



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

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

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

The Scottish Parliament is in recess until 9 August 2020 but may meet sooner to respond to any urgent business. The UK Parliament will be in recess until 1 September 2020. During the Parliamentary recess MEMO will be published on 10 and 31 August.

Immigration and Asylum

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

Windrush Lessons Learned Review

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Priti Patel): ... As I have said in this House on a number of occasions, the Windrush scandal is an ugly stain on the face of our country and on the Home Office. Wendy Williams' independent report laid bare institutional failings over several decades that let down so many who had given so much to Britain. It was damning about the conduct of the Home Office and unequivocal about the institutional ignorance and thoughtlessness towards the issues of race and the history of the Windrush

generation. As I have told the House previously, that was simply unacceptable, and my response has been swift, strong and uncompromising.

I apologised unreservedly for the injustice, hardship and suffering of members of the Windrush generation at the hands of successive Governments. I promised to listen and act to reform the culture of the Home Office to better represent all the communities we serve. Last month, I announced that I accepted the review's important findings, and said that I would come back to the House to update all Members on the progress in implementing the recommendations.

After years of injustice and countless warm words, the Windrush generation deserve to know that action is urgently under way. More than £1.5 million has now been offered by the Windrush compensation scheme. Bishop Webley and I launched and hosted the first meeting of a new cross-Government Windrush working group to address the wider inequalities affecting the Windrush generation and their families.

Three sub-groups have now been established to look at how we implement the recommendations, how to design the new community fund and how best to work with the new Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities. That group is also advising on our new communications campaign to encourage more people who were affected to come forward. ...

Urgent and extensive work is taking place across the Home Office and beyond on all the recommendations. Together, the permanent secretary and I are reviewing every aspect of how the Department operates, its leadership, the culture, policies and practices, and the way it views and treats all parts of the communities it serves. My ambition is for a fair, humane, compassionate and outward-looking Home Office that represents people from every corner of our diverse society, which makes our country great. ...

... we have divided the recommendations into five parts. ... We are consulting external experts, community organisations and the very people the Home Office has failed in the past in an extensive programme of engagement to ensure that officials understand the change that is needed and that the organisation at every level learns the lessons of what went wrong. ...

I will now set out just some of the work under way on the recommendations under each of the five themes. The first is righting the wrongs and learning from the past. I have apologised unreservedly to the Windrush generation, but sadly, we know that their faith and trust in those who sit on both sides of the House has been badly damaged over many years. A series of reconciliation events will be held to rebuild the relationship between the Home Office and those who were affected. That is an essential step to enable people whose lives were shattered by Windrush to articulate directly the impact that this scandal has had on their lives.

We must learn from the past. Mandatory training is being introduced for new and existing members of Home Office staff to ensure that everyone working in the Department understands and appreciates the history of migration and race in this country. Every single existing or new member of Home Office staff will be required to undertake that learning. We are going further by introducing a new process to ensure that all new policies are developed in an inclusive way, factoring in the cultural and historical context, and with effective mechanisms to monitor and, where necessary, resolve any concerns.

Secondly, we will create an inclusive workforce in the Home Office. The Home Office must reflect the diverse communities that it serves at every single level. There are simply not enough black, Asian or minority ethnic staff working at the top in senior roles, and there are far too many times when I am the only non-white face in the room. ...

Thirdly, I am changing the Home Office's openness to scrutiny. Policy and decision making must be rigorously examined to ensure that any adverse impact on any corner of our society is identified and acted on quickly. ...

Wendy Williams was clear that a lack of insight into the community's experience meant that the Home Office missed opportunities to anticipate the Windrush scandal. She stated

that “Officials could and should have done more”.

She effectively said that we must all do better at walking in other people’s shoes. I will overhaul the Department’s risk management framework so that we can identify problems sooner, understand the unintended consequences of decisions for people and communities and keep protection of the public at the heart of what we do. ...

Fourthly, there will be inclusive and robust policy making. It is key that we build institutional memory and reflect past learnings and experiences when setting out new approaches. Mandatory training on the public sector equality duty and the impact assessment process is being rolled out across the Department, including for the most senior staff. As well as considering the equalities impact, all impact assessments and submissions to Ministers must address the risks to vulnerable individuals and groups.

The final and most critical theme is a more compassionate approach—people not cases. This is at the heart of ensuring that nothing like the injustices faced by the Windrush generation can ever happen again. The injustices of Windrush happened not because Home Office staff were bad people but because staff themselves were caught up in a system in which they did not feel that they had the permission to bring personal judgment to bear. ...

Putting people first will be built into the reforms that we make. Everyone making decisions must see a face behind the case. We must feel empowered to use our own discretion and pragmatism in decision making. The overwhelming majority of the British public agree that it is right that those with no legal right to be in this country must not be allowed to exploit the system, but we must protect the law-abiding majority. To build and maintain public confidence in the immigration system, it should not be easy for those here to illegally flout the rules, but we must make sure that we have the right protections in place for those whose status should have been assured. We need a system that is fair.

What happened to the Windrush generation is unspeakable, and no one with a legal right to be here should ever have been penalised. I have tasked my officials to undertake a full evaluation of the compliant environment policy and measures, individually and cumulatively, to make sure that the crucial balance is right. I have asked them to evaluate the changes that were made to immigration and nationality laws over successive Governments to ensure that they are fit for purpose for today’s world. If those changes were not communicated effectively enough, we will act to make them so. ...

We are determined to get this right. We owe it to the Windrush generation and, of course, their descendants. Wendy Williams has asked that we carefully consider our next steps to deliver both meaningful and lasting change. I will deliver on that commitment ...

Nick Thomas-Symonds (Labour): ... Will the Home Secretary confirm today how many people the Home Office estimates are eligible for the Windrush compensation scheme? As of today, how many have applied? Of those, how many are from Commonwealth countries or related to them, and how many are from other countries—the category that arrived before 31 December 1988—and are now settled here? Will she explain why the published number of applicants seems so low, given the scale of the injustice? What does she expect the average turnaround time of a claim to be?

The Home Secretary mentioned in her statement that more than £1.5 million had been paid out. It is also the case that some people who were deemed eligible for the scheme early last year still have not received their compensation; for them, every day without that money continues to be a struggle. Will the Home Secretary also tell us which Minister is in charge of the scheme? ...

The Home Secretary mentioned a delivery plan in her statement, but can she now confirm that, in line with the recommendations, she will publish it immediately? Another recommendation was that the Home Secretary should “undertake a full review and evaluation of the hostile...environment policy...individually and cumulatively.”

The Home Secretary did mention that review, but can she tell us when she expects it to be

completed? Wendy Williams's review also recommended the creation of a migrants commissioner. What powers will the commissioner have, what budget will they control and when will the recruitment process for that vital post begin?

Nobody disagrees that the Home Office should be fair, humane and outward-looking, but the Home Secretary said at a recent meeting of the Home Affairs Committee that Wendy Williams was only a "fraction away from calling the Home Office institutionally racist."

Can I ask the Home Secretary how she felt about that? ...

Given their failure to act on so many previous reviews, the Government are falling woefully short on action. That is why we will be holding them to account for delivering the vital changes outlined in the report with the urgency that is required. Is not the truth that the Windrush generation, who gave so much to rebuilding the country after world war two, deserve nothing less, and future generations deserve so much more?

Reply from Priti Patel: I would like not only to restate my commitment to delivering the compensation for those who became victims of the Windrush scandal itself, but to say that it is absolutely right, and it is my focus, my determination and my resolve, to ensure that the individuals whose lives were blighted and shattered as a result of a series of measures that, to quote Wendy Williams, "evolved under the Labour, Coalition and Conservative Governments" receive the compensation that they deserve.

It is a fact that the injustices will not be resolved or fixed overnight, and I have levelled with the House on that point on a number of occasions. The mistreatment that the affected individuals endured was simply unacceptable. ...

I have already expanded the compensation scheme so that people will be able to apply to it until at least April 2023, but we have to go beyond that, and I would be more than willing to do so. ...

Jerome Mayhew (Conservative): The cross-Government working group has a key role to consider the changes needed to support the Windrush generation, as well as a wider scope to address the challenges faced by black and ethnic minority people across the country and society, in education, work and health. Can my right hon. Friend update the House on how she sees that group developing? Does she consider quarterly meetings sufficient to make good progress?

Reply from Priti Patel: ... every time I look at Windrush cases and read the details and backgrounds of the hardship and suffering, I fundamentally believe that there is much more we need to do as political leaders, individually and collectively, to ensure that we celebrate our differences, but remember that we are one nation and one community. The outreach and stakeholder groups that we have established are critical to ensuring that we drive change in our practices and policies, and that we communicate in a compassionate and humane way and reach out to individuals in the right way. ...

Joanna Cherry (SNP): ... First, when Wendy Williams gave evidence to the Joint Committee on Human Rights earlier this month, she said that the Windrush scandal had highlighted "fundamental cultural, political and institutional factors" relevant to how the Home Office carries out its duties across the board. She said that those issues needed to be fixed and it seems that the Home Secretary has recognised that in her statement. But Wendy Williams also said that she had considered the Home Office responses to previous reviews and reports, and found that those responses tended to be characterised by a quick acknowledgement of the result and a focus on process, rather than on the fundamental issues identified in the respective reviews. She said that, in the past, the remedial actions taken by the Home Office were superficial to the extent that there was action at all, and that they did not have a lasting effect. She also said that many of the issues that were identified kept coming up successively, time and again, but in different contexts. So can the Home Secretary reassure me that the steps she intends to take will avoid the pitfalls that Wendy Williams has identified with previous reviews? ...

Reply from Priti Patel: ... It is fair to say that Wendy Williams's "Windrush Lessons Learned Review" is a review like no other. Thankfully, it is a one-off review of an absolutely shocking scandal that took place. As I said in my statement, it identifies and marks a stain on the history of our country, but it also scars my Department significantly. As a result, the measures that I have outlined today—just the five steps alone, which are very focused on the Home Office itself, including encompassing policy aspects—are very detailed. They are detailed for a reason. They are not a tick-box response, and they are not a "quick, let's fix this and pay lip service" response either. A great deal of work is required. This speaks to the hon. and learned Lady's third point, about reviewing the compliant environment and the work that will need to be undertaken there, which will take time. Obviously, I will report back, and as a Department we will report back, on exactly how policies are effected specifically on that. ...

To read this statement and very lengthy question and answer session in full see
<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-07-21/debates/CF88BF2D-55E5-4672-8103-E28A1136C3F1/WindrushLessonsLearnedReview>

The report referred to above can be read at

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

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

British Nationality: Armed Forces

Luke Evans (Conservative) [73980] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to support individuals of all ages to gain British Citizenship after being born to parents serving in the UK armed forces overseas.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Under current legislation a person born overseas to a member of the UK armed forces will be a British citizen automatically if this parent is a British citizen.

A person born after 13 January 2010 to a parent who is not a British citizen but was serving in the UK armed forces has an entitlement to register as a British citizen.

In other cases, a child under the age of 18 can apply for registration at the Home Secretary's discretion; adults would need to meet the requirements for naturalisation. The Ministry of Defence will provide the necessary support and guidance, with the tri services welfare teams and Family Federation welfare groups providing a reliable source of information for those who may be eligible for this.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-14/73980/>

The following eight questions all received the same answer

British Nationality

Reply from Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [73097] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans she to commissioning a fourth edition of the Life in the United Kingdom citizenship test handbook.

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [73108] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment has she made of the potential merits of implementing recommendation 76 of the House of Lords Select Committee on Citizenship and Civic Participation's 2018 Report on the establishment of an advisory group revise the book on Life in the UK.

British Nationality: Assessments

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [73100] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, what assessment she has made of the effect that passing the Life in the UK citizenship test has on (a) promoting UK values and (b) improving integration.

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [73101] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of granting Cornish protected minority status in relation to the Life in the UK citizenship test.

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [73107] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of implementing recommendation 75 of the House of Lords Select Committee on Citizenship and Civic Participation's 2018 Report in relation to the establishment of an advisory group to conduct a comprehensive review of the citizenship test.

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [73109] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of potential merits of implementing recommendation 77 of the House of Lords Select Committee on Citizenship and Civic Participation's 2018 Report in relation to the establishment of an advisory group to review the citizenship test.

Citizenship: Public Participation

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [73105] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of implementing recommendation paragraph 463 in the House of Lords Select Committee on Citizenship and Civic Participation's 2018 Report.

Languages

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [73106] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made potential merits of including a university degree (a) mostly taught and (b) researched in English from universities throughout in the world in meeting the B1 threshold of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Government believes those seeking to make a permanent home in the UK should be equipped to integrate successfully in UK society, with an appropriate level of English and an understanding of British life.

By the time they apply for citizenship, all applicants are required to have passed the Life in the UK (LitUK) test and have an English language speaking and listening qualification in English at B1 or higher on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, or an equivalent level qualification.

The life in the UK handbook is only available in English, but the test can also be taken in Welsh or Scots Gaelic, which are the only other languages specified in statute as requirements for naturalisation. There are no plans to change this to include other languages.

Regular amendments are made to the LitUK handbook to ensure the content and related test questions remain factually accurate. The 2019 revision of the handbook made several amendments to update the handbook and clarify issues identified by the House of Lords Select Committee on Citizenship and Civic Participations and others.

The Home Office works with the test provider to monitor test performance to ensure the test remains effective. The Home Office has made no specific assessment of the long-term effect the Life in the UK test has on promoting British values or improving integration.

The Home Office is currently considering the case for reviewing the Life in the UK handbook. Any decision to commission a fourth edition of the handbook will be dependent on the outcome of a review of the current handbook.

As set out in the 'UK's Points-Based Immigration System Further Details' published on 13 July, we already recognise academic degrees which have been taught or researched in English as being sufficient proof of English ability at any level and will continue to do so in the future system.

Applicants for immigration and citizenship can generally show their English language ability by passing a Secure English Language test, having a degree taught in English or being a national of a majority English speaking country. We continue to assess the merits of alternative methods of proof to ensure we have a robust system which guarantees migrants can speak, read, write and listen in English to the required level.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-13/73097/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-13/73108/>

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-13/73100/>

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-13/73101/>

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-13/73107/>

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-13/73105/>

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-13/73106/>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201719/ldselect/ldcitizen/118/11802.htm>

British Nationality: Assessments

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [73098] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Life in the UK Test refund (a) and (b) complaint forms her Department has received; and how many refund requests her Department has (a) received, (b) paid out in each month since March 2014.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Complaints and refund requests in relation to the Life in the UK test are handled by the provider of the test.

The Life in the UK test providers have received 3,785 complaints since 1 March 2014. This accounts for 0.38% of the total tests carried out during this period.

Refund request data is not available prior to September 2014. For the period between 1 September and 30 June, 3,720 refund requests were received, of which 2,966 were accepted and refunds given.

A total of 3,059 refunds have been paid out since 1 March 2014. This figure is correct as of 30 June 2020. ...

To read the lengthy breakdown by month see

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-13/73098/>

British Nationality: Assessments

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [73099] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, how much has been paid out by her Department in refund requests after people submitted a Life in the UK Test: refund request or complaint form each month since March 2014.

Reply from Kevin Foster: As a result of customer complaints and refund requests, a total of £150,966 was refunded by the Life in the UK test providers (currently PSI Services (UK) Ltd; previously Learn Direct) between 1st March 2014 and 30th June 2020.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-13/73099/>

British Citizenship

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [73104] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when she plans to issue guidance to caseworkers considering applications for British citizenship on not refusing an application in the event that a genuine mistake is made by an applicant on a form.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Applications for British citizenship are considered based on all the information available, taking into account any information and documents provided by the applicant. The information provide on the form is checked against documentation and Home Office records.

There is a reconsideration process available if an applicant inadvertently provided incorrect information which affected the decision to grant British citizenship.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-13/73104/>

British Nationality: Children

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [74736] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 20 January 2020 to Question 3311, what steps she is taking in response to the High Court judgement in Project for the Registration of British Citizens as Children and others v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2019] EWHC 3536 (Admin) of 19 December 2019.

Reply from Kevin foster: The Secretary of State for the Home Department has been granted permission to appeal against the Court's finding which means the case remains on-going and we will therefore continue to charge Child Registration fees as set out in the Fees Regulations.

While this court case remains active it would not be right to speculate on next steps and potential courses of action.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-15/74736/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-14/3311/>

The judgement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/prcb-v-sshd.pdf>

Naturalisation

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [73110] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment has she made of the potential merits of implementing recommendation 78 of the House of Lords Select Committee on Citizenship and Civic Participation's 2018 Report in relation to the fee set for people applying for naturalisation.

Reply from Kevin Foster: In line with the charging principles set out in the 2014 Immigration Act, fees for immigration and nationality services are set in consideration of the cost of processing the application, the wider cost of running

the Border Immigration and Citizenship System (BICS) and the benefits and entitlements provided to successful applicants. Any income from fees set above the cost of processing is utilised for supporting the wider BICS and reducing the reliance on taxpayer funding.

Applying for British Citizenship is not mandatory and many individuals who have Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) in the UK choose not to do so. This is because becoming a British citizen is not necessary to enable individuals to live, study and work in the UK as a grant of indefinite leave to remain will confer access to appropriate services.

The Home Office keeps fees under review.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-13/73110/>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201719/ldselect/ldcitizen/118/11802.htm>

Visa: Applications

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [75451] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans her Department has for establishing standards for determining visa applications as complex by caseworkers.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Visa applications are considered to be complex when an Entry Clearance Officer or caseworker determines that additional information is required in order for a decision to be made.

There are no set standards for processing non-straightforward (identified as complex) by the caseworker. However, if an application is complex and expected to take longer than the standard processing timescale, UKVI will write to the customer within the standard processing time and explain what will happen next.

The published information on processing times for visa applications is published as part of the Migration Transparency data, available at

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-16/75451/>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Visas: Sponsorship

Neil Coyle (Labour) [74620] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of sponsor licence applications that will be required ahead of the implementation of the proposed new points-based immigration system; and what steps her Department is taking to anticipate any surge in licence applications.

Neil Coyle (Labour) [74622] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to (a) issue guidance and (b) change operating procedures to manage any increase in the number of sponsor licence applications before the implementation of the proposed new points-based immigration system in 2021.

Home Office: Staff

Neil Coyle (Labour) [74625] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many additional staff her Department plans to recruit to process sponsor licence applications under the proposed new points-based immigration system.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Planning for the implementation of the new UK points-based system includes ensuring that all aspects of operational readiness have been considered and this includes resourcing, recruitment and the delivery of training.

In UK Visas and Immigration, who will be delivering the new system operationally, there is a natural cycle of recruitment of caseworkers every year and this year the

requirements of the new system have been factored in, including the forecast increase in sponsor licence applications.

Work is underway on this and there is specific strand project planning for the overall programme in place. Progress is reported weekly and monitored by the FBIS programme board which oversees the delivery of the new system.

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, and therefore would require sponsorship. This can be found on GOV.UK:

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-15/74620/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-15/74622/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-15/74625/>

Information about the points-based immigration system, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-points-based-immigration-system-employer-information/the-uks-points-based-immigration-system-an-introduction-for-employers>

and

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/899755/UK_Points-Based_System_Further_Details_Web_Accessible.pdf

Visas: Sponsorship

Neil Coyle (Labour) [74621] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she has taken to encourage employers to apply for sponsor licences before the end of free movement and the implementation of the proposed new points-based immigration system in 2021.

Reply from Kevin Foster: It is vital that employers are prepared for implementation of the new points-based immigration system. That is why we are providing certainty and support on the system now.

The Home Office has already launched a comprehensive programme of communications and engagement to help employers understand the system and how to prepare.

Throughout 2019, the COVID-19 pandemic, and since the Policy Statement was published in February 2020, we have facilitated hundreds of engagement events, reaching thousands of stakeholders and continue to hold regular events across the UK and a wide range of sectors.

We have published an introduction to the points-based immigration system for employers and launched a direct email campaign to enable businesses to sign-up to receive updates on the system's implementation. Furthermore, we have and continue to work other departments across government, who are supporting the Home Office in promoting our messages to employers.

A nationwide marketing campaign will roll out later this year, using a wide range of channels to reach our audiences, such as radio, video-on-demand and outdoor advertising

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-15/74621/>

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-points-based-immigration-system-employer-information/the-uks-points-based-immigration-system-an-introduction-for-employers>
and
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/899755/UK_Points-Based_System_Further_Details_Web_Accessible.pdf

Immigration

Neil Coyle (Labour) [74615] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department has taken to consult with employers on the cost of applications under the proposed new points-based immigration system.

Reply from Kevin Foster: We recognise the new system will mean changes in the way businesses operate and recruit. That is why we are providing certainty on the new system now, giving us time to work together to understand employer's needs. Fees for border, immigration and citizenship products and services play a vital role in our country's ability to run a sustainable system. We believe it is right that those who use the systems should contribute to its cost, thereby reducing the burden on the UK taxpayer.

A new programme of engagement is underway to raise awareness of the new system, ensuring those affected by the changes are fully aware of what it means for them and understand how the system will operate. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, and since the Policy Statement was published in February 2020, we have facilitated over 50 engagement events and continue to hold regular events across the UK and a wide range of sectors. We have published an introduction to the points-based immigration system for employers and launched a direct email campaign to enable businesses to sign-up to receive updates on the system's implementation.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-15/74615/>

Information about the points-based immigration system, referred to above, can be read at
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-points-based-immigration-system-employer-information/the-uks-points-based-immigration-system-an-introduction-for-employers>
and

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/899755/UK_Points-Based_System_Further_Details_Web_Accessible.pdf

Immigration: Social Services

Neil Coyle (Labour) [74616] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department has taken to consult with local authorities on the potential effect of the proposed new points-based immigration system on the social care sector.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The social care sector is invaluable to our country. Social care workers have shown incredible dedication during this extraordinary time.

The Government is working with the sector in a number of ways to help support it during this difficult time and going forward, including extra funding and a national recruitment campaign.

However, the independent Migration Advisory Committee has been very clear that immigration is not the answer to the challenges in this sector. As we implement the new immigration system, we want employers to focus on investing in our domestic work force.

A programme of engagement is underway to raise awareness of the new points-based system, ensuring those affected by the changes are fully aware of what it means for them and understand how the system will operate.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-15/74616/>

Information about the points-based immigration system, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-points-based-immigration-system-employer-information/the-uks-points-based-immigration-system-an-introduction-for-employers> and

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/899755/UK_Points-Based_System_Further_Details_Web_Accessible.pdf

Immigration: Self-employed

Neil Coyle (Labour) [74623] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the ability of people who are self-employed to come and work in the UK after 1 January 2021 under the proposed new points-based immigration system.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The UK's Points-Based Immigration System has been designed with businesses and employers given huge consideration.

Whilst there will be no dedicated route for self-employed people in the Points-based system, self-employed workers will continue to be able to benefit from a number of other routes. Those contracted to provide services to an organisation can continue to be sponsored under the new skilled work route, or if wishing to set up a business in the UK, use the Innovator and Start-up routes.

Where they are recognised as a leading talent or promising individual in science, humanities, engineering, the arts (including film, fashion design and architecture) or digital technology they can use the Global Talent route which allows them to take employment without any restrictions.

Further information on the Points-based system was published on 13 July and sets out the offer for those seeking to come to the UK to work.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-15/74623/>

Information about the points-based immigration system, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-points-based-immigration-system-employer-information/the-uks-points-based-immigration-system-an-introduction-for-employers> and

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/899755/UK_Points-Based_System_Further_Details_Web_Accessible.pdf

Immigrants: Surcharges

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [74741] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 15 January 2020 to Question 1925, if her Department will reassess charging the full immigration health surcharge to non-UK NHS staff in 2020.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Secretary and Secretary of State for Health and Social Care have worked together to exempt non-UK NHS staff from the Immigration Health Surcharge. On 14 July, the Home Office published further detail regarding the Health and Care Visa. The introduction of this visa route demonstrates the Government's commitment to deliver for the NHS and wider health and care sector. The new Health and Care Visa will come with a reduced visa application fee, fast-track entry and dedicated team to process applications. Those applying under the Health and Care Visa route will be exempt from paying the Immigration Health Surcharge. Those who would qualify for the Health and Care visa and who paid the Surcharge on or after 31 March will be refunded. More information will be published on the Immigration Health Surcharge gov.uk pages.

All those working in the health and care sector who paid the Surcharge on or after the 31 March 2020, but who do not qualify for the Health and Care Visa will be eligible for a reimbursement of what they have paid since that date. The Minister for Health announced on 15 July that this reimbursement will be paid in arrears of six-month increments and that this scheme will be launched by 1 October 2020.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-15/74741/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-10/1925/>

Information about the Health and Care Visa, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-health-and-care-visa-to-ensure-uk-health-and-care-services-have-access-to-the-best-global-talent>

Immigrants: Health Services

Ian Lavery (Labour) [75332] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many foreign national NHS and social care workers have (a) paid and (b) been refunded the NHS surcharge since 21 May 2020.

Reply from Kevin Foster: This information is not readily available nor held centrally and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost due to the fact the IHS is payable across multiple application routes. For example, where the customer is on a visa with a general right to work and takes up employment, we do not have a record who the employer is. Since the Prime Minister's announcement, we have been working at pace to identify and issue refunds to those customers who are eligible and hold Tier 2 (General) visas.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-16/75332/>

English Language: Education

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [73103] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of implementing recommendation 68 of the House of Lords Select Committee on Citizenship and Civic Participation's 2018 report in relation to funding for ESOL teaching.

Reply from Gillian Keegan: This government remains committed to the 2019 manifesto commitment to boost English language teaching to empower existing migrants and help promote integration into society.

In 2018/19, the Department for Education supported 120,500 adult learners to improve their levels of English through fully and part-funded English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) courses.

The Department for Education funds ESOL through the Adult Education Budget (AEB). Approximately half the AEB is devolved to 6 Mayoral Combined Authorities (MCAs) and delegated to the Mayor of London acting through the Greater London Authority (GLA). The authorities are responsible for the provision of adult education, including ESOL, and allocation of the AEB in their local areas. The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) is responsible for the remaining AEB in non-devolved areas.

In non-devolved areas colleges and adult learning providers have the freedom and flexibility to determine how they use their AEB allocation to meet the needs of their communities and this includes planning, with local partners, the ESOL courses that they will deliver locally.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-13/73103/>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201719/ldselect/ldcitizen/118/11802.htm>

Domestic Abuse: Immigrants

Jess Phillips (Labour) [73862] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to work with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to ensure that the Everyone In initiative provides temporary accommodation to (a) women survivors of domestic abuse and (b) women survivors with no recourse to public funds.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: On 24 June the Housing Secretary announced that the Government is providing local authorities with a further £105 million to enable them to best support the c15,000 people placed into emergency accommodation during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Government has been clear that the offer for each person supported under this approach would need to be made on an individual basis, considering that person's specific circumstances, support needs and the law. This could include women who have experienced rough sleeping due to domestic abuse.

The rules as to eligibility relating to immigration status, including for those with no recourse to public funds, have not changed. Local authorities must use their judgement in assessing what support they may lawfully give to each person on an individual basis, considering that person's specific circumstances and support needs. Local authorities already regularly make such judgements on accommodating individuals who might otherwise be ineligible, during extreme weather for example, where there is a risk to life.

The Government recognises that some migrant victims of domestic abuse are not eligible for existing sources of support, such as the Destitution Domestic Violence Concession (DDVC). That is why we have committed £1.5 million to the Support for Migrant Victims scheme to support migrant victims of domestic abuse who do not qualify for the DDVC and gather the evidence that is needed to make sustainable decisions for this group over the long-term. This is in addition to over £1.5 million provided so far in Tampon Tax funding, since 2017 and up to 31 March 2021, to fund organisations supporting migrant victims of domestic abuse who do not qualify for the DDVC. We continue to work with our partners across Government to develop the particulars of the scheme, which is due to be launched in the autumn.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-14/73862/>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

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

Domestic Abuse: Immigrants

Jess Phillips (Labour) [73864] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Government's draft Statutory Guidance in relation to the Domestic Abuse Bill published 1 July 2020, what steps her Department is taking to help migrant survivors of domestic abuse to regularise their status and provide support in the event that those survivors are not eligible to apply under the Domestic Violence Rule.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Government's position is clear that all victims of domestic abuse should be treated as victims first and foremost. The Destitution Domestic Violence Concession (DDVC) is available to those who have come to the UK on specified partner visas with the reasonable expectation of obtaining Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) in the UK. The DDVC is not available to individuals who enter the UK on other visas, such as visit, student or work visas, or who are

here illegally. This is because in order to obtain such visas they have confirmed they are financially independent, and therefore require no recourse to public funds, and their stay will be for a defined time. They do not have a legitimate expectation of securing ILR.

As we made clear in parliamentary debates on the Domestic Abuse Bill, this Government is committed to ensuring all victims have adequate support which meets their immediate needs. That is why we have allocated £1.5m towards the Support for Migrant Victims (SMV) scheme, due to be launched later this year, to support migrant victims of domestic abuse who do not have access to public funds to access safe accommodation. This is in addition to over £1.5 million in Tampon Tax funding provided so far, since 2017 and up to 31 March 2021, to support organisations specialising in providing specialist support to migrant victims of domestic abuse who do not qualify for the DDVC.

The pilot project will not only support more individuals to find safe accommodation but will help gather the data that is needed to develop sustainable solutions for all migrant victims of domestic abuse over the long-term.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-14/73864/>

The guidance referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/896640/Draft_statutory_guidance_July_2020.pdf

Immigrants: Sleeping Rough

Helen Hayes (Labour) [73918] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the effect of No Recourse to Public Funds rules on levels of rough sleeping.

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

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

The NRPF policy is based on the principle that migrants coming to the UK are expected to maintain and support themselves and their families without posing a burden on the UK's welfare system. Access to benefits and other publicly funded services reflects the strength of a migrant's connections to the UK and is normally linked to indefinite leave to remain. People on the 10-year human rights route can apply to have the condition lifted. Other groups, such as refugees, are exempt from the condition. The Government has provided more than £3.7 billion in un-ringfenced funding to help councils to manage the additional costs of COVID-19, including supporting those who are homeless and sleeping rough.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-14/73918/>

Migrant Workers: Self-employed

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [74640] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what protections are in place for self-employed people whose income continues to be affected by the covid-19 outbreak after 31 July 2020, and who are unable to meet the Minimum Income Requirement when sponsoring a non-EEA partner's UK visa.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office has established a range of measures to support those affected by Covid-19. For the purpose of the minimum income requirement, in addition to the range of ways the requirement can already be met through sources of non-employment income:

- 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 beyond 31 July. Income received via the Coronavirus Self-Employment Income Support Scheme will also be taken into account;
- 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;
- 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>.

These are unprecedented times and as the UK returns to work, we continue to monitor the situation closely and take these exceptional circumstances into account. We may make further adjustments to requirements where necessary and appropriate 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/2020-07-15/74640/>

Visas

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [75350] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Written Statement of 23 July 2019, Official Report, HCWS1803, on Immigration, stating that her Department accepted that the Migration Advisory Committee's recommendation to pilot such a visa was worth pursuing and that further details would follow, for what reasons the Answer of 14 July 2020 to Question 71803 stated that her Department has not had plans to pilot a remote areas visa scheme; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Whatever position the previous Government may have taken, this Government has never had plans to pilot a remote area visa scheme. Instead this Government will introduce a points-based immigration system which will benefit all parts of the United Kingdom.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-16/75350/>

The statement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2019-07-23/HCWS1803/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-09/71803/>

Visas: Coronavirus

Gavin Robinson (DUP) [74608] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will agree to a further visa extension beyond 31 July 2020 due to the covid-19 pandemic.

Kevin Foster: The latest information in respect of advice for visa holders can be found on GOV.UK at:

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

This is kept under review.

The Home Office has put in place a range of measures to support those affected by the covid-19 outbreak. We recognise that further adjustments are likely to be required to cater for all scenarios, and we are working through these, 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/2020-07-15/74608/>

Seasonal Workers: Visas

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [76042] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many workers have received a Tier 5 Seasonal Worker Visa to work in UK agriculture since the start of the Seasonal Workers' Pilot, by (a) nationality and (b) UK constituent country.

Reply from Chris Philp: The published statistics on the Seasonal Worker Pilot may be found at the links below. Please note that the data is not broken down by region.

The Home Office publishes data on Tier 5 Seasonal Workers visas in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release'.

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

Data on grants of Tier 5 Seasonal Workers visas, by nationality, are published in table Vis_D02 of the entry clearance detailed datasets.

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

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

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

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

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-17/76042/>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Neil Coyle (Labour) [74617] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the main reasons were for UK Visas and Immigration to refuse 1,400 applications to the EU Settlement Scheme in June 2020.

Neil Coyle (Labour) [74618] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for Pre-Settled Status did UK Visas and Immigration refuse in June 2020; and what the main reasons were for those refusals.

Neil Coyle (Labour) [74619] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether all 1,400 refused applications to the EU Settlement Scheme in June 2020 were approved by Ministers.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The majority of applications to the EU Settlement Scheme which have resulted in a refusal were due to there being insufficient evidence of the applicant's eligibility, as detailed in the Home Office EU Settlement Scheme Statistics User Guide. Eligibility refusals comprise 99 per cent of the total refusals up to 31 May 2020, with the remaining refusals being made on suitability grounds. A breakdown of the refusal decisions made in June 2020 will be published in the next quarterly statistics release, due to be published in August 2020.

The published statistics include all refusals of status under the scheme. Ministers agreed a high level of assurance that is applied prior to any application to the EU Settlement Scheme being refused. Cases identified as potential refusals are subject to stringent scrutiny and review and the number of applications refused remains proportionately low in comparison to applications which have been granted. Before refusing an application under the scheme, UK Visas and Immigration will seek to work with the applicant to help them provide the evidence required to demonstrate that they qualify for settled status and, if not, for pre-settled status and, where appropriate, will exercise discretion in their favour in order to minimise administrative burdens on the applicant

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-15/74617/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-15/74618/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-15/74619/>

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

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

The User Guide referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/884910/ho-eu-settlement-scheme-statistics-user-guide.pdf

The statistics referred to above can be read at

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

Immigration: EEA Nationals

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [74642] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effect of (a) visa fees and (b) the immigration health surcharge on the number of EEA nationals migrating to the UK from 1 January 2021.

Reply from Kevin Foster: An Impact Assessment on the wider impacts of the ending of free movement for EEA and Swiss citizens was laid alongside the Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill. It can be found at

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

On 19 March 2020 the Home Office published a literature review of the evidence relating to the elasticity of demand for visas in the UK. This evidence is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-review-of-evidence-relating-to-the-elasticity-of-demand-for-visas-in-the-uk>

The impact of the imposition of both visa fees and the Immigration Health Surcharge on EEA and Swiss citizens will be published alongside the Immigration Rules and Fee Regulations in the Autumn.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-15/74642/>

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

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

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Patrick Grady (SNP) [72970] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether it is her Department's policy that time spent outside the UK as a result of quarantine measures imposed in response to the covid-19 pandemic is counted against continuous residence in the UK for the purposes of the EU Settlement Scheme.

Patrick Grady (SNP) [72971] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether time spent outside the UK as a result of the covid-19 pandemic will qualify for the important reason exemption from the requirement for continuous residence in the UK to qualify for settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

Reply from Kevin Foster: In line with the EU law rights protected by the Withdrawal Agreement, the EU Settlement Scheme permits an applicant to have an absence (or absences) from the UK of up to six months in any 12-month period. It also allows for a single absence of up to 12 months in the period of five years' continuous residence generally required for settled status under the scheme where that absence is for an important reason. This includes serious illness and would cover, for example, absence required by being quarantined to protect public health. Further guidance for applicants to the scheme who have been affected by illness or travel restrictions due to Covid-19 will be published shortly.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-13/72970/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-13/72971/>

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

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [74734] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 15 January 2020 to Question 1930, how many people have applied to the EU Settlement Scheme to date.

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [74735] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 15 January 2020 to Question 1931, what estimate her Department has made of the number of EU citizens who are eligible for settled status but have not applied.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The latest published information on EU Settlement Scheme applications received can be found on the Home Office's 'EU Settlement Scheme statistics' web page available at:

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

The total number of applications received up to 30 June 2020 was 3.71 million (3,713,200).

The published figures refer specifically to applications made to the EU Settlement Scheme and cannot be directly compared with estimates of the resident population of EU/EEA nationals in the UK. The published figures include non-EEA family members, Irish nationals, and eligible EEA citizens not resident in the UK, none of whom are usually included in estimates of the resident EU population. Furthermore, the population estimates do not take account of people's migration intentions and will include people who have come to the UK for a range of purposes, including some who have no intention to settle in the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-15/74734/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-15/74735/>

The answers referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-10/1930/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-10/1931/>

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

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

Undocumented Workers

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [74737] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 13 September 2018 to Questions 137673 and 137674, (a) what steps her Department has taken to collate the total amount paid as reimbursement for lost documents annually and (b) which part of her Department's budget is used for these reimbursements.

Reply from Kevin Foster: For immigration applications, data on the number of times reimbursement of costs for lost documents have been paid, and the total amount paid, in the years requested, are not held centrally or published by the Home Office. We are working on the ways in which we may be able to publish this information in the future. The budget from which such payments are made is dependent on the business area liable for the loss of the document.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-15/74737/>

The answers referred to above were published on 30 August 2018, not as stated above, and can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-24/137673/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-24/137674/>

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [74746] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 3 February 2020 to Question 1927, for what reasons there was a sixfold increase in the number of migrants crossing the English Channel in 2019 compared to the previous year.

Reply from Chris Philp: Nobody should be making these dangerous and illegally-facilitated crossing from France to the UK. France is a safe country with a well-run asylum system.

Government departments, including the Home Office and the National Crime Agency are working around the clock, in collaboration with the French Government and the relevant international law enforcement agencies to stop these illegally-facilitated crossings. We are working to identify and dismantle the organised crime groups that facilitate illegal immigration.

Strengthened security at the juxtaposed controls between the UK and France has also meant it is increasingly difficult for migrants to enter the UK without permission, in line with the UK's immigration rules, leading to more reckless attempts by boat.

The UK Government has returned over 155 small boats arrivals back to Europe since January 2019 using the legal channels available.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-15/74746/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-10/1927/>

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Paul Girvan (DUP) [73054] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will place in the Library a copy of the agreement between her Department and her French counterpart on creating a joint intelligence cell to tackle migrants crossing the English Channel illegally.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Secretary met with her new counterpart, Interior Minister Gérald Darmanin, on the 12th July: both ministers reaffirmed their commitment to put a stop to small boat crossings and to returning boats to France rather than allowing them to reach the UK. Additionally, the ministers signed an agreement on the creation of a joint intelligence cell, which will help deter and dismantle the organised criminal gangs facilitating these journeys.

A copy of the agreement will not be made public at this time as the document contains sensitive operational information which could damage the ability of law enforcement agencies to operate effectively if released.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-13/73054/>

British National (Overseas): Hong Kong

Paul Girvan (DUP) [73056] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether it is her policy to grant non-British Nationals Overseas Hong Kongers (a) asylum and (b) refugee status on the grounds of persecution as a result of political beliefs.

Reply from Kevin Foster: All asylum claims are carefully considered on their individual merits and determined on a case-by case basis.

There is no general asylum policy relating to non-BN(O) individuals from Hong Kong.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-13/73056/>

Asylum: Glasgow

Chris Stephens (SNP) [74659] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers were in full board hotels in the UK on 30 June 2020; how many hotels are being used for that purpose; what the average length of stay is across those hotels; and by what date she plans to have that group out of the (a) six Mears Group hotels in Glasgow and (b) all other hotels.

Reply from Chris Philp: There were 4427 asylum seekers across 53 full board hotels in the UK on 30 June.

The average length of stay is not available in a reportable format and to provide the information could only be done at disproportionate cost.

We are working with the providers to programme the reduction of the number of people in supported accommodation in a controlled manner. Consideration will be given to the needs of service users whilst balancing the impact of increased accommodation pressures on local authorities. We intend to work collaboratively with local authorities as we transition out of lockdown.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-15/74659/>

Asylum: Glasgow

Chris Stephens (SNP) [74660] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to order a Home office investigation into (a) the circumstances and results of Mears Group's decision to move 321 people from secure serviced apartments to hotels in Glasgow from 27 March 2020 and (b) the relationship between those decisions and the incidents at MacLays Hotels on 5 May 2020 and at Park Inn Hotel on 26 June 2020.

Reply from Chris Philp: We have been working closely with all our service providers throughout the Covid 19 crisis were satisfied that Mears moved service users from apartments to hotels to enable them to deliver their services and meet some of their contractual obligations, particularly around emergency repairs in light of movement restrictions, and so they could further assure themselves of access to meals, translation services, onsite support, controlled welfare and health support and deliver a more appropriate service in light of the health crisis.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-15/74660/>

Asylum: Coronavirus

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [74641] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer on 14 July 2020 to Question 71801, what steps were taken prior to her decision to lift the pause on asylum support cessations and evictions to ensure that due regard was paid to the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Reply from Chris Philp: The temporary suspension of asylum support cessations remains in place whilst the review described to the Strategic Engagement Group on 24 June is underway.

This review is being undertaken in accordance with our Public Sector Equality duties and includes careful discussion and planning with Public Health Agencies, Local Authorities, Other Government Departments and Stakeholders, which included members of the voluntary and community sector, on how support cessations should appropriately recommence

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-15/74641/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-09/71801/>

Asylum: Coronavirus

Claire Hanna (SDLP) [73992] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to limit the spread of covid-19 during the process of claiming asylum for asylum seekers in the UK.

Reply from Chris Philp: We take the wellbeing of asylum seekers extremely seriously. As part of our response to COVID-19, we have introduced regional intake units to allow asylum claims to be registered in a safe way that adheres to social distancing guidance and minimises travel. These are contingency measures put in place to allow asylum claims to be registered in a safe manner and ensure those that are at immediate risk of destitution can access support.

Following guidance from Public Health England, Asylum Operations initially cancelled all face-to-face substantive asylum interviews. We are now in a position where we can ensure safe social distancing of our staff, customers and have started to issue invitations to interview using video conferencing in small numbers with an expectation that interview volumes will increase over the coming weeks, including those taking place face to face.

Additional work is still be being taken forward to ensure we can make the best use of technology and increase flexibility and capacity in a way that enhances both the staff and customer experience. We remain committed to an interview process that allows all participants - applicants, representatives, interpreters and interviewers - to do so safely. Asylum Operations are continuing to make and serve decisions on cases where there is enough information to do so. We are continuing to review these on a case by case basis, ensuring those with significant safeguarding concerns or vulnerabilities are only served if appropriate to do so.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-14/73992/>

Asylum: Families

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [73096] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the answer of 7 October 2019 to Question 293719 on Asylum: Families, how many Dublin Regulation family reunion cases have entered the system in each month since December 2019.

Reply from Chris Philp: The UK remains fully committed to meeting its obligations under the Dublin Regulation and we will continue to accept requests for transfer until the end of the transition period.

The Home Office publishes data on the Dublin III Regulation on an annual basis (each February) in the Immigration Statistics. This includes data on the number of requests and transfers into and out of the UK, broken down by article and Member State requesting. The latest data, covering up to December 2019, can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/asylum-and-resettlement-datasets#dublin-regulation>

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-13/73096/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-02/293719/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Female Genital Mutilation Protection Orders

Holly Lynch (Labour) [72235] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many women and girls with an FGM protection order have applied for asylum in the UK as at July 2020.

Holly Lynch (Labour) [72236] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many women and girls with an FGM protection order have been refused asylum in the UK as at July 2020.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office are unable to state how many women and girls with an FGM protection order have applied for asylum and have been refused asylum in the UK as at July 2020 as this information is not held in a reportable format and easily aggregated.

The Home Office can state how many people have applied for asylum and have been refused asylum in the UK and can be found in the published immigration statistics March 2020 at Asy_D01 and Asy_D02 and can be broken down by gender:

<https://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/2020-07-10/72235/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-10/72236/>

Asylum: Housing

Claire Hanna (SDLP) [73993] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department have taken to prevent the spread of covid-19 in asylum seekers' accommodation.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office has been working with a Public Health England embed during the current crisis and we have put in place a number of measures to support people in the asylum system who are affected by the COVID-19 outbreak, including working closely with providers to make sure the most vulnerable people within the system receive the support they need.

In Initial Accommodation facilities, which tends to be hostel based, PHE Guidance recommends that separate rooms and segregation be provided for symptomatic people, or they should be moved to hotels. Our providers have configured their accommodation estate to meet this guidance.

In Dispersed Accommodation, which is houses or homes of multiple occupancy accommodating small numbers, Service Users have been provided guidance to ensure they socially distance or self isolate in line with the advice provided to the general public. Additionally, services providers have enhanced their contact management and wraparound services to ensure access to medical care, food packages and other essential items.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-14/73993/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Housing

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [73871] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the oral answer of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department of 13 July 2020 on Covid-19: Support for Asylum Seekers, Official Report, column 678, what her timescale is for the urgent review and report back by officials looking into adequacy of accommodation for asylum seekers in Glasgow; and whether that report will be published.

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [73872] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the oral answer of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department of 13 July 2020 on Covid-19: Support for Asylum Seekers, Official Report, column 678, whether the review and report back by officials on the adequacy of housing for asylum seekers in Glasgow will include (a) interviews and (b) consultation with (i) affected asylum seekers, (ii) refugee agencies in the city, (iii) Glasgow City Council, (iv) Glasgow Health and Social Care Partnership, (v) the Asylum health bridging team, (vi) Mears Group and (vii) hotel staff.

Reply from Chris Philp: There is constant monitoring of accommodation providers and formal governance in place, including quarterly Strategic Review Management Boards and monthly Contract Management Groups. Throughout COVID-19 officials have spoken daily with the providers and continue to have formal meetings once a week.

The accommodation provided is safe, habitable, fit for purpose and it is required to comply with the Decent Homes Standard in addition to standards outlined in relevant national or local housing legislation. If it is found that standards are not being met, appropriate action is taken to hold providers to account and resolve concerns.

Anyone receiving asylum support can contact the Advice, Issue Reporting and

Eligibility service, operated by Migrant Help. This is available 24-hours a day and I encourage people to use this to report any issue that will then be investigated.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-14/73871/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-14/73872/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-07-13/debates/D63C9367-2984-430E-B408-9EA337569080/Covid-19SupportForAsylumSeekers#contribution-D4938846-7EB7-4EAD-BFDF-01EF12178740>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Housing

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [73873] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when her Department will complete and publish the Safeguarding Framework for its asylum accommodation service and contract.

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [73874] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to introduce a Key Performance Indicator (KPI) on safeguarding and vulnerabilities in the asylum accommodation contracts and performance management.

Reply from Chris Philp: The safeguarding framework is a living document which is designed to develop and grow throughout the lifetime of the contracts. It is not a contract requirement but is designed to be an overarching set of principles which sit alongside the more formal contract requirements. There are no plans to publish it. The contracts are designed in a way that safeguarding elements are factored into several of the KPIs, a copy of the contract for Scotland can be found at

<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/a569f254-af0a-4ec8-a6a1-6622baa435ab>.

There are no current plans to introduce a safeguarding KPI although we will keep this under review.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-14/73873/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-14/73874/>

Asylum: Housing

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [74639] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the oral answer of the The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department of 13 July 2020 on Covid-19: Support for Asylum Seekers, Official Report, column 678, what the evidential basis was for her Department's conclusion that 109 people who might have been moved from the temporary serviced accommodation into the hotels were not moved as a consequence of vulnerability assessments; and what the criteria of those vulnerability assessments was.

Reply from Chris Philp: Prior to the moves into hotels Mears considered individuals' health records and a meeting took place with each service user.

Based on this, 102 (not 109 as stated in the question) service users were moved to alternative Mears accommodation, rather than hotels. All other service users were moved to hotels, where further health and welfare assessments were carried out, and some service users were subsequently moved to alternative dispersed accommodation.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-15/74639/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-07-13/debates/D63C9367-2984-430E-B408-9EA337569080/Covid-19SupportForAsylumSeekers#contribution-D4938846-7EB7-4EAD-BFDF-01EF12178740>

Repatriation

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [74732] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what guidance her Department has provided to the National Community Engagement team on advising people on voluntary repatriation.

Reply from Chris Philp: ... Guidance on voluntary return for Home Office staff is available here –

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/834061/voluntary-and-assisted-returns-v2.0.pdf.

The National Community Engagement Team has attended awareness sessions/workshops delivered by the Voluntary Returns Service

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-15/74732/>

Deportation: West Africa

Caroline Lucas (Green) [72194] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Answer of 9 October 2018 to Question 174681, Deportation West Africa, how many of the 60 individuals on board the charter flight bound for Nigeria and Ghana on 28 March 2017 which was prevented by protesters from leaving Stansted airport have since (a) been granted the right to remain in the UK, and on what basis; (b) been referred under the National Referral Mechanism for the identification of victims of trafficking have been granted the right to remain in the UK, and on what basis; (c) contacted the Windrush taskforce (d) pursued a civil claim against her Department for unlawful detention; and whether her Department has since settled any of those claims.

Reply from Chris Philp: Of the 60 individuals due to be removed on that flight;

1. Five have subsequently been granted the right to remain in the UK - two have been issued a residence card as a non-EEA national family member confirming a right to reside in accordance with EEA Treaty rights; three have been granted leave to remain on Human Rights grounds.
2. One has been referred under the National Referral Mechanism for the identification of victims of trafficking and granted leave to remain as a victim of trafficking.
3. None have contacted the Windrush Taskforce.
4. To obtain details of those that have pursued civil claims for unlawful detention would involve analysing detailed notes of each individual file and would result in a disproportionate cost to the department.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-10/72194/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-13/174681/>

Human Trafficking: Victims

Paul Girvan (DUP) [73053] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government will take to give victims of human trafficking immunity from crimes they were forced to commit whilst under the coercion of gangmasters.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Section 45 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 introduced a statutory defence for victims of modern slavery. The non-punishment principle is an integral part of the Government's response to safeguard victims of modern slavery who have been compelled to commit a crime, in the case of an adult or committed the crime as a direct result of being a victim, in the case of a child, at the hands of their exploiters

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-13/73053/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Immigration: EU Nationals

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL6519] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any new UK–EU arrangements relating to the welfare of immigrants have been put in place since the UK's withdrawal from the EU.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: EEA citizens, and their family members, resident in the UK by 31 December 2020 have until 30 June 2021 to apply for status under the EU Settlement Scheme. Those who obtain this status have secured their rights in UK law and so are able to access benefits and services in the UK on at least the same basis as they were before being granted that status. No-one's access to benefits is restricted or reduced by virtue of an application to the EU Settlement Scheme.

In the future points-based immigration system, EEA citizens coming to the UK will be subject to the same rules as non-EEA citizens, including in relation to access to benefits and services. This includes the same safeguards and exceptions for those in genuine need.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-06/HL6519/>

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

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

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-points-based-immigration-system-employer-information/the-uks-points-based-immigration-system-an-introduction-for-employers>

and

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/899755/UK_Points-Based_System_Further_Details_Web_Accessible.pdf

Asylum: Russia

Lord McInnes of Kilwinning (Conservative) [HL6494] To ask Her Majesty's Government what criteria they use to assess the risk to the lives of LGBT asylum seekers from Russia, and in particular the Chechen Republic.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: All asylum and human rights claims from LGBT persons from Russia are carefully considered on their individual merits in accordance with our international obligations. Each individual assessment is made against the background of the latest available country of origin information and any relevant caselaw.

The Home Office publishes Country Policy and Information Notes, which provide country of origin information, and analysis of this information, for use by Home Office decision makers assessing protection and human rights claims. Each Note provides information concerning the situation for a particular group of people in a particular country. They are published on the GOV.UK website. They are kept under

constant review and updated periodically.

Decision makers also have access to the latest available country information through an information request service for specific enquiries to deal with particular issues raised in individual claims

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-06/HL6494/>

Detention Centres: Risk Assessment

Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat) [HL6558] To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to the findings of the report by the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration Annual Inspection of 'Adults at Risk in Immigration Detention' (2018–19), published in April; and what actions they will make as a result of its findings.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration Annual Inspection of 'Adults at Risk in Immigration Detention' (2018–19) and Home Office response were published on 29 April 2020 and can be found at the links below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/annual-inspection-of-adults-at-risk-in-immigration-detention-2018-19>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/response-to-the-annual-inspection-of-adults-at-risk-in-immigration-detention>

As set out the Home Office has accepted, or partially accepted, seven of the ICIBI's eight recommendations:

- Continue to implement recommendations from previous related reports
- Agree a cross-government strategy to reduce the detained population
- Review Home Office guidance, processes and forms that relate to detention risk and vulnerability
- Review where the authority not to detain/release should sit and at what grade
- Produce an improvement plan for key stages of detention (prior to and during admission and once in detention)
- Review the 2016 PES to accompany AAR guidance

Analyse the treatment and conditions of detainees and Foreign National Offenders detained in prison

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-07/HL6558/>

Detention Centres: Coronavirus

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL6520] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many cases of COVID-19 have been recorded in UK immigration removal centres.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The safety and health of people who are detained are of the utmost importance.

As of 7 July 2020, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in immigration removal centres. Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been two confirmed cases of COVID-19 in individuals in detention, a third individual was also identified but after release from detention had been agreed. None of these individuals required hospital treatment.

The Home Office, its suppliers and NHS England healthcare providers in immigration removal centres are following all Public Health England guidance on COVID-19 for the management of COVID-19.

The Home Office is also taking proactive steps to monitor, manage and mitigate the threat of COVID-19 to staff and people who are detained and to reduce the

likelihood of the infection spreading. Guidance on managing these risks was implemented on 5 May 2020 and subsequently published on gov.uk on 5 June <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-immigration-removal-centres>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-06/HL6520/>

Isa Muazu

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL6515] To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will announce the results of their review into the deportation of Isa Muazu in 2013.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I am unable to comment on individual cases on the grounds of data protection principles and operational independence of the police and courts.

The Home Office will however always ensure that cases such as these are handled with extreme professionalism to ensure that decisions are lawfully made in the best interests of the British public.

All asylum and human rights claims are carefully considered on their individual merits in accordance with our international obligations. Each individual assessment is made against the background of the latest available country of origin information and any relevant caselaw.

The Home Office only seeks to return those whose claims have been unsuccessful and who, by definition, do not need our protection and are not at risk on return. We work closely with other countries to ensure people are returned safely and with dignity.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-06/HL6515/>

Asylum: Deportation

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL6517] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that asylum seekers deported by the UK have access to appropriate support in their destination countries.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Returning nationals are the responsibility of the State that they are returning to. Failed Asylum Seekers who choose to return voluntarily can access the Voluntary Returns Service, which can provide help on a case by case basis, offering guidance and practical support including reintegration funds.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-06/HL6517/>

Asylum: Deportation

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL6518] To ask Her Majesty's Government what information they share with the governments of destination countries for asylum seekers deported from the UK.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: When a Failed Asylum Seeker refuses to leave the UK voluntarily then administrative removal may be sought. Most receiving countries are notified of the potential return of their national if a travel document is required to facilitate the journey. Receiving countries have differing requirements for travel documentation. This is usually limited to basic personal information and supporting evidence such as a copy of a passport or birth certificate (if available) to confirm identity and nationality.

In accordance with our obligations under the Refugee Convention, EU and domestic law, we do not disclose information about an individual's asylum claim to

their home country or seek information in a way that could expose them, or any family who remain in that country, to serious risk. All claimants are made aware that we do not disclose, to their own country, that they have claimed asylum in the UK, but we may share some information, for example, to help obtain travel documentation if their claim is refused

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-06/HL6518/>

Press Releases

Priti Patel takes action to implement Windrush recommendations

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/priti-patel-takes-action-to-implement-windrush-recommendations>

Home Secretary announces details of the Hong Kong BN(O) Visa

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-announces-details-of-the-hong-kong-bno-visa>

First virtual citizenship ceremony welcomed by Home Office minister

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/first-virtual-citizenship-ceremony-welcomed-by-home-office-minister>

New Publications

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

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

Letter from Kevin Foster to Stuart McDonald regarding the standard of proof individuals must meet in order to qualify for compensation under the Windrush Compensation Scheme

<http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2020-0448/Letter from to Stuart McDonald MP Windrush Compensation Scheme.pdf>

Mental health and suicides amongst Polish men in Scotland 2020

<http://www.feniks.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Feniks-2020-Mental-health-and-suicides-among-Polish-men-in-Scotland.pdf?x83021>

News

UK unveils new special visa for Hong Kong's BNO holders

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-53503338>

Care organisations hit out at visa plan

<http://thirdforcenews.org.uk/tfn-news/care-organisations-hit-out-at-visa-plan>

Windrush scandal: Patel promises 'full' review of hostile environment policy

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-53489881>

Priti Patel promises 'compassionate' Home Office after Windrush scandal
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/jul/21/priti-patel-promises-compassionate-home-office-after-windrush-scandal>

All 35,000 Home Office civil servants to be taught history of migration after Windrush scandal
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/07/21/35000-home-office-civil-servants-taught-history-migration-windrush/>

Home Office staff forced to take course on race history
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/home-office-staff-forced-to-take-course-on-race-history-3g8hjcwvs>

Home Office urged to correct false slavery information in citizenship test
<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/jul/22/home-office-urged-to-correct-false-slavery-information-in-citizenship-test>

UK reveals details of special Hong Kong visa for overseas nationals
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jul/23/uk-reveals-details-of-special-hong-kong-visa-for-overseas-nationals>

Young Hong Kongers will need to prove dependency on parents as UK opens door to up to three million
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/07/22/young-hong-kongers-will-need-prove-dependency-parents-uk-opens/>

Surging cost of visa appointments in wake of coronavirus leaving families without legal documentation
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/uk-immigration-status-visa-centre-fees-increase-a9628816.html>

Channel migrants: Hundreds of boats stored in Dover
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-kent-53477253/>

Migrants intercepted in Channel bring year's total close to record 3,000
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/migrants-intercepted-in-channel-bring-year-s-total-close-to-record-3-000-0jsmdkwwl>

For migrants looking out across the Channel, only Britain will do
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/for-migrants-looking-out-across-the-channel-only-britain-will-do-zwjhhtjkr>

Home Office breaking law by leaving destitute asylum seekers homeless
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-asylum-seekers-housing-homeless-uk-a9632536.html>

Women seeking asylum left 'without basic support' during UK lockdown
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/jul/20/women-seeking-asylum-left-without-basic-support-during-uk-lockdown>

Starving and sleeping on the streets: The reality of life for women seeking asylum in lockdown Britain

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/coronavirus-impact-women-asylum-seekers-a9624576.html>

Asylum seeker to sue Home Office after falling ill with Covid-19

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/jul/21/asylum-seeker-sue-home-office-ill-covid-19-wakefield-centre>

Post-Brexit asylum can be managed, but only with goodwill and co-operation

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/post-brexit-asylum-can-be-managed-but-only-with-goodwill-and-co-operation-tbhb5075w>

Closure of Morton Hall detention centre

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/closure-of-morton-hall-detention-centre/>

Controversial immigration detention centre in Lincolnshire to close

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/jul/23/controversial-immigration-detention-centre-in-lincolnshire-to-close>

'Fighting to prove we're British'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-53477811/fighting-to-prove-we-re-british>

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Community Relations

News

Black Lives Matter: Mixed-race people share their stories

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-england-53472395/black-lives-matter-mixed-race-people-share-their-stories>

'We're far from home, but here we have a little corner to ourselves': Latin Village protesters call for market to be reopened

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/latin-village-seven-sisters-indoor-market-london-colombia-elephant-castle-a9637001.html>

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Equality

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-22303 Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat): Tackling Mental Health Stigma in the BAME Community – That the Parliament considers that the BAME community faces vast inequalities regarding mental health; further considers that members of the BAME community often face multi-layered levels of discrimination that not only exacerbates mental health problems but can make it harder to seek assistance; condemns all forms of racial discrimination and inequality; welcomes the work of charities such as See Me, and acknowledges that the charity seeks to end mental health discrimination through

raising awareness and offering support to victims of mental health discrimination.
<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-22303>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Topical Questions: Equalities

Marsha De Cordova (Labour): Last week, the Government published details of the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities and announced its chair, who has previously said: “Much of the supposed evidence of institutional racism is flimsy.”

Yet we know that black workers with degrees earn on average 23% less than their white counterparts. The need for action is urgent. Inaction is costing members of the black, Asian and minority ethnic communities both their livelihoods and their lives. What assurances can the Minister give the House today that her Government are serious about finally ending institutional racism?

Reply from the Minister for Equalities (Kemi Badenoch): It is important to clarify that Dr Sewell who chairs the commission has not denied that structural racism exists. However, he understands that disparities have a variety of causes, such as class and geography, which the commission will be examining in closer detail, and it is the findings of this commission that will address the issues that the hon. Lady rightly says are urgent and need addressing.

Claire Coutinho (Conservative): May I welcome the race disparity commission, and as someone who has worked alongside many brilliant organisations to root out entrenched disadvantage, can my hon. Friend assure me that the work being done will build the evidence base so that the policy is based on outcomes, not outrage? [905193]

Reply from Kemi Badenoch: I absolutely agree with my hon. Friend. The national conversation on race has been distorted by some seeking to exploit racial tensions without any recognition of the progress that we have made as a multi-ethnic democracy and society. Guided by the evidence, this commission will improve and inform the conversation. It will use data to look at complex and interdependent factors in the round to better understand why disparities exist and what action can be taken to reduce them. The commission will be producing evidence-based recommendations.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-07-22/debates/790CA0D7-6FCD-4374-B32E-BF71CF2F7DE5/TopicalQuestions#contribution-A9A2E057-411B-4E24-BAB2-733D8BB0C4FE>

Racial Injustices: Race Disparity Unit

Naz Shah (Labour): What discussions she has had with Cabinet colleagues on steps that the Race Disparity Unit is taking to help tackle racial injustices in society. [905158]

Reply from the Minister for Equalities (Kemi Badenoch): The Government are committed to tackling racial disparities and levelling up the country, which is why the Race Disparity Unit continues to work across Departments and their agencies to identify and address adverse variances in outcomes across education, healthcare, criminal justice and the economy. It is also why the Prime Minister announced the new Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities, the terms of reference and membership of which were announced last week.

Naz Shah: The Baroness McGregor-Smith review in 2017 found that the economy could be boosted by £24 billion if BAME disparities were eradicated. I am sure the Minister would agree that that boost would be really helpful to the economy right now. Will she tell me explicitly what the Government and her Department are doing directly to tackle structural racism in the workplace?

Reply from Kemi Badenoch: The hon. Lady references Baroness McGregor-Smith's review, which was an industry-led review with recommendations that were mostly for the private sector to consider. Following that review, we ran a consultation on ethnicity pay reporting and received more than 300 detailed responses, which we are currently analysing. This is one of the things that the commission will look into: it will look at a broad range of issues and some of the findings will help to address the issues that the hon. Lady has just raised.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-07-22/debates/B805DAB8-E8A8-498A-84B2-27B5BC8D6DEB/RacialInjusticesRaceDisparityUnit>

The Review referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/594336/race-in-workplace-mcgregor-smith-review.pdf

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Personal Income: Ethnic Groups

Edward Davey (Liberal Democrat) [65905] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what steps she is taking to tackle the household income inequality between different ethnic groups in the UK; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Will Quince: Our current focus is on supporting people financially during these unprecedented times. Our long-term ambition remains to build an economy that supports employment, ensuring opportunities for all to enter and progress in work where possible, whilst providing a strong welfare safety net for those that need it. This approach is based on clear evidence about the importance of work in tackling poverty now and in the future. Working age adults in households where all adults are in work are six times less likely to be in absolute poverty (after housing costs) than adults in a household where nobody works.

We are also committed to levelling up skills and opportunities across the country. Using latest data from the Race Disparity Audit and DWP's own analysis, we continue to help those under-represented in the labour market and are also investing £90m towards activities that address disparities in youth unemployment.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-29/65905/>

Stop and Search: Ethnic Groups

Harriet Harman (Labour) [74424] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that stop and search is not disproportionately affecting (a) black men and (b) BAME communities.

Reply from Kit Malthouse: The Government is clear no one should be stopped and searched based on race or ethnicity and there are safeguards to ensure that this does not happen. These include Code A of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 which sets out the statutory requirements for conducting a search, the use of body worn video to increase accountability, and HMICFRS inspections where force level disparities are examined.

Last year, the Home Office asked the College of Policing to update its guidance on stop and search to provide better practice to forces on community engagement and scrutiny. The Home Office also publishes extensive data on police powers, including the use of stop and search, which allows Police and Crime Commissioners and others to hold forces to account. The latest publication is here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-powers-and-procedures-england-and-wales-year-ending-31-march-2019>.

Teachers: Ethnic Groups

Harriet Harman (Labour) [74421] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps his Department is taking to recruit more teachers from Black, Asian and ethnic minority backgrounds.

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

This commitment to increasing teacher diversity was made alongside 10 co-signatories from the sector (including unions and grassroots organisations) who set out their own individual commitments.

The Department has been making progress against its commitments, including:

- Providing £2m of funding to nationwide Equality and Diversity regional 'hubs' to support aspiring leaders into headship. The hubs focus on providing coaching and mentoring to increase representation across all protected characteristics in senior leadership roles.
- Reflecting the importance of diversity in the Department's Recruitment and Retention Strategy published in January 2019 to ensure people from all backgrounds are supported and that barriers to their progression are removed.
- Ensuring that recruitment for National Professional Qualifications (NPQs) is representative through key performance indicators
- Continuing to engage with signatories of the statement, including through holding a roundtable to gather progress updates and showcase best practice in July 2019.

We have made significant progress in improving the diversity of postgraduate initial teacher training participants. Those belonging to a BAME group (i.e. any non-White ethnicity) made up 19% of all postgraduate entrants in 2019/20, up from 18% last year and 14% in 2015/16.

The following four questions all received the same answer

GCE A-Level: Ethnic Groups

Helen Hayes (Labour) [74685] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment his Department has made of the difference between (a) predicted and (b) achieved A-level grades by ethnicity in each year since 2015.

GCSE and GCE A-Level

Helen Hayes (Labour) [74686] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment his Department has made of the adequacy of published data collection on achieved grades against predicted grades for (a) GCSEs and (b) A-Levels by demographic group; and what steps his Department is taking to improve such data collection increase transparency to combat unconscious bias.

Assessments

Helen Hayes (Labour) [74687] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what discussions his Department has had with UCAS on the publication of historic data tables of achieved grades against predicted grades by demographic group.

GCE A-level

Helen Hayes (Labour) [74688] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what recent discussions his Department has had with UCAS on the (a) role of unconscious bias in predicted A-Level grades and (b) potential effect of unconscious bias in those grades on

trends in admissions statistics in relation to (i) socio-economic background, (ii) race, (iii) gender and (iv) disability.

Reply from Michelle Donelan: The data that has been collected by UCAS on the relationship between predicted and achieved grades relates only to those who apply to higher education using UCAS.

There is no published data on predictions for GCSEs.

UCAS published a report on the factors that are associated with the differences in predicted and achieved A level attainment in 2016 examining the predictions and results for 600,000 English 18 year old applicants between 2010 and 2015 with three or more A levels.

The report is available here:

www.ucas.com/file/71796/download?token=D4uuSzur.

Black applicants were proportionally 19% more likely to be overpredicted compared with White applicants. Disadvantaged applicants (measured using POLAR) were 5% more likely to be overpredicted compared with the most advantaged applicants. We have not had discussions with UCAS about historic data tables of achieved grades against predicted grades by demographic group. UCAS have published data on the differences in predicted and achieved A level points for 18 year old UK applicants with at least three predicted A level grades. The data is available from 2010 and by gender, domicile, disadvantage and ethnicity.

In the 2019 application cycle, of UK 18 year old applicants with at least three predicted A levels who were accepted onto a place, 79% of predicted grades were overpredicted and 8% underpredicted. The data is available here:

www.ucas.com/data-and-analysis/undergraduate-statistics-and-reports/ucas-undergraduate-sector-level-end-cycle-data-resources-2019

We have had no recent discussions with UCAS about the potential role of unconscious bias in predicted A level grades, as this would not be a matter they could control. We have had extensive discussions with Ofqual about this matter and Ofqual publications set out how it has been taken into account in the development of the calculated grades being awarded this summer.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-15/74685/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-15/74686/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-15/74687/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-15/74688/>

GCE A-level: Ethnic Groups

Neil O'Brien (Conservative) [73081] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many and 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 AAB or better at A level in each of the last 20 years.

Reply from Nick Gibb: The proportion of students that achieved AAB or better at A level, broken down by ethnicity, is available for 2018/19 from the file '2019_REVISED_Performance_measures_by_characteristics' on the 'Underlying data: 2019 revised 16 to 18 results csv' link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/a-level-and-other-16-to-18-results-2018-to-2019-revised>.

Similarly, data is available from the underlying data produced for the equivalent publications in 2016/17 and 2017/18 as set out below:

'2018_REVISIED_Performance_measures_by_characteristics' from the underlying data available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/a-level-and-other-16-to-18-results-2017-to-2018-revised>.

'SFR03_2018_Performance_measures_by_characteristics' from the underlying data available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/a-level-and-other-16-to-18-results-2016-to-2017-revised>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-13/73081/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Poverty: Ethnic Groups

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL6869] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by the Social Metrics Commission Measuring Poverty 2020, published on 1 July, which suggests that BAME households are more likely to live in poverty.

Reply from Baroness Stedman-Scott: The Government's current focus is on supporting people financially during these unprecedented times. Our long-term ambition remains to build an economy that supports employment, ensuring opportunities for all to enter and progress in work where possible, whilst providing a strong welfare safety net for those that need it.

This approach is based on clear evidence about the importance of work in tackling poverty now and in the future. Working age adults in households where all adults are in work are six times less likely to be in absolute poverty (after housing costs) than adults in a household where nobody works.

We are also committed to levelling up skills and opportunities across the country. Using latest data from the Race Disparity Audit, and the Department for Work and Pensions' own analysis, we continue to help those underrepresented in the labour market and are also investing £90 million towards activities that address disparities in youth unemployment.

On 8 July, the Chancellor announced a series of employment support measures, with a particular focus on young people, who we know are two and a half times as likely to work in a sector that has been closed. This includes a new Kickstart Scheme in Great Britain, a £2 billion fund to create hundreds of thousands of high quality six-month work placements aimed at those aged 16-24 who are on Universal Credit and are deemed to be at risk of long term unemployment from Autumn this year.

As the economic outlook becomes clearer, we will adapt our offer to ensure we are targeting our support at the right people. We have a flexible and agile package we will continue to tailor our response as we continue to learn more about the impact on different sectors of the economy and different parts of the country.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-14/HL6869/>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://socialmetricscommission.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Measuring-Poverty-2020-Web.pdf>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

Local Government: Ethnic Groups

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL6642] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made, if any, of research published on 8 July from the University of Manchester suggesting that BAME communities are underrepresented in local government.

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: The government has read the report with interest. We are keen to promote diversity and make sure that everyone has the chance to succeed. Councils are independent employers and Councillors are democratically-elected. Government rightly has no role in any staffing decisions or electoral processes. However, we would encourage all councils to endeavour to build workforces, and encourage political parties to choose candidates that are diverse, represent the communities they serve and address any under-representations. We are aware that the LGA want to encourage more people to stand as councillors as part of their 'Be a Councillor' campaign. The LGA agree that we need a numerous and diverse set of candidates and councillors to represent our numerous and diverse local communities, ensuring that local decision making is robust and well-informed.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-08/HL6642/>

The research referred to above can be read at
<http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=49921>

Air Pollution: Ethnic Groups

Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick (Non-affiliated) [HL6574] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the extent to which poor air quality may disproportionately affect BAME communities.

Reply from Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: In 2006 the Government published a report on air quality and social deprivation in the UK. This highlighted that there are inequalities in the distribution of pollutant concentrations. More recently, as part of the UK Plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), the Government reviewed evidence investigating the inequalities in the distributional impact of poor air quality. The published technical report highlights that air quality inequalities exist mostly in urban areas. Furthermore, the report references research conducted by Fecht et al (2015) that demonstrates that higher concentrations of NO₂ and coarse particulate matter (PM₁₀) have been observed in ethnically diverse neighbourhoods.

The Government is taking a proactive approach to tackling air pollution concentrations through our NO₂ plan and Clean Air Strategy and any actions that focus on reducing the highest concentrations of harmful pollutants will disproportionately benefit ethnically diverse communities if they are located in these areas.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-07/HL6574/>

The reports referred to above can be read at
https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/assets/documents/reports/cat09/0701110944_AQinequalitiesFNL_AEAT_0506.pdf

and
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/632916/air-quality-plan-technical-report.pdf

and

<https://www.camden.gov.uk/documents/20142/18676139/Jason+Strelitz+Appendix+20.pdf/cad3d506-7281-6abb-aa7f-c1155fa00f0b>

Architecture: Ethnic Groups

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL6530] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking, if any, to support BAME-led architecture practices and BAME built environment professionals in their plans for the economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reply from Lord Callanan: We are continuing to work across Government and with a wide array of stakeholders including the Royal Institute of British Architects, to ensure that diverse voices are heard in the policy making process, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are supporting the construction sector by helping it drive increased investment in skills development, adopt a more strategic and co-ordinated approach to recruitment, and equip workers with the skills they need for the future.

Additionally, the Professional and Business Services Council's Skills and Inclusion Working Group is engaged on access to skills to support business growth in the industry, as well as considering how to increase social mobility within the sector.

The group have convened a sub-group to consider immediate emerging skills issues that have arisen as a result of COVID-19.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-06/HL6530/>

Sports: Equality

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL6814] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had, if any, with (1) Sport England, and (2) UK Sport, about ethnic diversity within elite sports governance.

Reply from Baroenss Barran: The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport talks regularly to both Sport England and UK Sport about all aspects of diversity, including ethnic diversity. It welcomes the joint announcement made by both organisations on 13 July 2020 announcing a review of the Code for Sports Governance. This will include a substantive review of the elements of the Code that support equality, diversity and inclusion, particularly those that focus on the boards of sporting organisations. The aim will be to ensure the greater representation of people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds, disabled people or people with a long-term health condition, as well as female representation.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-13/HL6814/>

Education: Travellers

Baroness Whitaker (Labour) [HL6546] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their expected timetable for implementing the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers' recommendation of 1 July that the governments of Member States should include Roma and Travellers' history in school curricula and teaching materials.

Reply from Baroness Berridge: The history curriculum gives teachers and schools the freedom to use specific examples from history to teach pupils about the history of Britain and the wider world.

Gypsy, Roma and Travellers' history can already be taught as part of schools offering a broad and balanced curriculum. Resources are available from experts in the communities themselves and bodies such as the Historical Association.

As part of Holocaust education, a wide array of resources are available to help teachers explain the persecution by the Nazis of different groups of people. The

Holocaust Educational Trust's Lessons from Auschwitz programme and the knowledge and training provided by the Centre for Holocaust Education include information and resources to support an understanding of the Holocaust and the Nazi's persecution of other non-Jewish groups including the genocide of the Roma.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-06/HL6546/>

The recommendation referred to above can be read at

https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectId=09000016809ee48c

News

How universities can do more for the wellbeing of black students – and to close the attainment gap

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/education-and-careers/2020/07/22/universities-must-do-address-wellbeing-black-students-close/>

Gloucestershire race equality group aims for 'fundamental change'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-gloucestershire-53473632>

'We want more BAME women in surfing'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-england-devon-53484729/we-want-more-bame-women-in-surfing>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Hate Crimes: South and East Asian Communities

Sarah Owen (Labour): What steps the Government are taking to tackle the level of reported hate crime against south and east Asian communities during the covid-19 pandemic. [905151]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Victoria Atkins): We have heard these concerns from the police and charities, and we are working with them to ensure that police forces are reassuring affected communities and encouraging reporting of hate crimes during the pandemic. The Government are clear that there is no place for hate crime in modern Britain. These crimes destabilise our communities and there are no excuses for them.

Sarah Owen: A petition recently created by Viv Yau has nearly 3,000 signatures already. It calls on the UK Government and media outlets to stop using stock imagery of south-east and east Asian people when talking about covid-19. The disproportionate use of images of Chinese, south-east and east Asian people in masks during the pandemic perpetuates the notion that all of us carry the virus, and it plays a significant role in the recent trebling of racist attacks, stereotyping and abuse. Will the Minister commit to working with Government and public bodies on the use of these images, and meet me to discuss the increase in hate crime during the pandemic?

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The perpetrators of hate crimes targeting south and east Asian communities, and others, in relation to covid-19 are being punished. We

know from the Crown Prosecution Service that it has prosecuted a number of cases involving racist abuse on the basis of perceived Chinese ethnicity. But of course the Government are always willing to work with interested parties to ensure that we are stopping hate crime, and I would be happy to meet the hon. Lady to do that.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-07-22/debates/914E881A-1E4C-453A-9E69-4E4750E29E1C/HateCrimesSouthAndEastAsianCommunities>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

The following three questions all received the same answer

Racial Discrimination

Marsha De Cordova (Labour) [69675] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, when she plans to announce the chair of the Government's cross-governmental commission on racism and discrimination announced on 14 June 2020.

Marsha De Cordova (Labour) [69676] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, who will comprise the membership of the Government's cross-governmental commission to look at racism and discrimination announced on 14 June 2020.

Marsha De Cordova (Labour) [69677] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what the terms of reference are for the Government's cross-governmental commission to look at racism and discrimination announced on 14 June 2020.

Reply from Kemi Badenoch: I refer the hon. Member to the [Written Ministerial Statement](#) made by the Prime Minister on 16 July 2020.

The new Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities announced on 14 June will examine continuing race and ethnic disparities in Britain. The aim of the Commission is to set out a new, positive agenda for change - balancing the needs of individuals, communities and society, maximising opportunities and ensuring fairness for all. The Commission will be chaired by Dr Tony Sewell (CBE).

A list of commissioners and the Commission's ambitious Terms of Reference, has been placed in the library of both Houses. Commissioners will be supported by a secretariat in the Cabinet Office Race Disparity Unit and will submit their report by the end of the year.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-06/69675/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-06/69676/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-06/69677/>

Metropolitan Police: Racial Discrimination

Harriet Harman (Labour) [75980] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to provide racial bias training to every police officer in the Metropolitan Police Service.

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

The College of Policing, which sets and maintains training standards for policing, published the Code of Ethics in 2014. This includes a set of principles for policing, including that all officers and staff should take active steps to oppose discrimination and make their decisions free from prejudice. This is a cornerstone of police training

and development.

The College of Policing's foundation training for all those entering the service includes substantial coverage of police ethics and self-understanding, including the effects of personal conscious and unconscious bias. Initial training covers hate crimes, ethics and equalities, and policing without bias.

Forces also provide local training and development at several different levels ranging from initial entry, leadership and ongoing development to reflect and reinforce organisational values.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-17/75980/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Education: Racial Discrimination

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL6587] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had, if any, with Universities UK about combating racism in medical schools.

Reply from Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: Racism is abhorrent and we all have a part to play in combating it, in higher education and more widely.

Universities have a responsibility to ensure they provide a safe and inclusive environment for all staff and students. The government expects institutions to take their responsibilities, including those under the Equality Act (2010), seriously and to have in place appropriate policies and procedures to tackle racism.

The government continues to work with Universities UK (UUK) to support work on implementing its 'Changing the Culture' framework.

UUK has an advisory group to tackle racial harassment in higher education institutions, chaired by Professor David Richardson, and in March announced the appointment of independent external advisers to strengthen the work of this group. My hon. Friend, the Minister of State for Universities, wrote to Professor Richardson in April to thank him for his continued work to address racial harassment in higher education and to express her interest in the outcomes of the advisory group's work. In addition, officials at the Department for Education regularly meet UUK to discuss progress on tackling these important issues.

Furthermore, the British Medical Association has guidance, support, and information on discrimination and harassment in the medical profession, which covers racial harassment in medical schools; this is available on their website at

www.bma.org.uk/advice-and-support/discrimination-and-harassment.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-07/HL6587/>

News

Free speech row over new hate crime bill in Scotland

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-53526843>

Actors could end up in dock under new Scots hate crime law, experts warn

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/actors-could-end-dock-under-new-scots-hate-crime-law-experts-warn-2923964>

SNP's hate crime bill poses 'grave threat' to the freedom of the press and risks 'society of fear'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/07/24/snps-hate-crime-bill-poses-grave-threat-freedom-press-risks/>

Anti-Semitism: Labour pays damages for 'hurt' to whistleblowers

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-53489611>

Corbyn: Apology and compensation to Labour's anti-Semitism whistleblowers 'disappointing' and 'political'

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/18599470.corbyn-apology-compensation-labours-anti-semitism-whistleblowers-disappointing-political/>

Labour pays out six-figure sum and apologises in antisemitism row

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/jul/22/labour-pays-out-six-figure-sum-and-apologises-in-antisemitism-row>

Antisemitism settlement plunges Labour party into civil war

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/jul/22/antisemitism-labour-settlement-plunges-party-into-civil-war>

Labour to pay 'substantial damages' to antisemitism whistleblowers

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/labour-antisemitism-whistleblowers-pay-damages-panorama-a9631681.html>

Jeremy Corbyn faces legal action over Labour antisemitism scandal as Keir Starmer declares party to be 'under new management'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/jeremy-corbyn-antisemitism-labour-party-keir-starmer-damages-whistleblower-a9633086.html>

Jeremy Corbyn criticises Keir Starmer over damages for Labour antisemitism whistleblowers

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/jeremy-corbyn-labour-antisemitism-keir-starmer-panorama-bbc-a9632036.html>

Jeremy Corbyn faces legal action over criticism of Labour antisemitism apology

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/labour-party-pays-out-200-000-over-antisemitism-defamation-cases-bp0hlzrc7>

GMP officer's belongings vandalised with swastika

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-53467645>

Lecturer who said Jewish people were clever fired after 'racism' storm

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/07/21/positive-stereotypes-still-racist-tribunal-rules/>

There's a hidden epidemic of racism in UK schools – but it's finally coming to light

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/jul/22/racism-uk-schools-teenager>

The shocking truth of racism in British schools

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/audio/2020/jul/23/the-shocking-truth-of-racism-in-british-schools>

Reliving experiences of racism in UK education

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2020/jul/23/reliving-experiences-of-racism-in-uk-education>

'Racism is killing our children': Gee Walker on the murder of her beloved son Anthony

<https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2020/jul/20/racism-is-killing-our-children-gee-walker-on-the-of-her-beloved-son-anthony>

Black Lives Matter 'not just a fleeting moment'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-essex-53406040>

Searching for my slave roots

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/extra/3k9u8lh178/Searching_for_my_slave_roots

Glasgow police appeal after racist George Square assault

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/crime/glasgow-police-appeal-after-racist-george-square-assault-2922106>

Wiley dropped by management over anti-Semitic posts

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-53536471>

Wiley dropped by management over anti-Semitism accusations

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18606984.wiley-dropped-management-anti-semitism-accusations/>

Musicians and politicians condemn 'appalling' tweets by Grime artist Wiley

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18607458.musicians-politicians-condemn-appalling-tweets-grime-artist-wiley/>

Racist fans not welcome here — Rangers' Stewart Robertson

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/racist-fans-not-welcome-here-rangers-stewart-robertson-f77lt0txh>

Police investigate racist abuse against Rangers striker Alfredo Morelos

<https://www.scotsman.com/sport/football/police-investigate-racist-abuse-against-rangers-striker-alfredo-morelos-2917976>

Police investigate racist abuse of Birmingham teenager Jude Bellingham

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/police-investigate-racist-abuse-of-birmingham-teenager-jude-bellingham-fsdclp509>

Police open inquiry into racist abuse sent to Jofra Archer

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/police-open-inquiry-into-racist-abuse-sent-to-jofra-archer-kkxlw3kcd>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

New Publication

Recorded Crime in Scotland: June 2020

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

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Death Certificates: Ethnic Groups

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [73890] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if he will make it his policy that ethnic information should be included on death certificates.

Reply from Nadine Dorries: The recent Public Health England report 'Beyond the Data: Understanding the impact of COVID-19 on BAME groups' recommended the mandatory collection of ethnicity data at death certification. How to take this forward is being considered by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Equalities (Kemi Badenoch MP) as part of the wider work she is leading to improve the quality of data on ethnic disparities and COVID-19.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-14/73890/>

The report referred to above can be read at

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

Religion: Education

Yasmin Qureshi (Labour) [75997] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what level of religious education is legally required to have been achieved by the time a student reaches 16 at (a) maintained and (b) academic schools.

Reply from Nick Gibb: State-funded schools in England have a duty to teach religious education (RE) to all pupils aged 5 to 18. While academies, free schools and most maintained schools designated as having a religious character may design and follow their own curriculum, all other maintained schools must follow their area's locally agreed syllabus for RE.

A locally agreed syllabus sets out what pupils should be taught and may include the expected standards of pupils' performance at different stages. Legislation requires that every agreed syllabus must reflect 'that the religious traditions of Great Britain are in the main Christian, while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain'.

Neither legislation nor academies' funding agreements prescribe how much time should be devoted to RE or how it should be provided. However, we would expect an academy to have a plan or scheme of work which demonstrates how provision across the year groups is structured to ensure that all pupils receive RE which matches the legal requirement for an agreed syllabus as set out above.

Although not mandatory for all schools, teaching an accredited religious studies qualification at key stage 4 may be required by a locally agreed syllabus; and many schools teach the religious studies GCSE. The Department has set out the

educational outcomes and content coverage required for GCSE specifications in this subject, which can be found at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-religious-studies.

Where key stage 4 pupils do not take a religious studies qualification, the requirement to teach religious education still applies.

Department for Education guidance on religious education for maintained schools is at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/religious-education-guidance-in-english-schools-non-statutory-guidance-2010

and for academies and free schools at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/re-and-collective-worship-in-academies-and-free-schools/religious-education-re-and-collective-worship-in-academies-and-free-schools.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-17/75997/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Female Genital Mutilation: Family Proceedings

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL6589] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many legal challenges they have pursued in relation to the deportation of girls at risk of female genital mutilation in the Family Court in each of the last five years.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The SSHD's role in family court proceedings which concern female genital mutilation (FGM) is limited. Often the SSHD is joined to proceedings in the Family Court so that she can be asked to disclose Home Office documents in those proceedings.

The function of deciding whether the SSHD has acted lawfully in refusing an asylum claim raising FGM issues or indeed in setting removal directions for an individual whose asylum claim has been refused will normally lie with First Tier Tribunal and Upper Tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber).

The SSHD brought an appeal in the case of A (A child) solely to determine a point of law, namely to ascertain the role of the Family Court in assessing the risk of FGM in the country of return, where that risk had already been assessed by the SSHD with all appeals dismissed by the immigration courts, and permission for judicial review refused.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-07/HL6589/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Female Genital Mutilation: Children

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL6591] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 16 March (HL2071), whether they will now answer the question put, namely, how many reports of cases of female genital mutilation, or suspected female genital mutilation, they have received under the mandatory reporting for under-18s duty in the Serious Crime Act 2015 since that Act received Royal Assent.

Female Genital Mutilation

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL6592] To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures are in place to monitor and assess the effectiveness of the Mandatory Reporting of Female Genital Mutilation duty, which came into force on 31 October 2015.

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. On 31 October 2015 the Government introduced an FGM mandatory reporting duty requiring professionals to report all 'known' cases of FGM in under 18s to the police.

Reports under the mandatory reporting duty are made to the police, rather than to the Home Office. Previously, we did not collect data on the number of FGM cases recorded under the duty. However, to improve understanding of the prevalence of 'honour-based' abuse, including FGM, the Government amended the police Annual Data Requirement to require police forces, from April 2019, to record where a crime has been committed in the context of preserving the 'honour' of a family or community. The collection includes, but is not limited to, crimes of FGM. This new collection is also capturing offences of FGM which are reported to the police under the mandatory reporting duty. Subject to data quality checks, we expect the first dataset under this new mandatory ADR collection to be published by autumn 2020. The Home Office keeps the legislation relating to FGM under review, including through discussion with statutory partners and other stakeholders.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-07/HL6591/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-07/HL6592/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-02/HL2071/>

Press Release

Prime Minister: Union stronger than ever

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-union-stronger-than-ever>

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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 Oral Answers

Covid-19: BAME Communities

Stephen Morgan (Labour) What steps her Department has taken to help tackle the disproportionate effect of the covid-19 outbreak on black, Asian and minority ethnic communities. [905149]

Felicity Buchan (Conservative); What steps the Equality Hub is taking to better understand the effect of the covid-19 outbreak on black and minority ethnic people. [905155]

Reply from the Minister for Equalities (Kemi Badenoch): We are concerned that covid-19 is disproportionately impacting ethnic minority communities, which is why the Government have put in place measures to reduce the spread of the virus, especially for people who may be at higher risk. In addition to a raft of specific targeted interventions, I am working with the Race Disparity Unit and the Department of Health and Social Care to act on the findings of the Public Health England review into disparities in risks and outcomes of covid-19. That work will enable us to take appropriate, evidence-based action to address the highlighted disparities.

Stephen Morgan: In the light of the latest evidence from the TUC on racism and risk in the workplace, what steps will the Minister take to tackle the entrenched discrimination faced by black, Asian and minority ethnic people at work?

Reply from Kemi Badenoch: The Government are doing all they can to address racial disparities across all sectors. The hon. Gentleman may be aware of the commission that the Prime Minister has set up, with the commissioners announced last week, which will look at continued disparities across the board, including in the workplace.

Felicity Buchan: My constituency of Kensington has a substantial BAME population. Can my hon. Friend reassure me that her follow-up work on the PHE report will take into account how comorbidities and occupations affect the outcomes of coronavirus?

Reply from Kemi Badenoch: My hon. Friend is completely right. It is important to remember that the PHE review findings did not take into account comorbidities or other factors such as occupations. I agree with her that it is imperative for us to understand the key drivers of these disparities, the relationships between the risk factors and what we can do to close the gap in the evidence that the review highlighted.

Caroline Nokes (Conservative): The recommendations in the Marmot review and the Marmot review 10 years on would be a good place to start when addressing health inequalities impacting BAME communities. Is 10 years enough time to consider the recommendations of the original review, and how long will it be before we see the recommendations of either implemented?

Reply from Kemi Badenoch: I had a meeting with Professor Marmot just last month, and we discussed the recommendations of his review. If my right hon. Friend

has seen the report, she will know that many of the recommendations are at a very high level. For instance, the first recommendation says that we should give every child the best start in life. I am sure that that was something she took forward when she was a Minister. This Government believe that it is important, and it is reflected in all our policies across education and communities.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-07-22/debates/DAAAE4A0-D91C-4B6E-8C24-89A963FD78FA/Covid-19BAMECommunities>

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

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

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

<http://www.instituteofhealthequity.org/resources-reports/fair-society-healthy-lives-the-marmot-review/fair-society-healthy-lives-full-report-pdf.pdf>

The Marmot Review 10 Years On, referred to above, can be read at

<http://www.instituteofhealthequity.org/resources-reports/marmot-review-10-years-on/the-marmot-review-10-years-on-full-report.pdf>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups

Andrew Mitchell (Conservative) [54860] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, with reference to the report published by Public Health England on 2 June 2020 entitled Disparities in the risk and outcomes of covid-19, what steps he is taking to increase protections for BAME communities against covid-19.

Reply from Jo Churchill: The Minister for Equalities is working with the Race Disparity Unit and the Department for Health and Social Care to carry forward work to better understand the key drivers of the disparities outlined in the Public Health England report and the relationship between the risk factors. The terms of reference for this work were announced by the Minister on 4 June.

The terms of reference for this work can be accessed from the following link:

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-04/54860/>

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

Ethnic Groups: Coronavirus

Afzal Khan (Labour) [69665] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what steps she is taking to ensure BAME women are not disproportionately affected by the covid-19 outbreak.

Reply from Kemi Badenoch: This Government is working to support all people through COVID-19, including BAME women. Guided by medical and scientific expertise, we have implemented specific measures to reduce the spread of the virus in all communities for everyone including women from BAME backgrounds. This Government has taken unprecedented steps to support lives and livelihoods, including increasing the generosity of Universal Credit, introducing the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and Self-Employment Income Support Scheme, and made changes to ensure women do not miss out on parental leave and childcare support.

We continue to engage with women's charities both local and national, and have made available an additional £76 million announced in May, to support survivors of domestic abuse, sexual violence, modern slavery, and vulnerable children and their families.

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. I am now leading further work to build on this by 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, for BAME men and women. This work is supported by the Race Disparity Unit in the Cabinet Office. The recommendations in the second PHE report "Beyond the data: Understanding the impact of COVID-19 on BAME groups" published on 16 June are also being taken forward as part of the terms of reference announced by myself on 4 June.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-06/69665/>

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

and

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 and Gender

Alberto Costa (Conservative) [37916] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to collect data on the impact of covid-19 on different (a) genders and (b) ethnicities.

Reply from Jo Churchill: Public Health England has established surveillance systems to collect and analyse data on COVID-19 infection by demographic characteristics including gender.

The number of deaths with confirmed COVID-19 by age and gender can be viewed on the National COVID-19 Weekly Summary Report at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-covid-19-surveillance-reports>

NHS England and NHS Improvement lead on reporting deaths with confirmed COVID-19 in hospital. They publish a daily summary that includes a breakdown by ethnicity. These are updated weekly and can be viewed at the following link:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-daily-deaths/>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-20/37916/>

Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups

Alison Thewliss (SNP) [56032] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, pursuant to the Answer of 8 June 2020 to Question 53466 on Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups, when he plans to publish the (a) evidence submitted to and b) recommendations of the Covid 19 Review of Disparities in Risks and Outcomes.

Reply from Jo Churchill: No representations were sought or received by Public Health England for their epidemiological report entitled Covid-19: review of disparities in risks and outcomes, published on 2 June 2020.

Alongside the epidemiological review, Professor Fenton undertook a rapid evidence review and external stakeholder engagement with a significant number of individuals and organisations within black, Asian and ethnic minority communities, to hear their views, concerns and ideas about the impact of COVID-19 on their communities. The results of that work have now been published and will inform the

government's next steps being taken forward by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Equalities (Kemi Badenoch MP).

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-08/56032/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-02/53466/>

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

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL6588] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessments they have made, if any, of University College London's ongoing Covid-19 Social Study that suggests that levels of depression and anxiety have been higher amongst BAME communities during lockdown.

Reply from Lord Bethell: Monitoring and tracking the impact of COVID-19 on people's mental health is a key part of the overall national response to the pandemic. We are taking seriously the findings from the ongoing University College London study, and the Public Health England report on the impact of COVID-19 on black, Asian and minority ethnic communities.

We are working to understand the key drivers of the disparities identified and the relationships between the different risk factors. This includes working with the Race Disparity Unit to help protect our communities from the impact of COVID-19.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-07/HL6588/>

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

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

Information about the Social Study referred to above can be read at

<https://www.covidsocialstudy.org/>

Pregnancy: Ethnic Groups

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL6813] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken, if any, to support pregnant BAME women during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reply from Lord Bethell: On 15 June, the Chief Midwifery Officer, Prof Jacqueline Dunkley-Bent and the National Clinical Director for Maternity and Women's Health, Matthew Jolly, wrote to Local Maternity Systems to ask them to take four specific actions, which should minimise the additional risk of COVID-19 for black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) women and their babies by:

- Co-producing an operational policy to improve support ensuring clinicians have a lower threshold to review, admit and consider multidisciplinary escalation in women from a BAME background;
- Reaching out and reassuring pregnant BAME women with tailored communications. NHS England and NHS Improvement have produced a communications toolkit including, an animation, posters and information leaflets in 11 languages;

- Ensuring maternity staff discuss vitamins, supplements and nutrition in pregnancy; and
- Ensuring accurate recording of ethnicity data.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-13/HL6813/>

Scottish Government Press Release

Shielding to be paused

<https://www.gov.scot/news/shielding-to-be-paused/>

Scottish Government Publications

Coronavirus (COVID-19): trends in daily data

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

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Phase 3: Scotland's route map update – translations and alternative formats

British Sign Language, Audio Soudcloud, Arabic, Gaelic, Polish, Mandarin, Easy Read,
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-phase-3-scotlands-route-map-update---translations-and-alternative-formats/>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): shielding advice and support

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

UK Government Press Releases

[England and Wales only] Face coverings mandatory in shops, supermarkets, shopping centres and enclosed transport hubs from Friday

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/face-coverings-mandatory-in-shops-supermarkets-shopping-centres-and-enclosed-transport-hubs-from-friday>

[England and Wales only] Disabled people exempt from wearing face coverings under new government guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/disabled-people-exempt-from-wearing-face-coverings-under-new-government-guidance>

Other Organisations

Volunteer Scotland

Impact of COVID-19 on volunteer participation in Scotland

https://www.volunteerscotland.net/media/1642735/ipsos-mori_survey_-_summary_presentation.pdf

News

Three quarters of Scots have volunteered during Covid-19

<http://thirdforcenews.org.uk/tfn-news/three-quarters-of-scots-have-volunteered-during-covid-19>

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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>

Second Reading, House of Lords

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-07-22/debates/755FC778-568F-4FDA-8C27-CBD397D0BE62/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination\(EUWithdrawal\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-07-22/debates/755FC778-568F-4FDA-8C27-CBD397D0BE62/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination(EUWithdrawal)Bill)

Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill

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

Marriage (Approved Organisations) Bill

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

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

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

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (Legal Advice and Appeals) Bill

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

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

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

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

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

**** Black people, racism and human rights** (11 September 2020)

<https://committees.parliament.uk/call-for-evidence/208/black-people-racism-and-human-rights/>

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>

**** closes this week!**

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/emnrn/transition-fund/>

Covid-19 Rapid Response Fund

Closing date not stated

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

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

Fife Centre for Equalities Diversity Week Activity Fund 2020

Closing date not stated

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

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

BLM – Race in Scotland

28 July 2020 online (6.30 – 8.00)

Progress in Dialogue discussion to learn from the lived experience of Black communities in Scotland, amplify some of the voices from Scotland's Black communities, and discuss the issues that matter to them. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y4m6ytjv>

**** this week!**

Equality & Diversity

30 July 2020 online (12.00–2.00)

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/yy8gp22q>

**** Interpreting culture – improving cross-cultural communication**

13 August 2020 online (11.00–3.00)

Interfaith Scotland course to explore how culture forms a lens through which we interpret each other's behaviour, and learn how to improve our inter-cultural communication. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yylishpy> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

**** Working with People from Diverse Religion & Belief Identities**

9 September 2020 online (11.00–3.00)

Interfaith Scotland course to improve confidence in discussing and responding to the religion and belief of those we work with, learn about the core beliefs and cultural practices

of the main faiths, and the individual needs that may arise from a person's faith or belief identity. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y4epg4hx> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

**** 3 Mottos to Guide our Approach to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**

29 September 2020 online (1.00–4.30)

Interfaith Scotland course considering diversity in its widest sense, and looking at three models which provide insight on our experience of difference: the role of the dominant identity and the idea of 'human neutral', why some people ignore or deny the disadvantages that others experience; and how to respond to misunderstandings or offence. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y3d47pyr> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

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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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*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** 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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