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Contents

[Immigration and Asylum](#)

[Equality](#)

[Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination](#)

[Other UK Parliament and Government](#)

[Health Information: Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

[Bills in Progress](#)

[Consultations](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

[Funding Opportunities](#)

[Events, Conferences, and Training](#)

[Useful Links](#)

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The UK Parliament will return from recess on 1 September 2020.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Mercy Baguma

Alison Johnstone (Green): I am sure that members will join me in expressing sadness and outrage at the tragic death of Mercy Baguma. On Saturday, Mercy was found dead beside her malnourished baby in a Glasgow flat. Thankfully, her child has now been released from hospital.

That appalling tragedy occurred as a direct result of United Kingdom Government asylum policy, which forced Mercy into extreme poverty. We cannot allow mothers and babies to go hungry in 21st century Scotland. I know that the Home Office is responsible in this case, and the Home Secretary must answer for this entirely preventable death, but we cannot simply stand by; this is on all of us. What will the First Minister do to ensure that this tragedy is not repeated? Is she able to advise whether the Lord Advocate is initiating an inquiry into the incident?

Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon): As Alison Johnstone knows, I cannot speak for the Lord Advocate on death inquiries. However, I am sure that he will be perfectly willing to correspond with her on that.

I am grateful—although I do not know that that is the right word—to Alison Johnstone for raising the issue today. Like most people across this country, I find myself consumed with sadness and anger at the death of Mercy Baguma. First and foremost, my thoughts, and I am sure the thoughts of all of us, go to her family and friends following her tragic death.

The exact circumstances of Mercy Baguma's death are not yet known; it is important to be clear about that. I support all and any efforts to establish the facts of this tragic case. What I think we can all say—I think that we all knew this before this tragedy, but it has been underlined—is that the UK asylum system is not just broken but deeply inhumane and it must be changed. People who come to Scotland because they need a place of safety should have our support, and that is even more true at this time of crisis.

Asylum is wholly reserved to the UK Government and that includes the procurement and operation of asylum accommodation and support contracts. The communities secretary and this Government as a whole have repeatedly raised with the Home Office our concerns about accommodation and support for asylum seekers before and during the pandemic, and we will continue to do so. However, we need wholesale reform of our asylum system. We need to start from the principles of dignity, empathy and support for our fellow human beings who come to this country seeking support at desperate and dismal times of their lives. I appeal to members of the UK Government to look into their hearts as a result of this case and finally make the changes that are needed.

Alison Johnstone: I agree with the First Minister that wholesale reform is required.

In response to this tragedy, the Home Office said that “it takes the well-being of all those in the asylum system extremely seriously”. However, anyone who sees the cruel way in which asylum seekers are treated knows that that statement is simply not credible. This is the third death in recent months of an asylum seeker in Scotland.

Will the First Minister write to the Home Secretary to demand an independent inquiry into the deaths and suffering that are caused by the UK's hostile environment policy? Does she support the call from Positive Action in Housing for an inquiry into the housing of asylum seekers during the pandemic? Does she support the Scottish Green Party campaign for asylum accommodation to be taken out of private hands and to be managed at local level with the support of the third sector? What specific actions is the Scottish Government taking now to deliver that change?

Reply from the First Minister: I support pretty much everything that Alison Johnstone has just said. I am happy for the Scottish Government to raise with the Home Office the issue of an inquiry. We have repeatedly raised those concerns with the Home Office. I do not want to politicise the issue, but I am afraid that it is another on which we need to stop having to plead with a UK Government to change the way in which it does things, and to start having the ability in the Parliament to put in place systems that reflect our values as a country.

I support Positive Action in Housing's call for an inquiry, and we will look at what we can do to give practical support to that.

I do not know all the details of the Green campaign—I will be very happy to look at it—but it sounds like something that we would support. Again, we would be happy to look at the practical steps that we can take to turn that support into action.

As I have said before, the fact that asylum is wholly reserved to the UK Government means that the procurement and operation of asylum accommodation is reserved, so there are constraints on what the Scottish Government can do in the circumstances. That is why I want us, over the longer term, to have more control of

such decisions, here in our Parliament. When we have that control, it is not the case that we will get everything right all the time, but we will be able to have systems that reflect our values as a country. What happened to Mercy Baguma—albeit that we do not know all the details, it involves all the hallmarks of the UK’s asylum system right now—does not reflect the values of the Scotland that I know and love.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12763&i=115415#ScotParlOR>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

British Nationality: Ceremonies

Patrick Grady (SNP) [73880] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when citizenship ceremonies will resume across the UK as covid-19 lockdown restrictions are eased.

Reply from Kevin Foster: It is for each Local Authority to determine when they will be able to resume Citizenship Ceremonies in line with current government advice relating to social distancing and public safety.

A small trial of remote ‘virtual ceremonies’ has recently taken place successfully and further work is now being done to make these more widely available.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-14/73880/>

Immigrants: Finance

Hilary Benn (Labour) [55875] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for variance of the no recourse to public funds condition her Department received since the start of March 2020.

Reply from Chris Philp: The information you have requested is not currently published by the department. The department has written to the UKSA with regard to this matter. Please see the link below:

<https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/correspondence/response-from-daniel-shaw-to-ed-humpherson-parliamentary-question-response/>.

We are continuing to investigate whether the administrative data held by the department can provide any meaningful data in future and will provide an update in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-08/55875/>

Visas: Health Professions

Nadia Whittome (Labour) [74020] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when she plans to publish further details on the Health and Care Visa.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Government laid the “Immigration and Nationality (Fees) (Amendment) (No.3) Regulations 2020”, in Parliament on 14 July.

We also published updated Tier 2 policy guidance, which includes information on the Health and Care Visa. The updated guidance is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-application-for-uk-visa-as-tier-2-worker>.

The Health and Care Visa will open for applications on 4 August.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-14/74020/>

Free School Meals: Immigrants

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [76079] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if he will make

an assessment of the potential merits of permanently extending free school meals to children with no recourse to public funds.

Reply from Vicky Ford: Our extension of eligibility for free school meals to include children of Zambrano carers, children of families with a right to remain in the UK under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, children of a subset of failed asylum seekers supported under Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act (1999) and children of families receiving support under Section 17 of the Children Act (1989) who are also subject to a no recourse to public funds restriction remains temporary during the COVID-19 outbreak.

We are working with other government departments to support those affected by the COVID-19 outbreak and a decision regarding any permanent extension of free school meal eligibility to individuals who do not have recourse to public funds is yet to be undertaken. We are monitoring the situation closely and may make further adjustments 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/2020-07-17/76079/>

Windrush Lessons Learned Review

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [75453] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many times officials in her Department have met with the office of Wendy Williams, author of the Windrush lessons learned review.

Reply from Priti Patel: Wendy Williams was appointed the independent adviser of the Windrush Lessons Learned Review on 21 June 2018. Home Office officials met the Review team on a regular basis throughout the period of the Review, and continue to maintain contact with Wendy Williams during the implementation phase.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-16/75453/>

The report of the Review referred to above can be read at

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

The following three questions all received the same answer

Windrush Generation: Compensation

Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [59529] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many successful Windrush Compensation Scheme claims there have been in each month since April 2019.

Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [59530] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much money has been paid to applicants to the Windrush Compensation Scheme in each month since April 2019.

Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [59532] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average processing time is for an application to the Windrush Compensation Scheme.

Reply from Priti Patel: Information on the total number of applications, claims paid and the overall amount paid out by the scheme since April 2019 is available to view on GOV.UK at:

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

We are processing claims as quickly as possible, but all claims are different, and the time taken will depend on many factors, including the complexity of the case. Furthermore, we are committed to working with the claimant to ensure all possible information is taken into account - this will have an impact on the length of time it

takes to process the claim but can result in a higher level of payment. Wherever possible, we will make interim payments on parts of the claim that are straightforward to determine, such as immigration fees, thereby speeding up the provision of compensation.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-15/59529/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-15/59530/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-15/59532/>

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

The following two questions both received the same answer

Windrush Generation: Compensation

Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [73018] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average award from the Windrush Compensation Scheme was in each month since April 2019.

Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [73019] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many successful applicants to the Windrush Compensation Scheme have been awarded less than £1000 since April 2019.

Reply from Priti Patel: Information on the amount of compensation paid under the Windrush Compensation Scheme is available to view on GOV.UK at:

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

Average calculations are possible, but it would be wrong to infer these as overall averages as some of the payments are interim payments, where we have resolved part of the claim and the claimant may then be entitled to further compensation as we resolve the remainder of the claim. Furthermore, impacts on individuals have varied greatly, so each claim is unique and the compensation reflects individual circumstances.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-13/73018/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-13/73019/>

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

Windrush Generation: Compensation

Darren Henry (Conservative) [66229] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the administrative efficiency of the Windrush Compensation Scheme in making payments to eligible people.

Reply from Priti Patel: The Home Office is processing claims as quickly as possible, but all claims are different, and the time taken will depend on many factors, including the complexity of the case. Wherever possible, the Home Office makes interim payments on parts of the claim that are straightforward to determine, such as immigration fees.

However, it is worth noting that the Home Office works with claimants during the process to obtain as much information about the claim as possible. This approach

ensures that claimants receive the maximum amount to which they are entitled under the scheme. The most recent published statistics on the payments made under the Windrush Compensation Scheme show a clear increasing trajectory of payments: £755,111 paid up to 30 June 2020, of which £392,114 was paid in the most recent three months of that period. I also announced on 15 July that over £1.5m has now been offered in compensation to claimants. Once the offers are accepted by the applicants, the payments will be made.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-29/66229/>

The statistics referred to above can be read at

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

Information about the Windrush compensation scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-windrush-compensation-scheme>

Windrush Generation: Compensation

Darren Henry (Conservative) [66230] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department has taken to review the effect of the covid-19 outbreak on the efficiency of the Windrush Compensation Scheme in processing claims.

Reply from Priti Patel: The Home Office is processing claims as quickly as possible, but all claims are different, and the time taken will depend on many factors, including the complexity of the case.

The Home Office recently published statistics on the payments made under the Windrush Compensation Scheme (WCS) at:

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

These show a clear increasing trajectory of payments: £755,111 paid up to 30 June 2020, of which £392,114 was paid in the most recent three months of that period, which includes the initial period of the covid-19 lockdown.

I also announced on 15 July that over £1.5m has now been offered in compensation to claimants. Once the offers are accepted by the applicants, the payments will be made. The trajectory of compensation awards therefore continues to increase, despite the covid-19 lockdown.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-29/66230/>

Information about the Windrush compensation scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-windrush-compensation-scheme>

Detention Centres: Coronavirus

David Linden (SNP) [901769] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions she has had with Cabinet colleagues on the legal implications of immigration detention during the covid-19 outbreak.

Reply from Chris Philp: As part of the Department's response to the COVID-19 pandemic the Home Secretary had frequent and regular conversations with Cabinet colleagues including considering the impact on immigration detention.

Immigration Enforcement has responded to the unique circumstances of the coronavirus outbreak and are following the latest guidance from Public Health England. On 26 March, the High Court ruled that our approach to detention and Coronavirus was sensible, with the appropriate precautionary measures in place. Further guidance on managing COVID-19 in immigration removal centres was published on gov.uk on 5 June

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

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Immigration controls

Lord Greaves (Liberal Democrat) [HL7354] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to revise the Immigration Rules by spring 2021; and what opportunities there will be for parliamentary scrutiny of any changes.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government published its response to the Law Commission's report 'Simplification of the Immigration Rules' in March 2020 and set out its proposed plans for simplifying and consolidating the Immigration Rules in line with the Law Commission's recommendations and contained examples of draft Rules.

We are working with the Simplification of the Rules Review Committee, which represents a number of different stakeholders, to ensure we take into account a range of different views.

Parliament will be able to scrutinise any statement of changes to the Immigration Rules under the normal process in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-27/HL7354/>

The report referred to above can be read at

https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/lawcom-prod-storage-11jsxou24uy7q/uploads/2020/01/6.6136_LC_Immigration-Rules-Report_FINAL_311219_WEB.pdf

The Government response referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/875205/24-03-2020_-_Response_to_Law_Commission_for_publication.pdf

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration

Lord Greaves (Liberal Democrat) [HL6467] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any hostile environment policies are still in place; and if so, what areas are covered by these policies.

Lord Greaves (Liberal Democrat) [HL6468] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the success of hostile environment policies; and what criteria are used to judge the success of these policies.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government is committed to a firm, fair and humane immigration policy which distinguishes effectively between those with lawful status and those here illegally. The term 'hostile environment' as a description of Home Office immigration policy is incorrect and does not represent our values as a country.

In common with other comparable countries, the UK has in place a framework of laws, policies and administrative arrangements, introduced under successive governments, ensuring access to work, benefits and services is only permitted for those with the right access to them. The measures within this framework are: Right to Work; Right to Rent; and access to healthcare, public funds, financial services and driving licences.

Key measures were the subject of public consultations and/or impact assessments before they were introduced. The measures incorporate important safeguards, including the ability to exercise discretion where there are genuine barriers to

persons leaving the UK or there are exceptional compassionate factors. A full evaluation of the Right to Rent Scheme is underway and the Government accepts the recommendations in the Windrush Lessons Learned Review report in full, including reviewing and evaluating measures designed to regulate access to work, benefits and services. As the Home Secretary said in her statement to Parliament on 21 July, 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. To ensure that we better understand the groups and communities that our policies affect, we are overhauling the way in which we build up our evidence base and engage with stakeholders across the board.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-06/HL6467/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-06/HL6468/>

British Nationality: Assessments

Lord Jones of Cheltenham (Liberal Democrat) [HL7366] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the (1) target, and (2) anticipated, processing time for those applying for indefinite leave to remain in the UK.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The normal service standard for applications for Indefinite Leave to Remain applications is six months. Immigrations case-working operations have been impacted by COVID-19 and we have continued to make decisions where we have been able to. The re-opening of case-working offices has commenced, and all teams are committed to decide applications as quickly as possible.

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

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

[UKVI - Asylum Q4 2019](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-27/HL7366/>

British Nationality: Assessments

Lord Jones of Cheltenham (Liberal Democrat) [HL7368] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic on the process for applying for indefinite leave to remain in the UK; and what plans they have, if any, to ensure that the process for applying for such leave is adapted to reflect any such disruption.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office is committed to ensuring that all applications are considered without unnecessary delay. Immigration case-working operations have been impacted by COVID-19, with most locations going into lockdown at the end of March, although we have continued to make decisions where we have been able to.

As UK Visas and Immigration has now reopened the majority of its Visa Application Centres both in the UK and overseas, we are working closely with our partners to maximise the available capacity to service applicants in line with social distancing rules in each location.

The Home Office has put in place a range of measures to support those affected by the covid-19 outbreak to ensure people are not unduly affected by circumstances beyond their control.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-27/HL7368/>

British Nationality: British Overseas Territories

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL7533] To ask Her Majesty's Government what rights to enter the UK will be accorded to Hong Kong residents who were British Overseas Territories citizens until 1997.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Individuals in Hong Kong who were British Dependent Territories Citizens before 1997 and chose not to register for British National (Overseas) status may apply under existing immigration routes to come to live, work or study in the UK. Those that hold Hong Kong Special Administrative Region passports can visit for up to 6 months without needing a visa. Those British Dependent Territories Citizens who elected to retain close ties with the UK through registering for British National (Overseas) status will have the option of applying for a new Hong Kong British National (Overseas) Visa from January 2021. Successful applicants will be able to come and stay in the UK for up to 5 years, with a view to settlement and then citizenship if desired.

Further details on this new immigration route can be found on gov.uk:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hong-kong-bno-visa-policy-statement>
[HK BN Visa Policy Statement - July 2020](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-29/HL7533/>

Windrush Lessons Learned Review

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL7295] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the statement by the Home Secretary on 21 July (HC Deb, col 2022), what are the terms of reference for the evaluation of the compliant environment policy and measures; whether that evaluation will be designed in partnership with external experts as recommended in the report by Wendy Williams Windrush Lessons Learned Review, published in March; when that evaluation is due to be completed; and whether the findings of that review will be made public.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: As the Home Secretary set out on 21 July, it is right that those with no legal right to be in this country are not allowed to exploit the system, but the right protections must be in place for those who status should have been assured. We will undertake a full evaluation of the compliant environment policy and measures – individually and cumulatively - to make sure this crucial balance is right. This is a complex area of policy and scoping of this work has begun, including on the detail of the evaluation. More information will be available in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-24/HL7295/>

The Home Secretary's Statement, referred to above, can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-07-21/debates/CF88BF2D-55E5-4672-8103-E28A1136C3F1/WindrushLessonsLearnedReview>

The report of the Review referred to above can be read at

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

Windrush Generation: Anniversaries

Lord Jones of Cheltenham (Liberal Democrat) [HL5519] To ask Her Majesty's Government how they are planning to celebrate Windrush Day on 22 June; how the Immigration Bill will assist in dismantling the 'hostile environment' towards immigrants; and whether the Bill is designed to restore the UK's reputation as a welcoming and friendly international nation.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government remains committed

to ensuring that 22 June is a day of celebration and recognition for the Windrush generation and their descendants. 2020 saw the second provision of an annual £500,000 grant to support celebrations on 22 June as well as longer term projects to ensure a lasting legacy for the Windrush generation. Earlier in the year, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government approved funding to be allocated among 49 charities, community groups and local authorities. In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, officials worked with grantees to deliver their project outcomes through online or virtual means to coincide with Windrush Day, and by postponing some delivery until later in the year where necessary.

The Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) also worked with community stakeholders to mark Windrush Day appropriately online and in the media.

The Government is committed to a firm, fair and humane immigration policy which welcomes and celebrates those here lawfully, deters individuals from placing themselves at risk of harm and exploitation in the hands of people smugglers and protects the taxpayer.

In common with other comparable countries, the UK has in place a framework of laws, policies and administrative arrangements, introduced under successive governments ensuring access to work benefits and services is permitted for those with the right access to them.

The Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill is primarily focused on ending the EU's rules on free movement of persons following the UK's exit from the EU. It does not deal with general immigration matters.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-10/HL5519/>

Windrush Generation: Compensation

The Lord Bishop of Southwark [HL5621] To ask Her Majesty's Government, what assessment they have made of the efficiency of the rate of compensation payments to those affected by the Windrush Scandal; and what targets they have set for compensating the individuals involved.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office is processing claims as quickly as possible, but all claims are different, and the time taken will depend on many factors, including the complexity of the case. Wherever possible, the Home Office makes interim payments on parts of the claim that are straightforward to determine, such as immigration fees, thereby speeding up the provision of compensation.

The most recently published statistics on the payments made under the Windrush Compensation Scheme show a clear increasing trajectory of payments: £362,997 paid in the first 12 months of the scheme, of which £300,799 was paid in the most recent three months of that period. These are available to view on GOV.UK at:

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

The Home Secretary also announced on 15 July that over £1.5m has now been offered in compensation to claimants. Once the offers are accepted by the applicants, the payments will be made.

The Home Office does not disclose information about individual cases.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-11/HL5621/>

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

Immigration: EU Nationals

Lord Greaves (Liberal Democrat) [HL7524] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to protect the rights of EU Citizens resident in the UK who have not yet been granted settled or pre-settled status (1) between now and 31 December, and (2) between 1 January and 30 June 2021.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The UK left the EU on 31 January on the basis of the EU Withdrawal Agreement reached in October 2019. The protections for resident EU citizens provided in the Withdrawal Agreement are now underpinned by the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020 and by the EU Settlement Scheme.

There will be no change to the current rights of resident EU citizens until the end of the transition period on 31 December 2020, at which point free movement law will, subject to its parliamentary passage, be repealed by the Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill.

In line with the Withdrawal Agreement, EU citizens resident in the UK by 31 December 2020 are eligible to apply for UK immigration status under the EU Settlement Scheme. The Government will bring forward secondary legislation under the EU (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020 to protect relevant residence rights under EU law during the grace period which will apply from 1 January 2021 until the application deadline of 30 June 2021. Provided an application to the EU Settlement Scheme is made by 30 June 2021, these rights will continue until the application is finally determined, including pending the outcome of an appeal against any decision to refuse status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-29/HL7524/>

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

Lord Greaves (Liberal Democrat) [HL7353] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether people who have been granted pre-settled status can remain in the United Kingdom with this status for five years, or whether they need to apply for settled status as soon as they become eligible; and, if the former, whether it is five years from the date they were granted pre-settled status or from 1 January 2021.

Lord Greaves (Liberal Democrat) [HL7355] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to inform people with pre-settled status that they must apply for settled status before the end of the five-year period of pre-settled status.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: EEA and Swiss citizens and their family members who have been granted pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme can remain in the UK with this status for five years from the date it is granted.

Once they have completed five years' continuous residence, they can apply for settled status. They can choose when they do this but must do so before their pre-settled status expires, unless there are reasonable grounds for failing to do so.

In line with the Statement of Intent published in June 2018, the Home Office has committed to issuing reminders to those people whose pre-settled status is due to expire and who have not yet applied for settled status. As pre-settled status is valid for five years, the earliest any such reminders will be issued is 2023.

The Statement of Intent is available at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/718237/EU_Settlement_Scheme_SOI_June_2018.pdf.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-27/HL7353/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-27/HL7355/>

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

Immigration: EU Nationals

Lord Greaves (Liberal Democrat) [HL7455] To ask Her Majesty's Government in what circumstances a person who possesses pre-settled status who re-applies for settled status at the end of their period of pre-settled status can be granted a further period of pre-settled status.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: EEA and Swiss citizens and their family members who have been granted pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme can remain in the UK with this status for five years from the date it is granted. They can apply for settled status as soon as they have completed five years' continuous residence in the UK, or earlier if they qualify under one of the routes to settled status which requires a continuous qualifying period of residence of less than five years.

Where an applicant with pre-settled status has applied for settled status but has not yet completed the required continuous qualifying period of residence to be eligible for settled status, they will be considered for a further grant of pre-settled status, which will enable them to complete the period of residence necessary to be eligible for settled status.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-28/HL7455/>

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

Refugees

Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench) [HL7422] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will extend the Mandate Refugee Resettlement Scheme to include having siblings in the UK as a key factor for resettlement in cases where separation has occurred because of persecution caused by religion or belief; and if not, why not.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The UK has a proud history of providing refuge to those seeking sanctuary. There is already provision for wider family members (including adult siblings) to be considered for resettlement to the UK under the Mandate scheme, where there are exceptional circumstances.

This applies in all cases, including where UNHCR identifies that persecution because of religion or belief is a contributing factor in their protection needs.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-28/HL7422/>

New Publications

EU citizens staying in Scotland leaflet: translations

The leaflet is available in Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak, Slovene, Spanish, and Swedish

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/eu-citizens-staying-in-scotland-leaflet-translations/>

Windrush Help Team: posters to promote the Windrush Help Team service in English, Bengali, Gujarati, Punjabi, Urdu and Welsh

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/windrush-help-team-posters>

Migration Statistics Quarterly Report: August 2020

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/bulletins/migrationstatisticsquarterlyreport/august2020/pdf>

Overview of the immigration system

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2020/overview-of-the-immigration-system>

How many people come to the UK each year (including visitors)?

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2020/how-many-people-come-to-the-uk-each-year-including-visitors>

Why do people come to the UK? To work

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2020/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-to-work--2>

Why do people come to the UK? To study

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2020/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-to-study>

Why do people come to the UK? For family reasons

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2020/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-for-family-reasons>

How many people do we grant asylum or protection to?

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

How many people continue their stay in the UK or apply to stay permanently?

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2020/how-many-people-continue-their-stay-in-the-uk-or-apply-to-stay-permanently>

How many people are detained or returned?

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

Asylum claims on the basis of sexual orientation

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2020/experimental-statistics-asylum-claims-on-the-basis-of-sexual-orientation>

National Insurance number allocations to adult overseas nationals entering the UK to June 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-insurance-numbers-allocated-to-adult-overseas-nationals-to-june-2020/national-insurance-number-allocations-to-adult-overseas-nationals-entering-the-uk-to-june-2020>

Guidance on Protection for Migrant Workers during the COVID-19 Pandemic

https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/default/2020_icc_guidance_for_migrant_workers_02.pdf

News: Channel Migrants

Boris Johnson considers law change amid rising migrant crossings

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-53723687>

UK and France promise new migrant crossings plan, says minister

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-53739585>

Migrant crossings: Use of navy ships to stop boats 'dangerous'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-53719575>

Boris Johnson accused of scapegoating migrants over Channel comments

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/aug/10/boris-johnson-hints-at-law-change-to-deport-migrants-who-cross-channel>

SNP label Boris Johnson 'toxic' as PM labels channel crossing migrants 'stupid'

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/snp-label-boris-johnson-toxic-pm-labels-channel-crossing-migrants-stupid-2937737>

Priti Patel: Home Secretary takes on Ben and Jerry's over migrant boats

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-53741180>

UK minister attacks Ben & Jerry's 'virtue signalling' on refugees

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/aug/12/uk-minister-james-cleverly-attacks-ben-jerrys-virtue-signalling-on-refugees>

Channel crossings: Priti Patel was warned government policies were pushing migrants into dangerous voyages nine months ago

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/channel-crossings-migrants-priti-patel-boris-johnson-boats-france-a9663826.html>

Migrant crossings: Mayor of Calais calls use of Navy ships to block Channel 'a declaration of war'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/migrant-channel-crossings-news-mayor-calais-navy-ships-war-a9667051.html>

Channel Crossings: Boris Johnson calls for legal change to 'send away' more asylum seekers amid surge in migrant boats

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/migrant-crossings-channel-france-border-ministry-defence-home-office-a9662536.html>

Boris Johnson: crossing Channel in small boats 'stupid, dangerous and criminal'

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/video/2020/aug/10/boris-johnson-crossing-channel-in-small-boats-stupid-dangerous-and-criminal-video>

RAF surveillance plane deployed to Channel as Boris Johnson condemns migrant crossings as 'stupid'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/08/10/raf-surveillance-plane-deployed-channel-johnson-condemns-migrant/>

Boris Johnson wants new powers to send back migrants

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/boris-johnson-wants-new-rules-to-send-back-migrants-tsgdcmq6b>

Channel will be made 'unviable' for illegal crossings, says immigration minister
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/video/2020/aug/11/channel-will-be-made-unviable-for-illegal-crossings-immigration-minister-video>

Calais mayor tells Boris Johnson to 'calm down' over migrant crossings
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/aug/14/calais-mayor-says-it-would-be-an-act-of-war-for-royal-navy-ships-to-enter-french-waters>

Calais mayor says Boris Johnson needs to 'calm down' over migrant crossings, as 70% of Britons back deploying navy
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/boris-johnson-migrant-boats-english-channel-calais-mayor-says-calm-down-a9670131.html>

Calais mayor: Sending Navy into Channel to stop migrant crossings 'declaration of maritime war'
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/08/12/calais-mayor-says-sending-navy-channel-stop-migrant-crossings/>

Tory MPs claim migrants crossing Channel are 'invading' UK
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/channel-crossings-migrants-tory-mps-priti-patel-asylum-seekers-a9664871.html>

UK and France working 'at pace' on plan to halt migrant Channel crossings
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/aug/11/dover-mp-natalie-elphicke-tories-invading-migrants-letter-channel-crossings>

Channel migrants being intercepted by France in around only a fifth of cases
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/08/11/channel-migrants-intercepted-france-around-fifth-cases/>

French stop only one in five migrants
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/migrants-want-uk-benefits-say-french-mbpzz7mm8>

Royal Navy will help plan operations to stop migrant Channel crossings
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2020-08-17/news/royal-navy-will-help-plan-operations-to-stop-migrant-channel-crossings-pzvmg5fdm>

MP's migrant crossings Army call criticised
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-politics-53832136>

Sending troops to the Channel won't stop dangerous crossings – and could be deadly
<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2020/aug/22/sending-troops-to-the-channel-wont-stop-dangerous-crossings-and-could-be-deadly>

Home Office uses 4,000 hotel rooms to cope with migrants
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2020-08-18/news/home-office-uses-4-000-hotel-rooms-to-cope-with-migrants-k0tz6pcxs>

Migrants: Record number of Channel crossings in August
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-53804670>

Number of migrants crossing Channel in boats passes 5,000

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/aug/21/number-of-migrants-crossing-channel-in-boats-passes-5000>

More than 4,000 have crossed Channel to UK in small boats this year

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/aug/09/number-migrants-crossing-channel-uk-passes-4000-this-year>

Further 65 migrants picked up in English Channel

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-53717440>

Channel migrants: Children pictured among 137 migrants brought ashore

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-53791949>

Migrants seen waving and smiling as bumper number brave the waves to land in Britain

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/08/10/migrants-seen-waving-smiling-bumper-number-brave-waves-land/>

Yarl's Wood to house arrivals from small boats crossing Channel

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/aug/18/yarls-wood-to-house-arrivals-from-small-boats-crossing-channel>

The treatment of migrants crossing the Channel is plain wrong and against British values

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/migrants-channel-boats-priti-patel-immigration-british-values-a9668091.html>

Nearly half of British public have little or no sympathy for migrants crossing Channel from France, survey finds

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/migrant-channel-crossing-yougov-uk-france-asylum-refugee-a9666041.html>

The UK has a moral responsibility to protect refugees making the dangerous journey across the channel

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/refugees-english-channel-boats-migrants-death-a9663031.html>

Channel crossings: Ministers accused of 'stoking tension and division' with comments about migrants

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/channel-crossings-migrants-boris-johnson-priti-patel-immigration-a9667506.html>

Why there isn't really a 'surge' in asylum seekers reaching the UK from northern France

<https://www.independent.co.uk/independentpremium/news-analysis/channel-crossing-migrants-asylum-seekers-priti-patel-france-a9663911.html>

People are dying in the Channel because of politicians, not smugglers

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/aug/20/migrants-dying-in-channel-politicians-not-people-smugglers-priti-patel-border-policies>

Channel crossings: Why can't the UK stop migrants in small boats?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-53650537>

More children likely to risk Channel crossing to reunite with relatives under new rules, charity warns

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/child-refugees-channel-crossing-uk-asylum-seekers-relatives-a9665021.html>

Channel crossings: Child asylum seekers held at Border Force processing centre amid 'preventable chaos'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/channel-crossings-child-migrants-asylum-seekers-border-force-kent-a9676571.html>

'I am too tired to carry on': Desperate asylum seekers threaten to jump overboard if stopped from crossing Channel

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/migrant-channel-crossings-navy-asylum-refugee-jump-overboard-a9666146.html>

'If I die, that is OK': the Calais refugees with nowhere to turn

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/aug/09/if-i-die-that-is-ok-calais-refugees-nowhere-to-turn>

Child migrants to be sent away from Kent as council reaches capacity

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-53825333>

Kent County Council has 'no capacity for more child migrants'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-53811228>

Kent unable to take in more unaccompanied child refugees, council says

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/aug/17/kent-unable-to-take-in-more-unaccompanied-child-refugees>

English Channel migrants: Where they're from and what they're escaping

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/newsbeat-53721146>

Who are the people risking everything to cross the Channel?

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/audio/2020/aug/21/who-are-the-people-risking-everything-to-cross-the-channel>

Channel migrants: 'It was terrifying. I felt like I had to be ready for death'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2020-08-20/news/channel-migrants-it-was-terrifying-i-felt-like-i-had-to-be-ready-for-death-xchxrjkbw>

'I have destroyed my life for my children': the families trying to cross the Channel

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2020/aug/14/families-trying-to-cross-the-channel-dunkirk-france>

Give refugees crossing Channel a chance, say Windrush survivors

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/aug/15/give-refugees-crossing-channel-a-chance-say-windrush-survivors>

Migrant attacked only moments after landing on Kent beach

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/migrant-attacked-kent-beach-boat-crossings-english-channel-a9677131.html>

Behind the Channel crossings: migrant stories of life or death in tiny inflatables
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/aug/20/behind-the-channel-crossings-migrant-stories-of-life-or-death-in-tiny-inflatables>

'We were terrorised': brother of drowned Sudanese refugee on war-torn homeland
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/aug/22/we-were-terrorised-brother-of-drowned-sudanese-refugee-on-war-torn-homeland>

Channel crossings: Body of teenage migrant found on French beach
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-53835374>

Teenager found dead tried to cross Channel in dinghy with shovels for oars
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/aug/19/sudanese-teenager-found-dead-on-beach-near-calais-sangatte>

Channel crossings: Sudanese migrant who drowned trying to reach UK named as Abdulfatah Hamdallah
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/sudanese-migrant-channel-death-named-abulfatah-hamdallah-france-a9680346.html>

Syrian refugee calls for compassion towards migrants in emotional plea projected onto White Cliffs of Dover
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/syrian-refugee-dover-cliffs-video-migrant-crossings-led-by-donkeys-hassan-akkad-a9682591.html>

Channel migrants: shame on the scaremongers
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/aug/10/the-guardian-view-on-channel-migrants-shame-on-the-scaremongers>

News: Other Immigration and Asylum

Net immigration at highest level in four years
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2020-08-27/news/net-migration-highest-in-four-years-r2plzw028>

EU settlement scheme: Two million granted full rights to stay
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-53766132>

Almost 200,000 from EU apply for settled status in Scotland after Brexit transition
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/almost-200-000-from-eu-apply-for-settled-status-in-scotland-after-brexit-transition-tzwqqphzd>

Home Office scraps 'activist migrant lawyers' clip
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-53937593>

Scots advocates condemns Home Office calling migrants' lawyers 'activists'
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/scots-advocates-condemns-home-office-calling-migrants-lawyers-activists-2956480>

Senior civil servant admits Home Office was wrong to refer to migrants' solicitors as 'activist lawyers'
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-migrants-solicitors-lawyers-activists-matthew-rycroft-a9692326.html>

The cruelty of Britain's 'no recourse to public funds' immigration policy

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/aug/27/the-cruelty-of-britains-no-recourse-to-public-funds-immigration-policy>

Priti Patel under fire as Home Office bids to target child asylum seekers

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/aug/30/priti-patel-under-fire-as-home-office-bids-to-target-child-asylum-seekers>

Councils may be forced to take fair share of child asylum-seekers

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/aug/28/councils-may-be-forced-to-take-fair-share-of-unaccompanied-minors>

'No earthly reason': Thousands of refugees denied sanctuary in UK after settlement scheme frozen during lockdown

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/refugees-uk-coronavirus-lockdown-resettlement-channel-a9692026.html>

Priti Patel forced to cancel deportation flight after court intervention

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/priti-patel-cancel-deportation-flight-court-intervention-uk-a9692801.html>

Priti Patel abandons deportation flight after multiple last-minute legal challenges

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/08/27/priti-patel-abandons-deportation-flight-multiple-last-minute/>

Deportation of migrants stopped after lawyers claimed they were trafficking victims

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/08/28/deportation-migrants-stopped-lawyers-claimed-trafficking-victims/>

Asylum seeker removal flight takes off despite last-minute court actions

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/aug/12/asylum-seeker-removal-flight-go-ahead-despite-last-minute-court-action>

Asylum seekers in last-minute UK legal bid to prevent removal

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/aug/25/high-court-challenges-launched-against-removal-of-asylum-seekers>

Officers 'tried to force asylum seeker to airport' despite court ruling

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/aug/14/officers-tried-to-force-asylum-seeker-on-plane-despite-uk-high-court-action>

Asylum seekers launch legal challenge against their removal from UK

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/aug/11/asylum-seekers-launch-legal-challenge-against-removal-from-uk>

More asylum seekers set to be deported on charter flights despite concerns over safety and legality

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-seekers-uk-home-office-deport-flights-immigration-a9676461.html>

Coronavirus: Asylum seekers in Glasgow may be in hotels until end of year

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-53811572>

Who will speak up against the demonisation of migrants?

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/aug/12/demonisation-migrants-tories-scapegoat-covid>

Quarter of 'child' migrants deemed to be over 18

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2020-08-24/news/quarter-of-child-migrants-deemed-to-be-over-18-7qcdlwrhx>

Witham: Asylum seekers in Patel's constituency 'an error'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-essex-53804705>

Destitute migrants unlawfully forced into homelessness, High Court rules

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/migrants-homeless-unlawful-detention-destitute-home-office-high-court-a9695386.html>

Sturgeon's pain at death of mother with starving baby

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/sturgeons-pain-at-death-of-mother-with-starving-baby-zhnd2wr73>

Calls grow for public inquiry after asylum seeker found dead next to baby

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/uk-news/calls-grow-public-inquiry-after-asylum-seeker-found-dead-next-baby-2952055>

Starving baby boy found beside body of asylum-seeking mother

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/starving-baby-boy-found-beside-body-of-asylum-seeking-mother-n952vzc9l>

Woman in 'extreme poverty' found dead next to crying baby in Glasgow

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/aug/25/mercy-baguma-woman-in-extreme-poverty-found-dead-next-to-crying-baby-in-glasgow>

Mercy Baguma: Woman living in extreme poverty 'found dead next to malnourished baby' in Glasgow

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/mercy-baguma-asylum-seeker-death-glasgow-home-office-a9687486.html>

The death of Mercy Baguma is a tragic reminder of why asylum seekers should be allowed to work

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/mercy-baguma-death-asylum-baby-work-home-office-refugee-a9691326.html>

'There will be more tragedies': Death of mother with baby is 'inevitable consequence' of immigration policies, warn campaigners

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/immigration-government-mercy-baguma-death-asylum-seekers-a9689611.html>

Mercy Baguma's tragic death should mark a turning point for the Home Office

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/aug/26/mercy-beguma-death-home-office-asylum-seeker>

'She was a rainbow': Friends paint fuller picture of Mercy Baguma

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/aug/28/friends-paint-fuller-picture-of-mercy-baguma-she-was-a-rainbow>

Death of Mercy Baguma ‘inevitable consequence of immigration policies’

<https://www.paih.org/independent-article-may-bulman-mercy-baguma/>

Free school meals 'should be extended' for pupils from low-income migrant families

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-53766050>

Migrant children face hunger over free school meal restrictions

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/aug/14/migrant-children-face-hunger-over-free-school-meal-restrictions>

Volunteers in Bristol sought to host asylum seekers in homes

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-bristol-53723536>

Essex lorry deaths: haulier pleads guilty to manslaughter

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/aug/28/essex-lorry-deaths-man-pleads-guilty-to-migrants-manslaughter-ronan-hughes>

Essex lorry deaths: Haulier pleads guilty to manslaughter of 39 Vietnamese migrants

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/essex-lorry-deaths-migrants-ronan-hughes-northern-ireland-grays-a9694031.html>

Haulier Ronan Hughes admits role in death of 39 Vietnamese migrants

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2020-08-28/news/haulier-guilty-of-vietnamese-migrants-essex-lorry-deaths-5ztj2dml8>

Essex lorry deaths: Man pleads guilty to manslaughter of Vietnamese migrants

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/08/28/essex-lorry-deaths-man-pleads-guilty-manslaughter-vietnamese/>

Thousands of migrants denied help in the pandemic

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-53780303>

British lawyer refused visa he never applied for by Home Office

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/aug/14/british-lawyer-refused-visa-he-never-applied-for-by-home-office>

Glasgow-born singer ordered to leave the country told she can stay indefinitely

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18653208.glasgow-born-singer-ordered-leave-country-told-can-stay-indefinitely/>

TOP

Equality

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Exam Results: BAME Young People

S5W-31149 Neil Findlay (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what analysis it has carried out of how many young BAME people were disadvantaged because of the approach taken by the SQA to the 2020 exams, and what action is being taken by (a) it and (b) the SQA to (i) rectify the position and (ii) prevent such disadvantage in the future.

Reply from John Swinney: The Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) published

an Equality Impact Assessment on the Alternative Certification Model (https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/2020-sqa-alternative-certification-model-equality-impact-assessment.pdf)

on 4 August. This assessed the impact of the implementation of all elements of the approach, including teacher estimates, awarding, results and certification on candidates with protected characteristics.

As part of this, SQA published 2019 teacher estimates and 2019 results for pupils by ethnic group.

Following my statement to Parliament on Tuesday 11 August, learners will now be awarded the grades estimated by teachers unless these were upgraded as a result of the moderation process in which case they will receive the upgraded result. A new Equality Impact Assessment on this approach will be published by the Scottish Government in due course.

SQA is taking forward a rapid consultation on options for changing assessment methods for 2020-21.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-31149>

SQA: Ethnicity Data

S5W-31152 Neil Findlay (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what action the SQA is taking to prioritise the gathering and analysis of ethnicity data.

Reply from John Swinney: As described in the Lessons Learned and Future Actions section of the Equality Impact Assessment published by SQA on 4 August, SQA and the Scottish Government are in the process of developing a suitable approach to data sharing that will allow for further analysis of 2020 results by some protected characteristics.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-31152>

The Impact Assessment referred to above can be read at

https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/2020-sqa-alternative-certification-model-equality-impact-assessment.pdf

Press Releases

To end racial disparity we require your absolute focus

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/to-end-racial-disparity-we-require-your-absolute-focus>

New £3.3 million fund to give babies from deprived areas or BAME backgrounds the best start in life

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-33-million-fund-to-give-babies-from-deprived-areas-or-bame-backgrounds-the-best-start-in-life>

STUC Black Workers Committee Raises Concerns with SQA

<http://www.stuc.org.uk/media-centre/news/1490/stuc-black-workers-committee-raises-concerns-with-sqa>

New Publications

FoI Release: BAME representation in Scottish Government

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/foi-202000053010/>

Which ethnic groups are most affected by income inequality?

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/economy-business/work-incomes/income-inequality-by-ethnic-group/>

Letter from Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay to Lord Sheikh regarding access to student finance for Muslim students

<http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2020-0493/Letter from Lord Parkinson to Lord Sheikh.pdf>

Supercharged: A Human Catastrophe Inequalities, Participation and Human Rights before, during and beyond COVID19

<http://gda.scot//content/publications/GDA%E2%80%93Supercharged-Covid-19Report.pdf>

News

Race equality chief faces legal challenge over appointment

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/aug/11/race-equality-chief-tony-sewell-faces-legal-challenge-over-appointment>

We'll hire 100 black interns a year, say UK fund managers

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2020/aug/17/will-hire-100-black-interns-year-uk-fund-managers>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill

James Kelly (Labour): To ask the First Minister what action the Scottish Government is taking to address concerns that the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill is an attack on free speech. (S5F-04319)

Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon): ... The bill proposals seek to find a balance between protecting those who suffer the scourge of hate crime and respecting people's freedom of speech and expression, which is extremely important. The bill approaches the matter through the prism of the European convention on human rights.

We know that hate crime is damaging and disruptive—we just heard that. It is rooted in prejudice and intolerance. As the Cabinet Secretary for Justice made clear in the Parliament last week, the Scottish Government will engage, listen and seek to find common ground, to ensure that the bill helps to protect people from hate crime—which I hope that everybody will agree is important—while respecting freedom of speech and expression.

James Kelly: Action on hate crime is welcome and important, but it is clear that there is a serious problem with the offence of “stirring up hatred”, as proposed in the bill. The Law Society of Scotland, the Scottish Police Federation, the Catholic Church and a range of stakeholders have lined up to criticise the bill's vague language and to express their concern that it is a threat to freedom of speech.

Does the First Minister accept that the Government has got its approach to the bill badly wrong and that the stirring up hatred offence needs to be fully deleted or heavily amended?

Reply from the First Minister: I do not accept that. What I accept—and I hope that everyone will enter into the legislative process in the same spirit—is that we have to consider these things, listen to views that are expressed and decide whether amendments to the bill are required. That is the right way to go about this. Nobody should go into the process with a closed mind, and that includes Opposition members, just as much as it includes the Scottish Government.

I hear the concerns that have been expressed. The Government will consider all of them carefully. That said, the concept of stirring up hatred offences is not new to Scots law; long-standing stirring up racial hatred offences have operated effectively in Scotland since, I think, the mid-1980s. The bill includes explicit provisions on freedom of expression and its provisions require to be interpreted in accordance with the European convention on human rights.

It is important that people express their views on this bill or any bill at the start of the legislative process and that they try to do so constructively. The Government has a duty to listen; we will listen and we will respond appropriately. However, let us not lose sight of what we were talking about in the previous question. Hate crime is a real problem in Scotland and we all have a duty to tackle it—that goes wider than legal ways of tackling it, but our approach must certainly include legal ways of doing so.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12763&i=115419#ScotParlOR>

Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill

Bill Bowman (Conservative): To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking in response to the issues concerning the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill that have been raised by bodies such as the Law Society of Scotland. (S5O-04493)

Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Justice (Humza Yousaf): Hate crime has a hugely damaging impact on victims and their families and communities. The recent increase in the number of hate crime charges reported to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service is a clear indication that hate crime remains a significant problem. The increase in hate crime charges might reflect a greater willingness of victims and witnesses to report, but we are not complacent and recognise that not all incidents of hate crime come to the attention of the police.

We remain committed to tackling all forms of hate crime and prejudice, whenever and wherever they arise. The bill affirms that commitment by ensuring that sufficient protection is provided for those people who need it.

Since the bill's introduction, I have engaged extensively with a range of organisations, including the Law Society of Scotland. I am aware of the strong views that have been expressed on the bill, and I am listening to the feedback that has been received on it. I note, in particular, the concerns about the possibility of the bill stirring up hatred offences, and I will reflect on whether changes need to be made and on how such changes could be made in an appropriate and effective way.

In the coming months, the bill will be robustly scrutinised by the Justice Committee and members of the Scottish Parliament. I will give their conclusions my full consideration to make sure that the proposed legislation can be a force for good in helping to protect groups who are affected by dangerous hatred and prejudice, while protecting vital freedoms that we all hold dear.

Bill Bowman: I thank the justice secretary for his answer, and I agree with what he said about hate speech.

The Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill has been criticised for threatening freedom of speech by the Faculty of Advocates, the Scottish Police Federation and the Law Society of Scotland, among others, yet the justice secretary said that he would “reflect

on” the bill’s provisions only after yes activists and writers voiced their concerns about the bill. Can one imply, therefore, that the justice secretary listens to concerns about proposed legislation only when they are raised by nationalists?

Reply from Humza Yousaf: That is a woeful response—I wish that Bill Bowman could have risen to the occasion. I phoned Murdo Fraser, who I do not think is in the chamber, to speak to him about his concerns about the bill, and I engaged with Liam Kerr, Mr Bowman’s party’s justice spokesperson, on the bill in advance of its introduction. I have said clearly and publicly that I would listen to Opposition members and stakeholders.

If we are to do the subject justice—I am certain of Bill Bowman’s good intentions in that regard—it would be helpful if we attempted to take the politics out of the issue and to look at the substance of it. Regardless of the fact that there are those who criticise the bill and have genuine concerns about it, all of us agree that we all have a responsibility to those groups who have often been the victims of hatred to make sure that the bill is effective in protecting them while, as I said, protecting the freedoms that we all hold so dear.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12750&i=115333#ScotParlOR>

Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill

Anas Sarwar (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what steps it is taking to engage communities across Scotland as the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill progresses. (S5O-04494)

Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Justice (Humza Yousaf): Following the recommendations that were made in Lord Bracadale’s “Independent Review of Hate Crime Legislation in Scotland”, the Scottish Government engaged extensively with stakeholders. In November 2018, the Scottish Government launched the “One Scotland: Hate Has No Home Here” consultation and ran 11 public awareness events throughout Scotland. A series of stakeholder engagement events and bilateral meetings were also undertaken.

Since the bill’s introduction, we have engaged with more than 45 organisations. I have met a number of stakeholders and organisations, including faith and equalities groups, legal experts and victims groups. As the bill makes its way through Parliament, I will ensure that I continue to engage with those stakeholders, who include not just representatives of communities that are directly affected by hate crime but opponents of the bill. As I have said, it is essential that we make sure that all those who have an opinion on the bill have their voices listened to, and I have committed to ensuring that I do that.

Anas Sarwar: The justice secretary and I recognise the importance of challenging hate crime and defeating prejudice and hatred. Sadly, for us and many others, it is often a daily experience. I know that the cabinet secretary and I share the same ambition and want the same outcome, which is to make Scotland a fairer and more equal country, where everyone has the same opportunity, regardless of their race or religion.

There are lots of good things in the bill—it consolidates the aggravation, adds vulnerability and sex, and removes outdated blasphemy laws—but does the cabinet secretary accept that the way in which aspects of the bill are drafted and the narrative that has been built around the bill risk undermining the very purpose of the bill, and risk fracturing the coalition that we need to build across Scotland if we are to defeat hate? ...

Reply from Humza Yousaf: I do not think that Anas Sarwar’s characterisation of the bill is incorrect; there are challenges around the narrative. That is why it is important that, as legislators, we all engage with those who oppose the bill and that, crucially, we listen to the voices of those who are impacted by hatred. Anas Sarwar has been at the forefront of tackling hatred in many of its forms, so he will know that

it is important that we listen to the voices of those who are directly impacted by it. As the cabinet secretary who will lead the bill through Parliament, I will engage, I will listen and I will find common ground where I can. My only plea to those who oppose the bill is to ask them to do the same and to listen to those who are directly impacted by hate crime. They should ask themselves why organisations such as the Equality Network, Stonewall, the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities, the Muslim Council for Scotland and many other groups support the bill, including its inclusion of a stirring-up offence.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12750&i=115334#ScotParlOR>

The Bracadale Report, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/independent-review-hate-crime-legislation-scotland-final-report/>

Scottish Parliament Motions

S5M-22487 Ruth Maguire (SNP): International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief – That the Parliament acknowledges that 22 August 2020 is the International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief; understands that continuing acts of intolerance and violence based on religion or belief against individuals, including against persons belonging to religious communities and religious minorities around the world, and the number and intensity of such incidents, which are often of a criminal nature and may have international characteristics, are increasing; condemns all acts, methods and practices of terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomsoever committed, regardless of their motivation; reiterates the sentiments of the UN that terrorism and violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilisation or ethnic group, and believes that upholding these rights plays an important role in the fight against all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-22487>

S5M-22435 Clare Adamson (SNP): North Lanarkshire Council's Plan to Implement Anti-racism Education – That the Parliament recognises the passing of a North Lanarkshire Council motion, which called on the Chief Executive and Head of Education to work with the Scottish Government, Education Scotland, COSLA and teaching unions to produce and implement anti-racism teaching resources in its school syllabus; notes that this plan also includes implementation of education on Britain's involvement in, and the effect of, colonialism and the transatlantic slave trade economy; congratulates the proposers of the motion on its success, and hopes that this action will be a step in the right direction of ensuring that anti-racism education is an integral part of the Scottish curriculum, reflecting an inclusive society.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-22435>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Racial Discrimination

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL7561] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the study by Number Cruncher Politics, published on 16 July, which stated that 55 per cent of ethnic minorities said that racism has stayed the same or has got worse during their lifetimes.

Reply from Baroness Berridge: This Government is committed to tackling prejudice, racism and discrimination - and to improving the quality of data and evidence about the types of barriers faced by people from different backgrounds to help drive effective and lasting change.

That is why we have established a new Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities. This cross-government commission will examine all aspects of continuing racial and ethnic inequalities in Britain. The Commission aims to set out a new, positive agenda for change - balancing the needs of individuals, communities and society, maximising opportunities and ensuring fairness for all.

It will build on the work of the Race Disparity Unit. The Commission will carry out a deeper examination of what the causes of these disparities are, and seek to establish what works to address them effectively.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-29/HL7561/>

The findings of the study referred to above can be read at

<https://www.ncpolitics.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2020/07/itv-has-britain-changed-tabs-ethnic-minority.pdf>

and

<https://www.ncpolitics.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2020/07/itv-has-britain-changed-tabs-white.pdf>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Racial Discrimination

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL7560] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had, if any, with UK newsrooms about addressing racism.

Journalism: Ethnic Groups

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL7559] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they intend to take to support young BAME journalists.

Reply from Baroness Barran: Racism or any form of discrimination has no place in the media or society.

The media plays a vital role in British society and it has an important responsibility to reflect modern Britain. This can only be achieved through a representative, and diverse workforce.

The government is committed to working together with industry to support greater diversity, and to ensure that everyone regardless of their background should have the same opportunity to go as far as their talents and hard work take them.

In broadcast journalism, Ofcom, who are the independent communications regulator, publish an annual diversity report which provides diversity monitoring data for the main broadcasters and includes information on the diversity initiatives of their news teams. In the print media a number of national newspapers are running diversity schemes. These include the Daily Mail's Stephen Lawrence Scholarship and BAME internships at the Guardian. The National Council for the Training of Journalists also runs a diversity fund.

The Government does not wish to interfere in any way with editorial freedoms, operations or decision making in news organisations, but we encourage industry to

do more to increase diversity in journalism.

DCMS ministers and officials regularly meet with a range of stakeholders to discuss a range of issues and the Government is committed to ensuring that equality and diversity are a key feature in all of our interactions with industry.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-29/HL7560/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-29/HL7559/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Gurpal Virdi

Lord Singh of Wimbledon (Crossbench) [HL7398] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to conduct an independent investigation into racism experienced by former Metropolitan Police officer Gurpal Virdi.

Lord Singh of Wimbledon (Crossbench) [HL7399] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they undertook a formal investigation into the conduct of those implicated in racism against former Metropolitan Police officer Gurpal Virdi; and if not, why not.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Investigations into the conduct of police officers are the responsibility of the professional standards departments of police forces and, where appropriate, the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC). Such decision-making is independent of government. Complaints received from Mr Virdi were assessed by the IOPC as suitable for local investigation by the Metropolitan Police Service.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-27/HL7398/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-27/HL7399/>

Roma Holocaust Memorial Day

Baroness Whitaker (Labour) [HL7411] To ask Her Majesty's Government how they plan to mark Roma Holocaust Memorial Day on 2 August.

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: Every year we honour the memory of the Roma and Sinti population murdered by the Nazi's at the annual Holocaust Memorial Day commemorations on 27 January. The 2nd of August marked the liquidation of the Gypsy Family camp' at Auschwitz-Birkenau and this year due to the restrictions on gatherings brought about by the Covid 19 pandemic I honoured the memory of the Roma and Sinti men, women and children murdered by the Nazi's by releasing a short film on social media.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-27/HL7411/>

Press Release

Teen who punched man and said 'I don't want your corona virus in my country' pleads guilty

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/london-south/news/teen-who-punched-man-and-said-i-dont-want-your-corona-virus-my-country-pleads>

News: Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill

Yousaf will look at hate law after stars speak out

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/yousaf-will-look-at-hate-law-after-stars-speak-out-n92rwc30r>

Humza Yousaf says hate crime bill wouldn't criminalise JK Rowling

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2020-08-17/scotland/humza-yousaf-says-hate-crime-bill-wont-criminalise-jk-rowling-k29qt0j5g>

Humza Yousaf: Scotland's Justice Secretary contacts the police after receiving death threats

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/crime/humza-yousaf-scotlands-justice-secretary-contacts-police-after-receiving-death-threats-2948905>

Muslim MSP adds voice to criticism of hate crime bill

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2020-08-21/scotland/muslim-msp-adds-voice-to-criticism-of-hate-crime-bill-s0gndlgb7>

Former SNP depute leader shares 'grave concerns' over Scottish Government's proposed Hate Crime Bill

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/former-snp-depute-leader-shares-22565082>

Majority of Scots oppose new hate crime laws, poll suggests

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/majority-scots-oppose-new-hate-crime-laws-poll-suggests-2950314>

Coalition of 20 warns Scotland's hate crime bill threatens free speech

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18641178.coalition-20-warns-scotlands-hate-crime-bill-threatens-free-speech/>

Author Val McDermid says hate crime bill threatens free speech

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-53735307>

Val McDermid and Rowan Atkinson hit out at Scots hate crime Bill

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/crime/val-mcdermid-and-rowan-atkinson-hit-out-scots-hate-crime-bill-2938396>

Actors join chorus against hate bill

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/actors-join-chorus-against-hate-bill-2vbndqlzt>

Will Hate Crime Bill follow the path of its predecessor?

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18640784.agenda-will-hate-crime-bill-follow-path-predecessor/>

News: Metropolitan Police

Boris Johnson denies Met Police are 'institutionally racist' after black MP Dawn Butler was pulled over by officers

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/boris-johnson-dawn-butler-met-police-stop-racism-hackney-a9663521.html>

Not 'helpful' to label Metropolitan Police institutionally racist, commissioner Cressida Dick says

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/met-police-racism-cressida-dick-jeffrey-epstein-prince-andrew-a9669716.html>

We do not tolerate racists in Met Police, says chief Cressida Dick

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/we-do-not-tolerate-racists-in-met-police-says-chief-cressida-dick-zwwfp2nrx>

Met deputy defends officers facing 'trial by social media' over Dawn Butler

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/met-deputy-defends-officers-facing-trial-by-social-media-over-dawn-butler-twrfcjr8v>

Dawn Butler: Met condemns 'trial by social media' over car stop

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-53748929>

Dawn Butler: MP calls for 'system change' after police stop

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-53720835>

Labour MP Dawn Butler says racism led to police car stop

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-53713312>

Labour MP accuses police of racial profiling after being pulled over in her car

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/labour-mp-accuses-police-racial-profiling-after-being-pulled-over-her-car-2937614>

Dawn Butler: why the Labour MP was pulled over by police in London - and why she's calling for a 'system change'

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/dawn-butler-why-labour-mp-was-pulled-over-police-london-and-why-shes-calling-system-change-2938073>

I've chaired the advisory groups on racist stop and search tactics. Nothing will change until police are held accountable

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/dawn-butler-met-police-stop-search-racism-black-a9665026.html>

Black Met Police inspector 'racially harassed' by officers

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-53811375>

Black Met inspector stopped by police while driving home from work

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/aug/18/black-met-police-inspector-stopped-by-officers-while-driving-home-from-work>

Black Metropolitan Police inspector sues for 'racism'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2020-08-19/news/black-metropolitan-police-inspector-sues-for-racism-7xzm29h7q>

Stephen Lawrence murder investigation 'inactive'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-53722540>

Stephen Lawrence: Met police close murder investigation after 27 years

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/stephen-lawrence-met-police-close-murder-investigation-after-27-years-qxpbsqf72>

Father of Stephen Lawrence reacts to 'inactive' investigation

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-53751545/>

Stephen Lawrence's parents say they will 'never give up' on justice after police end investigation

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/stephen-lawrence-parents-justice-met-police-investigation-close-a9666751.html>

What happened to Stephen Lawrence? Why the police investigation into the murder of the black teenager has been declared 'inactive'

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/crime/what-happened-stephen-lawrence-why-police-investigation-murder-black-teenager-has-been-declared-inactive-2940511>

Stephen Lawrence: Black teenager's remaining racist killers still at large as Met Police closes investigation

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/stephen-lawrence-killers-met-police-investigation-closed-racism-a9665076.html>

Police racism inquiries in the UK: Do they change how things work?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/newsbeat-53365011>

News: Other Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Racism endemic at DfID, staff claim

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/aug/26/racism-endemic-at-dfid-staff-claim>

Coronavirus: Bolton councillor leaves housing group after BAME comments

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-manchester-53736728>

Suspended Tory councillor loses job after blaming immigrants and 'BAME community' for local lockdown

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/tory-councillor-bame-immigrants-lockdown-bob-allen-bolton-manchester-a9666941.html>

Neo-Nazi jailed for racist sticker campaign and neighbour harassment in Derbyshire

<https://tellmamauk.org/neo-nazi-jailed-for-racist-sticker-campaign-and-neighbour-harassment-in-derbyshire/>

Far right using coronavirus as excuse to attack Asians, say police

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/aug/29/far-right-using-coronavirus-as-excuse-to-attack-chinese-and-south-east-asians>

The medical school trying to become anti-racist

<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-53465113>

Racism still exists in social work today – we need more Black faces in the profession

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/aug/20/racism-still-exists-in-social-work-today-we-need-more-black-faces-in-the-profession>

Faith leaders call for action to tackle online hate speech

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2020/faith-leaders-call-for-action-to-tackle-hate-speech-on-social-media>

Use of the N-word leaves BBC's black staff exasperated

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2020-08-17/news/use-of-the-n-word-leaves-bbc-s-black-staff-exasperated-b2zjf8nw>

BLM organisers in Cheshire threatened in local Facebook group

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/aug/10/blm-organisers-in-cheshire-threatened-in-local-facebook-group>

'I cannot believe this is happening at a main stream school in Edinburgh, it's abhorrent' - Mother's shock at delayed response to 'racist' pupil

<https://www.scotsman.com/education/i-cannot-believe-happening-main-stream-school-edinburgh-its-abhorrent-mothers-shock-delayed-response-racist-pupil-2946266>

Racism at top school 'made me determined to speak out'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-53611609>

'Racism is generally invisible in rural areas'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-england-essex-53866093/racism-is-generally-invisible-in-rural-areas>

M&S customer 'racially harassed by staff member' in Basildon

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-essex-53778430>

M&S apologises for 'racist' bra names and says 'we have more to learn'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/marks-and-spencer-racist-bra-apology-colour-a9667931.html>

Black Lives Matter: Cardiff Uni racism row student seeks legal advice

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-53824404>

Religious studies teacher faces losing job after allegedly posting anti-semitic slurs online

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/re-teacher-faces-sack-over-22528812>

This weekend has to be day one of rugby union's fight against racism

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/blog/2020/aug/13/this-weekend-has-to-be-day-one-of-rugby-unions-fight-against-racism>

Victor Anichebe tired of racial discrimination after being repeatedly stopped by police

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/victor-anichebe-racial-discrimination-police-stop-and-search-black-lives-matter-a9677541.html>

Leicester doctor said he was racially abused over a basketball

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-leicestershire-53873694>

Hatred in the age of coronavirus

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/blogs/hatred-age-coronavirus>

My mother's legacy of anti-racism is a lesson for schools

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2020-08-18/scotland/my-mothers-legacy-of-anti-racism-is-a-lesson-for-schools-9vqh8skxg>

RMT salutes worker who overturned racist recruitment at Euston station

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/aug/15/union-leaders-remember>

TOP

Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Honour Based Violence

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL7481] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 21 July (HL6592), how many cases of honour based abuse were reported in (1) 2019, and (2) 2020.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: So-called honour-based abuse is unacceptable and the Government is committed to tackling it, through, for example, part-funding the national "honour"-based abuse helpline and working closely with the police and charities.

Statistics on Honour based Abuse have been collected by the Home Office from police forces in England and Wales since April 2019. The data for 2019-20 is expected to be published as official statistics by autumn 2020.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-28/HL7481/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

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

New Publication

Female Genital Mutilation, April - June 2020

<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/female-genital-mutilation/april-2020---june-2020>

TOP

Health Information: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

NHS

NHS Inform (Scotland)

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

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus>

Healthcare for overseas visitors

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

Healthcare for refugees and asylum seekers

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

NHS Near Me (Scotland)

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

video consulting approved for use by the Scottish Government and NHS Scotland.
<https://www.nearme.scot/>

NHS (England and Wales)

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

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Coronavirus: Places of Worship

S5W-30968 Alexander Stewart (Conservative): To ask the Scottish Government, provided appropriate social distancing rules are followed, what plans it has to review to 50-person limit on the number of people permitted to attend places of worship as part of the easing of the COVID-19 lockdown measures to allow more people to attend in (a) rural communities that are primarily reliant on the size of their church congregation and (b) large-capacity buildings.

Reply from Aileen Campbell: I recognise how difficult it has been for Scotland's faith communities to be unable to come together in places of worship at this challenging time, and understand the important role of congregational worship in supporting spiritual wellbeing. We do not want any restrictions to last any longer than is necessary but must ensure that people who enter places of worship to undertake congregational activities will be safe.

Our guidance on safe capacities for places of worship reflects evolving scientific and health advice and has been developed in discussion with our faith communities and we will continue to work closely with our faith communities as we move towards fully reopening places of worship as soon as it is safe to do so.

The 50 person limit will be reviewed on 20 August as part of our commitment to review restrictions every three weeks, as outlined in the Framework for Decision Making.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-30968>

The guidance referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-phase-3-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship/>

Coronavirus: Places of Worship

S5W-31084 Donald Cameron (Conservative): To ask the Scottish Government on what basis it determined that the number of people who can attend places of worship for communal services and prayer should be limited to 50.

Reply from Aileen Campbell: I recognise how difficult it has been for Scotland's faith communities to be unable to come together in large groups within places of worship at this challenging time, and understand the important role of congregational worship in supporting spiritual wellbeing. We do not want restrictions to last any longer than is necessary but must ensure that people who enter places of worship to undertake congregational activities will be safe.

Decisions about what restrictions to place on sectors or activities on our route out of lockdown have been guided by the principles set out in our Framework for Decision Making. We have sought to reduce broader health, economic and societal harm, but always with the necessity to suppress the virus. This has led to some difficult decisions about how best to balance the various harms.

For many of our faith communities, places of worship are also community spaces where individuals meet to worship, pray and interact with others from across their congregation. To support this, places of worship are not caught by the same

restrictions on household gatherings as, for example, hospitality settings such as pubs and restaurants.

In order to limit the risk of transmission of the virus, we must take a cautious approach and ensure that the total number of people interacting with each other within places of worship remains at a manageable level. This is currently set at 50 people at a time. Our guidance on safe capacities was developed in discussion with our faith communities and we will continue to work closely with them as we move towards fully reopening places of worship as soon as it is safe to do so.

The 50 person limit will be reviewed on 20 August as part of our commitment to review restrictions every three weeks, as outlined in the Framework for Decision Making.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-31084>

The Framework referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-framework-decision-making/>

with further information at

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-framework-decision-making-further-information/>

The guidance referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-phase-3-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship/>

Coronavirus: Marriages and Civil Partnerships

S5W-31015 Mark Griffin (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what consideration it has given to adopting the Northern Ireland Executive's guidance for venues and couples organising marriages, civil partnerships or other celebratory events during the easing of the COVID-19 lockdown.

Reply from Ash Denham: In Scotland, we are currently advising that no more than 20 people should attend a marriage ceremony or civil partnership registration, provided they can be accommodated safely with physical distancing in the chosen venue. Receptions or other celebrations related to a marriage or civil partnership must continue to comply with the restrictions on public gatherings under the Health Protection Regulations and in guidance.

This position will continue to be kept under careful review and we will continue to consider various approaches, including the approach taken by other jurisdictions such as Northern Ireland. Any further changes to the current restrictions will depend on public health advice.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-31015>

Coronavirus: Weddings

S5W-31017 Mark Griffin (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on allowing more than 20 guests to attend a wedding should the venue permit safe distancing.

Reply from Ash Denham: With effect from 15 July, Scottish Ministers amended the Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 to remove the restriction on the number of households allowed to be present at marriage ceremonies and civil partnership registrations.

At present, we are advising that no more than 20 people should attend a marriage ceremony or civil partnership registration, provided they can be accommodated safely with physical distancing in the chosen venue. This limit will be reviewed again at the end of August.

Our position will continue to be kept under careful review and we will continue to consider ways to permit marriage ceremonies and civil partnership registrations to take place safely. Any further changes to the current limit on numbers will depend on public health advice.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-31017>

Weddings: Restrictions

S5W-30784 Tom Mason (Conservative): To ask the Scottish Government when it anticipates being able to relax the restrictions on attendances at weddings and wedding receptions.

Reply from Ash Denham: With effect from 15 July, Scottish Ministers removed the restrictions in the Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 affecting attendance at marriage ceremonies and civil partnership registrations, subject to the need to maintain physical distancing within the couple's chosen venue.

At present, we are advising that no more than 20 people should attend a marriage ceremony or civil partnership registration, even where a larger number could be accommodated. This limit will be reviewed again on 20 August. Receptions or other celebrations related to a marriage or civil partnership must continue to comply with the restrictions on public gatherings under the Health Protection Regulations.

We will continue to consider how to permit all marriage ceremonies and civil partnership registrations to take place, with improved hygiene and other precautions, during Phase 4 of our route map, taking account of medical and scientific advice. During Phase 4 we also anticipate that further relaxations on gatherings of family and friends will be possible.

The Scottish Government continues to keep the position under careful review. In relation to the Health Protection Regulations, as soon as the Scottish Ministers consider that a restriction or requirement in the Health Protection Regulations is no longer necessary to prevent, protect against, control or respond to the incidence or spread of the infection, the Scottish Ministers must end the restriction or requirement.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-30784>

Marriages: easing of lockdown restrictions

S5W-30831 Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat): To ask the Scottish Government on what date marriages will resume in places of worship and civil settings as part of the easing of lockdown restrictions.

Reply from Ash Denham: With effect from 15 July, Scottish Ministers removed the restrictions in the Health Protection (Coronavirus)(Scotland) Regulations 2020 affecting attendance at marriage ceremonies and civil partnership registrations, subject to the need to maintain physical distancing within the couple's chosen venue. This means that it is now possible for a marriage ceremony or civil partnership registration to take place in any venue permitted to open under the Health Protection Regulations, such as hospitality venues, places of worship and registration offices.

The Scottish Government has published guidance for couples and celebrants to coincide with this change. At present, we are advising that no more than 20 people should attend a marriage ceremony or civil partnership registration, provided they can be accommodated safely with the necessary physical distancing in the couple's chosen venue. This limit will be reviewed again on 20 August.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-30831>

The guidance referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-small-marriages-and-civil-partnership-registrations/>

Funeral Services

S5W-30834 Monica Lennon (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether it will publish the evidence it used to determine that 20 people are permitted to attend a funeral service, while 50 are permitted to attend other church services in the same location with the same safety measures in place.

Reply from Joe FitzPatrick: Funerals are highly emotional and incredibly difficult events in our lifetimes. They are unique and intimate. Unlike most other gatherings, those in attendance are likely to know or be close to many others in attendance. Because of this, it is much more likely that vital public health measures to help mitigate or break chains of transmission of COVID-19, such as observing strict 2 metre physical distancing between households, will be forgotten. This is completely understandable at a time of grief, when people need the support of their close family and friends more than ever.

This has been the basis for us taking a much more cautious and careful approach when it comes to funeral services when compared to other gatherings, as we continue to seek to suppress the virus.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-30834>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups

Janet Daby (Labour) [37833] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether his Department is collating data on the ethnicity of people that have died from covid-19.

Reply from Jo Churchill: NHS England publishes deaths from COVID-19 reported in hospital settings on their website, which includes a breakdown by ethnicity. More information can be found at the following link:

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

The Office for National Statistics has published a provisional analysis of deaths involving COVID-19 by ethnicity for England and Wales for all deaths involving COVID-19 that occurred between 2 March and 15 April 2020. More information can be found at the following link:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriage/s/deaths/articles/coronaviruscovid19relateddeathsbyethnicgroupenglandandwales/2march2020to15may2020>

Public Health England (PHE) publishes weekly surveillance reports on GOV.UK with confirmed cases, hospitalisations and deaths broken down by ethnicity can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/weekly-covid-19-surveillance-report-published#history>

PHE undertook a rapid review to better understand how COVID-19 may be having an impact on different ethnic groups. PHE published its epidemiological report on 2 June and the Minister for Equalities will be taking forward further work following this report which is available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-review-of-disparities-in-risks-and-outcomes>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-20/37833/>

Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups

Jonathan Ashworth (Labour Co-op) [38917] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what assessment he has made of the reasons why covid-19 disproportionately affects people from BAME communities; and what steps he is taking to mitigate those effects.

Reply from Jo Churchill: The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Equalities (Kemi Badenoch MP) is reviewing the findings from Public Health England's reports to better understand the drivers behind the disparities and the relationships between the different risk factors. Her work will help us to improve understanding of the virus and who it affects so we can build on the existing action we are taking to tackle health inequalities. This includes our childhood obesity plan, NHS health checks, our tobacco control plan and diabetes prevention programme. In addition, the NHS Long Term Plan commits all major national programmes and every local area across England to set out specific measurable goals and mechanisms by which they will contribute to narrowing health inequalities over the next five and ten years.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-22/38917/>

Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups

Philippa Whitford (SNP) [57991] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what representations he has received on the alleged omission of recommendations that could help protect BAME people from covid-19 from the Government's review of disparities in risks and outcomes.

Reply from Jo Churchill: Various representations were received on the alleged omission of recommendations from Public Health England's report entitled 'COVID-19: review of disparities in risks and outcomes', published on 2 June 2020. No recommendations were removed.

Alongside the epidemiological review, Professor Fenton undertook a rapid evidence review and external stakeholder engagement with a significant number of individuals and organisations within the black, Asian and minority ethnic community, 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/2020-06-10/57991/>

The review referred to above can be read at

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

The rapid evidence review 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

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL7039] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the study by researchers from the Universities of Birmingham and Manchester on the impact of social determinants of health on patients with SARS-COV-2 infection in Birmingham, published on 19 July; in particular its finding that air pollution may have contributed to the impact of COVID-19 on BAME individuals.

Reply from Lord Bethell: Following the publication of the Public Health England review into the risks and outcomes of COVID-19 in June, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Equalities (Kemi Badenoch MP) is leading work to better understand the key drivers of the disparities identified and the relationships between the different risk factors.

Poor air quality is the largest environmental risk to public health in the United Kingdom and the Government is taking robust action to improve air quality and minimise public health impacts, as laid out in the Clean Air Strategy.

We are committed to improving our understanding of the possible links between air quality and COVID-19, to inform policy development. This will be supported by the recent National Institute for Health Research and UK Research and Innovation call for research proposals to investigate emerging evidence of an association between ethnicity and COVID-19 incidence and adverse health outcomes. The Department of Health and Social Care continues to have extensive discussions with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and other departments on the relationship between health and air quality.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-20/HL7039/>

The research referred to above can be read at

<https://assets.researchsquare.com/files/rs-35617/v1/9350174b-1e1c-4d74-93cd-a459d3a926ef.pdf>

The review referred to above can be read at

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

The call for research proposals referred to above can be read at

<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/documents/highlight-notice-covid-19-and-ethnicity/24657>

Scottish Government Press Releases

Coronavirus recovery and renewal

<https://www.gov.scot/news/coronavirus-recovery-and-renewal/>

Scotland remains in Phase 3

<https://www.gov.scot/news/scotland-remains-in-phase-3/>

Scottish Government Publications

Coronavirus recovery and renewal

<https://www.gov.scot/news/coronavirus-recovery-and-renewal/>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): daily data for Scotland

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

Coronavirus Acts: second report to Scottish Parliament

<https://tinyurl.com/y4kyvf9w>

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

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

Coronavirus (COVID-19): updated guidance for burial and cremation authorities

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-burial-and-cremation-authorities/>

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

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

UK Government Press Release

UK Government to fund COVID-19 research in Scotland

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-to-fund-covid-19-research-in-scotland>

News

BAME Britons less likely to trust Covid health officials – survey

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/aug/27/bame-britons-less-likely-trust-covid-health-officials-survey>

TOP

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>

Stage 1 Report: Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee

<https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdneq.azureedge.net/published/DPLR/2020/8/27/Hate-Crime-and-Public-Order--Scotland--Bill--Stage-1/DPLRS052020R46.pdf>

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/asylum-support-prescribed-period.html>

European Citizens' Rights Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-21/european-citizens-rights.html>

Illegal Immigration (Offences) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-21/illegal-immigration-offences.html>

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

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-21/immigration-and-social-security-co-ordination-eu-withdrawal.html>

Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/immigration-control-gross-human-rights-abuses.html>

Marriage (Approved Organisations) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/marriage-approved-organisations.html>

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/refugees-family-reunion.html>

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (Legal Advice and Appeals) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/unaccompanied-asylum-seeking-children-legal-advice-and-appeals.html>

TOP

Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

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

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

**** closes this week!**

Impact of Covid-19 on People of Colour and Migrant Front Line Workers

(closing date 1 September 2020)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/YCSSQM7>

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

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

Channel crossings, migration and asylum-seeking routes through the EU (closing date 14 September 2020)

<https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/83/home-affairs-committee/news/147672/channel-crossings-migration-and-asylum-seeking-routes-through-the-eu-inquiry/>

**** Impact of COVID-19 on equalities and human rights** (closing date 18 September 2020)
<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/115819.aspx>

**** From Scotland's Young People: views to inform the Scottish Youth Parliament Manifesto 2021-2026** (closing date 19 September 2020)
<https://www.surveygizmo.eu/s3/90236199/From-Scotland-s-Young-People-SYP-s-Manifesto-2021-2026>

Your Police 2020-2021 (closing date 31 March 2021)
Police Scotland recognise the importance of understanding the views and priorities of Scotland's diverse communities. This is especially important during the ongoing Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This survey is an opportunity for you to give your views and opinions during these challenging times, and beyond.
<https://consult.scotland.police.uk/surveys/your-police-2020-2021/>

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

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

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

TOP

Job Opportunities

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

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

TOP

Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

Grants online: Coronavirus

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

Third Sector Resilience Fund

Closing date not stated

Scottish Government grants and loans from £5,000 to £100,000 for the Third Sector in response to the Coronavirus pandemic. The Third Sector Resilience Fund is an emergency fund for charities, community groups, social enterprises and voluntary organisations working in Scotland. The fund will support organisations that already deliver services and products but find themselves in financial difficulties directly as a result of the coronavirus

pandemic. The primary intention of the fund is to help third sector organisations to stabilise and manage cash flows over this difficult period. For information and to apply see <https://scvo.org/support/coronavirus/your-funding/for-organisations/third-sector-resilience-fund/>

Covid-19 Transition Fund

Closing date not stated

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

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

For information and to apply see

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

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>

TOP

Events, Conferences, and Training

**** new or updated this week**

**** Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals**

9 September 2020 online (10.00–12.00)

4 November 2020 online (10.00–12.00)

13 January 2021 online (10.00–12.00)

3 March 2021 online (10.00–12.00)

Positive Action in Housing course to provide information about fundamental issues of housing, homelessness and welfare entitlements of EEA nationals and look at how service users might prepare themselves to avoid the threats of Brexit. For information contact training@positiveactionh.org or see <https://www.paih.org/our-services/training/>

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

**** Meet the Charity Regulator**

15 September 2020 online (10.00–12.00)

Updates from the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR), and an opportunity to meet their staff and board as well as other charity trustees. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y4qh4xef>

**** Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers**

16 September 2020 online (10.00–12.00)

11 November 2020 online (10.00–12.00)

20 January 2021 online (10.00–12.00)

10 March 2021 online (10.00–12.00)

Positive Action in Housing course to explore how the asylum system works from the perspective of a claimant and the process involved in making a claim for asylum. The course will also explore the barriers faced by both refugees and asylum seekers building a new life in Scotland and their respective entitlement to services. For information contact training@positiveactionh.org or see <https://www.paih.org/our-services/training/>

Holocaust Memorial Day 2021 Resources Launch

15 September 2020 online (4.00–5.30)

The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust will explore the importance of marking Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD), and showcase new resources to enable groups of all kinds to mark HMD 2021. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y5pwqro5>

**** Equality and Diversity in Service Delivery Part 1**

22 and 23 September 2020 (2 day course) online (2.00–4.00)

Positive Action in Housing course outlining the fundamentals of how to develop a workplace delivering accessible services to a diverse service user group. For information contact training@positiveactionh.org or see <https://www.paih.org/our-services/training/>

**** No Recourse to Public Funds**

23 September 2020 online (10.00–12.00)

18 November 2020 online (10.00–12.00)

3 February 2021 online (10.00–12.00)

17 March 2021 online (10.00–12.00)

Positive Action in Housing course to help frontline workers identify a tenant's current status, clarify what this means in terms of access to public funds and plan effective support where difficulties arise. For information contact training@positiveactionh.org or see <https://www.paih.org/our-services/training/>

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

**** Equality and Diversity in Workplace**

18 and 19 November 2020 (two day course) online (10.30–12.30)

Positive Action in Housing course outlining the fundamentals of how to create a respectful, supportive and inclusive working environment for a diverse staff and volunteer group, discuss the type of language that can be offensive and excluding, and debate how to challenge such behaviour in a constructive manner. For information contact training@positiveactionh.org or see <https://www.paih.org/our-services/training/>

**** Interpreting Culture**

19 and 20 January 2021 (two day course) online (10.30–12.30)

Positive Action in Housing course to examine where culture comes from and look at

examples of its extraordinary diversity, and focus on interactions with people from other cultures to improve understanding, confidence and trust. For information contact training@positiveactionh.org or see <https://www.paih.org/our-services/training/>

TOP

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>

TOP

SCoJeC
Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



The **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC)** is the representative body of all the Jewish communities in Scotland. It advances public understanding about the Jewish religion, culture and community, and also works in partnership with other organisations to promote good relations and understanding among community groups and to promote equality. (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC029438) <https://www.scojec.org/>



BEMIS 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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