



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

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

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

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

## Immigration and Asylum

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

#### Visas: Sponsorship

**John Hayes (Conservative)** [65922] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will review the proposal to abolish the Resident Labour Market Test in response to the covid-19 outbreak and resulting increase in unemployment.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** We set out our proposals for the UK's Points-Based Immigration System in a Policy Statement published on 19 February:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uks-points-based-immigration-system-policy-statement>.

On the recommendation of the independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) we will abolish the Resident Labour Market Test. In its September 2018 report on the impact of EEA migration in the UK, the MAC advised a robust approach to salary thresholds and the Immigration Skills Charge are better ways to protect UK workers against the dangers of employers using migrant workers to under-cut resident workers.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-29/65922/>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/741926/Final\\_EEA\\_report.PDF](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/741926/Final_EEA_report.PDF)

### **Visas: Migrant Workers**

**John Hayes (Conservative)** [65923] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the proportion of migrants entering the UK under the Tier 2 (General) route in the planned new points-based immigration system that will be new entrants rather than skilled workers.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Impact Assessment for the Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill included an assessment of the potential number of skilled workers that may be eligible under the new points-based immigration system. This included two illustrative scenarios for a potential increase in non-EU nationals eligible under a lower skill and salary threshold over the next five years. Estimates were provided for all skilled workers and not split by new entrant and experienced workers.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-bill-2020-overarching-documents>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-29/65923/>

*Information about the points-based system referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uks-points-based-immigration-system-policy-statement/the-uks-points-based-immigration-system-policy-statement>

### **Immigration: Au Pairs**

**Simon Jupp (Conservative)** [66242] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether plans she has to enable au pairs to work in the UK under the points-based immigration system.

**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/2020-06-29/66242/>

*Information about the points-based system referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uks-points-based-immigration-system-policy-statement/the-uks-points-based-immigration-system-policy-statement>

*Information about the Youth Mobility Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/tier-5-youth-mobility/eligibility>

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

**Immigration: Married People**

**John Hayes (Conservative)** [65928] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many grants of leave to remain in the UK were made based on the principles set out in the 2008 Metock judgment by the Court of Justice of the European Union in each of the last five years.

**John Hayes (Conservative)** [65929] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the status will be of the 2008 Metock judgement by the Court of Justice of the European Union with respect to its application in the UK after 31 December 2020.

**Immigration: Families**

**John Hayes (Conservative)** [65930] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the status of the Surinder Singh judgement will be with respect to its application in the UK after 31 December 2020.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** We do not hold data on the number of grants of leave to remain based on the principles of the Metock judgment.

At the end of the transition period, on 31 December 2020, free movement law will be repealed by the Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill and the UK will no longer be bound by the Metock and Surinder Singh judgments.

On 19 February, the Government published its policy statement on the UK's global points-based immigration system and this new system will apply to EEA citizens and their family members coming to the UK from January 2021.

The Government has confirmed family members of British citizens lawfully resident in the UK under the 'Surinder Singh' route by the end of the transition period are eligible to apply for status under the EU Settlement Scheme. Family members resident in the UK by the end of the transition period based on the principles of the Metock judgment are also eligible to apply for status under the scheme.

In addition, British citizens who are living in the EU by 31 December 2020 may return to the UK with their close family members under the current arrangements until 29 March 2022, where the family relationship existed before the UK left the EU.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-29/65928/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-29/65929/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-29/65930/>

*Information about the points-based system referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uks-points-based-immigration-system-policy-statement/the-uks-points-based-immigration-system-policy-statement>

*The Metock judgement, referred to above, can be read at*

<http://curia.europa.eu/juris/document/document.jsf?jsessionid=B157E4825EEDC29E884F6475DE961E16?text=&docid=68145&pageIndex=0&doclang=EN&mode=lst&dir=&occ=first&part=1&cid=8711529>

*The Surinder Singh judgement, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:61990CJ0370&from=EN>

*Information about the Surinder Singh route, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/family-permit/surinder-singh>

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**

**John Hayes (Conservative)** [65926] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people who originally came to the UK on a study visa were granted (a) limited leave to remain and (b) settlement after applying under the 10-year long-term residency rule in each of the last five years.

**John Hayes (Conservative)** [65927] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of people granted settlement in 2019 originally entered the UK on a study visa.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Home Office publishes data on grants of settlement, by initial visa category, in the annual 'Migrant Journey'

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/migrant-journey-2019-report>) release.

Data on grants of settlement in 2019 for those who originally entered the UK on a study visa are published in table MJ\_D02 of the Migrant Journey detailed datasets (<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/migrant-journey-2019-report>).

The latest data relate to the year 2019.

The Home Office also publishes data on grants of settlement and grants of limited leave to remain (extensions) in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release'

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

Data on grants of settlement under the long-term residency rules are published in table se\_03 of the settlement data tables

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/managed-migration-datasets>).

The latest data relate to the year 2018. It is not possible to identify the original route of entry from these data.

Data on grants of limited leave to remain are published in the Extensions detailed dataset

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/managed-migration-datasets>).

It is not possible to identify the original route of entry, or whether applications were made under the long-term residency rule, from these data.

Information on how to use the datasets can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbooks.

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

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-29/65926/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-29/65927/>

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

### **Free School Meals: Immigrants**

**Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op)** [62530] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many and what proportion of children of families who are subject to the no recourse to public funds condition have received free school meals in each month since May 2020.

**Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [62531]** To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what estimate his Department has made of the cost of permanently extending eligibility for free school meals to pupils with no recourse to public funds.

**Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [62533]** To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what discussions he has had with the Home Secretary on permanently extending free school meals eligibility to children from families with no recourse to public funds.

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment his Department has made of the potential effect of ending the temporary extension of free school meals eligibility on child (a) hunger and (b) malnutrition.

**Reply from Vicky Ford:** During the COVID-19 outbreak we are temporarily extending free school meals eligibility to include some groups who have no recourse to public funds. We do not currently hold estimates for the cost of permanently extending eligibility on this basis.

The Department does not currently collect data regarding the take up of free school meals from children of families who are subject to a no recourse to public funds condition.

The Department has engaged in discussion with Home Office colleagues throughout the policy-making process.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-22/62530/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-22/62531/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-22/62533/>

#### **Immigrants: Finance**

**Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [66133]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to support people with no recourse to public funds who are unable to access support through covid-19 financial support packages.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office is working closely with other government departments to support people, including migrants with no recourse to public funds, through this pandemic and are confident we have measures in place to support those who have no recourse to public funds (NRPF) at this difficult time.

For those whose employment status precludes access to the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and the Self-employed Income Support Scheme (neither of which are classed as public funds), other assistance is still available. Statutory sick pay and some other work-related benefits, such as contributory employment and support allowance, are also available to individuals with NRPF who are eligible.

Migrants with leave under the Family and Human Rights routes can apply to have the NRPF restriction lifted by making a 'change of conditions' application if there has been a change in their financial circumstances. The Home Office has recently digitised the application form to make sure it is accessible for those who need to remain at home. Applications are being dealt with compassionately.

In addition, the Government has made in excess of £3.2 billion of funding to local authorities in England, and additional funding under the Barnett formula to the devolved administrations to enable them to respond to Covid-19 pressures across all the services they deliver, including services helping the most vulnerable.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-29/66133/>



### Immigrants: Finance

**Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op)** [66134] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of immigrants on a five-year route to settlement have been moved onto a 10-year route because they cannot meet the minimum income threshold as a result of their income being affected by the covid-19 outbreak.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Home Office does not collate the information requested.

The Home Office has established a range of measures to support those affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. We continue to monitor the situation closely and take these exceptional circumstances into account.

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

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

Guidance for our customers is available on GOV.UK here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/chapter-8-appendix-fm-family-members>

This also sets out the ways in which the minimum income requirement can be met using other sources of income instead of, or along with, income from employment or self-employment. For example, income from the couple's investments, property rental or pension may also be taken into account, together with their cash savings. These are unprecedented times. We continue to monitor the situation closely and may make further adjustments to requirements where necessary and appropriate to ensure people are not unduly affected by circumstances beyond their control.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-29/66134/>

### Immigrants: Finance

**Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op)** [66136] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department will take to ensure that the income of people of colour who are subject to immigration control is not disproportionately affected during the covid-19 outbreak as a result of the no recourse to public funds condition.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Colour is not a characteristic that is recorded separately by the Home Office and any impact of the no recourse to public funds condition on a person of colour will be because of immigration status. 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>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-29/66136/>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Immigration: Windrush Generation**

**Thangam Debbonaire (Labour)** [1235] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Windrush Compensation Scheme claimants died after making an application.

**Thangam Debbonaire (Labour)** [1236] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Windrush Compensation Scheme claimants died before receiving compensation.

**Reply from Priti Patel:** It is hugely regrettable that a claimant passes away before a compensation award can be made or an apology sent to them.

The Windrush Compensation Scheme staff are working hard to ensure that where they are aware of claimants with critical or life shortening illnesses, that their cases are prioritised.

In the deeply unfortunate circumstances where a claimant has passed away after submitting a compensation claim, but before the claim is fully resolved, the team continues to work closely with the appointed representative, usually members of the family, to ensure the compensation payment is made as quickly as possible.

We are aware of five unfortunate cases to date where the claimant has passed away after having submitted a claim but before receiving compensation. We are working closely with the families and legal representatives to determine the right person to whom the compensation can be paid.

To help family members during this distressing time, we have provided links to Government websites that provide information on how to deal with bereavement and we have offered assistance from our claim's assistance provider Citizens Advice which is well versed in dealing with the financial implications of bereavement.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-12/1235/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-12/1236/>

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

### **Immigration: Windrush Generation**

**Luke Evans (Conservative)** [20049] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that Windrush compensation payments are processed and resolved efficiently.

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

Our recently published statistics on the payments made under the Windrush Compensation Scheme, show a clear increasing trajectory of payments: £362,997 paid in the first 12 months of the scheme, of which £300,799 was paid in the most recent three months of that period.

The Home Office has now offered a total of more than £1 million in compensation through the scheme. Once the offers are accepted by the applicants, the payments will be made.

We work with claimants throughout the process to obtain as much information about the claim as possible. This approach ensures that claimants receive the maximum possible amount to which they are entitled under the scheme.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-24/20049/>

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

*The statistics referred to above can be read at*

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

### **Immigration: Windrush Generation**

**Catherine West (Labour)** [27603] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications have been made to the Windrush compensation scheme; how many of those applications have been successful; what steps the Government is taking to publicise the scheme; and whether there is a cap on the level of compensation people can receive.

**Reply from Priti Patel:** Information on the total number of applications made to the Windrush Compensation Scheme and the applications that have been successful is available to view on GOV.UK at:

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

The Home Office has launched a digital engagement programme to ensure that outreach and engagement can continue despite the current social distancing measures due to Covid 19. The first event in this programme was held on 21 May and the further programme of events can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/windrush-engagement-events>.

On 19 March, the Home Secretary announced a new national communications campaign. The campaign will primarily target Windrush affected groups from across the UK and who may be eligible for help from the schemes. The campaign will also reach a secondary audience of the children and grandchildren of the Windrush generation who may themselves have been affected and are also well positioned to help older relatives to apply.

A mix of advertising channels will be used, such as radio and digital channels, to ensure information reaches affected communities as effectively as possible. We will work closely with stakeholders and partners trusted by the community to develop and deliver communications activity. To ensure spend has been effective, we will undertake a robust evaluation of the activity.

There is no overall cap on the amount an individual can receive in compensation under the Scheme.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-10/27603/>

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

### **Habitual Residence Test: Coronavirus**

**Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op)** [66135] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what plans her Department has to review the Habitual Residence Test to improve access to (a) universal credit and (b) other welfare benefits for EEA migrants and their families during the covid-19 outbreak.

**Reply from Justin Tomlinson:** The Government has taken steps to provide reassurance to and protect the rights of EEA citizens' resident in the UK by the end



of the transition period on 31 December 2020, so that they will be able to continue their lives in the UK much as before. In order to give effect to this, on 30 March 2019, the Home Office fully launched the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS).

By being granted status under the EUSS, EEA citizens living in the UK are able to continue to work, study and access benefits and services in the UK on the same basis as they did before we left the EU.

EU citizens with settled status who demonstrate habitual residence in the UK will pass the Habitual Residence Test (HRT) and be eligible to access tax-payer funded benefits. EEA citizens with pre-settled status are eligible to claim DWP income-related benefits such as Universal Credit if they are exercising a qualifying EU Treaty Right. This includes those with a worker or self-employed status and EEA workers with retained worker status who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own.

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-29/66135/>

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

#### **Immigration: EEA Nationals**

**John Hayes (Conservative)** [65937] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to issue EEA family permits after 31 December 2020.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Subject to Parliament's agreement to the Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill, free movement will end on 31 December 2020. In general, the Home Office will stop accepting applications for documents confirming free movement rights under the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2016 after that date.

However, in line with our obligations under the Withdrawal Agreement and equivalent agreements with the EEA EFTA states and Switzerland, the Home Office will continue to issue EEA family permits after 31 December 2020 in order to enable EEA and Swiss nationals who are exercising Treaty rights in the UK before the end of the transition period to bring their family members to the UK during the grace period between 1 January and 30 June 2021.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-29/65937/>

#### **Elections: EU Nationals**

**Wendy Chamberlain (Liberal Democrat)** [66206] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, whether the Government plans to change the rights of EU citizens resident in the UK to (a) stand and (b) vote in local elections before the local government elections in England and Wales in 2021.

**Reply from Chloe Smith:** The May local elections were postponed until 2021 due to Covid-19.

In that context, the UK Government can confirm that resident EU citizens will remain able to vote and stand in the rescheduled May 2021 local elections in England (including London Assembly elections) and the May 2021 Police and Crime Commissioner elections in England and Wales. Those elected to office will be able to serve their full term and this will also apply to those elected before 2021.

The franchise for local elections are devolved in Scotland and Wales.

As I noted to the Hon. Member in previous answers, the UK Government has been clear that the issue of local voting rights of EU citizens living in the UK needs to be considered alongside the rights and interests of British expats living abroad.

The Government has signed bilateral voting rights agreements with Spain, Portugal and Luxembourg in 2019, and with Poland in May 2020. We continue to work on further bilateral voting rights agreements with other EU member states.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-29/66206/>

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

**Rehman Chishti (Conservative)** [64895] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to prevent illegal crossings of the English Channel.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Facilitating these crossings is illegal and no one should be attempting them in the first place. France, from where almost all embark, is a manifestly safe country with a fully functioning asylum system. Any of these migrants needing asylum should claim it in France. Those seeking to cross must traverse some of the busiest shipping lanes in the world. It is a reckless and dangerous crossing, putting the lives of the people who attempt it at serious risk – including children and babies.

The Government is working flat out to put a complete stop to these crossings, and all attempts to reach the UK clandestinely and action is being taken on a daily basis. The National Crime Agency, Immigration Enforcement, Border Force and the UK Police are working closely with French authorities to crack down on the criminals who facilitate the crossings. There is a UK-France Coordination and Information Centre opened in Calais which opened in November 2018

This law enforcement response is delivering results. French law enforcement prevented over 1000 people from crossing by small boats in April and May 2020. In 2019, Immigration Enforcement made 418 arrests, leading to 203 convictions for a total of 437 years. Out of these, 259 arrests and 100 convictions were for people smuggling. Immigration Enforcement carried out 841 disruptions against organised crime gangs and individuals engaged in organised immigration crime, 404 of which were related to people smuggling. So far in 2020, 21 people smugglers have been convicted and put behind bars as a result of Immigration Enforcement investigations, with more investigations underway.

The UK Government has also returned over 155 small boats arrivals back to Europe since January 2019 using the legal channels available. We have a further 686 return cases which we are currently urgently progressing.

There is more we need to do beyond this. We are working on developing tactics to prevent crossings at sea, and on ways to rapidly return those who do get across. This may require primary legislation and new agreements with the French Government. These are currently under active discussion. The Prime Minister directly discussed the issue with President Macron on 18 June and the Home Secretary is in constant contact with her opposite number, the French Interior Minister. We will not rest until the crossings are entirely stopped.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-25/64895/>

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

**Andrew Rosindell (Conservative)** [65957] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to stop migrants crossing the English Channel illegally.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Facilitating these crossings is illegal and no one should

be attempting them in the first place. France, from where almost all embark, is a manifestly safe country with a fully functioning asylum system. Any of these migrants needing protection should claim it in France. Those seeking to cross must traverse some of the busiest shipping lanes in the world. It is a reckless and dangerous crossing, putting the lives of the people who attempt it – including children and babies – and those rescuing them, at serious risk.

The Government is working flat out to put a complete stop to these crossings, and all attempts to reach the UK clandestinely and action is being taken on a daily basis. This includes working closely with our French partners.

The National Crime Agency, Immigration Enforcement, Border Force and the UK Police are working closely with French authorities to crack down on the criminals who facilitate the crossings. There is a UK-France Coordination and Information Centre opened in Calais which opened in November 2018

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The UK Government has also returned over 155 small boats arrivals back to Europe since January 2019 using the legal channels available. We have a further 686 return cases which we are currently urgently progressing.

There is more we need to do beyond this. We are working on developing tactics to prevent crossings at sea, and on ways to rapidly return those who do get across.

This may require new legislation and new agreements with the French Government. These are currently under active discussion.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-29/65957/>

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

**John Hayes (Conservative)** [67517] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what information her Department holds on the number of people who have entered the UK after crossing the English Channel in small boats in the last five years.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Information regarding the number of migrants who have crossed the Channel via small boat, can be found using the following links:

<https://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-committees/home-affairs/Correspondence-17-19/19-03-05-Letter-from-Sir-Philip-Rutnam-KCB-Permanent-Secretary-Home-Office-Migrant-boats-in-the-channel.pdf>

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/home-affairs-committee/the-work-of-the-home-secretary/oral/103955.htm>

In April a parliamentary question was tabled by Tracey Crouch MP asking the UK government how many people have crossed the English Channel to enter the UK in January to March of 2020. The answer to this question can be found on the parliament website at the following link:

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

The Home Office also provides information on topical subjects via a blog posted on gov.uk:

<https://homeofficemedia.blog.gov.uk/2020/03/05/media-factsheet-small-boats/>

The Government is working flat out to put a complete stop to these crossings, and

all attempts to reach the UK clandestinely and action is being taken on a daily basis. The National Crime Agency, Immigration Enforcement, Border Force and the UK Police are working closely with French authorities to crack down on the criminals who facilitate the crossings.

This law enforcement response is delivering results. French law enforcement prevented over 1000 people from crossing by small boats in April and May 2020.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-01/67517/>

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

**John Hayes (Conservative)** [67518] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people who entered the UK after crossing the English Channel in small boats in 2019 are now housed under the seven regional Asylum Accommodation and Support Contracts.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office publishes quarterly figures on the number of asylum seekers housed in dispersed accommodation, by local authority, in the Immigration Statistics release,

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

Breakdowns of asylum claims by method of arrival or type of claim are not routinely published.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-01/67518/>

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

**John Hayes (Conservative)** [67525] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many migrants who arrived in the UK after crossing the English Channel in small boats in 2019 were returned to EU states under (a) Article 13(1) and (b) Article 13(2) of the Dublin rules.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office publishes data on the number of asylum seekers transferred under the Dublin regulation in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release'

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

Data on the number of asylum seekers transferred out of the UK under the Dublin Regulation, broken down by the EU member state they have been transferred to are published in tables Dub\_D01 of the asylum and resettlement detailed datasets (<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/asylum-and-resettlement-datasets>).

Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data relates to the year ending December 2019.

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

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

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

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

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

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/882400/Dublin-III-regulation-v3.0ext.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/882400/Dublin-III-regulation-v3.0ext.pdf)

Information regarding how many inadmissible decisions (Article 13.1 and Article 13.2) 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://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/835342/Inadmissibility-guidance-v4.0ext.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/835342/Inadmissibility-guidance-v4.0ext.pdf)

[Summary tables](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-01/67525/>

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

**Matthew Offord (Conservative)** [68331] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many illegal immigrants who entered the UK by boat across the English Channel have been returned to France.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office publishes data on the number of asylum seekers transferred under the Dublin regulation in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release'

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

Data on the number of asylum seekers transferred out of the UK under the Dublin Regulation, broken down by the EU member state they have been transferred to are published in tables Dub\_D01 of the asylum and resettlement detailed datasets (<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/asylum-and-resettlement-datasets>).

Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data relates to the year ending December 2019.

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

Additionally, the Home Office publishes a high-level overview of the data in the 'summary tables' (attached). The 'contents' sheet contains an overview of all available data on asylum and resettlement. Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the 'Research and statistics calendar'

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

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

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/882400/Dublin-III-regulation-v3.0ext.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/882400/Dublin-III-regulation-v3.0ext.pdf)

[Summary Tables](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-02/68331/>

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

**Matthew Offord (Conservative)** [68332] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps have been taken by the National Crime Agency with its French counterparts to (a) increase surveillance, (b) step up patrols and (c) target organised criminal gangs orchestrating the transportation of people across the English Channel by boat.



**Reply from Chris Philp:** The National Crime Agency, Immigration Enforcement, Border Force and the UK Police are working closely with French authorities to crack down on the criminals who facilitate the crossings. There is a UK-France Coordination and Information Centre opened in Calais which opened in November 2018 to co-ordinate:

1. Preventing attempts to cross and prosecuting criminals who facilitate it;
2. Exchanging real-time intelligence between UK and French agencies;
3. Preventing threats to public order and cross-border infrastructure; and
4. Providing joint analysis of cross-Channel traffic flows.

This law enforcement response is delivering results. French law enforcement prevented over 1000 people from crossing by small boats in April and May 2020. In 2019, Immigration Enforcement made 418 arrests, leading to 203 convictions for a total of 437 years. Out of these, 259 arrests and 100 convictions were for people smuggling. Immigration Enforcement carried out 841 disruptions against organised crime gangs and individuals engaged in organised immigration crime, 404 of which were related to people smuggling. So far in 2020, 21 people smugglers have been convicted and put behind bars as a result of Immigration Enforcement investigations, with more investigations underway.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-02/68332/>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Undocumented Migrants**

**John Hayes (Conservative)** [67528] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what information her Department holds on the number of detected attempts of people trying to enter the UK by clandestine in 2019 (a) in the back of lorries or in lorry containers, (b) in small boats via the English Channel and (c) entering via the Common Travel Area.

**John Hayes (Conservative)** [67529] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what information her Department holds on the number of detected attempts of people trying to enter the UK by clandestine in 2019 from (a) France and (b) Belgium.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Border Force does not routinely publish this level of data on clandestine entry or attempts to enter the UK.

Border Force continues to work closely with partners in the UK and overseas to strike people smuggling at the source – identifying and dismantling the organised crime groups that facilitate illegal immigration. They use an array of search techniques including sniffer dogs, carbon dioxide detectors, heartbeat monitors and scanners - as well as visual searches - to find well-hidden stowaways, illegal drugs, firearms and tobacco.

Additionally, the UK works abroad to reduce factors that may push or force people to attempt such journeys - through creating jobs, tackling modern slavery, providing education and delivering life-saving humanitarian assistance in response to conflicts and natural disasters.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-01/67528/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-01/67529/>

#### **Dublin Regulations**

**John Hayes (Conservative)** [67519] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the Dublin III agreement will be repealed with respect to UK law on 31 December 2020.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Immigration, Nationality and Asylum (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 revokes the Dublin Regulation. This legislation takes effect at the end of the Transition Period.

The Regulations contain a “savings provision” where a Dublin family reunion request made before 1 January 2021 can still be processed after that date.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-01/67519/>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Immigration**

**John Hayes (Conservative)** [67520] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reasons her Department has not published an estimate of the total number of people without leave to remain in the UK since 2005.

**John Hayes (Conservative)** [67521] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if her Department will publish an estimate of the total number of people without leave to remain in the UK.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** By its very nature, it is not possible to know the exact size of the illegal population (including those without leave to remain in the UK) and so we do not seek to make any official estimates of the illegal population. The Government is focused on making it harder for people to enter and live in the UK illegally whilst ensuring those who have the right to reside in the UK can do so. Exit checks introduced in April 2015 will, over time provide more detailed insights into the behaviour of migrants and how they comply with the restrictions placed upon their length of stay in the UK, but the data obtained does not provide the total number of illegal migrants currently in the UK. In June 2019, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) published a note on ‘measuring illegal migration’

(<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/articles/measuringillegalmigrationourcurrentview/2019-06-21>).

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-01/67520/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-01/67521/>

### **Refugees**

**Caroline Lucas (Green)** [64881] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to work with the (a) UNHCR and (b) the International Organisation for Migration to tackle delays in refugee resettlement as a result of (a) testing, (b) self-isolation and (iii) delays with travel documents; and when her Department plans to commence the resettlement programmes.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** It is not currently possible to undertake resettlement activity due to the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The resumption of resettlement is dependent upon a number of factors including the restarting of flights from refugee-hosting countries; the lifting of restrictions imposed by the governments of those countries; the ability of our international partners to operate safely; the reopening of the UK’s visa application centres and local authority capability and capacity to receive refugees.

The situation is being constantly monitored, including through regular bilateral engagement with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and International Organization for Migration.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-25/64881/>

*The following five questions all received the same answer*

### **Asylum**

**John Hayes (Conservative)** [65931] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum applications have been made in each of the last five years by people who entered the UK on a student visa; what the top 10 countries of nationality are for those people; and what assessment she has made of the implications for her policies of that information.

**John Hayes (Conservative)** [65932] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum applications have been made in each of the last five years by people who entered the UK on a family-related visa; what the top 10 countries of nationality are for those people; and what assessment she has made of the implications for her policies of that information.

**John Hayes (Conservative)** [65933] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum applications have been made in each of the last five years by people who entered the UK on a work visa; what the top 10 countries of nationality are for those people; and what assessment she has made of the implications her policies of that information.

**John Hayes (Conservative)** [65934] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people who entered the UK as visitors claimed asylum in each of the last five years.

**John Hayes (Conservative)** [65935] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum applications have been made by people who entered the UK as dependants of people coming to the UK on other types of visas in each of the last five years.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office is unable to provide information on how many asylum applications have been made in each of the last five years by people who entered the UK on a student visa, on a family-related visa, a work visa, as visitors and those as dependents of people coming to the UK on other types of visas or what the top 10 countries of nationality are of those people, as this information does not form part of any routinely published data.

However, The Home Office do publish data on the number of asylum applications lodged, by main applicants, broken down by nationality and can be found at Asy\_01\_c of the published Immigration Statistics:

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

The Home Office also publishes data on the number of entry clearance visas, broken down by visa type and can be found at:

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

The UK has a proud history of providing protection to those who need it, in accordance with our international obligations under the Refugee Convention and European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). Every asylum claim is carefully considered on its individual merits.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-29/65931/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-29/65932/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-29/65933/>

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-29/65934/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-29/65935/>

### Asylum

**John Hayes (Conservative)** [67516] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applicants have claimed asylum after entering the UK illegally in the last 10 years; how long on average after entry each such applicant claimed asylum; how many of those applicants were granted asylum; and how many unsuccessful applicants left the UK either voluntarily or by enforced removal.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office are unable to state how many applicants have claimed asylum after entering the UK illegally in the last 10 years or how long on average after each entry each such applicant claimed asylum. The Home Office do not monitor cases on method of entry.

The Home Office can state how many applicants have been granted asylum in each of the last 10 years. This data can be found at Asy\_02a (initial decisions on asylum applications, by outcome), of the published Immigration Statistics March 2020:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2020/list-of-tables#asylum-and-resettlement](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2020/list-of-tables#asylum-and-resettlement)

The Home Office also publishes data on how many unsuccessful applicants left the UK either voluntarily or by enforced removal. This data can be found at Ret\_04 (Returns from the UK, by nationality and type of return and asylum/non-asylum), of the published Immigration Statistics March 2020:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2020/list-of-tables#asylum-and-resettlement](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2020/list-of-tables#asylum-and-resettlement)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-01/67516/>

### Asylum

**Anneliese Dodds (Labour Co-op)** [28754] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the date was of receipt by her Department of the oldest outstanding further submission relating to an asylum claim.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Our records indicate that the oldest outstanding Further Submission relating to an asylum claim was received on 18 October 2005.

UK Visas and Immigration has undertaken exercises to review the oldest Further Submissions cases. Where more complex issues arise, it can take time to progress the decision on a case, but we keep all cases under regular review, and they are decided as soon as it is possible to do so.

The Home Office does not routinely publish information on the timing of further submissions. However, the Home Office does publish information on the number of main asylum applications awaiting an initial decision and this can be found in table ASY\_04 of the published Immigration statistics

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2020/list-of-tables#asylum-and-resettlement](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2020/list-of-tables#asylum-and-resettlement)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-12/28754/>

### Asylum: Finance

**Tahir Ali (Labour)** [67767] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the adequacy of the Asylum Support Rates in the context of the covid-19 outbreak.

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

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%. This increase is significantly higher than the current general rate of inflation, which Office for National Statistics data shows was only 0.5% in the 12 months period to May.

In addition to the allowance, we also provide free accommodation, with utilities and council tax paid for and there is free access to the NHS and free access to education for their children.

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/2020-07-01/67767/>

#### **Asylum: Finance**

**Claire Hanna (SDLP) [66240]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent discussions she has had with the Northern Ireland Executive on ensuring asylum seekers are adequately supported.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Support for asylum seekers in the UK who would otherwise be destitute is a Home Office responsibility. If an asylum seeker is in Northern Ireland and destitute, they can apply to the Home Office via Migrant Help for the same provision as is available in the rest of the UK. UKVI regularly engage with the NI Executive and other partners to enable the identification, discussion and resolution of any support and accommodation issues for asylum seekers in Belfast.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-29/66240/>

#### **Asylum: Vetting**

**Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [62328]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he is taking to ensure adequate security vetting of asylum seekers before they enter dispersal accommodation.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The United Kingdom has a statutory obligation to provide destitute asylum seekers with accommodation, transportation and cash/subsistence support whilst their application for asylum is being considered. The cost of this is covered by the tax-payer.

Security and criminal record checks are made as part of an asylum claim. No further checks are made prior to the dispersal of an asylum seeker, however, our service providers will report any criminal and suspicious behaviour identified during inspections.

Individuals accommodated under the immigration bail provision are accommodated in separate accommodation to asylum seekers.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-22/62328/>



### Asylum: Families

**Caroline Lucas (Green)** [64880] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Draft Working Text For An Agreement Between The United Kingdom Of Great Britain And Northern Ireland And The European Union On The Transfer Of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children, what comparative assessment she has made of the effect of (a) that text and (b) the Dublin III Regulation on the requirement of the UK and EU Member States to facilitate family reunion; and if she will make it her policy to include an appeal mechanism in that text for decisions on family reunion.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** This Government is committed to the principle of family reunion and to supporting vulnerable children. The UK published the draft legal text of our proposed agreement with the EU on the family reunion of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children on 19 May.

Our offer reflects the specified family members and relatives that Parliament approved in Section 17 of the EU (Withdrawal) Act 2018. This offer also reflects the family members and relatives who unaccompanied children can be reunited with under the Dublin III Regulation.

Our draft legal text is designed to cover the overarching principles of our proposed arrangements, not the operational detail of any final arrangements. Our approach is for operational issues to be agreed subsequently, once the overarching principles have been established.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-25/64880/>

*The draft working text referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/886020/DRAFT\\_Agreement\\_on\\_the\\_transfer\\_of\\_unaccompanied\\_asylum-seeking\\_children.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/886020/DRAFT_Agreement_on_the_transfer_of_unaccompanied_asylum-seeking_children.pdf)

### Deportation: Undocumented Migrants

**John Hayes (Conservative)** [68278] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with which countries the UK has deportation agreements for the return of nationals found illegally in the UK.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** To support the facilitation of removing those individuals with no right to remain in the UK, the UK has formal returns or readmission agreements with the following countries:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, China, Georgia, Hong Kong, Iraq, Macau, Macedonia, Malaysia, Moldova, Montenegro, Nigeria, Pakistan, Rwanda, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Somalia, South Korea, South Sudan, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine and Vietnam.

There are also formal returns arrangements for third-country nationals to other European countries through the Dublin Regulations.

To all other countries to which returns are enforced, the Home Office utilises informal bilateral processes.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-02/68278/>

### Marriage of Convenience

**John Hayes (Conservative)** [67527] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people found to have participated in sham marriages were removed from the UK in each of the last five years.

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

Information about those removed from the UK who have participated in sham marriages is not available in our published data.

Our published data on returns is available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2020/how-many-people-are-detained-or-returned>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-01/67527/>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Offenders: Deportation**

**John Hayes (Conservative)** [67535] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many immigration offenders excluding failed asylum seekers and foreign national offenders have been removed from the UK in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and how many of those so removed first arrived in the UK on a student visa.

**John Hayes (Conservative)** [68277] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many immigration offenders, excluding failed asylum seekers and foreign national offenders, have been removed in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and how many of those first arrived in the UK on a student visa.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office publishes data on the number of 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 (of which deportations are a subset) are published in table Ret\_D01 of the Returns detailed datasets

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/returns-and-detention-datasets>).

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.

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

Information on the number of individuals returned who first arrived in the UK on a student visa would require a manual check of individual records which could only be done at disproportionate cost.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-01/67535/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-02/68277/>

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

### **Immigration: Detainee Support**

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat):** To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that no detainee of an immigration removal centre is released without support for (1) finding, and (2) funding, accommodation.

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

My Lords, if a detainee leaving detention has an outstanding asylum claim and

would otherwise be destitute, they can apply for support. They will be provided with free furnished accommodation if granted. We cover utility costs and provide a cash allowance. When the person is at immediate risk of homelessness, we provide emergency accommodation while the application is assessed. Those who do not qualify for asylum support may be eligible under immigration bail provisions.

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno:** My Lords, first, the Minister will be aware of the report by the Chief Inspector of Prisons about the situation in immigration and detention centres during the pandemic, and the report that nine detainees from Harmondsworth were released into the streets without any support whatever. Secondly, the stabbing and shooting at the Park Inn Hotel in Glasgow cause deep concern. I am sure the Minister has heard many times before that, when somebody goes into provided accommodation, they lose their £35-a-week allowance. Can something be done about that? Does the Minister agree that it is high time we had a thorough overhaul of both detention and immigration procedures?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** My Lords, this country is probably one of the most generous in the world when it comes to our treatment of asylum seekers. The noble Lord refers to the accommodation in Glasgow. It is three-star accommodation in a Radisson hotel, which I think is very generous by all measures. People would not be getting the £35 a week because everything is provided for them—bed, board, food and any other needs they have.

**Lord Judd (Labour):** We all know that the noble Baroness is very compassionate and decent. But whatever her intentions, that is not the present reality in too many instances. If people are left destitute and desperate, this appears to them and those around them, and to the world, to be highly cynical and simply not compatible with civilised values. Can she redouble efforts to ensure that there is proper support and guidance for people who are being released into the community, given all the risks that will confront them?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** My Lords, nobody should be left destitute in the current situation. Anyone who has applied for asylum, and even those who have been refused asylum, is being housed either in hotels or initial accommodation. If anyone is destitute, it is perhaps because they have breached the conditions which they are obliged to follow. In the main, we are a very humane country, with a humane Government who want to help these people. During the pandemic, everybody who has claimed asylum, and even those whose asylum claims have failed, is being looked after.

**Baroness Sheehan (Liberal Democrat):** My Lords, immigration detention is an inhumane system, where people, most of whom will not ultimately be removed, can be locked up indefinitely without trial. Does the Minister agree that Covid-19 has put into the spotlight the arbitrary nature of the Home Office's approach to detention and shown it to be both cruel and unnecessary? If she does not agree, can she say why immigration detainees have had a 95% success rate in bail applications since lockdown started?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** I do not agree with the noble Baroness that detention is inhumane. Detention, in the main, is for the purposes of removal. Clearly, at this time, removal is far more difficult than it would usually be, and we are trying to grant bail where it is safe to do so.

**Baroness Warsi (Conservative):** ... What has clearly been shown during the Covid period is that the number of immigration detainees has reduced significantly, by some 900 individuals since December of last year. Indeed, it is now one of the lowest numbers we have had since the previous decade. What lessons have been learned from this reduction in the number of immigration detainees? Can my noble friend assure the House that this positive move will continue as lockdown eases?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The noble Baroness points to our wish to avoid immigration detention at all costs. It is for the purposes of removal when the right of appeal has been exhausted and there is no other prospect of

removing people. One lesson we have learned is how humane this country is. We have taken in people from Greece, which, I think, no other European country has been able to. I am very proud of that position.

**Lord Singh of Wimbledon (Crossbench):** My Lords, the near-prison environment of detention centres can lead to mental trauma and frequent self-harm. Does the Minister agree that we have an obligation to ensure that, on release, these vulnerable people are properly settled in society?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** I agree with the noble Lord. Anyone in asylum accommodation has access to our advice, issue reporting and eligibility provider, Migrant Help. He is right that there will be vulnerable people in our detention estate.

**Lord Rosser (Labour):** I want to come back to a question raised by the noble Baronesses, Lady Sheehan and Lady Warsi. They made the point that there has been a big reduction in the number of people in removal centres because of the risks due to the pandemic. My question is a follow-up to those previous questions: do the Government now expect that, in the light of being able to remove so many people from immigration removal centres, there will in future be a significant reduction in the use of such detention? Presumably, we have shown that we can manage these cases in the community. Will there be a reduction in future?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** My Lords, the Government do not want to put anyone in detention centres for the purposes of removal. Obviously, there are conditions around people being put on bail, including being asked to live at a specified address in the community. In the future, all these things will be based on a risk-management system.

**Baroness Doocey (Liberal Democrat):** My Lords, many non-UK detainees released from immigration removal centres are victims of trafficking. Despite this, they have been allowed simply to walk out of the centre without any basic resources and protection being put in place. According to every charity that works in this area, this is happening regularly—can the Minister explain why? Does she agree that this puts detainees at the mercy of their original traffickers?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** I agree with the noble Baroness that human trafficking is an issue that often comes to light in the detention estate. As I said, a risk-based assessment is done when people leave detention, and people have access to support should they need it, if they are victims of trafficking. However, she is right: this is a real concern at the moment.

**Lord Dubs (Labour):** My Lords, the Minister said in reply to an earlier question that detention was for the purposes of removal. Could she then explain why in 2018—the latest year for which I have figures—56% of those detained were released back into the community? Is that not a sign that we are using detention far too much when we do not need to?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** People are released from detention for a number of reasons, including appeals that succeed because late information is provided. However, the noble Lord makes a valid point that we should look back on this period of the pandemic to see whether some of the things that we are doing now could be used in future to manage people in the community.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-07-07/debates/4FB57068-469E-4C02-BA7C-6BCE168AD3D8/ImmigrationDetaineeSupport>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

### Immigration: Applications

**Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat) [HL6159]** To ask Her Majesty's Government,

further to the acceptance of applications for settled status after the deadline of 30 June 2021, what are the proposed criteria for accepting those applications; what plans there are to consult with stakeholders on those criteria; and when those criteria will be published.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** 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. 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 have not set out the criteria for what will constitute reasonable grounds for submitting an application after the deadline as we want to continue to encourage people to apply before 30 June 2021, whilst allowing the maximum possible flexibility when the situation arises. Examples will include children whose parent or guardian failed to apply on their behalf, people in abusive or controlling relationships who were prevented from applying, and those who lack the physical or mental capacity to apply. We will publish clear guidance for caseworkers in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-25/HL6159/>

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

#### **Asylum: Interviews**

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL6175] To ask Her Majesty's Government for which languages there are interpreters available for asylum seekers' interviews.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** A definitive list of languages is not available as both demand for different languages and provision of interpreter services to meet the demand constantly change. Such services for asylum interviews are principally organised through the Home Office Interpreter Operation Unit. The Home Office also maintains ongoing arrangements with external providers in case demand cannot be fully met internally.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-25/HL6175/>

#### **Asylum: Travel**

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL6176] To ask Her Majesty's Government what travel expenses, if any, are paid to asylum seekers required to report to Home Office centres.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** A person who has claimed asylum can make an application for travelling expenses to attend a reporting event. To qualify they must live outside a 3-mile radius of their reporting location and be receiving asylum support. Consideration for support to those living within a 3-mile radius is considered on an exceptional need basis.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-25/HL6176/>

#### **Asylum: Appeals**

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL6178] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the causes for the reported increase in asylum decisions being overturned in the higher courts, from 17 per cent in 2005 to 52 per cent in 2019.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The latest Home Office published



statistics are available at

[www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/immigration-statistics-data-tables-year-ending-march-2020#asylum-and-resettlement](http://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/immigration-statistics-data-tables-year-ending-march-2020#asylum-and-resettlement).

It is not possible to undertake a specific assessment of allowed asylum appeal rates comparing 2005 to present day in order to respond to this question. This is because significant changes to appeal rights, caselaw, world situation and the types of cases received do not provide a suitable base for comparison over such an extended period of time. However, regular analysis of asylum appeal data and Judicial determinations is undertaken by both decision makers and appeals staff, with regular meetings and discussions to identify themes or areas for action to inform learning and improve decision making.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-25/HL6178/>

## New Publication

**Updated Guidance: Guidance for Immigration Removal Centres (IRCs), Residential Short-Term Holding Facilities (RSTHFs) and escorts during the COVID-19 pandemic**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/899371/Detention and Escorting Services - Guidance during Covid-19.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/899371/Detention_and_Escorting_Services_-_Guidance_during_Covid-19.pdf)

## News

**People will die': Priti Patel warned immigration policy will force thousands back on the streets**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/immigration-policy-uk-priti-patel-migrants-home-office-homeless-a9606756.html>

**Domestic Abuse Bill: 'More help for migrant women needed'**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-53170852>

**Care homes face staffing 'black hole' with new immigration bill**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-53342887>

**Home Office unaware how many migrant staff still paying NHS fee**

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/jul/07/home-office-unaware-how-many-migrant-staff-still-paying-nhs-fee>

**Windrush: at least five who applied for compensation die before receiving it**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/jul/07/at-least-five-who-applied-for-windrush-compensation-die-before-receiving-it>

**'The fury pours from the screen': the Windrush Betrayal film made in lockdown**

<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2020/jul/08/windrush-betrayal-film-made-in-lockdown-black-actors-victims-words>

**Thousands of EU nationals 'barred from government support during pandemic'**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/coronavirus-eu-nationals-universal-credit-dwp-hrt-a9607976.html>

**'Flawed' test denies EU migrants universal credit, thinktank warns**

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/jul/09/flawed-test-denies-eu-migrants-universal-credit-thinktank-warns>

**Stop treating people like pieces on a chessboard:" Sabir Zazai responds to Park Inn tragedy**

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/stop-treating-people-like-pieces-on-a-chessboard-sabir-zazai-responds-to-park-inn-tragedy/>

**Temporary ban on asylum seekers sent to Glasgow as city tries to 'ease pressures' following knife attack**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-seekers-glasgow-ban-home-office-knife-attack-a9602471.html>

**Asylum seekers facing destitution need homes not cramped hotel rooms**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/asylum-seekers-home-office-accommodation-support-national-audit-office-a9608771.html>

**Asylum seekers gagged from talking about conditions**

<http://thirdforcenews.org.uk/tfn-news/asylum-seekers-gagged-from-talking-about-conditions>

**Asylum seekers given food not fit to eat, says charity**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/asylum-seekers-given-food-not-fit-to-eat-says-charity-rqt97rrpw>

**Coronavirus: Asylum centre criticised for lack of social distancing measures suffers outbreak of infections**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-seekers-accommodation-coronavirus-west-yorkshire-a9613111.html>

**LGBT asylum seekers' claims routinely rejected in Europe and UK**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/jul/09/lgbt-asylum-seekers-routinely-see-claims-rejected-in-europe-and-uk>

**London councils call on government to suspend NRPf immigration status**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/jul/08/london-councils-government-suspend-nrpf-immigration-status-coronavirus>

**Priti Patel refuses to set target date for ending illegal migrants crossing Channel on small boats**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/07/08/priti-patel-refuses-set-target-date-ending-illegal-migrants/>

**Channel migrants: Man arrested after boat intercepted**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-53328397>

**Illegal migrants crossing Channel to hit record 7,500, four times rate last year, says study by campaign group**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/07/08/illegal-migrants-crossing-channel-hit-record-7500-four-times/>

### Pressure mounts on Priti Patel over case of 11-year-old at risk of FGM

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2020/jul/10/pressure-mounts-on-priti-patel-over-case-of-11-year-old-at-risk-of-fgm>

### 'A waste of a life': He spent four years fighting to stay in Britain. Now Mumtaz Khan is dead

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/mumtaz-khan-afghanistan-asylum-seeker-uk-a9608836.html>

### UK-born twins face deportation to different countries

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-53357889>

### London-born twins face deportation to different countries

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/jul/07/london-born-twins-face-deportation-to-different-countries>

### A new digital cookbook celebrates the food of migrant communities

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/food-and-drink/features/new-digital-cookbook-celebrates-food-migrant-communities/>

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## Community Relations

### News

#### Black Lives Matter in rural England

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/newsbeat-53283565/black-lives-matter-in-rural-england>

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## Equality

### Scottish Parliament Written Answer

#### Diversity: Teaching Profession

**S5W-30062 Beatrice Wishart (Liberal Democrat)** To ask the Scottish Government what the next steps are for the short-term working group on diversity in the teaching profession, in light of the impact of the Black Lives Matter movement.

**Reply from John Swinney:** Despite a small increase in the diversity of Scottish teaching in recent years, we acknowledge that there is still unacceptable under-representation of BAME teachers at all levels in Scotland's schools – the Scottish Government continues to be committed as a minimum, to doubling existing numbers by 2030 through implementing the recommendations of the Teaching in a Diverse Scotland report.

The Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement, will we hope, help to improve awareness and the importance of ensuring that our teaching profession, at all levels, reflects the broader diversity of the Scottish population. The messages which are stemming from BLM, should act to encourage more active leadership and engagement by all key Scottish education stakeholders, to help achieve many of the report's recommendations.

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

### Employment Tribunals Service: Ethnic Groups

**Imran Hussain (Labour)** [66877] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many people in each category of ethnicity have brought employment tribunal claims in each year since 2010.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** A diversity monitoring form is attached to the employment tribunal claim form ET1 but the completion of this form is optional. The completion rate is far below the usual 60% threshold used for diversity reporting. Representation rates based on return rates below 60% are not considered statistically valid because they are unlikely to provide a representative picture of all claimants.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-30/66877/>

### Headteachers: Ethnic Groups

**Matthew Offord (Conservative)** [59437] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many (a) primary and (b) secondary school head teachers in the state-funded sector identify as non-white.

**Reply from Nick Gibb:** Information on the number of ethnic minority headteachers in state funded primary and secondary schools in England as of November 2019 is available here:

<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/data-tables/permalink/42308de0-93ca-405d-854b-8a23c70b6c64>.

Please note: Ethnic Minority includes all ethnic groups apart from White British.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-15/59437/>

### Teachers: Ethnic Groups

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [61781] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many (a) heads, (b) deputy heads, and (c) senior teachers in state-funded secondary schools are Black or minority ethnic in (i) England, (ii) Greater Manchester, and (iii) Manchester Gorton.

**Reply from Nick Gobb:** The attached table shows the number of Ethnic Minority headteachers, deputy headteachers, and all leadership teachers in state-funded secondary schools and all state-funded schools in England, Greater Manchester, and Manchester Gorton in November 2019 - the latest data available. Further information is published in the annual "School workforce in England" statistical release here:

<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/school-workforce-in-england>.

[Headteachers by Ethnicity](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-19/61781/>

### GCSE: Ethnic Groups

**Neil O'Brien (Conservative)** [69680] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what proportion of (a) White British, (b) Indian, (c) Bangladeshi, (d) Pakistani, (e) Black African, (f) Black Caribbean, (g) mixed ethnicity and (h) all pupils achieved five good passes at GCSE in each of the last 20 years.

**Reply from Nick Gibb:** The attached table shows the percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs (including English and mathematics) at grades A\*-C (or equivalent) at the end of Key Stage 4 by ethnic grouping. The time series runs from 2004/05 to 2018/19 (the latest available). Care should be taken when comparing results over time due to the way the measures have changed in response to various reforms, e.g. Professor Alison Wolf's Review of Vocational Education.

The Government is committed to ensuring that every child, whatever their background, has the opportunity to reach their full potential and our ambitious programme of reform is transforming the education landscape to ensure we deliver the world-class education that every young person deserves.

[GCSE results by ethnicity](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-06/69680/>

### **History: Curriculum**

**Darren Henry (Conservative)** [66228] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps his Department has taken to include Black British history in the national curriculum for primary and secondary school pupils.

**Reply from Nick Gibb:** 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 Black British history can already be included in the teaching of the curriculum. For example, at key stage 1, schools can teach about the lives of key Black historical figures such as Mary Seacole or others; at key stage 2, pupils can be taught about Black Romans, as part of teaching that era in history or Black history within the requirement for a study of an aspect or theme in British history that extends pupils' chronological knowledge beyond 1066; and at key stage 3, we give an example for a more in-depth study on the topic of the impact through time of the migration of people to, from and within the British Isles, and this key stage can include the development and end of the British Empire and Britain's transatlantic slave trade, its effects and its eventual abolition. Additionally, local history is an element across key stages. The teaching of Black history need not be limited to these examples.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-29/66228/>

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

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

**Lord Rogan (UUP)** [HL6380] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to support the work of the British Army's BAME network.

**Reply from Baroness Goldie:** The Army's Black Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME)



Network was launched in November 2017 and is supported in several ways. These include an appointed Race Champion - Lieutenant General Tyrone Urch - who represents their views and experiences at Army Board level; Race Champion membership of Business in the Community which involves networking and a BAME mentoring initiative; membership of the Army Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) Working Group, and Conferences, mentoring schemes, events, including virtual events, and publicity about the BAME Network in both internal Army communications and external media. Army D&I policy and briefings also highlight the BAME Network and both personnel and the Chain of Command are made aware as to how concerns and issues raised by the network are fed into policy.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-01/HL6380/>

### **Apprentices: Travellers**

**Baroness Whitaker (Labour)** [HL6270] To ask Her Majesty's Government how they intend to apply the findings and recommendations of the report by the Social Mobility Commission Apprenticeships and social mobility: fulfilling potential, published on 24 June, to members of Gypsy, Traveller and Roma communities.

**Reply from Baroness Berridge:** Apprenticeships are an excellent way to access a wide range of rewarding careers and offer considerable value to individuals. We welcome the Social Mobility Commission's finding that apprenticeships boost employment and reduce the gap in earnings between people from disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged backgrounds.

We are supporting employers, apprentices and training providers during this challenging time, and we remain committed to ensuring that high-quality apprenticeship opportunities are as accessible as possible to all people from all backgrounds, including young people from Gypsy, Traveller and Roma communities. We have worked with some of the country's most influential employers through our Apprenticeship Diversity Champions Network to promote best practice in recruiting and supporting apprentices from diverse backgrounds. Our Apprenticeships Support and Knowledge programme also supports schools across England to provide disadvantaged students with information on apprenticeships.

We are committed to levelling up opportunity across the country. We are focused on how we can make sure more people and businesses can take advantage of apprenticeships in the future, especially small and medium sized businesses in disadvantaged areas. We continue to listen to employers, providers and apprentices, to see how we can build on our reforms so that they continue to support people from all backgrounds and the economy more broadly.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-29/HL6270/>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/894303/Apprenticeships\\_and\\_social\\_mobility\\_report.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/894303/Apprenticeships_and_social_mobility_report.pdf)

### **History: Curriculum**

**Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick (Non-affiliated)** [HL6024] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the merits of including Black British history in the national curriculum in England.

**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 Black British history can already be included in the teaching of the curriculum.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-22/HL6024/>

## News

**Why are there so few ethnic minority MSPs?**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-53322950>

**Sport England to announce review of rules governing sports boards over lack of black representation**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/sport/2020/07/06/sport-england-announce-review-rules-governing-sports-boards/>

**'Trust me as your child's teacher. Respect me as a black man'**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/2020/07/10/trust-childs-teacher-respect-black-man/>

**Evangelical Christian foster agency must change its policy to accept gay couples, judge rules**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/07/07/evangelical-christian-foster-agency-must-change-policy-accept/>

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## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### Scottish Parliament Written Answers

#### Schools: Racism

**S5W-30063 Beatrice Wishart (Liberal Democrat):** To ask the Scottish Government how (a) trainee, (b) probationary and (c) newly-qualified teachers are taught how to (i) address any issues of racism and discrimination in their schools and (ii) teach the social context of BAME people's experiences.

**Reply from John Swimmey:** As set out in the General Teaching Council for Scotland's (GTCS) Standards for Professional Registration, teachers are expected at all stages of their careers to demonstrate professional values and personal commitment to social justice and cultural diversity by engaging learners in real world issues.

Teacher Education institutions will differ in the ways in which they deliver content to students on racism and discrimination, but all do. In terms of support provided to probation and post probation teachers, I refer the member to the answer to question

S5W-30065 on 7 July 2020. All answers to written parliamentary questions are available on the Parliament's website, the search facility for which can be found at <http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx>.

The National Framework for Inclusion has also been designed to ensure that all teachers are appropriately guided and supported throughout their careers towards gaining the required knowledge and understanding of inclusive education.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-30063>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-30065>

*The GTCS Standards referred to above can be read at*

<http://www.gtcs.org.uk/web/FILES/the-standards/standards-for-registration-1212.pdf>

### **Schools: Racism**

**S5W-30065 Beatrice Wishart (Liberal Democrat):** To ask the Scottish Government what professional learning is available to established teachers regarding how to (a) address any issues of racism and discrimination in their schools and (b) teach the social contexts of BAME people's experiences, and what information it has regarding the take-up of this, and what support is offered by Education Scotland.

**Reply from John Swinney:** As set out in the General Teaching Council for Scotland's (GTCS) Standards for Professional Registration, all teachers in Scotland must have respect for social and cultural diversity at the heart of what they do, engage learners in real world issues and help them to embrace equality and social justice. The National Improvement Hub, managed by Education Scotland, already offers a range of materials to support professional learning and school improvement.

To support this, Education Scotland are developing new professional learning activities with a particular focus on diversity, anti-racist education and culturally responsive pedagogy.

In addition, Education Scotland are also currently developing a race equality resource in collaboration with partners BEMIS and CRER. This is an outcome of the work of the race equality resource group which met as part of delivering the Race Equality Action Plan. This resource will comprise of a set of guiding principles for promoting race equality in education settings and a series of case exemplars. Curriculum mapping to support a whole school approach to race equality education is at the early stages of development.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-30065>

*The GTCS Standards referred to above can be read at*

<http://www.gtcs.org.uk/web/FILES/the-standards/standards-for-registration-1212.pdf>

*The Action Plan referred to above can be read at*

<https://tinyurl.com/wkvvtuh>

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

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Internet: Hate Crime**

**Nadia Whittome (Labour) [64379]** To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what recent discussions he has had with Cabinet colleagues on tackling the

platforming of far-right hate speech online.

**Nadia Whittome (Labour)** [64380] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps his Department is taking to tackle the online platforming of hate speech.

**Reply from Caroline Dinanage:** Ministers have regular discussions with their Cabinet Colleagues on a range of issues, including tackling online hate speech. The Home Office are working closely with the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC), civil society partners and social media platforms to encourage victim reporting of online hate crime during the pandemic and to ensure that all police forces are providing reassurance to affected communities. Policy for combating online hate crime remains with the Home Office.

Ensuring the UK is the safest place in the world to go online is a priority for the Government. We are pressing ahead with legislation to establish a new Online Harms regulatory framework which will protect users from harm. The Government's Online Harms White Paper, published in April 2019, set out our plans for world-leading legislation, by making companies more responsible for their users' safety online.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-24/64379/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-24/64380/>

*The White Paper referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/online-harms-white-paper/online-harms-white-paper>

### **Schools: Bullying and Racial Harassment**

**Nadia Whittome (Labour)** [68454] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment he has made of the prevalence of racist harassment and bullying in schools.

**Vicky Ford:** Racism in all its forms is abhorrent and has no place in our society. Schools play a crucial role in helping young people understand the world around them and their place within it. All schools are legally required to have a behaviour policy with measures to prevent all forms of bullying and they have the freedom to develop their own anti-bullying strategies and monitoring approaches to best suit their environment. Our guidance on preventing and tackling bullying

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

sets out that schools should develop a consistent approach to monitoring bullying incidents and evaluating the effectiveness of their approaches. It also directs schools to organisations who can provide support with tackling bullying related to race, religion and nationality.

The department asks teachers about the prevalence of different types of bullying in its regular school snapshot surveys. The latest survey is from July 2019:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-snapshot-survey-summer-2019>.

This survey suggests that, over the previous 12 months, 56% of school leaders and teachers had 'never' or 'rarely' seen any of the types of bullying mentioned. 18% reported seeing bullying linked to race and ethnicity 'sometimes' or more often.

On 7 June, we announced more than £750,000 for the Diana Award, the Anti-Bullying Alliance and the Anne Frank Trust in order to help hundreds of schools and colleges build relationships between pupils and to increase their resilience as well as to continue to tackle bullying both in person and online

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

The department has also made resources available through the website Educate Against Hate

(<https://educateagainsthate.com/>).

This website provides teachers, school leaders and parents with the information, guidance and support that they need to challenge radical views, including racist and discriminatory beliefs.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-02/68454/>

### **Antisemitism**

**Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op)** [18972] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average length of time in days is between the report of an anti-Semitic hate crime and conviction of the offender.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** The Ministry of Justice does not record statistics in this way and so it is not possible to answer your question directly; prosecutions and convictions for crimes of this nature are recorded under the legislation of the specific offence they take, which means that there is no way to extract the data for anti-Semitic hate crime specifically as it would be recorded as 'assault' or a different category depending on the nature of the offence.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-21/18972/>

## **Press Releases**

**First Minister leads commemorations to mark 25th Anniversary of Srebrenica Genocide**

<https://srebrenica.scot/2020/07/10/first-minister-leads-commemorations-to-mark-25th-anniversary-of-srebrenica-genocide/>

**Foreign Secretary Statement on the 25th Anniversary of the Srebrenica Genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretary-statement-on-the-25th-anniversary-of-the-srebrenica-genocide-in-bosnia-and-herzegovina>

**Reflecting on the genocide in Srebrenica, 25 years on**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/reflecting-on-the-genocide-in-srebrenica-25-years-on>

**"In remembering Srebrenica, let us work for reconciliation, understanding and peace"**

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2020/In-remembering-Srebrenica,-let-us-work-for-reconciliation,-understanding-and-peace>

**Council of Europe's anti-racism commission warns against racial profiling in policing**

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/council-of-europe-s-anti-racism-commission-warns-against-racial-profiling-in-policing>

## **New Publications**

**COVID-19: How hateful extremists are exploiting the pandemic**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/898925/CCE\\_Briefing\\_Note\\_001.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/898925/CCE_Briefing_Note_001.pdf)



## **Accusations of Racism in the Metropolitan Police Service**

<https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/infocus/accusations-of-racism-in-the-metropolitan-police-service/>

## **Black Lives Matter: New race inequalities commission and a London statue review**

<https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/infocus/black-lives-matter-new-race-inequalities-commission-and-a-london-statue-review/>

## **News**

### **Boris Johnson's refusal to apologise for racist Srebrenica comments is an insult to all UK minorities**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/boris-johnson-srebrenica-genocide-racist-uk-minorities-a9613566.html>

### **Keir Starmer to sign up for unconscious bias training amid criticism**

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/jul/06/keir-starmer-to-sign-up-for-unconscious-bias-training-amid-criticism>

### **Keir Starmer volunteers for bias training after Black Lives Matter remark**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/keir-starmer-volunteers-for-bias-training-after-black-lives-matter-remark-ftm08mg0>

### **Keir Starmer in row over 20-minute 'racial bias' lessons**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/keir-starmer-faces-storm-over-labour-racial-bias-lessons-grvjvfg69>

### **Dawn Butler MP closes Willesden office over race threats**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-53346803>

### **Labour MP Dawn Butler closes office after receiving racist threats**

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/jul/09/labour-mp-dawn-butler-closes-office-after-receiving-racist-threats>

### **Steve Reed: Antisemitic' tweet from Starmer ally**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/steve-reed-antisemitic-tweet-from-starmer-ally-plckbq9kv>

### **Complaints lodged against Tory councillor over 'Black Jack' remarks**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18577199.complaints-lodged-tory-councillor-black-jack-remarks/>

### **Black Lives Matter: Cardiff taskforce to tackle racism**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-53373178>

### **Neo-Nazi telling followers to 'deliberately infect' Jews and Muslims with coronavirus, report warns**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/neo-nazis-coronavirus-jews-muslims-racism-antisemitism-islamophobia-a9608851.html>

### **Serving probationary Metropolitan Police officer charged with membership of far-right terrorist group**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/07/09/serving-probationary-metropolitan-police-officer-charged-membership/>

**Three police officers in UK accused of racist remarks on WhatsApp**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/jul/09/three-uk-police-officers-accused-of-racist-remarks-on-whatsapp>

**Review launched into police 'race discrimination'**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-53359269>

**Police watchdog to investigate whether force is institutionally racist**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/police-racial-bias-investigation-stop-and-search-iopc-a9611546.html>

**Metropolitan Police chief denies force is 'institutionally racist' and pledges to listen to Black Lives Matter protesters**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/met-police-cressida-dick-racism-bianca-williams-stop-search-a9607671.html>

**Church urged to be more "vocal" about challenging racism**

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2020/church-urged-to-be-more-vocal-about-racism>

**It's not banter, it's racism: UK students accuse universities of brushing complaints aside**

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2020/jul/07/its-not-banter-its-racism-uk-students-accuse-universities-of-brushing-complaints-aside>

**Only by standing together in solidarity will we beat the racists**

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/together-beat-racists-22299113>

**Black Lives Matter: What is systemic racism? Kids' questions answered**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-53342666>

**Ebony Rainford-Brent says cricket is 'switched on to racism message'**

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2020/jul/10/ebony-rainford-brent-says-cricket-is-switched-on-to-racism-message>

**Cricket should not associate itself with the offensive policies of the anti-semitic anarchists who run BLM**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/cricket/2020/07/07/cricket-should-not-associate-offensive-policies-anti-semitic/>

**Racism and statues: How the toxic legacy of empire still affects us**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-53305729>

**Stop trying to fight racism with corporate diversity consultants**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/jul/08/diversity-consultants-racism-seminars-corporate-america>

**Black Lives Matter: 'Racism in slaver monument town left me in tears'**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-53319926>

**Bianca Williams stop-and-search: Most police forces 'willing to learn'**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-53375777>

**Bianca Williams: Met apologises to sprinter over stop-and-search**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-53307561>

**Bianca Williams: Athlete accuses police of racial profiling after vehicle search**

<https://www.bbc.com/sport/athletics/53301318>

**Black, disabled and female: 'I was told racism doesn't exist in 2020'**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/newsbeat-53309264>

**The insidious march of critical race theory in schools may be breaking the law**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/07/11/insidious-march-critical-race-theory-schools-may-breaking-law/>

**How racist is Britain today? What the evidence tells us**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/how-racist-britain-today-what-evidence-tells-us-anthony-heath-and-lindsay-richards-2905211>

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## Other UK Parliament and Government

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

#### Places of Worship Security Funding Scheme

**Imran Hussain (Labour)** [66879] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many places of worship in the (a) UK and (b) City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council area have applied for funding under the Places of Worship Protective Security Scheme since its introduction; and how much funding has been allocated under that scheme to places of worship in the (a) UK and (b) City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council area.

**Reply from Kit Malthouse:** Data on Places of Worship is collated by geographic region.

In the first three years of the scheme (2016-2019), we received 431 applications across England and Wales. For the fourth year of the scheme (2019-2020), we received 531 applications, of which 377 met the minimum requirements for consideration. We have awarded approximately £3.4 million to places of worship across England and Wales.

Over the past four years we have received 124 applications from Yorkshire and Humber, and we have allocated £665,524 in funding to that region.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-30/66879/>

*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>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### Places of Worship Security Funding Scheme

**Imran Hussain (Labour)** [66880] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much funding each faith has applied for under the Places of Worship Protective Security Scheme since its introduction.

**Imran Hussain (Labour)** [66881] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department,

how much funding has been allocated to each faith under the Places of Worship Protective Security Scheme since the introduction of that scheme.

**Reply from Kit Malthouse:** In the first three years of the scheme (2016-2019), £800,000 was available each year. In the fourth year (2019-2020) this was doubled to £1.6 million. All faiths, apart from the Jewish faith, are eligible to apply for funding under this scheme. The Jewish community has access to a separate funding scheme.

Over the last four years, we have allocated £1,643,732 to mosques, £869,858 to churches, £210,989 to temples, and £676,115 to gurdwaras.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-30/66880/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-30/66881/>

*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>

*Information about the Jewish community security funding scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-office-grants-14-million-funding-for-security-at-jewish-institutions>

### **Religious Buildings: Security**

**Imran Hussain (Labour)** [66882] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department has taken ensure stakeholder engagement with her Department's consultation entitled, Protecting places of worship consultation, issued on 15 March 2020.

**Reply from Kit Malthouse:** The Home Office met with a number of stakeholders representing various faiths and organisations in order to shape and develop the consultation before launch. These included, but were not limited to, the Community Security Trust (CST), Tell MAMA, Church of England and City Sikhs, as well as interfaith organisations including Strengthening Faith Institutions.

In addition, the Home Office consulted with other government departments including the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Department of Education. Key stakeholders were also supplied with an early version of the consultation and the draft was reviewed based on their feedback.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-30/66882/>

*Information about the consultation referred to above (now closed) can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/protecting-places-of-worship-consultation>

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

### **Female Genital Mutilation**

**Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench)** [HL5970] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to address the challenges and barriers experienced by the UK in relation to measures to prevent female genital mutilation, including the use of protection orders to minimize the risk of exposure of women and girls at risk of mutilation when travelling outside the UK.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** FGM is a crime and it is child abuse. We will not tolerate a practice that can cause extreme and lifelong physical and

psychological suffering to women and girls.

The Government significantly strengthened the law in 2015 to improve protection for victims and those at risk, and to break down the barriers to prosecution. The Government has: introduced a new offence of failing to protect a girl from FGM; extended the reach of extra territorial offences; introduced lifelong anonymity for victims of FGM; introduced civil FGM Protection Orders (FGMPOs); and introduced a mandatory reporting duty for known cases in under 18s.

FGMPOs are being used to good effect, with 547 being granted since their introduction in 2015 to the end of December 2019.

In 2019, the Home Office held a series of roadshows across England and Wales to train professionals in the use of FGM and Forced Marriage Protection Orders. Around 1,300 professionals attended these events, which raised awareness of the scope and effectiveness of the orders and encouraged professionals to always consider them in any safeguarding plans.

We continue to provide free resources on FGM for frontline professionals, including: an online resource pack, e-learning, statutory multi-agency guidance and a range of communication materials.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-22/HL5970/>

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## **Health Information: Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

### **NHS**

#### **NHS Inform (Scotland)**

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

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

#### **Healthcare for overseas visitors**

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

#### **Healthcare for refugees and asylum seekers**

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

#### **NHS Near Me (Scotland)**

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

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

#### **NHS (England and Wales)**

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



## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

### Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups

**Apsana Begum (Labour)** [66990] To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, pursuant to the Answer of 29 June 2020 to Question 61822 on Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups, what recent assessment the Government has made of the effect of the easing of covid-19 lockdown restrictions on people from (a) Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds and (b) other groups with protected characteristics.

**Reply from Paul Scully:** The Government continues to monitor the impact of easing Covid-19 lockdown restrictions on Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds, and other groups with protected characteristics.

Guidance to help employers, employees and the self-employed understand how to work safely during the coronavirus pandemic has been developed by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) with input from firms, unions and industry bodies, and in consultation with Public Health England (PHE) and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE):

[www.gov.uk/workingsafely](http://www.gov.uk/workingsafely)

The Government has also developed a tool to help businesses in England to reopen safely during coronavirus. The tool encourages businesses to carry out a risk assessment and helps to identify the workplace adjustments that they should make. Employees can also use the tool to check what their workplace needs to do to keep people safe:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-business-reopening>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-30/66990/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-19/61822/>

*The tool referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-business-reopening>

### Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups

**Marsha De Cordova (Labour)** [63500] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what gaps in the PHE report Beyond the data: Understanding the impact of COVID-19 on BAME groups he has identified; and what the timeframe is for removing those data gaps.

**Reply from Kemi Badenoch:** The Public Health England (PHE) report, "COVID-19: review of disparities in risks and outcomes", published on 2 June 2020, looks at the COVID-19 mortality rates of different ethnic groups. This rapid review necessarily had some gaps, and as Minister for Equalities, I am now leading further work to build on this by, for example, driving forward work examining the impact of factors such as sub-categories of occupation and co-morbidities; analysing the key drivers of disparities in COVID-19 outcomes, the relationships between different risk factors, and what can be done to close the gap. This work is supported by the Race Disparity Unit in the Cabinet Office.

'Beyond the Data: understanding the impact of COVID-19 on BAME groups', is a separate piece of work that was carried out by the PHE; PHE engaged with a significant number of individuals and organisations within the BAME community to hear their views about the impact of COVID-19 and this informed 'Beyond the Data' which was published on 16 June 2020.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-23/63500/>

*The reports 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)

and

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/892376/COVID\\_stakeholder\\_engagement\\_synthesis\\_beyond\\_the\\_data.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/892376/COVID_stakeholder_engagement_synthesis_beyond_the_data.pdf)

### **Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups**

**Mark Hendrick (Labour Co-op)** [55880] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to protect people from BAME backgrounds who have been identified as being in an at-risk group during the covid-19 outbreak; whether lockdown restrictions will be amended for those at-risk groups of people; and what assessment he has made of the implications for his policies on amending lockdown restrictions for those at-risk groups of the Public Health England report, Disparities on the risk and outcomes of covid-19, published on 2 June 2020.

**Reply from Jo Churchill:** We have all been struck by the conclusions of Public Health England's report and will continue to help protect those most vulnerable to COVID-19 based on the best possible analysis available to us.

We are determined to get to the bottom of the report's findings in a proper and scientific way and have already asked the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Equalities, (Kemi Badenoch MP), to take forward work to fill the gaps in our understanding, review existing policies and guidance and amend or develop new policies where needed and where the evidence supports us doing so. 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/2020-06-08/55880/>

*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)

### **Religious Buildings: Coronavirus**

**Stuart Anderson (Conservative)** [66200] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what financial support will be available for places of worship that have been adversely affected by the covid-19 outbreak to (a) continue their pastoral support in communities, (b) recover loss of income from rented spaces and (c) safely reopen.

**Reply from Luke Hall:** Faith communities have a long history of service supporting many of the most vulnerable members of our society. The rapid response during the current pandemic has been no different and the government values the work being done to support those in need.

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government play a facilitative role in ensuring government understands the needs of faith communities and the challenges they may be currently facing due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We continue to work closely with a range of faith groups to understand how government can support them in light of the pressures they face at this time.

Faith organisations can access a range of government-backed financial support measures. Places of worship may be eligible for payment under the Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund. Local authorities are responsible for defining precise eligibility for this fund and may choose to make payments to organisations based on local economic need, subject to meeting the specific eligibility criteria.

The Government has also announced a range of funds available to charities,

including the Coronavirus Community Support Fund to support organisations providing essential services for vulnerable people affected by the current crisis. Further information about the range of financial support available and how to apply can be found here:

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

The Government is also considering what else is needed to ensure that families and friends of those deceased get the support they need - particularly during this very difficult time. We are committed to ongoing engagement with the bereavement support sector and will continue to work closely to assess how we can support charities in doing their important work during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As of 4 July, places of worship are open for communal worship with social distancing in place. We are pleased to be able to allow weddings and other life cycle events to also now take place. We have published guidance detailing how this can be done safely which can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-from-4-july/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-from-4-july>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-29/66200/>

### **Coronavirus: Marriage**

**Daniel Kawczynski (Conservative)** [68301] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, whether weddings with one hundred or more guests are likely to be allowed before the end of the year as covid-19 lockdown restrictions are eased.

**Reply from Penny Mordaunt:** The Government has been working closely with stakeholders in the wedding industry, the Places of Worship Taskforce, and the National Panel for Registration to enable small marriages and civil partnerships to begin safely from 4 July 2020. Guidance can be found at the link below, which remains under review and may be updated in line with the changing situation:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-small-marriages-and-civil-partnerships/covid-19-guidance-for-small-marriages-and-civil-partnerships>

Large gatherings, for example of one hundred or more people, present greater risks of transmission. The Government continues to work with relevant stakeholders to consider how to enable receptions and larger marriage and civil partnership ceremonies to take place safely.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-02/68301/>

## **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 10 July 2020**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-speech-10-july-2020/>

### **Moving to Phase 3 of lockdown route map**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/moving-to-phase-3-of-lockdown-route-map/>

## Scottish Government Publications

**Coronavirus (COVID-19): Scotland's route map - what you can and cannot do**  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-what-you-can-and-cannot-do/>

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) - Framework for Decision Making – Scotland's route map through and out of the crisis - Phase 3 Update**  
<https://tinyurl.com/ybwgtzmw>

**Analysis of deaths involving coronavirus (COVID-19) in Scotland, by ethnic group**  
<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/covid19/ethnicity-deceased-covid-19-june20.pdf>

**Visiting family and friends in hospital**  
<https://www.gov.scot/news/visiting-family-and-friends-in-hospital/>

## News

**Coronavirus: Indoor visits and overnight stays to be allowed in Scotland**  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-53340520>

**Coronavirus: Deaths of South Asian Scots more likely to involve Covid**  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-53334624>

**Deaths among Scots from South Asian ethnic groups twice as likely to involve Covid-19, NRS study finds**  
<https://www.scotsman.com/health/coronavirus/deaths-among-scots-south-asian-ethnic-groups-twice-likely-involve-covid-19-nrs-study-finds-2907631>

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## New Publications

**Impact of COVID-19 on Scottish Charities**  
<https://www.oscr.org.uk/news/impact-of-covid-19-on-scottish-charities/>

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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>

### **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>

**\*\* Independent Review of Complaints Handling, Investigations and Misconduct Issues in Relation to Policing** (closing date 14 August 2020)

Dame Elish Angiolini has been asked by the Scottish Government to conduct an Independent Review of Complaints Handling, Investigations and Misconduct Issues in



Relation to Policing. She is gathering further evidence and is interested in learning more about the experience of minority ethnic communities in their interactions with Police Scotland or with the Police Investigations and Review Commissioner (PIRC), particularly in relation to the police complaints system. Evidence should be sent to [secretariat@independentpolicingreview.scot](mailto:secretariat@independentpolicingreview.scot)

**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/>

**\*\* Understanding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on New Scots** (closing date not stated)  
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Z6KJ79W>

**\*\* The impact of COVID-19 on refugee-assisting organisations in Scotland** (closing date not stated Scottish Refugee Council aims to produce a rapid report on the survey responses in July)  
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/G883DJ6>

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

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

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

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## Job Opportunities

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

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

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## Funding Opportunities

\*\* new or updated this week

### **Grants online: Coronavirus**

A number of Community Foundations and other organisations have launched funding programmes to assist local organisations in responding to the challenges of the

Coronavirus Pandemic. To read a list of organisations and the types of funding they have made available, see <https://www.grantsonline.org.uk/coronavirus.html>

### **\*\* Julia and Hans Rausing Charity Survival Fund**

*Closing date for applications: 27 July 2020*

Grants are available to charities working in the areas of health and wellbeing, welfare and education, and arts and culture, to provide core funding to offset lost income and help support them through the impact of Covid-19. For information and to apply see

<https://www.juliahansrausingtrust.org/charity-survival-fund/>

### **Third Sector Resilience Fund**

*Closing date not stated*

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

<https://scvo.org/support/coronavirus/your-funding/for-organisations/third-sector-resilience-fund/>

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

*Closing date not stated*

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

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

For information and to apply see

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

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

*Closing date not stated*

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

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

### **Fife Centre for Equalities Diversity Week Activity Fund 2020**

*Closing date not stated*

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

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## Events, Conferences, and Training

\*\* new or updated this week

### **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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