



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

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

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

Because of the Jewish Festivals of Yom Kippur and Succot, the next three issues of MEMO will be published midweek on 30 September, and 7 and 14 October.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Debate

Migration and Care Workers

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12816&i=115890#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

No recourse to public funds

S5W-31482 Elaine Smith (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what provisions are

in place to ensure that the children of people with no recourse to public funds are not left without adequate food.

Reply from Aileen Campbell: We have a responsibility to support and safeguard children and their families, no matter their asylum or immigration status, and ensure they get the right help at the right time. This should be done in line with GIRFEC principles.

'No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) is applied through reserved immigration legislation and prohibits access to certain benefits and services. Public funds which are restricted for the purposes of NRPF are set out at paragraph 6 of the immigration rules. This includes Universal Credit, Child Benefit and the Scottish Welfare Fund.

Local authorities also have duties under the Children's (Scotland) Act 1995 and may have Social Work duties depending on the circumstances of the family. Local authorities are also able to utilise powers in the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 to provide free school meals to families with no recourse to public funds where a families situation has been brought to their attention.

New sources of Scottish Government funding (including the Food Fund, Supporting Communities Fund and Hardship Fund) can be used by local authorities and other partners to support people with NRPF during the Covid 19 pandemic.

The Scottish Government is supporting communities to respond to food insecurity in a way that promotes dignity and removes barriers for households relating to adequate access to healthy and nutritious food.

No-one in Scotland should be left unsupported, particularly at this time of crisis.'

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-31482>

Scottish Parliament Motions

S5M-22708 Joe FitzPatrick (SNP): Migration and Care Workers – That the Parliament recognises and appreciates the significant contributions to Scotland's social care sector made by care professionals from all over the world, and particularly the significant contributions made during the COVID-19 pandemic by people who have chosen to make Scotland their home; notes with concern the impact on Scotland's social care sector of the UK Government's proposals for a future immigration system from 1 January 2021, and specifically the impact of its proposed salary threshold of £25,600 and the exclusion of social care workers and health support staff from its new Health and Care Visa; considers that the UK Government's categorisation of many key workers, including care professionals, as "low skilled" does not recognise the social value, importance and skills required to do these crucial roles; notes that inward migration enriches society for the better, helps to sustain public services and makes a vital contribution to key sectors, including social care; recognises that the UK Government's proposals risk causing serious staff shortages in social care and other sectors, and calls on the UK Government to include social care workers on the Shortage Occupation List and within the Health and Care Visa, and to engage with the Scottish Government to develop tailored migration proposals that meet the needs of Scotland's economy, public services and communities.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-22708>

S5M-22708.1 David Stewart (Labour): Migration and Care Workers – As an amendment to motion S5M-22708 in the name of Joe FitzPatrick (Migration and Care Workers), insert at end “; notes that the average hourly wage for social care workers of £9.79, as reported by the Fair Work Convention in 2019, means that average full-time

salaries for social care remain below the proposed Short Occupation List threshold; acknowledges that low pay within the social care sector is one of the main reasons for challenges with recruitment and retention in Scotland, and believes that the value of the skilled work done by social care staff must be reflected in their pay and conditions, and that improvements to pay within the sector must be delivered as part of the establishment of a National Care Service.”

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-22708.1>

S5M-22708.2 Donald Cameron (Conservative) Migration and Care Workers – As an amendment to motion S5M-22708 in the name of Joe FitzPatrick (Migration and Care Workers), leave out from "with concern" to end and insert "that the UK Government wants these vital workers to remain in Scotland and the rest of the UK; recognises the importance of encouraging local recruitment into the social care sector so that there is not a dependency on international migration within the social care sector in Scotland, and encourages the promotion of the UK Government's EU Settlement Scheme for migrants from the EU so that they can continue to live and work in Scotland."

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-22708.2>

Scottish Parliament Culture, Tourism, Europe & External Affairs Committee

Immigration: evidence session

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12809&i=115826#ScotParlOR>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Immigration

Lloyd Russell-Moyle (Labour Co-op) [86740] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 7 September 2020 to Question 84331 on Immigration, whether people will be able to make applications in October 2020.

Reply from Kevin Foster: On 10 September the Home Office laid Immigration Rules to enable the new points-based Student Route and Child Student routes to open on 5 October 2020. Eligible applicants will be able to apply under these routes from that date.

The opening of these routes is a significant milestone in the delivery of the UK's new points-based immigration system. The Skilled Worker route will open later this year.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-08/86740>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-02/84331>

Information about the Immigration Rules referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-international-student-immigration-routes-open-early>

The Immigration rules referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/916565/CCS001_CCS0920158512-001_Stat_of_change_Immigration_Rules_HC_707_Print.pdf

Biometric Residence Permits: Migrant Workers

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [85964] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that NHS staff who received free one year visa extensions have their applications processed and their Biometric Residence Permits returned to them as soon as possible.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office has created a dedicated taskforce specifically to deliver the extension of Health Care Worker's Visas as per the scheme. This team has worked closely with the NHS and Private Healthcare Providers to ensure that the required information was supplied to trigger the process. Resources have been diverted into the processing of this information as well as an office presence maintained to ensure that systems and post have been accessible to enable the work.

We have established a new working process, which includes the re-injection of biometric data, without the need for any eligible worker to attend a Commercial Partner site, reducing delays and risk to customers.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-07/85964>

Biometric Residence Permits: Migrant Workers

Holly Lynch (Labour) [82128] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to her Department's news story of 31 March 2020, NHS frontline workers visas extended so they can focus on fighting coronavirus, how many healthcare workers' biometric residence permit renewals her Department (a) is currently processing and (b) has processed; and what the (i) average and (ii) longest length of time her Department has spent on processing such a renewal.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Published statistics pertaining to the number of NHS visas extended as of June 2020, can be found via the following link:

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

Updated statistics regarding those extended after this date will be published in future.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-08-28/82128>

The news story referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nhs-frontline-workers-visas-extended-so-they-can-focus-on-fighting-coronavirus>

The following ten questions all received the same answer

Immigrants: Finance

Stephen Timms (Labour) [87474] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for a change of conditions to the no recourse to public funds condition were made (a) with and (b) without a representative; and what proportion of each type of application has been (i) successful and (ii) unsuccessful in each quarter since the third quarter of 2017.

Stephen Timms (Labour) [87475] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applicants for a change of conditions to the no recourse to public funds condition have been made in each quarter since the third quarter of 2017 were aged (a) under 18, (b) 18-25, (c) 25-30, (d) 30-40, (e) 40-50, (f) 50-60, (g) 60-70, (h) 70-80 and (i) over 80.

Stephen Timms (Labour) [87476] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of applicants for a change of conditions to no recourse to public funds made in each quarter since the third quarter of 2017 had dependents under 18.

Stephen Timms (Labour) [87477] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, how many applicants for a change of conditions to no recourse to public funds in each quarter since the third quarter of 2017 had dependents under 18 who are (a) British children and (b) have a disability.

Stephen Timms (Labour) [87478] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of applicants with dependents for a change of conditions to no recourse to public funds in each quarter since the third quarter of 2017 (a) applied as single applicants, (b) made a joint application (c) had a non-applying partner.

Stephen Timms (Labour) [88240] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many change of conditions applications have been made by people with no recourse to public funds by country of nationality of the main applicant in each quarter since quarter 3 of 2017.

Stephen Timms (Labour) [88241] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of change of conditions applications from people with no recourse to public funds were made by people who identified their gender as (a) female, (b) male and (c) unspecified, in each quarter since quarter 3 of 2017.

Stephen Timms (Labour) [88242] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of change of conditions applications from people with no recourse to public funds were made by people who identified themselves as having disabilities or health issues, in each quarter since quarter 3 of 2017.

Stephen Timms (Labour) [88243] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of change of conditions applications were made by people with dependents and with no recourse to public funds and who had the relationship status (a) single, (b) married or a civil partner, (c) unmarried partner, (d) divorced or civil partnership dissolved, (e) separated and (f) widowed or a surviving civil partner in each quarter since quarter 3 of 2017.

Stephen Timms (Labour) [88244] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many change of conditions applications made by people with no recourse to public funds were re-applications in each quarter since quarter 3 of 2017; and what proportion of those re-applications were (a) successful and (b) unsuccessful.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Following previous questions and the commitment given to UK Statistics Authority (UKSA), Change of Conditions information is now part of the transparency data which can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-protection-data-august-2020>.

The relevant data is in tab CoC_01.

Currently we cannot provide the data requested because this information is not readily available and would require a more detailed examination of all Change of Conditions cases to establish whether the data requested is held and would meet the quality requirements for release.

As part of the regular publication of this data the Home Office will review whether the data can be meaningfully broken down any further.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-09/87474>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-09/87475>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-09/87476>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-09/87477>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-09/87478>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-10/88240>

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<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-10/88241>
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<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-10/88243>
and
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-10/88244>

Visas: Health Professions

Mary Kelly Foy (Labour) [88396] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to extend the visas of (a) podiatrists and (b) other allied health professionals due to the covid-19 outbreak; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Kevin Foster; In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government is extending the visas for a range of healthcare professionals, working for the NHS and independent health and care providers, where their current visa expires between 31 March and 1 October.

Eligible occupations, agreed with the Department for Health and Social Care, include podiatrists. Guidance on who is eligible for this automatic extension offer can already be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-uk-visa-applicants-and-temporary-uk-residents#if-youre-working-for-the-nhs>.

This offer also applies to their eligible family members. This 12-month extension offer is free and those benefitting will not have to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-10/88396>

Overseas Students: Entry Clearances

Richard Thomson (SNP) [86772] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what discussions he has had with Cabinet colleagues on the potential merits of extending the duration of the graduate work visa.

Reply from Michelle Donelan: Extensive engagement has taken place across the government, both at a ministerial level and official level, throughout the development of the future immigration system, including on the new graduate and student routes and other points-based routes.

The graduate route, launching in summer 2021, represents our continued commitment to support the UK's education sector and our strong desire to make a truly world-leading offer to international students, allowing new graduates the opportunity to remain in the UK to work or to look for work after their studies. This is already a substantial improvement on the UK's previous post-study work offer of 4 months (6 months under the limited pilot programme). Since we had originally announced the details of the graduate route last September, the government announced a further change, extending the post-study work period to 3 years for PhD graduates.

We believe that 2 years (3 years for PhD graduates) is a fair and generous amount of time to allow international graduates to have unrestricted access to the UK labour market, enabling them to gain valuable work experience and to kick-start their careers. We also believe this will help to ensure that the UK continues to be an attractive destination for international students. We will of course keep the operation of the graduate route under review once it has been implemented.

At the end of their leave as a graduate, international students who wish to stay and work in the UK for longer will also be eligible to switch into employment immigration routes. We are reviewing and simplifying the employment routes as part of the government's work on the future borders and immigration system to ensure that

they meet the UK's needs.

The government also recently published and updated bespoke guidance for students impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak, setting out important flexibilities at this time. This includes confirming that those studying by distance/blended learning will be eligible to apply for the graduate route provided they are in the UK by 6 April 2021 and meet other requirements of the route.

We now have a world-class student visa offer befitting our world-class higher education sector, which will only improve once the student route is operational later this year and student visa processes are further streamlined.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-08/86772>

Windrush Generation: Compensation

Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [86120] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Windrush Compensation Scheme cases have been closed in each month since April 2019.

Reply from Priti Patel: Information on the number of claims on which compensation has been paid under the Windrush Compensation Scheme is available to view on GOV.UK at:

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

Data also refers to the number of zero entitlement claims and those rejected on eligibility grounds.

We deploy staff flexibly across different areas. We now have over 100 staff working on the Windrush Compensation Scheme, including the Windrush Helpline, casework, quality assurance, payment and review functions.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-07/86120>

Information about the Windrush Compensation Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

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

British Nationality: EU Nationals

Daisy Cooper (Liberal Democrat) [90274] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of applications for British citizenship from EU citizens with Settled Status, but who did not hold Comprehensive Sick Insurance during a period when they were students or deemed self-sufficient, have been successful.

Reply from Kevin Foster: I am unaware of any application for British Citizenship which has been refused purely on the basis of this aspect of the EEA Regulations relating to free movement.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-15/90274>

Asylum

John Hayes (Conservative) [88824] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the annual cost to the public purse is for (a) housing of and (b) weekly payments to people who have had their asylum application rejected and their dependents under Section 95 and Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, in the most recent period for which data is available.

Reply from Chris Philp: Data is published on a quarterly basis with the latest information covering until 31st June 2020. The next quarterly figures are due to be released in November 2020

Accommodation costs are considered to be commercially confidential so we do not provide this information, however, total asylum spends are published as part of transparency data

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

These figures are not broken down into those that have had their asylum claim rejected. This information is not readily accessible and would require a manual search.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-11/88824>

Asylum

John Hayes (Conservative) [88823] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many (a) people and (b) dependents of people who have had an application for asylum rejected are (i) housed and (ii) receive payments under Section 95 and Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

Reply from Chris Philp: Figures outlining the number of people supported are published as part of the Home Office transparency data

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

These figures are not broken down into those that have had their asylum claim rejected or the number of people in each household. This information is not readily accessible and would require a manual search.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-11/88823>

Asylum: Coronavirus

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [89744] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what countries her Department has assessed it safe to return refused asylum seekers to during the covid-19 pandemic.

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-14/89744>

Asylum: Interviews

Christine Jardine (Liberal Democrat) [82311] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of effectiveness of teleconferencing interviews for asylum seekers to ensure that the (a) quality and experience of interviews is maintained; (b) claimants do not suffer retraumatisation and dehumanisation; (c) the loss of physical communication and body language does not result in adverse credibility assessments.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office has successfully used video technology to support asylum interviewing since 2017 and has appropriate operating procedures that are designed to ensure participants are able to give the best account of their circumstances. Asylum Operations has an assurance process, the three lines of defence model, which assesses the quality of decisions, interviews and the application of Home Office policy and video conference interviews are a part of this assurance process.

Assurance Compliance and Improvement (ACI) are in the process of conducting second line assurance on interviewing via video conference but we are continuing to complete our own first line assurance. We regularly liaise with partners and received feedback to ensure our standards of interviewing are upheld.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-08-28/82311>

Asylum: Hotels

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [89742] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much her Department has paid to (a) Serco, (b) Mears Group and (c) Clearsprings for the provision of hotel asylum accommodation since 1 April 2020.

Reply from Chris Philp: Total asylum spends are published as part of transparency data which can be found using this link

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-14/89742>

Asylum: Employment

Gill Furniss (Labour) [91119] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when the Government's review on the restrictions on asylum seekers' rights to work, initiated in December 2018, will be concluded.

Reply from Chris Philp: Asylum seeker right to work is a complex issue and is under review; it is crucial we take the time to get this right. We are listening carefully to the arguments and considering the evidence put forward on the issue.

The findings of the review will be communicated once this work is completed.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-16/91119>

Asylum: Families

Claire Hanna (SDLP) [86194] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will improve the accessibility of legal routes of immigration into the UK to facilitate the reunification of families.

Reply from Chris Philp: The UK already provides a number of legal routes for families to reunite in the UK. In particular:

1) Families can apply under the family Immigration Rules where there is a qualifying partner or child (British or lived continuously in the UK for at least seven years) and it is unreasonable to expect family life to continue outside the UK or for the child to leave.

2) Refugee family reunion policy allows a partner and children under 18 of those granted protection in the UK to join them here, if they formed part of the family unit before the sponsor fled their country.

3) The Dublin III Regulation contains provisions enabling family reunification. In 2019 the UK transferred in 528 people under these provisions. The UK will remain part of the Dublin Regulation until the end of the transition period. Mechanisms for family reunification beyond the transition period is subject to negotiations.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-07/86194>

Detention Centres: Non-governmental Bodies

Philip Davies (Conservative) [89643] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will list (a) the Non-Governmental Organisations with access to Immigration Removal Centres, (b) the purpose of their access and (c) which centres have they visited in the last 12 months.

Reply from Chris Philp: Individuals or organisations who do not have a statutory right of access and who wish to view an immigration removal centre are required under the provisions of the Detention Centre Rules 2001 to obtain the permission of the Secretary of State. Published Detention Services Order 04/2012 'Visitors and visiting procedures' sets out the practical arrangements in place for visitors to the immigration detention estate.

Several non-governmental organisations (NGOs) regularly visit immigration removal centres to provide a range of different services including advocacy, welfare services, religious support and mental health provision. In addition, the Home Office, NHS (England) and our suppliers have grant or contractual arrangements with a small number of NGOs.

Visiting NGOs include Samaritans; British Red Cross; Gatwick Detainee Welfare Group; Bail for Immigration Detainees; Medical Justice; and the Association of Visitors to Immigration Detainees (AVID). The Home Office does not hold a central

record of NGO visits to individual centres.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-14/89643>

The following four questions all received the same answer

Asylum: Deportation

Philip Davies (Conservative) [81719] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average time taken was between an application for asylum being rejected and the asylum seeker being deported in each of the last five years.

Philip Davies (Conservative) [81720] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people whose asylum claim has been rejected have not been deported.

Philip Davies (Conservative) [81721] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the longest period has been between an application for asylum being rejected and the asylum seeker being deported in each of the last three years.

Philip Davies (Conservative) [81722] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the earliest date was of an application for asylum being rejected where the asylum seeker remains to be deported.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office is unable to provide timespans between asylum claims being initially refused and eventual return. There are many different factors that can impact on timescales ranging from legal interventions such as appeals and the raising of further submissions, to the ability to secure travel documents and individuals going to ground. Any figure would therefore be arbitrary and not indicative of the circumstances surrounding any individual case.

The Home Office publishes data on how many unsuccessful applicants left the UK either voluntarily or by enforced removal. The latest data can be found in the published immigration statistics, with table Ret_05 of the [summary tables](#) relating to both Asylum and Non Asylum returns.

Those whose asylum claim has been refused but could be liable to return can be found in table Asy_03 of the published immigration statistics at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-protection-data-august-2020>

Those with no right to be in the UK should return home. We expect people to leave the country voluntarily but, where they do not, Immigration Enforcement will seek to enforce their departure.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-08-28/81719>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-08-28/81720>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-08-28/81721>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-08-28/81722>

Asylum: Deportation

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [89745] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been subject to enforced removal since since 1 April 2020; and to what countries they have been removed.

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>
Data on the number of enforced returns, by return destination, are published in table Ret_D02 within the returns detailed datasets.

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

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

Returns summary tables. The 'contents' sheet contains an overview of all available data on returns. The latest data relate to June 2020.

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

https://www.gov.uk/search/research-and-statistics?content_store_document_type=upcoming_statistics&organisations%5B%5D=home-office&order=release-date-oldest

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-14/89745>

Human Trafficking and Slavery

Karen Bradley (Conservative) [87539] To ask the Secretary of State for the Justice, how many people were (a) prosecuted and (b) convicted of human trafficking and modern slavery offences as the principal offence; of those people how many were EEA or Swiss nationals excluding UK nationals; how many additional people flagged by the CPS as being investigated for human trafficking and modern slavery offences were (i) prosecuted and (ii) convicted of other offences; and of those people how many were EEA or Swiss nationals excluding UK nationals in each calendar year from 2016 to 2019.

Reply from Alex Chalk: The Ministry of Justice has published data on the number of people prosecuted and convicted in England and Wales up to the year ending December 2019 for the following human trafficking-related offences and offences under the Modern Slavery Act 2015, available at the link below:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/888344/HO-code-tool-principal-offence-2019.xlsx

Filter 'Offence' by:

- 72 Human trafficking for sexual exploitation
- 78.1 Human trafficking for non-sexual exploitation
- 106 Modern Slavery

The resulting table will then display the those prosecuted and convicted for the above offences over the 2013-2019 period.

However, it is not possible to identify the nationality of the defendants as this information is not held in the courts proceedings database.

Moreover, CPS flagged data relating to individuals prosecuted for human trafficking or modern slavery does not identify the specific offences prosecuted or convicted.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-09/87539>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer

Visas: Married People

Baroness Neville-Rolfe (Conservative) [HL7871] To ask Her Majesty's Government why they have suspended priority visa services for spouses; and when they plan to reinstate pre-COVID-19 pandemic arrangements and timescales for such visas.

Baroness Neville-Rolfe (Conservative) [HL7872] To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the average processing time for spouse visa applications from the United States in each of the last 12 months.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: All priority services were suspended for all application routes as a result of Covid 19 and the closure of application processing centres in the UK and overseas. Priority services will remain suspended until UKVI is able to ensure service standards may be met and that customers receive the services paid for.

39 UKVCAS service points are now open the UK and 198 VACs overseas are now open and being managed as part of business as usual.

The resumption of priority services remains under review and services will be offered where capacity permits and will be reintroduced on a phased basis. UKVI continues to keep this position under review and will publicise any changes to services on GOV.UK.

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>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-07/hl7871>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-07/hl7872>

Visas: EU Countries

The Earl of Clancarty (Crossbench) [HL7621] To ask Her Majesty's Government what the maximum length of continuous visa-free stay for EU citizens in the UK will be from 1 January 2021; how soon after the end of any such visa-free stay period EU citizens who have stayed for the maximum period will be able to return to the UK to begin another visa-free stay; and what will be the legal basis for an agreement on such matters between the UK and EU.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government has already said that its intention is for citizens of the EEA and Switzerland to be able to continue to travel to the UK as a visitor for up to six months without needing a visa from the end of the transition period following the UK's departure from the EU. This will be reflected in the UK's immigration rules.

EU, other EEA and Swiss nationals will not be required to remain outside the UK for a set period before returning to the UK as a visitor, however they should not seek to live in the UK for extended periods through frequent or successive visits or make the UK their main home.

From 1 January 2021, unless they have rights under the EU exit separation agreements, EEA and Swiss nationals intending to come to the UK on a long-term basis to live, work or study will need to do so under the new, UK points-based immigration system which will be set out in our domestic law.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-02/hl7621>

Windrush Generation: Compensation

Lord Oates (Liberal Democrat) [HL7873] To ask Her Majesty's Government how much, in total, has been paid to the victims of the Windrush scandal as part of the Windrush Compensation Scheme to date; what proportion of the funds allocated to that scheme that amount represents; and how many victims have been compensated.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Information on the amount of compensation paid and the number of people compensated under the Windrush Compensation Scheme is available to view on GOV.UK at:

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

Information relating to estimated costs and allocations, including compensation payments, is contained in the Home Office's Impact Assessment IA No: HO 0329 dated 29/1/20. The Home Office has secured funding from HM Treasury for the scheme, and there is no cap on the amount of compensation an individual can receive.

WCS_01: Number of Windrush Compensation Scheme claims received				
Quarter/Month	All claims received	All Primary Claims	All Estate Claims	All Close Family Claims
2019 Q2	529	452	21	56

2019 Q3	336	285	14	37
2019 Q4	243	205	11	27
2020 Q1	167	135	11	21
2020 Q2	117	87	3	27
Jul-20	88	66	5	17

[Windrush Compensation Scheme Data - Aug 2020](https://www.gov.uk/apply-windrush-compensation-scheme)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-07/hl7873>

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

Windrush Generation: Compensation

Lord Oates (Liberal Democrat) [HL7874] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they use the civil test of 'the balance of probabilities' or the criminal law test of 'beyond reasonable doubt' to assess claims to the Windrush Compensation Scheme.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Windrush Compensation Scheme awards compensation to individuals according to both actual losses that an individual may have suffered, and tariff-based awards. Where compensation is awarded for actual losses it is right that we seek to obtain an appropriate level of assurance that these losses were incurred, in order to fulfil our duty to properly manage taxpayers' money.

We do not expect those seeking compensation to meet the criminal standard of proof. The Windrush Compensation Scheme rules and caseworker guidance, which set out the criteria by which claims under the scheme are considered, are currently being revised to confirm this. The revised rules and guidance will be published on gov.uk later this month.

The current compensation scheme rules are available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/windrush-compensation-scheme-full-rules>

and the current caseworker guidance is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/windrush-compensation-scheme-casework-guidance>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-07/hl7874>

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

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Lord Pendry (Labour) [HL7696] To ask Her Majesty's Government what provision they have made to assist the children of those illegal immigrants crossing the English Channel who have been separated from their parents.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: All unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) who arrive in the UK are treated in line with established processes. Upon arrival, an unaccompanied child will undergo a number of mandatory checks and will be interviewed in order to identify any safeguarding concerns. On completion, a child will then be handed to a local authority for them to provide the necessary support under their statutory duties as set out in the Children Act 1989.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-02/hl7696>

Refugees

Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle (Green) [HL7752] To ask Her Majesty's Government when they plan to resume the resettlement scheme for refugees.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: It is not currently possible to undertake resettlement activity due to the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. However, we are working on detailed plans to recommence resettlement arrivals as soon as it is safe and operationally viable to do so.

The resumption of refugee resettlement arrivals, including community sponsorship, remains dependent on a number of factors including: the lifting of restrictions imposed by the governments of those countries and in the UK; the ability of our international partners to operate; the reopening of the UK's visa application centres; local authority and central government capacity in light of COVID-19; and recovery of the asylum system from the impact of COVID-19.

We continue to closely monitor the situation and remain in regular dialogue with our international and domestic stakeholders.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-03/hl7752>

Asylum

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL7657] To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made in reviewing their policy on the rights of asylum applicants to work in the UK as announced in the White Paper The UK's future skills-based immigration system, published in December 2018; and when they intend to make an announcement about their progress and conclusions.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Asylum seeker right to work is a complex issue. A review of the policy is ongoing, and we are considering the evidence put forward on the issue. Details of the review will be announced in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-02/hl7657>

The White Paper referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/766672/The-UKs-future-skills-based-immigration-system-accessible-version.pdf

The following two questions both received the same answer

Home Office: Video Recordings

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL7708] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to create a route for asylum seekers to cross the English Channel to the UK safely.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL7709] To ask Her Majesty's Government which Minister authorised the release of the Home Office video on immigration on 26 August.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: HL7708: The UK has a proud record of providing protection for people who need it, for as long as it is needed, in accordance with our obligations under the Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights. However, there is no provision within our Immigration Rules for someone to be allowed to travel to the UK to seek asylum or temporary refuge. Whilst we sympathise with people in difficult situations, we are not bound to consider asylum claims from the very large numbers of people overseas who might like to come here. Those who need international protection should claim asylum in the first safe country they reach – that is the fastest route to safety. France is one such safe country – with a fully functioning asylum system and over 100,000 asylum claims lodged last year

The UK's resettlement schemes have provided safe and legal routes for tens of thousands of people, who have been given the chance to start new lives in safety. We purposefully resettle those in greatest need of protection, including those who require urgent medical treatment, survivors of violence and torture, and women and

children at risk. We resettle more refugees than any other country in Europe and are in the top five countries worldwide. Since 2015, we have resettled more than 25,000 refugees.

While resettlement arrivals are currently suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we will resume them as soon as conditions allow, and meet our full commitment to those fleeing the Syrian conflict.

HL7709: The original animation was cleared by the Minister for Immigration, Compliance & the Courts; we have since removed this content from official government channels.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-02/hl7709>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) (880) Suspension of income requirements for family visas
– That this House notes that there are thousands of couples and families who are currently separated, or at imminent risk of becoming separated, due to restrictive income requirements for British nationals and settled residents wishing to be joined in the UK by a partner from outside the EEA; welcomes the Minister for Immigration's commitment of 23 March 2020 that no one will have a negative outcome through the immigration system due to a circumstance that was beyond their control; further notes that family separation would clearly constitute such a negative outcome; further welcomes that Minister's statement of 1 September 2020 that the circumstances brought about by the coronavirus pandemic are exceptional; notes with concern, however, that income requirements continue to be imposed on the sponsors of people applying to enter or remain in the UK with their British families despite those assurances; notes that guidance for caseworkers makes no mention of flexibility in the application of income requirements; is deeply troubled by the potential impact on those who must meet those income requirements of mass job losses caused by the coronavirus pandemic; and calls on the Government therefore to immediately suspend income requirements.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/57429/suspension-of-income-requirements-for-family-visas>

UK Parliament Home Affairs Committee

Channel crossings, migration and asylum-seeking routes through the EU: evidence session

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/874/default/>

Press Release

More Afghan interpreters who risked their lives supporting British troops to begin new lives in the UK

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-afghan-interpreters-who-risked-their-lives-supporting-british-troops-to-begin-new-lives-in-the-uk>

New Publications

Update to the Home Affairs Select Committee on Windrush: 22 October 2019

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/update-to-the-hasc-on-windrush-22-october-2019/update-to-the-hasc-on-windrush-22-october-2019-accessible-version>

Windrush Help Team Partner Pack

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/919613/Windrush Help Team partner pack - with links to assets.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/919613/Windrush_Help_Team_partner_pack_-_with_links_to_assets.pdf)

Letter from Baroness Williams of Trafford regarding the Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill: creative workers, funding the arts sector, cultural opportunity and exchange, ministers of religion, new entrants under the future points-based immigration system, immigration fees, and supplementary and transitory provisions

[http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2020-0530/Letter from Baroness Williams to All Peers ISSC Bill Cttee Day 2.pdf](http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2020-0530/Letter_from_Baroness_Williams_to_All_Peers_ISSC_Bill_Cttee_Day_2.pdf)

Brexit: Refugee protection and asylum policy

<https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/brexit-refugee-protection-and-asylum-policy/>

Freedom of Information release: Asylum seeker transfers

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/foi-202000057641/>

News

Home Office immigration unit has 'no idea' - MPs

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-54199535>

Home Office 'bases immigration policies on anecdotes and prejudice' – MPs

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/sep/18/home-office-policies-based-anecdotes-prejudice-damning-report>

Border Force Channel operations under scrutiny amid fears 'high harm criminals' are evading patrols

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/09/14/migrants-spotted-running-away-kent-beach-landing/>

Child refugees pushed into hands of smugglers amid delays to join relatives in UK, charities warn

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/child-refugees-france-smugglers-relatives-uk-boat-crossing-delays-b452894.html>

Channel Crossings: Migrants found on Essex beach deported to France and Germany

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/migrants-crossing-english-channel-essex-beach-uk-deported-france-germany-b481399.html>

UK judge halts Home Office flight to remove asylum seekers

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/sep/16/uk-judge-halts-home-office-flight-to-remove-asylum-seekers>

Judge forces Home Office to cancel deportation flight because asylum seekers faced destitution on arrival

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-high-court-refugees-deportation-flight-cancelled-b455779.html>

Lawyers block Channel migrants' deportation flight for a second time

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/09/17/lawyers-block-channel-migrants-deportation-flight-second-time/>

Home Office plans to evict thousands of refused asylum seekers

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/sep/19/home-office-plans-to-evict-thousands-of-refused-asylum-seekers>

Glasgow MPs call for inquiry into deaths of three asylum seekers

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-54226239>

Refugee integration programme extended for three months

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2020/Refugee-integration-programme-extended-for-three-months>

More than 100,000 are waiting for UK asylum

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/more-than-100-000-are-waiting-for-uk-asylum-07bd05l6v>

Asylum seekers military base plan in Pembrokeshire 'inappropriate'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-54227032>

Former Kent barracks to house asylum seekers who arrived by boat

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/sep/15/boat-migrants-to-be-housed-in-former-barracks-in-kent>

Army barracks to become UK's first 'migrant camp' following surge in Channel crossings, despite complaints from MPs

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/09/15/army-barracks-become-uks-first-migrant-camp-following-surge/>

Anger at proposals for migrant camp in disused Kent army barracks

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/anger-at-proposals-for-migrant-camp-in-disused-army-barracks-qc0l7fsrx>

Far right targets Kent migrant camp

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/far-right-targets-migrant-camp-ww56z57zl>

Groundbreaking refugee programme extended

<http://thirdforcenews.org.uk/tfn-news/groundbreaking-refugee-programme-extended>

Asylum seekers and lessons from history

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/sep/17/asylum-seekers-and-lessons-from-history>

Roza Salih launches campaign as she aims to be first refugee elected to Scottish Parliament

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18733417.roza-salih-launches-campaign-aims-first-refugee-election-scottish-parliament/>

TOP

Equality

Scottish Parliament Debate

Museum for Human Rights

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12821&i=115933&c=2278843#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Motions

S5M-22770 Shirley-Anne Somerville (SNP): Advancing Equality and Human Rights for Minority Ethnic People and Communities – That the Parliament believes that promoting equality and human rights for minority ethnic communities should be a priority; reiterates the deep belief that there is a responsibility on everyone in society to tackle racism, prejudice and discrimination and take specific action to remove the barriers and injustices still faced by minority ethnic communities; acknowledges the work and advice of the independent Expert Reference Group on COVID-19 and Ethnicity; believes that its recommendations will be invaluable in responding to the inequalities that have been further exposed by COVID-19, and notes that the Scottish Government will present to Parliament the actions it plans to take as soon as practicably possible on the high incidence of COVID-19 among the BAME population and will continue to advance race equality across all spheres of society.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-22770>

S5M-22770.1: John Finnie (Green): Advancing Equality and Human Rights for Minority Ethnic People and Communities – As an amendment to motion S5M-22770 in the name of Shirley-Anne Somerville (Advancing Equality and Human Rights for Minority Ethnic People and Communities), after second "communities" insert "; recognises that, in order to fully realise their aims, BAME support groups require to be adequately resourced; agrees that adherence to international law, respect for court decisions, and full asylum support are fundamental to ensuring equality; supports calls for a fatal accident inquiry in relation to recent asylum deaths, which should include the general circumstances and treatment of asylum seekers in the UK".

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-22770.1>

S5M-22770.2: Jeremy Balfour (Conservative): Advancing Equality and Human Rights for Minority Ethnic People and Communities – As an amendment to motion S5M-22770 in the name of Shirley-Anne Somerville (Advancing Equality and Human Rights for Minority Ethnic People and Communities), insert at end “, and that, before reporting any recommendations back, it commences immediate engagement with stakeholders on the review of the Scottish-specific sector equality duties.”

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-22770.2>

S5M-22770.3: Pauline McNeill (Labour): Advancing Equality and Human Rights for Minority Ethnic People and Communities – As an amendment to motion S5M-22770 in the name of Shirley-Anne Somerville (Advancing Equality and Human Rights for Minority Ethnic People and Communities), after "Expert Reference Group on COVID-19 and Ethnicity;" insert "calls on the Scottish Government to respond in full to the Group's recommendations, giving a clear rationale for what aspects it has and has not accepted;".

Scottish Parliament Equalities and Human Rights Committee

Race Equality, Employment and Skills Inquiry: evidence session

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12810&i=115828#ScotParlOR>
and

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12832&i=116007#ScotParlOR>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office: Equality

Yasmin Qureshi (Labour) [84997] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what steps he has taken to ensure his Department's management board is diverse in terms of (a) gender, (b) ethnicity and (c) experience.

Reply from Nigel Adams: The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) is committed to putting diversity and inclusion at its heart.

The people appointed to the interim Board bring a range of experience, including from FCDO, HM Treasury, BEIS, Cabinet Office, the private and voluntary sectors and academia. It is not possible to provide a breakdown by gender or ethnicity for the Board members as this would contravene GDPR principles. Biographies of all Board members can be found on Gov.UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-04/84997>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Football: Equality

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL7894] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the Football Association about increasing diversity among (1) grassroots, and (2) professional, football referees.

Reply from Baroness Barran: We are in regular dialogue with the Football Association (FA) across a range of matters, including diversity. I welcomed the FA's announcement of a new voluntary code for Equality in Football Leadership, which aims to champion equality in football and tackle all forms of discrimination in the game. The Government is committed to working with sports to ensure opportunities to progress are open to all, from athletes to administrators, to board members. As an example of this, on 13 July 2020 Sport England and UK Sport announced a joint review of the Code for Sports Governance. The Code sets out the levels of transparency, accountability and financial integrity required from those who ask for government and National Lottery funding. It currently says that organisations must show a "strong and public commitment" to progressing ethnic diversity. However, it is right to review this to ensure that opportunities to progress are open to all. Government will be working with UK Sport and Sport England to set new expectations and ensure the sport sector leads by example. It is also important that referees feel safe and supported. That is why I was pleased to see the football authorities commit to improving reporting systems and providing better training and support for referees and stewards last year - including improved CCTV.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-07/hl7894>

New Publications

Thematic Inspection of Police Scotland Training and Development – Phase 1

https://www.hmics.scot/sites/default/files/publications/HMICS%20Thematic%20Inspection%20of%20Police%20Scotland%20Training%20and%20Development%20-%20Phase%201_0.pdf

Scotland's Census 2022 Equality Impact Assessment Results v3.0

<https://tinyurl.com/yxjbq7jm>

News

Public body given £470k to help Scots ethnic minorities has all-white board

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/public-body-given-470k-help-22696069>

Police Scotland criticised over leadership and diversity training

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-54167822>

Police Scotland: Increase number of ethnic minority officers is priority

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/uk-news/police-scotland-increase-number-ethnic-minority-officers-priority-2975457>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill

Christine Grahame (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government, in light of concerns regarding the term “likely” in relation to hatred being stirred up in section 3 of the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill, whether it is reviewing that phrase. (S5O-04584)

The Cabinet Secretary for Justice (Humza Yousaf): Christine Grahame will have heard last week’s very good debate. I thought that the tone of the debate, across the chamber, was good. Before the debate, I promised to listen to all the stakeholders involved, including those who are critical of the bill and who want to see the bill amended. Those people are being listened to and will continue to be listened to.

I am looking at all sections of the bill and I can confirm that I am of course looking at the stirring-up offences, which include the “likely” threshold in regard to the stirring up of hatred. That is one area that is being explored. I hope to come to the Parliament with an update shortly.

Christine Grahame: The cabinet secretary is right to say that there is broad support across the chamber for the principles of the bill. However, that phrase causes concern. Will the cabinet secretary consider the essential requirement for, or ingredient in a crime, which is intent, or mens rea? In my view, “likely to” does not meet that test.

Humza Yousaf: I am listening carefully to the comments that have been made about the stirring-up offence. If I may make a counter-argument, we have had a racial stirring offence for almost 35 years. The threshold for that offence is behaviour that is threatening or abusive or insulting—there is that additional threshold — but it is based on not only intent, but the potential for or likelihood of

stirring up hatred.

That law has operated in Scotland for nearly 35 years with almost no controversy. We can look to that example. The protection that we hope to provide for other vulnerable groups with other protected characteristics is broadly based on the racial stirring-up offence. It is not a mirror, but it is based on that.

Notwithstanding all that I have said, I am exploring that area. The Liberal Democrats in particular pushed me on that and I have committed to come to the Parliament well in advance of the Justice Committee taking oral evidence. I will do that, and I will look closely at that issue.

Liam Kerr (Conservative): I agree with the cabinet secretary that we had a good debate last week. Following revelations at the weekend that the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill has received the largest number of written responses in the history of devolution, and that the Justice Committee was not aware of that when it agreed its timetable for the bill, does the cabinet secretary now consider that it would be sensible to rethink the approach to the stirring-up part of the bill? That would ensure that the other parts could be sufficiently scrutinised and legislated on to tackle the pernicious hate crime that we all wish to address.

Humza Yousaf: I thank Liam Kerr for the tone of his question. I understand his arguments about timing. I hope that he will understand the counter-argument, which was best articulated by Victim Support Scotland. If we delay the bill beyond this parliamentary term, those who need its protections the most—at a time when the atmosphere for minority groups can be febrile and hostile—will wait even longer.

My commitment is to come to the Parliament as soon as I can, and before the oral evidence stage at the Justice Committee, with some proposed changes. It is for the Parliament to decide the timetable for the bill. I am beholden to the Parliament. The first part of Liam Kerr's question was about this being the most controversial bill, and about the 2,000-plus submissions on the bill. It is not my job to avoid criticism; my job is to make decisions that can be extremely difficult and to ensure that we have legislation that is both effective and protects people's rights. I go back to the quote by the American author Elbert Hubbard: "To avoid criticism, do nothing, say nothing and be nothing."

Our job is not to avoid criticism. Our primary aim as legislators is to pass good legislation that protects people and also protects their freedom of speech.

Liam McArthur (Liberal Democrat): I thank the justice secretary for that confirmation that he has responded to my call in last week's debate for him to come forward ahead of the Justice Committee's stage 1 oral evidence with proposed changes to the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill, and particularly to part 2 of the bill.

The cabinet secretary has referred on a couple of occasions to coming to the Parliament as soon as possible. When and how does he intend to come back to the Parliament with those proposals?

Humza Yousaf: Those are decisions for the Parliamentary Bureau to take. I suggest that the correct approach would be for me to make another ministerial statement. That would give as many members as possible the opportunity to ask questions and to scrutinise what I propose. If the Justice Committee wished me to come to the committee thereafter, I would be more than happy to do that.

I would have to speak to the business team, who would speak to the Parliamentary Bureau, and get agreement from parties across the chamber. I intend to do that as soon as I can, to give the Justice Committee as much time as possible in advance of its taking oral evidence.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12821&i=115905#ScotParlOR>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Home Office: Racial Discrimination

Catherine West (Labour) [86124] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many (a) police officers, (b) police staff, (c) National Crime Agency staff and (d) UK Border Force staff have been (i) suspended and (ii) dismissed for racism in the last three years.

Reply from Kit Malthouse: A & B) The Home Office collects and publishes information annually on the outcome of misconduct proceedings and criminal investigations involving police officers, including the number of officers that have been dismissed following proceedings. However, information on the reason for dismissal is not collected centrally by the Home Office.

The latest data on the outcomes following misconduct proceedings, which covers cases in the year ending March 2019, is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-workforce-england-and-wales-30-september-2019>.

The College of Policing publish data annually relating to those who have been dismissed from policing and placed on the Police Barred List. The most recent data shows that, in the period ending 31 March 2019, 15 officers and 7 members of police staff were dismissed under the category 'equality and diversity'. This data is available here:

https://www.college.police.uk/News/Collegenews/Documents/Barred_List_2019.pdf

Suspension of police officers or police staff is a matter for local forces. The Home Office does not collect or store this data.

C) No NCA officer has been suspended on grounds of racism in the last 3 years. There has been one dismissal of an NCA officer on racism grounds in the last 3 years.

D) Border Force does not hold the data on suspensions on the grounds of racism in the last three years. There has been one dismissal of a Border Force officer on racism grounds in the last three years.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-07/86124>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Hate Crime

Lord Vinson (Conservative) [HL7740] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 12 March (HL2248), whether the Law Commission review of legislation related to hate crime has called witnesses; if so, whom; what weight any such hearings with witnesses are giving to the importance of free speech in the UK; whether they intend to submit any recommendations by the Law Commission to Parliament for approval; and if not, why not.

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government has asked the Law Commission to undertake a review of the legislation related to hate crime, which will report in 2021. The review's Terms of Reference require the Law Commission to make recommendations that 'comply with, and are conceptionally informed by' the right to freedom of expression.

The Law Commission are scheduled to conduct a public consultation later in the year as part of their review. They will be seeking a wide range of perspectives and inviting comment from all interested parties. They have conducted pre-consultation meetings and will hold formal consultation meetings with stakeholders.

As part of their review, the Law Commission are engaging with a variety of stakeholders, including civil rights group, the CPS, community organisations, law

enforcement, legal experts and academics.

The Government will reflect on the Law Commission's recommendations when it is due to report next year.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-02/hl7740>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-03-04/hl2248>

Information about the review referred to above can be read at

<https://www.lawcom.gov.uk/project/hate-crime/>

New Publication

A Union of equality : EU anti-racism action plan 2020-2025

https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/a_union_of_equality_eu_action_plan_against_racism_2020_-2025_en.pdf

News

Justice Secretary given deadline to announce Hate Crime changes to MSPs

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18729336.justice-secretary-given-deadline-announce-hate-crime-changes-msps/>

Yousaf promises Holyrood statement on Hate Crime Bill amid signs of retreat

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18726157.yousaf-promises-holyrood-statement-hate-crime-bill-amid-signs-retreat/>

Take the lead in tackling racism, London mayor urges

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/national-news/18734684.take-lead-tackling-racism-london-mayor-urges/>

Lib Dem candidate for London mayor filmed telling Muslims not to vote for 'Jew' Jack Straw

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/lib-dem-antisemitism-video-london-mayor-geeta-sidhu-robb-b435619.html>

Lib Dem Geeta Sidhu Robb dropped over antisemitism

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/lib-dem-geeta-sidhu-robb-dropped-over-antisemitism-gsrvcfb>

Scottish police officers lose disciplinary fight over racist messages

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/sep/16/scottish-police-officers-lose-disciplinary-fight-over-racist-messages>

Police officers suspended over neo-Nazi chatroom messages

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/world/demand-for-crackdown-on-police-extremism-after-repugnant-images-shared-b56wt8hk6>

To tackle racism in the NHS we have to recognise it

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/to-tackle-racism-in-the-nhs-we-have-to-recognise-it-tj33vsp5m>

Edinburgh University renames David Hume Tower over 'racist' views

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-54138247>

University of Edinburgh renames David Hume Tower over 'racist' views

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18717638.university-edinburgh-renames-david-hume-tower-racist-views/>

David Hume: Sir Tom Devine slams University of Edinburgh's decision to remove name from building

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18717932.david-hume-sir-tom-devine-slams-university-edinburghs-decision/>

Edinburgh University renames David Hume tower over racist comments

<https://www.scotsman.com/education/edinburgh-university-renames-david-hume-tower-over-racist-comments-2970002>

University criticised for removing David Hume's name amid racist 'distress' concerns

<https://www.scotsman.com/education/university-criticised-removing-david-humes-name-amid-racist-distress-concerns-2970050>

David Hume was a complex man. Erasing his name is too simplistic a gesture

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/sep/20/david-hume-was-a-complex-man-erasing-his-name-is-too-simplistic-a-gesture>

Racism is an issue for all businesses

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/racism-issue-all-businesses-stuart-affleck-2968234>

'Shrunken heads' to be removed from Oxford museum over racism concerns

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/shrunken-heads-pitt-rivers-oxford-museum-racism-human-remains-b445751.html>

Man who sent black man a banana at Wetherspoons fined

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/racist-wetherspoon-app-banana-bromley-pub-b468353.html>

State of the Union: A new Action Plan to turn the tide in the fight against racism

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1654

Twitter investigates racial bias in image previews

<https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-54234822>

Amazon criticised over 'Black Lives Don't Matter' caps

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-essex-54236636>

Nearly 25000 complaints over Diversity BGT tribute to Black Lives Matters

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18726186.watch-nearly-25000-complaints-diversity-bgt-tribute-black-lives-matters/>

Britain's Got Talent: ITV defends Diversity's controversial dance tribute to Black Lives Matter

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18723205.britains-got-talent-itv-defends-diversity-controversial-dance-tribute-black-lives-matter/>

Rana Naved-ul-Hasan: Second player alleges Yorkshire racism after Azeem Rafiq

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/cricket/54141856>

Second cricketer backs Azeem Rafiq's racism claims against Yorkshire

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2020/sep/16/second-cricketer-backs-azeem-rafiqs-racism-claims-against-yorkshire>

Rana Naved-ul-Hasan the second player to claim racial discrimination at Yorkshire

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/rana-naved-ul-hasan-the-second-player-to-claim-racial-discrimination-at-yorkshire-hlsq5nfsv>

Brentford ban fan for racist comment in social media video

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/football/54197820>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Scottish Places of Worship Security Funding Scheme

S5W-31593 Jackson Carlaw (Conservative): To ask the Scottish Government what recent work has taken place on establishing a Places of Worship fund, and whether this will be available at some point in 2020, as was planned prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reply from Humza Yousaf: Prior to the COVID 19 pandemic, good progress was made in developing the Scottish Places of Worship Security Funding Scheme. This work has recently resumed including the rescheduling of key elements of the scheme. We aim to open the scheme for applications later in 2020.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-31593>

Scottish Places of Worship Security Funding Scheme

S5W-31594 Jackson Carlaw (Conservative): To ask the Scottish Government whether its Places of Worship fund will still have a value of £500,000.

Reply from Humza Yousaf: The Places of Worship security funding scheme will have a value of £500,000. Taking into account the time required for engagement with faith groups, and the application and assessment process we anticipate that grants will be paid in Spring 2021.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-31594>

Scottish Places of Worship Security Funding Scheme

S5W-31595 Jackson Carlaw (Conservative): To ask the Scottish Government what progress has been made in determining how best to involve religious groups in formulating the Places of Worship fund, and to help with the development of it.

Reply from Humza Yousaf: The Scottish Government has well-developed relationships with representatives from the main faith groups in Scotland. These groups will provide us with an effective way to involve faith communities in the development of the security funding scheme.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-31595>

Scottish Places of Worship Security Funding Scheme

S5W-31596 Jackson Carlaw (Conservative): To ask the Scottish Government what

progress there has been with developing the application process for the Places of Worship fund, and when religious groups will be able to apply for the financial support to enhance their security measures.

Reply from Humza Yousaf: The Scottish Government has considered a number of approaches, including the application process used by the UK Government for their security funding scheme. We will work with faith groups and delivery partners to develop the application process, including the eligibility criteria. The scheme will be open for applications later in 2020.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-31596>

Press Releases

Organ and tissue donation opt out system

<https://www.gov.scot/news/organ-and-tissue-donation-opt-out-system/>

Rosh Hashanah message from the First Minister (video)

<https://twitter.com/ScotGovFM/status/1306888192734294017>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Press Releases

Rosh Hashanah message from the Prime Minister (video)

<https://twitter.com/BorisJohnson/status/1306873215784976384?s=20>

Foreign Secretary's 2020 Rosh Hashanah message

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretarys-2020-rosh-hashanah-message>

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Health Information: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

NHS

NHS Inform (Scotland)

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

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

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Religion: Coronavirus

Baroness Cox (Crossbench) [HL7964] To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to support religious and minority belief communities which have been negatively affected by COVID-19.

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: In May we launched a Places of Worship Taskforce, chaired by the Secretary of State and the Faith Minister. The Taskforce covered a wide variety of issues relating to Covid-19 and plans to safely reopen places of worship. Since 4 July, places of worship have been able to reopen for communal worship with Covid-Secure measures.

Ministers and officials have continued to engage widely with faith and belief leaders on a range of issues, including preparations for religious festivals. In addition, we appointed FaithAction to support smaller faith groups and denominations through the pandemic.

Faith and belief organisations have been able to access a range of government-backed financial support measures. Including the Coronavirus Community Support Fund which helped organisations providing essential services to vulnerable people affected by the current crisis.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-09/hl7964>

Information about the taskforce referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-taskforce-developing-plan-to-reopen-places-of-worship>

Scottish Government Press Release

New measures to drive down infection rate

<https://www.gov.scot/news/new-measures-to-drive-down-infection-rate/>

Scottish Government Publications

Coronavirus (COVID-19): daily data for Scotland

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

Coronavirus (COVID-19): trends in daily data

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

Updated: Coronavirus (COVID-19): what you can and cannot do

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-what-you-can-and-cannot-do/>

Updated: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Phase 3: staying safe and protecting others
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-phase-3-staying-safe-and-protecting-others/>

Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's speech 22 September 2020
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-speech-22-september-2020/>

Improving data and evidence on ethnic inequalities in health: initial advice and recommendations from the expert reference group on ethnicity and covid-19
<https://tinyurl.com/yyenq76r>

Expert reference group on covid-19 and ethnicity: initial advice & recommendations on systemic issues
<https://tinyurl.com/y3d2k68k>

The Impact of COVID-19 on Wellbeing in Scotland
<https://tinyurl.com/yxmmnej4>

The impacts of COVID-19 on equality in Scotland
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/the-impacts-of-covid-19-on-equality-in-scotland/>

The Impact of Covid-19 on Communities, and Priorities for Recovery: Perspectives of Organisations Working in Communities
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/impact-covid-19-communities-priorities-recovery-perspectives-organisations-working-communities/>

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

Updated Guidance: Coronavirus (COVID-19): wedding ceremonies and civil partnership registrations
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-small-marriages-and-civil-partnership-registrations/>

UK Government Press Releases

Chief Scientific Advisor and Chief Medical Officer briefing on coronavirus (COVID-19): 21 September 2020
<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/chief-scientific-advisor-and-chief-medical-officer-briefing-on-coronavirus-covid-19-21-september-2020--2>

Update from the UK Chief Medical Officers on the COVID-19 alert level
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/update-from-the-uk-chief-medical-officers-on-the-covid-19-alert-level>

Prime Minister's Commons statement on coronavirus: 22 September 2020
<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-commons-statement-on-coronavirus-22-september-2020>

UK Government Publication

Guidance: High Holy Day services and gatherings COVID-19 checklist

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemic-from-4-july/high-holy-day-services-and-gatherings-covid-19-checklist>

Other Organisations

Volunteer Scotland

Impact of COVID-19 on Charities in Scotland

https://www.volunteerscotland.net/media/1660853/oscr_vs_summary_presentation_2020.pdf

Impact of COVID-19 on volunteer participation in Scotland

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

News

BME workers have been asked to “shoulder more risk” during pandemic, says TUC

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/news/bme-workers-have-been-asked-shoulder-more-risk-during-pandemic-says-tuc>

Coronavirus: Safety guidance issued for Jewish festivals

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-54156124>

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Other News

Langside Synagogue in Glasgow given official protection

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-54161711>

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Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Children (Scotland) Bill

<https://beta.parliament.scot/bills/children-scotland-bill>

Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill

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

Post-mortem Examinations (Defence Time Limit) (Scotland) Bill

<https://beta.parliament.scot/bills/post-mortem-examinations-defence-time-limit-scotland-bill>

UK Parliament

Asylum Seekers (Accommodation Eviction Procedures) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2699>

Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2638>

Asylum Support (Prescribed Period) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2535>

European Citizens' Rights Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2704>

Illegal Immigration (Offences) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2660>

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

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2714>

Committee State, House of Lords

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-09-14/debates/575BCB35-452E-43E2-90AF-ED7E8446D76B/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination\(EUWithdrawal\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-09-14/debates/575BCB35-452E-43E2-90AF-ED7E8446D76B/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination(EUWithdrawal)Bill)

and

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-09-16/debates/2CB7C320-B177-42FB-AB30-900A81234304/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination\(EUWithdrawal\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-09-16/debates/2CB7C320-B177-42FB-AB30-900A81234304/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination(EUWithdrawal)Bill)

Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2574>

Immigration (Health and Social Care Staff)

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2770>

Marriage (Approved Organisations) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2537>

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2538>

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (Legal Advice and Appeals) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2611>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

An inspection of UKVI's 'Front End Services' (closing date 1 October 2020)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/call-for-evidence-an-inspection-of-ukvis-front-end-services>

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

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

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

Equality and human rights impact of Covid-19 (closing date not stated)

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/114975.aspx>

Experiences of Islamophobia (closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/amina-islamophobia>

Raising skills and standards of supporters of refugees and asylum seekers
(closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/3R8SDYN>

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Job Opportunities

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

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

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Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

Grants online: Coronavirus

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

Resilient & Inclusive Communities Fund

Running until March 2021

BEMIS grants of up to £3,000, in partnership with Foundation Scotland, for eligible local community groups and organisations supporting disadvantaged and excluded communities (suffering with domestic abuse; mental health; access to food, shelter and amenities; poverty, access to services/care). For information see

<https://bemis.org.uk/ricfund/>

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/>

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

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

Keeping your charity safe online

1 October 2020 online (2.00–3.00)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator webinar to provide a review of the most common types of cyber-crime and fraud along with providing plenty of practical advice for you and your charity on how to protect against these. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y3x6pvjk>

Changing inequality in exposure to crime

1 October 2020 online (3.00–4.30)

Understanding Inequalities webinar to enable participants to gain insights into some of the drivers of crime inequality and key lessons for policing policy and practice. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y3hpgnuc>

Developing Management and Leadership Skills Programme for Black and Minority Ethnic Communities

21 October 2020 to 20 May 2021 (online)

PATH training programme to address imbalances in the representation from black and minority ethnic communities in all aspects and levels of public life. For information see <https://www.dropbox.com/s/qztq5btqsfhvukh/dmls%202020-21%20course%20outline.docx?dl=0>

Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals

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/>

**** Scottish Interfaith Week**

8-15 November 2020

SIFW brings people together whilst promoting dialogue, understanding and co-operation between Scotland's diverse religious communities and cultures. The full programme of events is available at <http://scottishinterfaithweek.org/programme-2020>

Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

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/>

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/>

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Useful Links

Scottish Parliament <http://www.parliament.scot/>

Scottish Government <https://www.gov.scot/>

UK Parliament <http://www.parliament.uk/>

GovUK (links to UK Government Departments) <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations>

European Parliament <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/portal/en>

One Scotland <http://onescotland.org/>

Scottish Refugee Council <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk>

Refugee Survival Trust <https://www.rst.org.uk/>

Freedom from Torture <https://www.freedomfromtorture.org/>

Interfaith Scotland <https://interfaithscotland.org/>

Equality and Human Rights Commission <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en>

Equality Advisory Support Service <http://www.equalityadvisoryservice.com/>

Scottish Human Rights Commission <http://www.scottishhumanrights.com/>

ACAS <http://www.acas.org.uk/>

SCVO <https://scvo.org.uk/>

Volunteer Scotland <https://www.volunteerscotland.net/>

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) <https://www.oscr.org.uk/>

Scottish Fundraising Standards Panel <https://www.goodfundraising.scot/>

Disclosure Scotland <https://www.mygov.scot/working-jobs/finding-a-job/disclosure/>

Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services
<https://www.volunteerscotland.net/for-organisations/disclosure-services/>

BBC News <https://www.bbc.com/news>

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SCoJeC
Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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



BEMIS 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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