms of the representative rates of our people – both military and civilian – has been too slow. It is clear there is still much further to go if we are to successfully attract and retain diverse talent both now and in the future. 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.

Since 2015 the Ministry of Defence (MOD) has been working towards a target for 10% of recruits into the Armed Forces to be from a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic (BAME) background by April 2020, rising to 20% thereafter. These are challenging targets demonstrating the importance Defence places on having Armed Forces reflecting the society they serve. I am pleased to confirm the latest statistics show we have now exceeded the initial intake target as 11.7% of recruits were Black, Asian or from an ethnic minority in the 12 months to 31 March 2020. While this is an improvement, there is further long-term progress to be made and sustained. Ongoing work to improve all aspects of diversity in MOD continues, includes better understanding and greater engagement with the communities the Armed Forces want to recruit from; reviewing recruitment processes; and better targeting marketing and communications.

As at 1 April 2020, the numbers of UK Regular full-time Service personnel who had declared their ethnicity as BAME and were serving at NATO Rank OF-6 or above (Brigadier and equivalent) were five or fewer in each Service. In addition, fewer than five Senior Civil Servants employed in each Command had declared their ethnicity as BAME. In line with standard statistical disclosure methodology, the percentages associated with these figures have been suppressed to ensure individuals are not inadvertently identified.

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) publishes biannual statistics on diversity declarations for Armed Forces personnel and MOD civilian staff. The latest editions can be found at the following links:

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/mod-diversity-dashboard-2020>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-17/HL5883/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-18/HL5947/>

## **Press Release**

**Schools should include Roma and Traveller history in teaching curricula**

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/schools-should-include-roma-and-traveller-history-in-teaching-curricula>

## News

**Councils 'need culture change' to boost diversity, campaigner says**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-53183191>

**Black Lives Matter: My identity crisis over history lessons**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-53268490>

TOP

## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### Scottish Parliament Motions

**S5M-22199 Monica Lennon (Labour): Online In Lockdown, the Experiences of Young People During Lockdown** – That the Parliament notes the report, *Online In Lockdown*, by the education charity, Time for Inclusive Education, which found that Scottish young people have experienced a rise in online bullying during the COVID-19 lockdown; is concerned that young people reported a decrease in their emotional wellbeing and that 47% have seen or experienced online bullying during lockdown, with over half reporting that this had been happening more than usual; understands that LGBT+ young people have been disproportionately affected by exposure to online bullying, prejudice and discrimination, with 60% seeing or experiencing online bullying during lockdown, three-quarters reporting that this had been happening more than usual and over half witnessing homophobia online, 48% witnessing transphobia and 36% reporting biphobia; further understands that 59% of girls and young women have seen more prejudice online during lockdown, and they were 13% more likely than boys and young men to have seen hurtful posts related to body image, with almost half witnessing racism during lockdown; commends schools, colleges and universities for their vital role in supporting young people's mental health and wellbeing, including through support groups; acknowledges that many organisations have shifted their services online to maintain support for young people during lockdown; agrees that the Scottish Government, local authorities, Police Scotland and social media companies should consider the findings of the report carefully when planning the recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, and believes that everyone must play their part in tackling bullying and prejudice.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-22199>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.tiecampaign.co.uk/s/ONLINE-IN-LOCKDOWN-REPORT.pdf>

**S5M-22219 Mary Fee (Labour): Renfrewshire Council's Commitment to Black History Month** – That the Parliament commends Renfrewshire Council for having made a commitment to support Black History Month across Renfrewshire; understands that, by passing a motion, it has committed to recognising Black History Month every year in October and to improve education on black history in Renfrewshire; notes that it plans to work with the black community to ensure that events held outside of Black History Month are adequately supported by the council; recognises that the cultural team at Renfrewshire Leisure is currently researching links between Renfrewshire and the slave trade in the hope that fully addressing the past will ensure that racism is not part of the future in Renfrewshire; acknowledges that the Black Lives Matter movement has been a catalyst for opening these discussions at all levels of government, and considers that there is no



place in society for racism and discrimination and that all moves to improve anti-racism education are welcome.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-22219>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

### Home Office: Racial Discrimination

**Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op)** [18975] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure her Department does not contain institutional racism.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** The Home Office Diversity and Inclusion Strategy 2018-to-2025 sets out our ambitions to create an inclusive culture in the Department and one where racism is simply not tolerated.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-21/18975/>

*The strategy referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/739538/Diversity\\_and\\_Inclusion\\_strategy\\_SCREEN.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/739538/Diversity_and_Inclusion_strategy_SCREEN.pdf)

### Schools: Bullying

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [61793] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what guidance his Department provides to schools on handling (i) incidents and (ii) sustained cases of (a) racist, (b) xenophobic, (c) Islamophobic and (d) antisemitic bullying.

**Reply from Vicky Ford:** The government is clear that all bullying is unacceptable and should be tackled by schools. The department issues guidance to schools on how to prevent and respond to bullying as part of their statutory behaviour policy. It sets out that bullying is behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally. The guidance is clear that some types of harassing or threatening behaviour – or communications – could be a criminal offence. It sets out that if school staff feel that, during an incident, an offence may have been committed they should seek assistance from the police.

The guidance 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. This is 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. The website is available here:

<https://educateagainsthate.com/>.

In November 2018 we published Respectful School Communities, a self-review and signposting tool to support schools to develop a whole-school approach which promotes respect and discipline. This can combat bullying, harassment and

prejudice of any kind and is available here:

<https://educateagainsthate.com/school-leaders/?filter=guidance-and-training-school-leaders>.

From September 2020, relationships education will be compulsory for all primary aged pupils, relationships and sex education will be compulsory for all secondary aged pupils and health education will be compulsory in all state-funded schools in England. Under the content for respectful relationships, the guidance sets out that pupils should know about the different types of bullying, the impact it has, the responsibility of bystanders and how to get help, and it is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education/>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-19/61793/>

### **Schools: Racial Discrimination**

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [61794] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment has his Department made of the effect of racism in English secondary schools on the attainment gap between BAME and white children.

**Reply from Nick Gibb:** The Department believes that racism in all its forms is abhorrent and has no place in our society. Schools play a significant role in supporting pupils to understand the society in which they grow up and preparing them for life in modern Britain.

All children and young people must be treated fairly. Under the Equality Act 2010, schools must not discriminate against a pupil in a number of respects because of a characteristic protected by the Act, including race. The Public Sector Equality Duty also requires public bodies, including maintained schools and academies, to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination and other conduct prohibited by the Act; advance equality of opportunity for people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it; and foster good relations across all characteristics.

On Black, Asian and minority ethnic children's attainment, in 2015 the Department published the following research report:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/439861/RR439A-Ethnic minorities and attainment the effects of poverty.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/439861/RR439A-Ethnic_minorities_and_attainment_the_effects_of_poverty.pdf).

Our research report on understanding Key Stage 4 attainment and progress

([https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/748514/Understanding KS4 LSYPE2 research-report.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/748514/Understanding_KS4_LSYPE2_research-report.pdf)),

published in October 2018, also includes content on the relationship between ethnicity and attainment, noting that this is complex and highly varied. There is also further information on education, skills and training on the Government's ethnicity facts and figures website:

<https://www.ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk/education-skills-and-training>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-19/61794/>

### **Racial Discrimination: Education**

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [61787] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what resources are available to (a) primary and (b) secondary schools to teach anti-racism.

**Reply from Nick Gibb:** 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. Schools are required to actively promote fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and

tolerance of those of different faith and beliefs.

From September 2020, Relationships Education will become compulsory for primary-aged pupils and Relationships and Sex Education will become compulsory for secondary-aged pupils. Statutory guidance for these subjects requires all primary-aged pupils to be taught the importance of respecting others, even when they are 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. This will be reinforced at secondary school when pupils will also learn about legal rights and responsibilities regarding equality (particularly with reference to the protected characteristics as defined in the Equality Act 2010) and that everyone is unique and equal.

Schools can also choose to teach a range of subjects related to racism at primary, following the non-statutory framework for Citizenship. Pupils can be taught to identify and respect the differences between people; the consequences of anti-social and aggressive behaviour, including racism, on individuals; and how to respond to them and ask for help. The National Curriculum for Citizenship at secondary phase enables pupils to develop their understanding of the diverse national, regional, religious and ethnic identities in the UK and the need for mutual respect and understanding. There is also flexibility within the history curriculum for teachers to teach about Black and minority ethnic history across the spectrum of themes and eras, to support an understanding of the active role Black and minority ethnic people have played in history.

The Department does not specify how schools should teach curriculum subjects. Schools have the freedom to use their professional judgements and an understanding of their pupils to develop the right approach for their schools. This includes decisions about which resources they may choose to support their teaching. The Department is developing training materials to support schools' implementation of Relationships Education and Relationships and Sex Education. This will include training modules, implementation guidance, support to access resources and case studies. Schools who require more support will be able to access training through existing regional teaching school networks.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-19/61787/>

### **Schools: Racial Discrimination**

**Afzal Khan (Labour) [61795]** To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if his Department make an assessment of the potential merits of the recommendations contained in the report entitled, Race and Racism in English Secondary Schools, published by Dr Remi Joseph-Salisbury and the Runnymede Trust; and if he will make a statement.

**Reply from Nick Gibb:** Officials at the Department are aware of the recent report on 'Race and Racism in English Secondary Schools' published by the Runnymede Trust and continue to consider its implications. They have noted the report's recommendations across the teacher workforce, curriculums, police and policies. On the teacher workforce, in October 2018, the Department set out its commitment to increasing the diversity of the teaching workforce across all protected characteristics - including race - when it launched the Statement of Intent. This commitment to increasing teacher diversity was made alongside 10 co-signatories from the sector (including unions and grassroots organisations, such as BAMEed, WomenEd, LGBTed and Disability Ed) who set out their own individual activities. The Department has been making progress against its commitments including:

- Providing £2 million of funding in nationwide Equality and Diversity regional 'hubs' to support aspiring leaders, including those from ethnic minority backgrounds, into headship;

- Reflecting the importance of diversity in the Department's Recruitment and Retention Strategy published in January 2019;
- Continuing to engage with our signatories. In July 2019, we held a roundtable to gather progress updates and showcase best practice;
- Encouraging representative recruitment for NPQs for school leadership through key performance indicators.

On curricula, schools play an important role in preparing children for life in modern Britain and supporting them to understand the society they grow up in. All schools are required to teach a balanced and broadly based curriculum that promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils, and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life. The national curriculum does not set out how curriculum subjects, or topics within the subjects, should be taught. The Department believes teachers should be able to use their own knowledge and expertise to determine how they teach their pupils, and to make choices about what they teach. Additionally, schools are required to promote fundamental British values, including individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs.

On the presence of police in schools, there are good examples of joint working between police forces and schools which have been established through working effectively in partnership. Indeed, many schools have links with their local police forces and police officers play an important role in schools, engaging with and mentoring pupils. However, decisions about these relationships are rightly made at a local level between schools who know their pupils and police forces who know their local neighbourhoods.

On school policies to tackle racism, all children and young people must be treated fairly. Under the Equality Act 2010, schools must not discriminate against a pupil in a number of respects because of a characteristic protected by the Act, including race. The Public Sector Equality Duty also requires public bodies, including maintained schools and Academies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination and other conduct prohibited by the Act; advance equality of opportunity for people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it; and foster good relations across all characteristics. Additionally, the Department is clear that racism or bullying of any kind is completely unacceptable and schools should adhere to stringent behaviour policies to prevent this.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-19/61795/>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/publications/pdfs/Runnymede%20Secondary%20Schools%20report%20FINAL.pdf>

### **Schools: Racial Discrimination**

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [61792] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what his Department's policy is on the handling of complaints against schools accused of racism.

**Reply from Nick Gibb:** All schools in England must have and publish a complaints policy. The Department expects them to be given the first opportunity to respond to complaints, including those involving racism. If complainants are still unhappy once the local procedure is complete, they may either choose to complain direct to the Equality and Human Rights Commission, or they can ask the Secretary of State to consider the school's handling of the complaint, under his powers of intervention. These are set out under Sections 496/497 of the Education Act 1996, if the school is maintained by the local authority or, under the terms of its Funding Agreement, if the school is an Academy or Free School.

The Department considers complaints about schools on an individual basis, depending on the nature of the complaint.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-19/61792/>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Teachers: Racial Discrimination**

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [61783] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what training his Department requires of (a) prospective teachers and (b) teachers on anti-racism and racial literacy.

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [61784] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what anti-racism training his Department provides as part of teacher's continued professional development.

**Reply from Nick Gibb:** The new Initial Teacher Training (ITT) Core Content Framework sets out a core minimum entitlement for all trainees of what should be covered during their teacher training. The Government does not prescribe the curriculum of ITT courses, it remains for individual providers to design courses that are appropriate to the needs of trainees and for the subject, phase and age range that the trainees will be teaching.

Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) will continue to be awarded at the end of ITT against the Teachers' Standards (2011). The Standards set out the key elements of effective teaching and the minimum expectations for the professional practice and conduct of teachers. In order to be awarded QTS, trainees must demonstrate that they satisfy all of the Teaching Standards at the appropriate level, including the requirement that they have a clear understanding of the needs of all pupils and set goals that stretch and challenge young people of all backgrounds and abilities.

High-quality professional development is important for teachers at all stages of their careers to ensure they receive appropriate support and to enable them constantly to improve their practice. Decisions relating to teachers' professional development rests with schools, headteachers, and teachers themselves, as they are in the best position to judge their own requirements. While teachers and headteachers are responsible for their own professional development, we recognise that it is of vital importance teachers are sensitive to issues of race and discrimination at all times. Teachers are required to always meet the Teachers' Standards and their training and development should support them to do this. Part two of the Standards refer to 'Personal and Professional Conduct' and includes the requirement to always show tolerance of and respect for the rights of others.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-19/61783/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-19/61784/>

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

#### **Fines: Ethnic Groups**

**Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated)** [HL5881] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that police in England and Wales have been found to be six times more likely to fine BAME people in the COVID-19 lockdown.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government is clear that nobody should be subject to police enforcement on the basis of race.

This is why we are working closely with policing partners to analyse the Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) data to determine if there has been a disproportionate impact



on people from BAME backgrounds, or any other protected characteristic.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-17/HL5881/>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Ministry of Defence: Racial Discrimination**

**Lord Touhig (Labour)** [HL5882] To ask Her Majesty's Government how much compensation they have paid out in racial discrimination cases brought against the Ministry of Defence in (1) 2016, (2) 2017, (3) 2018, (4) 2019, and (5) 2020.

**Lord Touhig (Labour)** [HL6100] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many discrimination cases concerning racism have been brought against the Ministry of Defence by (1) current, and (2) former, employees in each year since 2010.

**Reply from Baroness Goldie:** The Ministry of Defence (MOD) recognises that unacceptable behaviour, including racism, still occurs. We are committed to eradicate this, and have a zero-tolerance approach. Defence, does not yet represent society and it is essential that we work towards this. We recognise that the pace of change needs to quicken and are renewing our ambition at the highest levels of the Department. We aim to eliminate discrimination and improve diversity throughout Defence as enshrined in our 2018-2030 Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) Strategy.

Legal advice has interpreted the terms "racial discrimination cases" and "discrimination cases involving racism" to refer to Employment Tribunals (ETs). The attached tables show the number of ETs brought against the MOD by military personnel in each year from 2010 to-date, and the breakdown of compensation paid in each year from 2016-2020 as a result of racial discrimination ETs.

All MOD personnel (civilian and military) are required to complete mandatory D&I Training courses. In addition, those trained as D&I Advisers and Practitioners provide impartial advice and support to personnel who encounter discrimination, bullying and harassment. This is supplemented by Speak Safe Volunteers, trained independent bullying, harassment & discrimination advisers who enable individuals to understand their situation and make informed decisions. An Active Bystander training course has also been designed to equip personnel with the skills to effectively challenge unacceptable behaviour.

#### [Race Discrimination](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-17/HL5882/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-23/HL6100/>

*The Strategy referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/746911/20180806-MOD\\_DI\\_Plan\\_A4\\_v14\\_Final-U.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/746911/20180806-MOD_DI_Plan_A4_v14_Final-U.pdf)

### **Ministry of Defence: Dismissal**

**Lord Tunncliffe (Labour)** [HL6101] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many employees at the Ministry for Defence have lost their jobs due to (1) discriminatory, and (2) racist, behaviour towards other employees since 2010.

**Reply from Baroness Goldie:** The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. I can assure the Noble Lord that the Ministry of Defence and the UK Armed Forces are committed to taking action to eradicate any discriminatory and racist behaviour towards other employees and have a zero-tolerance approach. All allegations of illegal or unacceptable behaviour are taken

extremely seriously and investigated thoroughly.

I also refer the Noble Lord to the answer given in the House of Commons on 18 June 2020 by the Minister for Defence Personnel and Veterans to the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, Jamie Stone MP, to Question 61568.

[Armed Forces: Racial Discrimination](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-23/HL6101/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

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

## New Publication

**Race and Racism in English Secondary Schools**

<https://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/publications/pdfs/Runnymede%20Secondary%20Schools%20report%20FINAL.pdf>

## News

**Priti Patel says Labour MPs who accused her of 'gaslighting black people' were being racist**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/06/28/priti-patel-says-labour-mps-accused-gaslighting-black-people/>

**I know how painful antisemitism is and never intended my tweet to cause hurt**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/jun/29/responsibility-actions-antisemitism-rebecca-long-bailey>

**'My struggle with racism in the Metropolitan police'**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/stories-53224394>

**Psychiatrists urge new leader to rid profession of institutional racism**

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/jul/01/psychiatrists-urge-new-leader-to-rid-profession-of-institutional-racism>

**David Starkey forced to resign from Cambridge college over 'damn blacks' slavery comments**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/07/03/david-starkey-forced-resign-cambridge-college-damn-blacks-slavery/>

**David Starkey loses roles after referring to 'damn blacks'**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2020-07-03/news/universities-shun-starkey-over-racist-remark-5snn8mrv5>

**'Talking to my white friend about race - for the first time'**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/stories-53208273>

**'I always remember feeling like the outsider'**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-53156213>

### 'Why I've used skin-whitening products'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/newsbeat-53275734>

### 'I've been stared at in disbelief when I introduce myself'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-53156213>

### Telling white people they are racists won't help end scourge of racism

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18548063.opinion-stuart-waiton-telling-white-people-racists-wont-help-end-scurge-racism/>

### World is glimpsing the reality of racism my brother suffered

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18550996.comment-world-glimpsing-reality-racism-brother-suffered/>

### 'None of us are powerless': how to be an antiracist student

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2020/jul/03/none-of-us-are-powerless-how-to-be-an-antiracist-student>

### Henry from The School that Tried to End Racism: 'I was worried I'd be called a racist'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/family/life/henry-school-tried-end-racism-worried-called-racist/>

TOP

## Other UK Parliament and Government

### Debate

#### Black Women: Domestic Abuse

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-06-30/debates/6C504C76-F6C9-4681-B750-87028A050BD4/BlackWomenDomesticAbuse>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

### Crimes of Violence and Homicide: Ethnic Groups

**Philip Davies (Conservative)** [64872] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what the ethnicity was of (a) the perpetrator and (b) the victim in each case of (i) grievous bodily harm/unlawful wounding, (ii) grievous bodily harm/wounding with intent and (iii) attempted murder in each of the last three years.

**Reply from Alex Chalk:** The Ministry of Justice has published data on the number of prosecutions and convictions, including the ethnicity of the defendants, in England & Wales up to December 2019. This data is available here:

*Principal offence proceedings and outcomes by Home Office offence code data tool*  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/888344/HO-code-tool-principal-offence-2019.xlsx](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/888344/HO-code-tool-principal-offence-2019.xlsx)

Select 'Offence' and search: (i) '8F Wound/ inflict grievous bodily harm without intent', (ii) '5A Wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm' and (iii) '2 Attempted murder'. Open the field list (click anywhere on the table) then drag and drop the 'Ethnicity' variable from the 'filters' box into the 'rows' box.

The total number of convictions for defendants of each ethnic group since 2013 will be shown in rows 39-44.

The Ministry of Justice does not hold information on victim characteristics unless specified in statute.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-25/64872/>

### **Influenza and Pneumonia: Ethnic Groups**

**Philip Davies (Conservative)** [64869] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many people by ethnic group died from (a) flu and (b) pneumonia in each of the last five years.

**Reply from Chloe Smith:** The information requested falls under the remit of the UK Statistics Authority. I have therefore asked the Authority to respond. ...

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has developed an innovative method of estimating mortality rates for ethnic groups, based on linking death registrations to data from the 2011 Census. This method was used to produce provisional figures on deaths involving coronavirus (COVID-19) by ethnic group, in England and Wales, occurring between 2 March and 15 May 2020<sup>1</sup>. We are working to further develop and quality assure the complex data linkage and analysis methods involved. This is so we can produce figures on deaths, mortality rates, and relative risk by ethnic group for individual causes of death and overall, for different annual time periods since 2011, as well as other relevant breakdowns. The results will be published on the ONS website as soon as they are available.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/articles/coronaviruscovid19relateddeathsbyethnicgroupenglandandwales/2march2020to15may2020>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-25/64869/>

### **Charities: Ethnic Groups**

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op)** [63421] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, which BAME charities are in receipt of (a) (i) direct or (ii) indirect funding from a Government department or (b) direct funding from a local authority.

**Reply from John Whittingdale:** On 8 April the Chancellor announced a £750 million funding package for charities. This includes £360 million of targeted funding by central government departments for charities providing vital services during the Covid-19 pandemic. Individual government departments have allocated this funding in line with their usual internal procedures. In addition, part of this package will include an open fund aimed at smaller charities and social enterprises working with vulnerable people affected by the crisis in England delivered through the National Lottery Community Fund.

My department and the National Lottery Community Fund (NLCF - our distribution partners for the Coronavirus Community Support Fund) have been - and continue to - engage extensively with diverse and underrepresented groups during the development of the response and are working with a number of organisations to improve the reach of the Coronavirus Community Support Fund. A diverse advisory panel has been set up to support the distribution process for the fund.

No DCMS funds have been allocated to local government for onward distribution. The department does not hold information on direct funding allocated by local government. Announcements and the breakdown of government funding can be found on the gov.uk website here:

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

Details of the funds awarded by The National Lottery Community Fund and by DCMS will be published in due course. Individual departments will be responsible for publishing their own data.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-23/63421/>

*The announcement referred to above can be read at*

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

### **Museums and Galleries: Ethnic Groups**

**Oliver Heald (Conservative)** [61398] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, if he will make an assessment of the potential merits of a national museum for the study of Black, Asian and minority ethnic history and culture on a similar scale and model to the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington DC; and if he will make a statement.

**Reply from Caroline Dinenage:** There are currently no plans to expand the portfolio of DCMS-Sponsored national museums.

Many of the existing national museums display material relating to Black, Asian and minority ethnic history and culture as part of their permanent exhibitions. This includes material displayed at the British Museum, National Portrait Gallery, V&A, Tate, Horniman, and National Museums Liverpool. These collections include art, ceramics, fashion and photography. Many museums work with diaspora communities to better understand collection items and place them in historical and contemporary context. A number of museums have also held temporary exhibitions that focus on Black, Asian and minority ethnic history and culture.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-18/61398/>

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

### **Places of Worship Security Funding Scheme**

**Claudia Webbe (Labour)** [23611] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many mosques have received funding from the Place of Worship Security Fund since its establishment.

**Claudia Webbe (Labour)** [23612] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many mosques have unsuccessfully applied for funding from the Place of Worship Security Fund since its establishment.

**Claudia Webbe (Labour)** [23485] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many mosques have applied unsuccessfully for funding from the Place of Worship Security Fund.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** 431 applications have been made to the Places of Worship Security Funding Scheme since it began in 2016. In total, 109 applications were from Muslim communities. Of these, 49 applications were successful whilst 60 applications were unsuccessful.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-02/23611/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-02/23612/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-02/23485/>

*Information about the Places of Worship Security Funding Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/places-of-worship-security-funding-scheme>



## Business: Coronavirus

**Gareth Thomas (Labour Co-op) [64827]** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what steps his Department is taking to support businesses unable to access Government schemes such as the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan due to Sharia law restrictions on taking interest bearing loans.

**Reply from Kemi Badenoch:** The Government is committed to financial inclusion and the principle that no UK customer should be denied access to competitive financial products because of their faith.

The Government's priority in designing support schemes for businesses has been to help as many people as possible as quickly as possible. The Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme does not currently have any Sharia-compliant accredited lenders, but those that wish to become accredited can do so through contacting the British Business Bank. We continue to listen and meet with finance providers, keeping all policies under review, to ensure they remain fit for purpose. We also welcome varied feedback to identify issues that need to be addressed in policy design and coverage.

Sharia compliant businesses have been able to access Sharia compliant finance through the Government-backed Start Up Loan scheme. They have also been able to apply for support through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme to help them retain employees, as well as benefit from other support measures such as business rates relief and deferral of VAT payments.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-25/64827/>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

### Marriage and Religious Weddings

**Baroness Cox (Crossbench):** To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the *Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper*, published on 14 May 2018, what progress they have made on their commitment to "explore the legal and practical challenges of limited reform relating to the law on marriage and religious weddings".

**Reply from the Advocate-General for Scotland (Lord Keen of Elie):** My Lords, the Government continue the exploration of limited reform and non-legislative options that they began in detail last spring. We are doing so with the greatest care. Any proposals affecting how religious groups are permitted to conduct marriages must be thoroughly assessed for their fairness to all religious groups, and for how far they could achieve the change of practice intended.

**Baroness Cox:** My Lords, I remain deeply concerned because we have seen no evidence of any significant progress since I asked a similar Oral Question nine months ago, on 23 October. Given the strong recommendations of the Casey review, the sharia law review and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and given the number of Private Members' Bills that I have submitted since 2011 with cross-party support and the support of Muslim women's groups, will the Minister give an assurance at last that government legislation will be introduced as a matter of urgency? So many Muslim women in this country are suffering in ways which are unacceptable and make our suffragettes turn in their graves.

**Reply from Lord Keen of Elie:** My Lords, I am not in a position to give such an undertaking. The issues raised are considered in the *Integrated Communities Action Plan*.

**Lord Mackay of Clashfern (Conservative):** My Lords, to what extent does the right to practise one's religion, subject to a proviso, affect the right to maintenance and property during marriage and on divorce or separation?

**Reply from Lord Keen of Elie:** My Lords, if a religious ceremony of marriage or purported marriage does not conform to the requirement of Lord Hardwicke's Act of 1753 or the marriage Act of 1836, then there will be no marriage. In these circumstances, a couple would be regarded as cohabiting and that would clearly have an impact upon any circumstances in which they ceased to cohabit.

**Baroness Meacher (Crossbench):** My Lords, it is seven years next month since the same-sex marriage Act was passed, enabling Governments to bring about legal recognition for humanist marriages by ministerial order. Since then, successive Ministers have been very supportive but have had a series of reviews rather than taking action. Meanwhile, 6,000 couples who have had humanist weddings have also been required to have a second marriage ceremony with a registrar to get legal recognition of their ceremony. This cannot be justified. Will the Minister help to achieve legal recognition of humanist marriages, which has the support of the majority in all religious groups?

**Reply from Lord Keen of Elie:** My Lords, the Law Commission is proposing to look at the matter of where and in what circumstances marriage should be celebrated. I understand that its consultation document will be available in September.

**Baroness Whitaker (Labour):** My Lords, following the question of the noble Baroness, Lady Meacher, can I press the Minister on this issue? Provision for legally recognised humanist marriages was overwhelmingly supported in the government consultation. What are the real obstacles to our having equal rights with Scotland?

**Reply from Lord Keen of Elie:** The major obstacle is the fundamental difference between the law of marriage in Scotland and that in England. The law of marriage in England and Wales, as determined since Lord Hardwicke's Act, depends upon the place of celebration as well as the celebrant. That is not the position in Scotland, where it is not necessary to identify the location for the marriage ceremony.

**Lord Dholakia (Liberal Democrat):** My Lords, is there any evidence of girls being married before reaching the legal age at which marriage is permissible, particularly during the Covid emergency of recent times, and is the situation regularly monitored here and abroad to ensure that this does not happen to girls settled in the United Kingdom?

**Reply from Lord Keen of Elie:** My Lords, any purported marriage to a person under the age of 16 would be void and of no effect. A marriage of an individual between that age and the age of 18 would of course require parental consent.

**Baroness Uddin (Non-affiliated):** My Lords, for some years, I have spoken in this House in support of the Register Our Marriage campaign led by Aina Khan OBE, whose commendable work has established the urgent need for legal recognition of any marriages conducted with religious ceremonies. This is not the case at present, as noble Lords have said, which significantly impacts many vulnerable women, who often only become aware when the marriage dissolves that they have little or no marital and financial rights. Will the Minister agree to meet—even on Zoom—with me, interested Members of Parliament and the legal and community experts of the ROM team, to gain greater insight into resolving these outstanding anomalies and eradicating their harmful impact, given that the laws on marriage are due to undergo further and imminent changes?

**Reply from Lord Keen of Elie:** My Lords, the position is that there is a very real social issue, but not a legal issue, with regard to this matter. It is not possible simply to say that we will acknowledge all religious ceremonies of marriage, of any kind, as legally enforceable. That would actually expose people to greater harm in the long term. I am perfectly content to meet with the noble Baroness and others to discuss this matter. It would be sensible to defer such a meeting until we have the Law Commission's terms of reference and consultation document in September of this year.

**Baroness Warsi (Conservative):** My Lords, I am sure my noble and learned friend accepts that the role of politicians and indeed government is to ensure that the law

responds to the needs of a changing community. Therefore, could he explain why, despite 10 years of government policy consensus on religious marriages—that Muslim women in particular deserve the same protection as other married women—the Government still fail to put that protection in place?

**Reply from Lord Keen of Elie:** First of all, those who undergo only a sharia ceremony are not in marriage; that is the source of the problem we have to face here. That is more a social issue than a legal one, and it requires education and information more than legislation.

**Baroness Deech (Crossbench):** Do the Government not realise how urgent reform is in this area? Not only are religious marriages continuing to take place, with all the drawbacks outlined by my noble friend Baroness Cox—the Minister is right to say that this must be stopped by education—but lockdown has shown the need for simpler weddings and more certainty in formalities, to increase choice, lower cost and ensure legality. Will the Government make time for statutory reform soon, encompass those reforms and whatever the Law Commission comes up with in its timely work on weddings, which has a broader scope but will include discussion of religious-only marriages and the consequences for couples who do not comply with the requirements?

**Reply from Lord Keen of Elie:** My Lords, the Law Commission review will consider the law on how and where marriages may take place in England and Wales. The terms of reference for that project have already been published and we look forward to the consultation paper and the results of that consultation.

**Lord Desai (Labour):** My Lords, the evidence is not only that underage marriage is sanctioned by parents, but that any woman defying parental orders can suffer violent death. We have to understand that it is not just a matter of the law of marriage but of the legal human rights of underage children, especially girls, to have protection from their families. The Government must do something about that part of the law and not just wait for the Law Commission.

**Reply from Lord Keen of Elie:** My Lords, there is an issue to be addressed with regard to what amounts to forced marriage. Since 2014 that has been a specific criminal offence, and since 2017 we have ensured that those who come forward in these circumstances receive lifelong anonymity.

**Baroness Sheehan (Liberal Democrat):** May I ask the Minister how the Government measure the effectiveness of awareness campaigns to educate socially isolated Muslim women and girls on the benefits of a civilly registered marriage?

**Lord Keen of Elie:** My Lords, there is no absolute means by which one could accurately measure that, so it is necessary to engage with these communities and to analyse feedback from them in order to ascertain the extent of the problem. I readily acknowledge that there is a very real issue with regard to the Muslim community's tendency, in many cases, to undergo a sharia ceremony rather than a legal marriage.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-06-30/debates/9F2CD5B2-5CF8-459D-8C30-9E821BCD5CE2/MarriageAndReligiousWeddings>

*The Green Paper referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/696993/Integrated\\_Communities\\_Strategy.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/696993/Integrated_Communities_Strategy.pdf)

*The summary of responses and Government response to the Green Paper referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/777160/Integrated\\_Communities\\_Strategy\\_Government\\_Response.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/777160/Integrated_Communities_Strategy_Government_Response.pdf)

*The oral question referred to above can be read at*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-10-23/debates/D7C380E1-3F77-4BE0-BF60-89B390587A7D/ShariaLawMarriages>

Information about the Law Commission review referred to above can be read at <https://www.lawcom.gov.uk/law-commission-begins-work-on-weddings-reform/>

The Casey review, referred to above, can be read at [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/575973/The Casey Review Report.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/575973/The_Casey_Review_Report.pdf)

The sharia law review referred to above can be read at [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/678478/6.4152 HO CPGF Report into Sharia Law in the UK WEB.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/678478/6.4152_HO_CPGF_Report_into_Sharia_Law_in_the_UK_WEB.pdf)

The Resolution of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe referred to above can be read at <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=25353>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

### Prisoners: Ethnic groups

**Lord German (Liberal Democrat) [HL5665]** To ask Her Majesty's Government how many times PAVA spray has been used (1) in total, and (2) against BAME prisoners, on the prison estate since its rollout; what proportion of the total prison population are BAME; and what analysis they have undertaken to ensure proportionate use of that spray.

**Reply from Lord Keen of Elie:** The below table is the total number of use of force incidents from April 2019 to March 2020. This data is collated from management information and due to how the data is validated it may not tally with official statistics.

Period	Total
Apr-19	5415
May-19	5746
Jun-19	5489
Jul-19	5422
Aug-19	5264
Sep-19	5172
Oct-19	5888
Nov-19	5202
Dec-19	4858
Jan-20	5591
Feb-20	5487
Mar-20	5577

We have been introducing PAVA to the adult male estate to help protect staff and prisoners from incidents where there is serious violence, or an imminent or perceived risk of serious violence.

Since the roll out of PAVA began in April 2019, it has been used on 81 prisoners. It has been drawn (but not used) on 36 individuals, totalling 117 prisoners.

The table below shows the number of times PAVA has been drawn or used, broken down by ethnicity. Revised guidance on PAVA guidance was issued in April and the first prison outside the pilot began using PAVA in August. Therefore, data between April and July will only reflect usage at the pilot sites (HMPs Risley, Hull, Preston and Wealstun)

Ethnicity	Deployed	Drawn	Total
Asian/Asian British	5	~	~
Black/Black British	10	7	17

Mixed	3	3	6
White	52	24	76
Not recorded	11	~	~
Total	81	36	117

The 'not recorded' category includes those prisoners who do not disclose their ethnicity on reception into custody.

Prisoners from BAME backgrounds made up 27% of all prisoners. In March 2019, prisoners who declared themselves in the White ethnic group made up almost three quarters (59,911 or 73%) of the prison population in England and Wales. Prisoners who declared their ethnicity as Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic (BAME) represented 22,227 (or 27%) of all prisoners.

PAVA is just one of many tools we give to prison officers to help them do their job more safely, alongside body worn video cameras training, and rigid bar handcuffs. Above all, we know that one of the most effective tools in managing people safely is the interpersonal skills of our staff.

HMPPS is committed and duty bound to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not and to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

In response to the Lammy Review, we are updating the training we give to officers to raise awareness among all staff of how biases can affect decision making, and strategies to combat these.

PAVA, as with any use of force, must always only be used if necessary and proportionate to the seriousness of the circumstances. The application of physical techniques, or the use of PAVA, is to be used only when other methods not involving force have been repeatedly tried and failed, or are judged unlikely to succeed, and action needs to be taken to prevent serious injury or harm to prisoners or staff.

Quality assurance and scrutiny of incidents is vital to ensuring that force is used legally and appropriately. Governors will be expected to ensure that scrutiny takes place after any drawing and/or use of PAVA. We have developed a toolkit of resources to assist prisons in maintaining effective scrutiny.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-15/HL5665/>

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

## UK Parliament Early Day Motion

**Oliver Heald (Conservative) (675) National Museum of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic History and Culture** – That this House recognises the important role played by the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington DC since it opened its doors to the public on 24 September 2016, documenting and enabling the study of the life, history and culture of African Americans; notes that it serves as a place of collaboration to work with many other museums and educational institutions that have explored and preserved this important history; asserts the national importance of the life, history and culture of Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities in the UK and their global influences; believes that there should be a DCMS-sponsored national UK museum for the study of Black, Asian and minority ethnic history and culture on a similar scale and model to the Washington Museum; and calls on the Government, whilst reviewing inequalities' issues generally, to make an assessment of the potential merits of



such a national museum.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/57198/national-museum-of-black-asian-and-minority-ethnic-history-and-culture>

## News

**Six couples to take Government to the High Court over refusal to recognise humanist marriages**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/07/01/six-couples-take-government-high-court-refusal-recognise-humanist/>

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## Health Information: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

### NHS

#### NHS Inform (Scotland)

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

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

#### Healthcare for overseas visitors

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

#### Healthcare for refugees and asylum seekers

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

#### NHS Near Me (Scotland)

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

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

#### NHS (England and Wales)

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

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

### Ethnic Groups: Coronavirus

**Catherine West (Labour) [903999]** If he will make a comparative assessment of the effect of covid-19 on the BAME community in Scotland and England.

**Reply from Iain Stewart:** Both Public Health England and Public Health Scotland have published early analysis looking at the impact of COVID-19 on BAME Communities.

There is much more work to do to understand what is driving these disparities and

how the different risk factors interact, and we are absolutely determined to get to the bottom of this and find ways of closing that gap.

The UK Government has committed to commission further research and Scottish Government have established a group on this issue.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-01/903999/>

*The analyses referred to above can be read at*

[https://beta.isdscotland.org/media/4525/20-05-20-covid19-publication\\_report.pdf](https://beta.isdscotland.org/media/4525/20-05-20-covid19-publication_report.pdf)

and

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/892085/disparities\\_review.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/892085/disparities_review.pdf)

and

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-understanding-the-impact-on-bame-communities>

### **Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups**

**Shabana Mahmood (Labour) [51804]** To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether he plans to consider the conclusions of Public Health England's review into the effect of covid-19 on black, Asian, and minority ethnic communities to be taken into account when easing covid-19 lockdown measures.

**Reply from Jo Churchill:** The United Kingdom's response to COVID-19 is underpinned by scientific advice informed by a number of infectious disease models. Each of these is overseen by world-leading academic and public health institutions, who come together in the UK Government's Scientific Pandemic Influenza Group on Modelling (SPI-M).

At each review point, impacts on black, Asian and minority ethnic groups have been carefully considered, in line with the Public Sector Equality Duty requirement for public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities.

The Government will continue to review the measures, assessing them to ensure that they continue to be necessary and proportionate based on available scientific evidence, which includes up to date data.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-01/51804/>

*The review referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/892085/disparities\\_review.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/892085/disparities_review.pdf)

### **Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups**

**Martyn Day (SNP) [54970]** To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, for what reason the Public Health England review of the effect of covid-19 on BAME communities did not refer to (a) the high proportion of BAME healthcare workers who died from covid-19 and (b) the sociocultural circumstances of BAME victims which affected their exposure to covid-19; and what steps he plans to take to protect BAME communities from covid-19.

**Reply from Jo Churchill:** Public Health England (PHE) led a rapid review to better understand how different factors can impact on how people are affected by COVID-19. This includes analysis of ethnicity, deprivation, age, sex (male and female) and obesity, where surveillance data was available to PHE.

The review also referred to findings from other studies, where possible, including those analysing the deaths of black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) National

Health Service staff and sociocultural circumstances of BAME communities.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Equalities (Kemi Badenoch MP) will be taking forward work to better understand the drivers behind the report's conclusions and interactions between different risk factors and consider where further data or analysis is needed. The Terms of Reference for that work can be found at the following link:

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-04/54970/>

*The review referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/892085/disparities\\_review.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/892085/disparities_review.pdf)

### **Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups**

**Dawn Butler (Labour)** [57924] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what steps the Government is taking to tackle the adverse effect of covid-19 on members of BAME communities.

**Reply from Kemi Badenoch:** Guided by medical and scientific expertise, the Government has implemented significant measures to reduce the spread of the virus in all communities, especially those who may be at higher risk. This includes targeted testing of occupations and groups at higher risk; guidance for NHS organisations on how to enhance their existing risk assessments particularly for potentially at-risk groups within their workforce; and translating the latest information into multiple languages and forms to meet accessibility needs.

In April, the Department for Health and Social Care commissioned Public Health England (PHE) to undertake a rapid review to understand how different factors have affected COVID-19 risk and outcomes. The report has some limitations - the ethnicity analyses did not, for example, adjust for factors such as co-morbidities. As Minister for Equalities, I am working with the Race Disparity Unit and the Department for Health and Social Care to carry forward work to identify and fill the gaps in PHE's review; and work across government to take appropriate steps to mitigate disparities identified. The terms of reference for this work, which include quarterly updates to the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Health and Social Care on progress, were published on gov.uk on 4 June.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-10/57924/>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/892085/disparities\\_review.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/892085/disparities_review.pdf)

### **Coronavirus: Asians**

**Apsana Begum (Labour)** [61617] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, with reference to Public Health England's report entitled Disparities in the risk and outcomes of COVID-19 published on 2 June 2020, what assessment his Department has made of the reasons for which people of a Bangladeshi background are twice as likely to die from covid-19.

**Reply from Jo Churchill:** 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.

This analysis adjusts for important factors such as age and deprivation, but not for factors such as comorbidities and obesity, which are likely to have an impact on the different risks of dying between ethnic groups.

The review did not aim to determine root causes of findings that are likely to be driven by complex interactions, as the terms of reference shows.

PHE's report 'Beyond the data: understanding the impact of COVID-19 on BAME groups' contains a literature review that highlights issues which can be a factor in some ethnic groups being more likely to suffer from COVID-19, including Bangladeshi communities. The report is available to view at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-understanding-the-impact-on-bame-communities>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-18/61617/>

*The review referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/892085/disparities\\_review.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/892085/disparities_review.pdf)

### **Ethnic Groups: Equality**

**Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour)** [62637] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what steps she is taking to tackling inequalities experienced by the BAME community as a result of the covid-19 outbreak.

**Reply from Kemi Badenoch:** Guided by medical and scientific expertise, the Government has implemented significant measures to reduce the spread of the virus in all communities, especially for people who may be at higher risk. This includes targeted testing of occupations and groups at higher risk; guidance for NHS organisations on how to enhance their existing risk assessments particularly for potentially at-risk groups within their workforce; and translating the latest information into multiple languages and forms to meet accessibility needs.

In addition to these measures, on 4 June as Minister for Equalities, I announced Government's next steps to address the disparities identified in the Public Health England (PHE) Report "COVID-19: review of disparities in risks and outcomes". The Minister will be working with the Race Disparity Unit (RDU) and the Department for Health and Social Care with support from officials across other departments and their agencies to carry forward this vital work. This includes reviewing the effectiveness and impact of current actions being undertaken by relevant government departments and their agencies to directly lessen disparities in infection and death rates of COVID-19.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-22/62637/>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/892085/disparities\\_review.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/892085/disparities_review.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>

### **Travellers: Coronavirus**

**Christian Wakeford (Conservative)** [62710] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps the Government is taking to ensure that Traveller populations in the UK are relocated to (a) safe and (b) appropriate areas during the covid-19 outbreak.

**Reply from Christopher Pincher:** The Government is working hard to ensure all communities receive the support they need during this pandemic. It is for local

authorities to determine how best to support vulnerable groups, in line with their public health responsibilities.

To enable compliance with COVID-19 public health guidance, access to basic amenities, including water, sanitation and waste disposal facilities is essential. My Noble Friend, the Minister for Communities, wrote to local authorities to highlight the potential vulnerabilities of Gypsy & Traveller communities, noting that local authorities may conclude that some families may require alternative places to stop where access to essential facilities is provided or can be made temporarily available. A copy of the letter is available at the following link:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/882564/COVID-19\\_-\\_mitigating\\_impacts\\_on\\_gypsy\\_traveller\\_communities.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/882564/COVID-19_-_mitigating_impacts_on_gypsy_traveller_communities.pdf)

Local authorities are best-placed to determine when it is appropriate to use their powers to evict unauthorised encampments under Sections 77 and 78 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act (1994) during the pandemic. Unauthorised encampments can cause harm to the local environment, and the rights of settled residents must be respected.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-22/62710/>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

### Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups

**Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick (Non-affiliated)** [HL5877] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to tackle disproportionate effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on BAME communities.

**Reply from Baroness Berridge:** On 4 June Minister for Equalities, Kemi Badenoch MP, announced the Government's next steps to address the disparities identified in the Public Health England (PHE) Report. The Minister will be working with the Race Disparity Unit (RDU) and the Department for Health and Social Care with support from officials across other departments and their agencies to carry forward this vital work. This includes reviewing the effectiveness and impact of current actions being undertaken by relevant government departments and their agencies to directly lessen disparities in infection and death rates of COVID-19.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-17/HL5877/>

*The announcement referred to above can be read at*

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

### Ethnic Groups: Coronavirus

**Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated)** [HL5425] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to support BAME women during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Reply from Baroness Berridge:** This Government is working to support all people through COVID-19, including BAME women. Guided by medical and scientific expertise, we have implemented specific measures to reduce the spread of the virus in all communities for everyone including women from BAME backgrounds. This Government has taken unprecedented steps to support lives and livelihoods, including increasing the generosity of Universal Credit, introducing the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and Self-Employment Income Support Scheme, and made changes to ensure women do not miss out on parental leave and childcare support. In addition, Equality Hub officials regularly meet with organisations representing



women and BAME communities and continue to do so. We are also working to alert and encourage relevant grassroots charities to apply for funding that has been made available including through the National Lottery Community Fund.

Public Health England has now completed its review into 'Disparities in the risk and outcomes of COVID-19', which confirms that COVID-19 has replicated, and in some cases increased, existing health inequalities related to risk factors, including age, gender, ethnicity and geography. The Minister for Equalities is working with the Race Disparity Unit and the Department for Health and Social Care to carry forward work to address the disparities outlined in the Public Health England report.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-08/HL5425/>

*The review referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/892085/disparities\\_review.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/892085/disparities_review.pdf)

## Scottish Government Press Releases

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

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

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's speech 3 July 2020**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-speech-3-july-2020/>

**Final Phase 2 measures confirmed**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/final-phase-2-measures-confirmed/>

## Scottish Government Publications

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) Phase 2: Scotland's route map - physical distancing update**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/covid-19-scotlands-route-map-through-out-crisis-update-approach-physical-distancing-light-advice-scottish-government-covid-19-advisory-group/>

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

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

**COVID-19 Advisory Group: superspreading advice**

<https://tinyurl.com/ybaps2so>

## UK Government Press Release

**Prime Minister's statement on coronavirus (COVID-19): 3 July 2020**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-ministers-statement-on-coronavirus-covid-19-3-july-2020>

## UK Government Publications

**Guidance: COVID-19: guidance for the safe use of places of worship during the pandemic from 4 July [England only]**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemic-from-4-july/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemic-from-4-july>

**Guidance: COVID-19: Guidance for small marriages and civil partnerships [England only]**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-small-marriages-and-civil-partnerships/covid-19-guidance-for-small-marriages-and-civil-partnerships>

## News

**Jewish deaths in UK more than double amid pandemic, data shows**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jun/30/jewish-deaths-in-the-uk-more-than-double-in-a-year-funeral-data-shows>

**Coronavirus: How will places of worship reopen?**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/explainers-53219921>

**Keeping the faith: religion in the UK amid coronavirus**

<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2020/jul/03/keeping-the-faith-religion-in-the-uk-amid-coronavirus>

**Couples told to wash hands before and after exchanging rings in new wedding guidance**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/06/29/couples-told-wash-hands-exchanging-rings-new-wedding-guidance/>

**Prince Charles thanks religious communities for helping their neighbours through Covid-19**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/royal-family/2020/06/30/prince-charles-thanks-religious-communities-helping-neighbours/>

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## Other News

**Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator: Calling small charities!**

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/news/charities-reference-group/>

**Organ donation: 'Mum said we don't do it. So we don't'**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/newsbeat-53264460>

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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>

#### **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>

Report Stage, House of Commons

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-06-30/debates/581DFFF9-B3ED-4B76-9F51-A1F2325334A6/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination\(EUWithdrawal\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-06-30/debates/581DFFF9-B3ED-4B76-9F51-A1F2325334A6/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination(EUWithdrawal)Bill)

First Reading, House of Lords

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-07-01/debates/CB814B51-1E10-49ED-8DB3-F52F4F8FD827/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination\(EUWithdrawal\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-07-01/debates/CB814B51-1E10-49ED-8DB3-F52F4F8FD827/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination(EUWithdrawal)Bill)

#### **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>

\*\* **Video consulting with “Near Me”** (closing date 24 July 2020)

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

\*\* **EU Settlement Scheme** (closing date 31 July 2020)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/call-for-evidence-eu-settlement-scheme>

**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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### **Grants online: Coronavirus**

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

### **Third Sector Resilience Fund**

*Closing date not stated*

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

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

*Closing date not stated*

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

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

For information and to apply see

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

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

*Closing date not stated*

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

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

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

*Closing date not stated*

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

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## Events, Conferences, and Training

\*\* new or updated this week

### **\*\* Equality & Diversity**

21 July 2020 online (4.00–6.00)

Glasgow Council for the Voluntary Sector session to discuss why equality matters, the benefits of a diverse workforce, protected characteristics, and types of discrimination. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y7gb6qwu>

### **\*\* Supporting Survivors / Adapting to the Challenges of Covid -19**

21 July 2020 online (4.30)

Helen Bamber Foundation webinar to share best practice about new ways of working to ensure vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers continue to receive the support and the level of safeguarding they need. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/ybujaj52>

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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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