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### Contents

Immigration and Asylum

Community Relations

Equality

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Health Information: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Other Publications

Other News

Bills in Progress

Consultations

Job Opportunities

Funding Opportunities

Events, Conferences, and Training

Useful Links

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.

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## Immigration and Asylum

### UK Parliament Debate

#### Refugee Communities: Covid-19

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-11-12/debates/8AADCA54-6005-4886-93AF-97475F90EBE6/RefugeeCommunitiesCovid-19>

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

#### Points-based Immigration System

**Greg Smith (Conservative):** What progress [the Minister's] Department has made in introducing a points-based immigration system. [908396]

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home**

**Department (Kevin Foster):** The Government are making excellent progress on delivering one of the key promises that we made to the British people at the last election. Our new, fairer, firmer, skills-led points-based system will align the treatment of EU and non-EU nationals and deliver for the whole of our United Kingdom. Some routes are already open and most remaining routes will be open from 1 December.

**Greg Smith:** ... Contrary to some of the arguments put forward by those who oppose a fairer immigration system, can he reassure the House that the new points-based system will, in fact, make it more straightforward and easier for medical professionals, from wherever they are around the globe, to be able to come to work in the United Kingdom as part of our NHS?

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Yes, absolutely. The NHS and health and care sector, including Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust, can continue to access the best and brightest from across the world under our new points-based system. The health and care visa was launched on 4 August and thousands of statuses have already been granted under it and those eligible benefit from fast-track visa processing, reduced visa fees and will not pay the immigration health surcharge.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-11-09/debates/C2496F7A-F826-4063-8821-9530E75DC9DF/Points-BasedImmigrationSystem>

#### **Prime Minister's Questions: Windrush**

**Ruth Cadbury (Labour):** According to Home Office figures, just 12% of Windrush victims have received compensation and nine people have died waiting. This is two and a half years after the Windrush taskforce was set up. What will the Government do and what will the Prime Minister do both to rectify this injustice and to ensure that no others who have come to the UK to live and work suffer in the same way as the Windrush victims?

**Reply from the Prime Minister:** The hon. Lady is right to raise this issue. What happened to the Windrush generation was a disgrace and a scandal, and we are doing our best collectively to make amends. I can tell her I have met members of that generation, and this Government are taking steps to accelerate the payments and to make sure that those who are in line with payments are given every opportunity and all the information they need to avail themselves of the compensation that they deserve.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-11-11/debates/DAA7FB2E-1B29-4C00-A085-26530A5BEA74/Engagements#contribution-CA54E444-396F-4A81-A6F5-EB4580E1E01B>

#### **Topical Questions: Home Office: Windrush**

**Nick Thomas-Symonds (Labour):** ... Last week, we saw far more depressing news at home, where it emerged that at least nine people have died waiting for compensation for the Windrush scandal and just 12% of people who have applied have received compensation. Those figures are shameful. May I ask the Home Secretary what message she would send to those who are still waiting for justice?

**Reply from Priti Patel:** I thank the shadow Home Secretary for raising the important issue of Windrush, and he will know of my own personal commitment, not just within the Department, to tackle the injustices that have taken place in the past. He is right in the figures he gave about the nine individuals who have passed away, and all our thoughts are with those families. We continue to work specifically with those families, to make the claims and ensure that compensation is still paid out to families of claimants who have passed away. Importantly, the compensation scheme has now paid out more than £1.6 million, and a further £1.2 million has been offered. As the hon. Gentleman will know from all the discussions and from each time I come to the House, I am determined to go further and faster. Let me add one other point: it is important that we treat everybody humanely. These are

individuals. They are people and not just cases.

**Nick Thomas-Symonds:** I recognise what the Home Secretary says, but the Windrush taskforce was set up more than two and a half years ago. Another five months have passed since June, when the Government promised that it was time for action, and the Home Secretary told the House that she had individual cases passing across her desk. Let me be clear: the Home Secretary will not regain trust on this issue unless the process starts delivering. Let me make a suggestion. Will she work to apply targets to the process, and give victims binding guarantees about how long claims will take, so that they can be processed efficiently? Surely she must accept that things cannot go on as they are?

**Reply from Priti Patel:** I have been clear that we are absolutely determined, with conviction and commitment, to support those who have been affected by the whole Windrush scandal. This is not about targets; this is not just about cases. This is about people, and it is right that processes are in place. I have offered the hon. Gentleman and other colleagues across the House, the chance to work with us and see how those claims are assessed and processed. It is right to pay attention to detail with these cases. Detail was missed in the past, which was how we had that great sense of injustice. I am committed, as are my Department and officials, to righting the wrongs of the past, and we will do that in a thoughtful and proper way.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-11-09/debates/EE91CE39-99E3-4995-8401-F76A8E8A3D50/TopicalQuestions#contribution-3D38CC02-4972-415F-8846-D31A1DF1D824>

### **Illegal Migration: English Channel**

**Michael Fabricant (Conservative):** What steps [is the Minister's] Department taking to stop migrants crossing the English Channel illegally; and if she will make a statement. [908391]

**Damian Collins (Conservative):** What steps [is the Minister's] Department taking to stop migrants crossing the English Channel illegally. [908403]

**Craig Tracey (Conservative):** What steps [is the Minister's] Department taking to stop migrants crossing the English Channel illegally. [908411]

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Chris Philp):** These small boat crossings are dangerous, as the tragic fatalities last month showed. They are illegally facilitated by reckless criminals, and they are totally unnecessary because France is a safe country with a well-functioning asylum system, where people can seek protection if they need it. We are determined to completely stop these crossings. We are working with the French authorities to prevent embarkations. We are considering action we might take at sea, and we are taking robust law enforcement action, leading so far this year to nearly 100 arrests. Just last week, two people were convicted and sentenced for facilitating these illegal crossings.

**Michael Fabricant:** ... We have all been shocked by the number of deaths in the channel, but why does he think people want to leave France?

**Reply from Chris Philp:** I must try to be diplomatic in the way I answer that question. There are a variety of motives, which probably include things such as language. The simple truth is that if people are seeking protection, France has a fully functioning asylum system. It is a safe and civilised country, and there is no reason to attempt and no excuse for attempting this crossing. That is why anyone in need of protection should avail themselves of it by claiming asylum in France and not attempting this dangerous crossing.

**Damian Collins:** As the Minister knows, this problem has been getting worse throughout the year. We are seeing tragic loss of life and concern for communities on the channel coast because of this problem, which is profiting people-trafficking gangs. What progress is being made, either in preventing more crossings from leaving France in the first place or in stopping boats at sea and returning them to the French coast? If the migrants can

see that they cannot get into the country in this way, fewer of them will try.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** My hon. Friend is right to point out that this trade is facilitated by dangerous and ruthless criminals. On activity with the French, we are working with them to prevent embarkations and we are funding gendarmes who patrol the beaches. In fact, the French authorities have successfully stopped nearly 5,000 crossings this year so far. We are in the process of actively investigating action at sea because, as my hon. Friend says, if it is obvious that nobody can make it across, they will stop attempting such dangerous crossings in the first place. We are also working to return under the Dublin regulations people who do get across—in fact, this week there are three flights, some of which will contain cross-channel migrants being returned under the Dublin regulations. By a combination of law enforcement on French beaches, potential action at sea and returns, we can remove the reason for even trying such crossings in the first place.

**Craig Tracey:** Does the Minister agree that the best way to clamp down on these illegal crossings is to prevent the small boats carrying the illegal immigrants from ever leaving European shores in the first place? Will he confirm to the House what steps he is taking with his French counterparts to ensure that they are stepping up their actions in that respect?

**Reply from Chris Philp:** My hon. Friend is absolutely right: we need to do more with our French colleagues to prevent the embarkations. As I say, we are now funding additional gendarmes to prevent embarkations from the beaches, and we are supporting the French to provide proper, safe accommodation for migrants who would otherwise be living in the various camps. We are also investigating action at sea. My hon. Friend is quite right that if we can render these crossings essentially impossible, nobody will attempt them in the first place. Not only is that the right thing to do from a health and safety point of view, but it is the right thing to do to undermine and prevent the ruthless criminal gangs who are behind these crossings.

**Joanna Cherry (SNP):** May I start by extending my sympathies to the relatives and friends of all who have died attempting these crossings?

As a matter of international law, entering a state to seek asylum without a visa is not illegal—I am happy to share with the Minister the advice from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees on the matter—but the crossings are certainly most irregular and very unsafe. Rather than fanning the flames of people's desperation for political reasons, would it not be better for the Minister to focus on creating safe legal routes for asylum seekers? While he is attending to that, will he encourage the Home Secretary to stop her anti-lawyer rhetoric and acknowledge that there is a responsibility on politicians and other public figures to avoid saying anything that could make tensions worse or put people's lives at risk?

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Article 31 of the refugee convention, to which I think the hon. and learned Lady was referring, makes it clear that the prohibition on criminalisation of entry applies only to people who are directly—I use the word “directly”—entering a state from somewhere that is unsafe. I respectfully point out that France is not unsafe; France is a safe country.

On the hon. and learned Lady's question about safe and legal routes, there are a large number of such routes and around about half the people who come here to claim asylum already do so via legal routes. In addition to that, for the past five years we have been running the resettlement programme, taking people directly from conflict zones—for example, Syria—and bringing them to the United Kingdom. Over that five-year period some 25,000 people, half of whom are children, have come via the resettlement route. The resettlement route—a safe and legal route of the kind for which the hon. and learned Lady calls—is the largest resettlement programme of any European country. We have a proud record of supporting people in genuine need and we will continue to do so.

On the hon. and learned Lady's last question, I of course completely support the Home Secretary and we will continue to fight vexatious, last-minute legal claims when it is appropriate to do so.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-11-09/debates/746D1A2F-F2A4-4304-ABA0-7E4BC8195613/IllegalMigrationEnglishChannel>

### **Unaccompanied Child Refugees: EU Transition Period**

**Ruth Jones (Labour):** What steps the Government has taken to help ensure co-operation at a European level on unaccompanied child refugees after the transition period. [908402]

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Chris Philp):** The United Kingdom tabled a full draft agreement to the European Commission back in May, which included provisions for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children family reunion. That has sadly so far not been agreed, but the negotiations are still ongoing, and I ask the hon. Lady and others to put pressure on the European Commission to constructively respond to the draft text we tabled. When it comes to the United Kingdom's record on looking after UASCs, we currently look after more UASCs than any other European country.

**Ruth Jones:** I understand that on 9 August this year, the Home Secretary announced that she had appointed a clandestine channel threat commander. Can the Minister confirm precisely what powers the commander has and why the elements of the role could not be addressed by Border Force?

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Given that the problems posed by cross-channel small boat crossings, as we discussed earlier, are unique, serious, dangerous—as we have tragically seen—and facilitated by ruthless criminals, the Home Secretary and I felt it was important to have a dedicated person with proper experience. He is a former Royal Marine and can work on completely stopping these crossings. That is the safe thing to do, the humanitarian thing to do, and the right thing to do legally.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-11-09/debates/C8E80383-6903-4897-A005-51DEB3D70694/UnaccompaniedChildRefugeesEUTransitionPeriod>

### **Topical Questions: Home Office: Asylum**

**Patrick Grady (SNP):** I wonder whether the Home Secretary or one of her Ministers would be prepared to engage with some of the asylum support groups that I met recently in Glasgow to hear at first hand how they feel that the ASPEN—asylum support enablement—card system is financially and digitally excluding them during the covid virus pandemic and making them feel that the hostile environment has not gone away. [908517]

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Chris Philp):** I have been speaking very regularly to people working with asylum seekers in Glasgow. Just last week, I spoke to Aileen Campbell, the Communities Secretary, and I have spoken—I think twice now—in recent weeks to the leader of Glasgow City Council. We are doing a great deal of work with those providing services to asylum seekers in Glasgow. We have managed to reduce the number of people accommodated in hotels from over 400 to about 200. It is regrettable that Glasgow City Council still has 600 people in hotel accommodation.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-11-09/debates/EE91CE39-99E3-4995-8401-F76A8E8A3D50/TopicalQuestions#contribution-24C71CD5-D4EC-4722-B2FF-80FCBEA1851D>

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

### **British Nationality: Applications**

**Jessica Morden (Labour)** [113033] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average waiting time is for a British Citizenship application to be

processed; and how many applicants have been waiting over a year for their application be processed, as of November 2020.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The most recent published data on citizenship applications (August 2020) shows that of those Straightforward Applications received, the percentage completed within the Service Standard of six months was 99.3%. The latest information on processing times can be found in the UK Visas and Immigration Transparency Data

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visas-and-citizenship-data-august-2020>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-09/113033>

### **Visas: Coronavirus**

**Ruth Cadbury (Labour) [908413]** What assessment she has made of the effect of the covid-19 outbreak on the application process for visa extensions.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The global travel and health restrictions in the first lockdown impacted our application processes, especially the temporary closure of our biometric collection centres in the UK.

Subsequently, biometric capture services reopened in a phased and socially-distanced way and alongside this UKVI began reusing existing fingerprint biometrics for individuals where possible.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-09/908413>

### **Visas: Applications**

**Jamie Stone (Liberal Democrat) [110892]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effect on the financial and mental well-being of visa applicants of extensive travel to (a) complete the English Language and Life in the UK tests and (b) submit a visa application in person.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** UKVI work hard to ensure that front-end immigration services are accessible to customers.

UKVI works closely with commercial partners both overseas and in the UK, to ensure that there is a sufficient geographical spread of English language and Life in the UK (UK only) testing and biometric enrolment locations to minimise the amount of travel required by customers by analysing where concentrations of demand are. Our footprints in respect to both services are kept under review and further locations opened where sufficient demand supports.

In addition, our commercial partners offer a range of optional added-value services which provide customers additional choice in how they access biometric enrolment services overseas or in the UK such as mobile enrolment at a location at their convenience.

Individuals applying in the UK who have higher needs, may be vulnerable, or whose circumstances may be complex are directed to the Home Office run Support Centres (SSC) where they receive support with their application.

SSC customers who are unable to pay the application fee may submit a fee waiver request. Customers who have been granted a fee waiver and who fit certain criteria may be eligible to apply for travel assistance to attend their closest SSC.

Within the UK, customers who cannot travel to enrol biometrics due to ill health are directed to contact either UKVI (if routed to SSCs) or Sopra Steria Limited (if routed to the UKVCAS service which they run on behalf of UKVI) once they have completed their application and before booking an appointment. Information on how to do this is provided at the end of the online application form on Gov.uk.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-03/110892>

### Visas: Married People

**Steve McCabe (Labour)** [112995] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of waiving the financial threshold for people renewing spousal visas who have lost their jobs or are unable to find new employment as a result of the covid-19 outbreak.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The financial threshold, or Minimum Income Requirement, is set at the level which prevents burdens on the taxpayer and promotes integration. We remain committed to those aims but have made relevant adjustments to support those affected by the COVID-19 outbreak, including those seeking to renew spousal visas.

These adjustments are among a range of measures put in place by the Home Office to support those affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. These are set out for customers on GOV.UK and are available here:

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

These are unprecedented times. We continue to monitor the situation closely and may make further adjustments to requirements where necessary and appropriate.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-09/112995>

### Visas: Ministers of Religion

**Mike Kane (Labour)** [908420] What recent discussions [has the Minister] had with representatives of the Catholic Church on visas for religious workers.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** This Government recognises the importance of faith across our communities in the UK and we welcome members of religious institutions from around the world.

I met with representatives of the Catholic Church in July and confirmed that the existing dedicated arrangements for Ministers of Religion and Religious Workers will continue in the future immigration system.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-09/908420>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### Immigration: Au Pairs

**Rupa Huq (Labour)** [113166] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the potential merits of offering a dedicated immigration route for EU au pairs after the transition period.

**Rupa Huq (Labour)** [113167] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of providing a formal route for au pairs who are EU citizens to travel and work in the UK after the transition period.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Our Future Points Based system will operate on a global basis, not on whether someone's passport was issued by an EU or non-EU country. As has been the case since 2008, the UK's immigration system will not offer a dedicated route for au pairs. However, there are other immigration routes which will exist for people who may wish to take up these roles, such as the Youth Mobility Scheme (YMS).

The UK currently operates eight YMS arrangements which are principally designed for cultural exchange. We have indicated our desire to negotiate a Youth Mobility arrangement with the EU, or with individual countries within it, if a collective agreement is not possible.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-09/113166>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-09/113167>

### **Immigrants: Finance**

**Neil Coyle (Labour)** [110142] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to suspend No Recourse to Public Funds conditions for the duration of the November 2020 covid-19 lockdown.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Government remains committed to protecting vulnerable people and has acted decisively to ensure that we support everyone through this pandemic.

We have introduced a range of measures to ensure people can stay safe and many of these are available for those with a no recourse to public funds (NRPF) condition. The Coronavirus job retention scheme, self-employment income support and statutory sick pay are not classed as public funds for immigration purposes. Contribution-based benefits are also not classed as public funds for immigration purposes.

The Government has made in excess of £4.3 billion of funding to local authorities in England, and additional funding under the Barnett formula to the devolved administrations to enable them to respond to Covid-19 pressures across all the services they deliver, including services helping the most vulnerable.

We have launched a new scheme in England, through which local authorities can make a £500 discretionary payment to individuals who have been told to stay at home and self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace, either because they have tested positive for Covid-19 or have recently been in close contact with someone who has tested positive. This is available to those who are employed or self-employed who are unable to work from home and will, therefore, lose income as a result. Those with NRPF are eligible for this scheme.

Migrants with leave under the Family and Human Rights routes can apply to have the NRPF restriction lifted by making a 'change of conditions' application if there has been a change in their financial circumstances. Applications are being dealt with swiftly and compassionately.

In light of the support that is available to those with NRPF, we do not believe it is necessary to suspend the NRPF condition.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-02/110142>

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

**Stephen Timms (Labour)** [112979] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to the Answer dated 2 November 2020 to Question 106891, whether he plans to consult externally in working with the Home Office on how immigration status and no recourse to public funds interact with free school meals and other educational entitlements; and if he will make a statement.

**Reply from Vicky Ford:** We are working with departments across government to evaluate access to free school meals and other educational entitlements for families with no recourse to public funds. In the meantime, the extension of eligibility for free school meals will continue until a decision on long-term eligibility is made. At present there are no plans for a statement to be made.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-09/112979>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-21/106891>

### **British Nationality: Windrush Generation**

**Patrick Grady (SNP)** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of applying the British Nationality Act Remedial Order to British born Windrush descendants whose families gained the right to settle in the UK via the Immigration Act 1971.



**Reply from Priti Patel:** Individuals born in the UK prior to 1 January 1983 are British citizens. A person born in the UK since 1983 will be a British citizen automatically if either parent was a British citizen or settled in the UK at the time of the birth. This includes any person whose parent was a member of the Windrush generation with indefinite leave to remain granted by the Immigration Act 1971.

A child born before 1 July 2006 will only acquire citizenship automatically through their father if their parents were married. There is a provision in nationality law for such a person to register as a British citizen if they would have become a British citizen automatically had their parents been married. This provision extends to individuals born in the UK to members of the Windrush generation that were granted indefinite leave to remain under the Immigration Act 1971. Those applying under this provision do not have to pay a registration fee.

The British Nationality Act 1981 (Remedial) Order 2019 further provides that such a person may register as a British citizen without needing to meet the good character requirement. The Order specifically amends the British Nationality Act 1981 to address the Supreme Court's finding that the good character requirement for registration under certain routes was incompatible with the European Convention on Human Rights.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-03/110851>

### **Refugees: Resettlement**

**Stuart Anderson (Conservative)** [110913] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to restart refugee resettlement schemes.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Due to coronavirus (COVID-19) related restrictions and pressures, both overseas and in the UK, resettlement activity is currently paused. We continue to evaluate how to respond given these restrictions and pressures, but we expect to resume refugee resettlement activity when safe to do so.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-03/110913>

### **Asylum**

**Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op)** [109521] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reason there are no service standards for the processing of asylum applications.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Until October 2018, there was a published service standard in place to decide 98% of straight-forward cases within six months from date of claim. Whilst the operation consistently achieved this for three years, the number of non-straight forward cases awaiting a decision grew rapidly and it became clear that the former service standard no longer best served those that used our services. For these reasons, former Ministers agreed that we should move away from the service standard to reprioritise cases, whilst we come to longer term arrangement for service standards that meet the needs of all parties.

As a result, we moved away from the 6-month service standard to concentrate on older claims, cases with acute vulnerability and those in receipt of the greatest level of support, including Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC). Additionally, we are prioritising cases where an individual has already received a decision, but a reconsideration is required. This prioritisation has been successful as we made 3,114 decisions on claims from UASC in the year ended December 2019, a 45% increase on the previous year.

For the year 2020, we continue to prioritise claims in the same way, including UASCs, however there have been some operational challenges resulting from the COVID-19 outbreak that has impacted our decision making across all claims. We are continuing to formulate plans on a new service standard for all asylum claims, which should provide asylum seekers and partners with clear expectation of how

and when a decision should be made. The Home Office does however continue to publish information on the total number of cases awaiting an initial decision broken down by specific periods of time.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-protection-data-august-2020> (Asy\_02)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-30/109521>

### **Asylum: Applications**

**Justin Madders (Labour)** [110158] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the processing time is for asylum applications as of 2 November 2020.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office is unable to state what the processing time is for asylum applications as of 2 November 2020 as the Home Office does not publish this information.

However, the Home Office does publish data on the number asylum applications awaiting an initial decision by duration, for main applicants only. This data can be found at This data can be found at Asy\_04 of the published Immigration Statistics:

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

The Home Office are committed to ensuring asylum claims are considered without unnecessary delay, individuals who need protection are granted asylum as soon as possible and can start to integrate and rebuild their lives, including those granted at appeal.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-02/110158>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Asylum and Immigration**

**Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op)** [110877] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department plans to recruit additional staff to help tackle the backlog of (a) asylum, (b) EU Settlement Scheme and (c) indefinite leave to remain applications.

**Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op)** [110878] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to reduce the backlog of (a) asylum, (b) EU Settlement Scheme and (c) indefinite leave to remain applications.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Asylum Operations have, over the last two years increased the number of decision makers and support staff. There are recruitment strategies in place to maintain staffing at the required levels to allow us to manage asylum intake and reduce the overall time to make initial asylum decisions. These include rolling recruitment campaigns, a staff retention strategy to ensure it retains its highly skilled asylum decision makers, and the further expansion of digital processes to increase case working flexibility. Asylum Operations has also been exploring further options to get the system moving again following the outbreak of COVID-19 earlier in the year with steps being taken to improve efficiency, focusing on process improvements, better quality decisions and transformation. Asylum Operations has also developed a recovery plan focused on returning interviews and decisions back to pre-COVID-19 levels as soon as possible. We are also seeking to secure temporary resources to assist from within the Home Office and other government departments, along with other potential options. We are fully committed to ensuring that our operational teams have the resources they need to run an efficient and effective migration system. In addition to the new technology and processes, we have over 1,500 UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) European Casework staff in post to process applications, along with 250 staff handling calls and emails in the Settlement Resolution Centre, helping people apply. Visas & Citizenship are flexing resources to manage caseloads and therefore currently do

not require additional recruitment to assist with indefinite leave to remain applications.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-03/110877>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-03/110878>

### **Asylum and Immigration: Coronavirus**

**Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [109520]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what circumstances relating to the covid-19 pandemic have caused delays in her Department processing asylum and indefinite leave to remain applications; and what steps she is taking to mitigate those delays.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, customers in the UK were unable to attend their substantive asylum interviews and asylum operations made the decision to cease these on 19 March 2020 in line with government guidance.

In response, Asylum Operations secured a mobile digital and video interviewing solution to support remote interviewing and restarted remote video interviewing for adults from 17 July 2020 and on 21 September 2020 recommenced with face to face substantive interviews for adults. On the same date, we also commenced remote video interviewing for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC). We are also able to offer in person interviews for UASC should they be required.

Asylum Operations were able to continue to make decisions on asylum applications during this time but were unable to serve these due to government guidance to 'stay at home' as the operations relied on the postal service to deliver these causing delays. The department have since agreed a process to enable the service of decisions via email and post which has been shared through the Immigration Law Practitioners Association (ILPA) and the Law Society. Asylum Operations is now working to deliver on recovery plans to return interviewing and decisions to pre-COVID-19 levels.

Asylum in the UK should continue to be sought at the first available opportunity, however for those who have failed to claim on arrival, or whose circumstances have changed since arrival, claims are usually registered in Croydon, but appointments were limited due to restrictive measures. The Home Office have temporarily introduced additional locations to register claims across the UK.

In relation to Indefinite Leave to Remain applications, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and government and public health restrictions put in place, the UK Visa and Citizenship Application Service (UKVCAS), which allows customers within the UK to enrol their biometrics, was suspended from the end of March to 1 June 2020. As the UKVCAS service reopened, in parallel UKVI began reusing existing fingerprint biometrics for some customers which meant that instead of attending a service point in person to re-enrol, UKVI could reuse the fingerprints already recorded against a previous application. Once a customer has submitted their biometrics to UKVI, either through a physical appointment or verifying their identity in order that their existing biometrics can be reused, UKVI is able to make a decision. UKVI are processing decisions as quickly as possible.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-30/109520>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Asylum: Hotels and Military Bases**

**Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [110852]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will publish the (a) terms of reference, (b) timetable and (c) scope of hotels and military barracks selected for the internal review into risk in relation to asylum seekers staying in hotels and military barracks.

**Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [110853]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will publish the decision-making process for the choice of hotels and military barracks selected for the internal review into risk in relation to asylum seekers staying in hotels and military barracks during the covid-19 pandemic.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The terms of reference for the review of initial asylum seeker accommodation during the Covid-19 pandemic are to:

- Conduct a rapid review of initial accommodation for single adult asylum seekers, including hotels and former military barracks, and provide assurance of compliance with public health guidelines to prevent the transmission of Covid 19. This will include interviews with a wide range of interested parties including Local Authorities, Strategic Migration Partnerships, commercial providers, non-governmental organisations, asylum seekers and Government officials.
- Provide advice and guidance to the Home Office, providers and individual accommodation units on best practice to prevent transmission of Covid 19

This is a rapid review to assure ourselves of the health and safety of asylum seekers during the Covid 19 pandemic. A report is due by the end of the month and we will seek to publish a summary of the recommendations.

We chose sites across the UK that would best inform our national approach going forward. This has augmented our business as usual activity on risk and assessment of accommodation during this time of crisis.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-03/110852>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-03/110853>

### **Immigrants: Detainees**

**Alison Thewliss (SNP) [109453]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many transfers of people (a) from a prison to an Immigration Removal Centre and (b) from one Immigration Removal Centre to another have taken place in the last 60 days.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Government published statistics relating to COVID-19 and the immigration system at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/statistics-relating-to-covid-19-and-the-immigration-system-may-2020>

on gov.uk on 28 May and the latest Immigration Statistics publication includes the numbers of individuals detained under immigration powers in prisons. Statistics on people in immigration detention during the second quarter of 2020 (April to June) was published in August in the immigration statistics quarterly release

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

Management information indicates that in the period from 1 September to 1 November 2020, 397 people have entered the immigration estate from the HM Prison Estate. This number includes those placed in the immigration estate temporarily prior to voluntary removal. All entrants to the immigration estate are placed in reverse cohort units in line with Public Health England guidance and those with particular health vulnerabilities offered the opportunity to 'shield'.

During this period there have also been 665 moves between immigration removal centres, with most of these internal moves within the Heathrow centres (Harmondsworth and Colnbrook) and the Gatwick centres (Tinsley House & Brook House).

The safety and health of people in the detention estate are of the utmost importance. We are following all Public Health England guidance and have robust contingency plans in place. As of 2 November 2020, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in immigration removal centres.

### **Offenders: Deportation**

**Abena Oppong-Asare (Labour)** [110936] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her Department's policy is on deporting offenders who have grown up in the UK.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Under the UK Borders Act 2007 passed by the last Labour Government, the Home Secretary has a duty to deport a foreign criminal who is convicted in the UK and sentenced to a period of imprisonment of 12 months or more unless an exception applies. Where the automatic deportation threshold is not met, the Home Office will consider deportation under the Immigration Act 1971 where the person is a serious or persistent offender. Currently, European Economic Area (EEA) nationals are deported in accordance with European Union (EU) law on the grounds of public policy or public security. The UK's departure from the EU means that, in future, an EEA national who commits an offence after the end of the transition period (31 December 2020) will be considered under the same deportation thresholds that apply to non-EEA nationals.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-03/110936>

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

### **British Nationality**

**Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench)** [HL9699] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether British Nationals (Overseas) can include any years they have spent residing in the UK under a Tier 4 or Tier 5 visa towards the residency criteria in an application for indefinite leave to remain under the new pathway to citizenship.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Under the new Hong Kong British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) Visa route, individuals will be able to apply for settlement, also known as Indefinite Leave to Remain, after five years in the UK, subject to meeting the necessary requirements. Time previously spent in the UK on another route to settlement will count towards the five years.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-28/hl9699>

### **Immigration: Hong Kong**

**Lord Green of Deddington (Crossbench)** [HL9778] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, under the new arrangements coming into force in January 2021, citizens of Hong Kong who are not British National (Overseas) passport holders will need to obtain a visa (1) in advance of arrival to enter the UK, or (2) at the port of entry.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The bespoke new Hong Kong British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) Visa route recognises our historic and moral commitment to BN(O) citizens in Hong Kong, giving them the option to live in the UK if they decide that is an appropriate choice for them.

Consistent with the wider Immigration Rules, individuals in Hong Kong who do not hold BN(O) status or who are not dependents from the same household as a BN(O) will be able to apply under the new Points-Based System to come to live, work or study in the UK, provided they meet the necessary requirements. Those wishing to come to the UK under the new Points-Based-System will need to apply for a visa in advance of travel.

As with BN(O)s, citizens of Hong Kong are able to travel to the UK visa free for visit purposes for up to six months.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-29/hl9778>

## Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL9742] To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the deaths in the English Channel on 27 October, what plans they have to urgently arrange a safe legal route for refugees to enter the United Kingdom.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** This week's tragic event highlights the danger to life from channel crossings and the need to stop callous criminals exploiting vulnerable people.

Safe and legal routes are a core part of our proposed reforms to the asylum system to ensure it is both firm and fair. As Baroness Williams has previously made clear in Lords, as an integral part of that work the Government will conduct a review of safe and legal routes to the UK for asylum seekers, refugees and their families. This government intends to bring forward legislation next year that will deliver some of our much-needed reforms.

The UK already provides safe and legal routes for people to join family members in the UK through existing Immigration Rules and have a proud record of providing safety to those who need it through our world-leading resettlement schemes.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-28/hl9742>

## Immigrants: Detainees

**Lord Beecham (Labour)** [HL9505] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by the Chief Inspector of Prisons Report on an unannounced inspection of the detention of migrants arriving in Dover in small boats, published on 23 October; and what steps they intend to take to address the key concerns expressed in that report.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government have accepted nineteen of the recommendations made in Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons report, in full or part, and rejected only one (access to social media sites).

The report and recommendations have been considered and the Government's response has been published

<https://homeofficemedia.blog.gov.uk/2020/10/23/fact-sheet-short-term-holding-facilities-and-processing-centres-for-small-boats-crossings/>

We would refer to the measures and improvements listed there.

We take the welfare of people in our care very seriously and are committed to ensuring our triaging and short-term holding facilities are safe, secure and humane and follow the latest guidance from Public Health England.

We are adhering to our statutory duties in all aspects, from safeguarding children, to providing the necessary medical requirements to those who have undertaken this dangerous journey.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-26/hl9505>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmiprison/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2020/10/Dover-detention-facilities-web-2020.pdf>

## Asylum

**The Lord Bishop of Durham** [HL9631] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 21 October (HL Deb, col 1598), when the review into "safe and legal routes to the UK for asylum seekers, refugees and their families" will be completed; and whether that review will be published.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Safe and legal routes are a core part of our proposed reforms to the asylum system to ensure it is both firm and fair. As made clear in the answer on 21 October (HL Deb, col 1598), as an integral part of that work the Government will conduct a review of safe and legal routes to the UK

for asylum seekers, refugees and their families, which will include reviewing routes for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children to reunite with their family members in the UK.

This government intends to bring forward legislation next year that will deliver some of our much-needed reforms.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-27/hl9631>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-10-21/debates/84EE8238-F96E-4C8F-AF34-27312C2F4048/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination\(EUWithdrawal\)Bill#contribution-DF3491F5-1F43-42F6-90E8-5B5C13DF6AC6](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-10-21/debates/84EE8238-F96E-4C8F-AF34-27312C2F4048/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination(EUWithdrawal)Bill#contribution-DF3491F5-1F43-42F6-90E8-5B5C13DF6AC6)

### **Asylum: Interviews**

**The Lord Bishop of Durham** [HL9628] To ask Her Majesty's Government how they will evaluate the success of the proof of concept pilot for the outsourcing of asylum interviews.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Asylum Operations are exploring many options to reduce the number of outstanding asylum claims. Alongside seeking temporary resource from within the Home Office and other government departments, we are also exploring with third-party suppliers, through a proof of concept, to test the viability of whether they can deliver the support required as a temporary, short term measure. An eight-week controlled mobilisation of testing has been confirmed. Once we have completed the proof of concept exercise, an evaluation will be completed, and this will inform any further recommendations or actions.

Asylum interviews have not been outsourced, and at this stage we are only exploring the potential feasibility. The increased interview throughput will help rebalance the system, but also speed up decision making, reduce the number of outstanding cases and support costs.

Asylum Operations will be looking to source resource with the right competency and recent experience in conducting sensitive interviews. To ensure external suppliers are suitably equipped to carry out the role, third-party interviewing officers will complete a bespoke training package, delivered by the qualified asylum operations training team, that has been designed specifically to meet their needs. Anyone who conducts asylum interviews receives thorough training to ensure they are fully equipped for the role.

To guarantee governance and accountability, mechanisms are in place for the oversight of third-party interviews, the department has a quality assurance process which assesses the quality of decisions, interviews and the application of Home Office policy.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-27/hl9628>

### **Asylum: Interviews**

**The Lord Bishop of Durham** [HL9629] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they made of the benefits of consulting with civil society groups, and those who are engaged in supporting asylum seekers through interview processes, before establishing the system for the proof of concept pilot for the outsourcing of asylum interviews without such a consultation.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Asylum Operations regularly engage with civil society groups via stakeholder forums and often consult with civil society groups on asylum processes.

Asylum Operations first communicated with civil society groups on the proof of concept for asylum interviews on 22 September 2020. We further engaged on the 6 October 2020 and continue to gather feedback to support the development of the

proof of concept. We are in the process of responding in writing to further questions already submitted from civil society groups.

The proof of concept will help establish if there is a longer-term viability. Once the proof of concept phase is complete, we will evaluate as part of ongoing engagement with civil society groups to support further development

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-27/hl9629>

### **Asylum: Interviews**

**The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL9630]** To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the proof of concept pilot for the outsourcing of asylum interviews, whether the claimants will be informed that they are being interviewed by a third party rather than a Home Office employee; and if not, whether this information will be available upon request.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office is not planning to disclose to a claimant if they have been interviewed by a third party rather than a Home Office employee. We do not ask staff to disclose their employee status prior to interview.

Third party interviewing officers will complete a bespoke training package, delivered by the qualified asylum operations training team, that has been designed specifically to meet their needs. The course will include training specifically about modern slavery and safeguarding awareness. Anyone who conducts asylum interviews receives thorough training to ensure they are fully equipped for the role. We expect the experience to equal the existing high standards already in place.

To guarantee governance and accountability, mechanisms are in place for the oversight of third-party interviews and the department has a quality assurance process which assesses the quality of decisions, interviews and the application of Home Office policy.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-27/hl9630>

## **UK Parliament Home Affairs Committee**

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

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/1195/html/>

## **Press Releases**

**Immigration Act receives Royal Assent: free movement to end on 31 December 2020**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/immigration-act-receives-royal-assent-free-movement-to-end-on-31-december-2020>

**EU citizens urged to take action during EU transition**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/eu-citizens-urged-to-take-action-during-eu-transition>

**Improving family reunion in the UK**

<https://www.redcross.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do/we-speak-up-for-change/improving-the-lives-of-refugees/refugee-family-reunion>



## New Publications

### **EU Settlement Scheme – Home Office Looked After Children and Care Leavers Survey, 2020**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-home-office-looked-after-children-and-care-leavers-survey-2020/eu-settlement-scheme-home-office-looked-after-children-and-care-leavers-survey-2020>

### **The Home Office response to the ICIBI's inspection of the UK refugee resettlement schemes**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/response-to-an-inspection-of-uk-refugee-resettlement-schemes/the-home-office-response-to-the-icibis-inspection-of-the-uk-refugee-resettlement-schemes>

### **A response to an inspection of the Home Office's use of language services in the asylum process**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/response-to-an-inspection-of-the-home-offices-use-of-language-services-in-the-asylum-process/a-response-to-an-inspection-of-the-home-offices-use-of-language-services-in-the-asylum-process-accessible-version>

### **Response to the report on an inspection of the response to lorry drops and small boats May to Dec 2019**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/response-to-an-inspection-of-the-home-office-response-to-lorry-drops-and-small-boats/response-to-the-report-on-an-inspection-of-the-response-to-lorry-drops-and-small-boats-may-to-dec-2019-accessible>

### **The Long Road to Reunion: making refugee family reunion safer**

<https://www.redcross.org.uk/-/media/documents/about-us/research-publications/refugee-support/the-long-road-to-reunion.pdf>

## News

### **Visa rules forcing migrant NHS workers to leave UK amid Covid second wave**

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/nov/09/visa-rules-forcing-migrant-nhs-workers-to-leave-uk-amid-covid-second-wave>

### **Windrush scandal: Priti Patel on compensation payments**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-politics-54875134>

### **Nearly 160 migrants attempt to cross Channel to UK**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-54897081>

### **Asylum seekers jailed for steering dinghies across Channel despite 'not being part of criminal gangs'**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/channel-crossings-migrant-boats-jailed-dinghies-smugglers-cps-b1722937.html>

### **Asylum seekers crossing Channel face 'inhumane treatment', observers say**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/nov/13/asylum-seekers-crossing-channel-face-inhumane-treatment-observers-say>

**Facebook and Twitter let Channel smugglers tout crossings**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/facebook-and-twitter-let-channel-smugglers-tout-crossings-jwn7cmhw2>

**New rules on removing foreign rough sleepers from UK face legal challenge**

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/nov/12/new-home-office-rules-on-removing-foreign-rough-sleepers-from-uk-face-legal-challenge>

**UK homeless charities call for suspension of ‘reckless’ eviction of asylum seekers**

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2020/nov/13/uk-homeless-charities-call-for-suspension-of-reckless- eviction-of-asylum-seekers>

**Home Office says it will resume refugee resettlement in new year - but councils demand more urgency**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/refugee-resettlement-home-office-councils-b1720353.html>

**Refugees forced to put themselves in danger to join relatives under Home Office family reunion policy**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/refugees-family-reunion-safe-legal-route-home-office-red-cross-b1721205.html>

**UK family reunion visa system puts lives at risk, says Red Cross**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/nov/12/uk-family-reunion-visa-system-puts-lives-at-risk-says-red-cross>

**Home Office did not consult councils on decision to resume asylum evictions during pandemic**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-asylum-evictions-immigration-b1721887.html>

**Home Office ‘failed to discuss restart of asylum evictions with local authorities’**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/nov/14/home-office-failed-to-discuss-restart-of-asylum-evictions-with-local-authorities>

**Migrant children’s welfare is being sidelined in UK’s ‘brutal push to deport’**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/nov/15/migrant-childrens-welfare-is-being-sidelined-in-uks-brutal-push-to-deport>

**700,000 migrant workers leave UK**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/700-000-migrant-workers-leave-uk-wmbjp8x7t>

TOP

**Community Relations**

**News**

**Britain’s ethnic minority voters are no homogeneous blob**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/comment/britains-ethnic-minority-voters-are-no-homogeneous-blob-8sxv7hfnm>

TOP

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Adoption: Ethnic Groups**

**Emma Lewell-Buck (Labour)** [111532] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps his Department is taking to reduce the time taken for Black children to be found an adoptive family.

**Emma Lewell-Buck (Labour)** [111533] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps his Department is taking to support Black prospective adopters going through the adoption assessment process.

**Reply from Vicky Ford:** Ensuring the right adopters come forward for the children we have waiting for forever homes remains a priority for the government. That is why we have given Regional Adoption Agencies (RAAs) £1 million to develop a sector led recruitment campaign during the 2020-21 financial year. This campaign, launched on 16 September 2020, is challenging preconceived conceptions about who can adopt and encouraging more potential adopters to come forward.

Part of the campaign has a specific focus on Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities through outreach work in two pilot areas, London and Birmingham. The RAAs are also funding the voluntary sector organisation, Home for Good, to run a triage service to support prospective adopters from these pilot areas. This will include a safe space to explore adoption and ask further questions, but also seek extra support during the process. Lessons learnt from this work will be spread to all RAAs and Voluntary Adoption Agencies.

The Adoption and Special Guardianship Leadership Board regularly monitor adoption data including children who are waiting to be matched with a family. Ensuring children from BAME backgrounds are placed without delay is a priority for the Board.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-04/111532>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-04/111533>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Armed Forces: Muslims**

**Fleur Anderson (Labour)** [113240] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many British born Muslims applied to the armed services in (a) 2016, (b) 2017, (c) 2018 and (d) 2019.

**Fleur Anderson (Labour)** [113241] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many and what proportion of British-born Muslims who applied to the armed forces (a) successfully completed their training and (b) served in the (i) British Army, (ii) Royal Air Force, (iii) Royal Navy and (iv) Royal Marines in each year since 2016.

**Reply from James Heapey:** Defence is dedicated to achieving a more diverse workforce and is undertaking a wide range of activities to increase the number of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) recruits into the Armed Forces, including through better understanding and greater engagement with BAME communities, reviewing recruitment processes; and better targeted marketing and communications towards potential BAME applicants. The Armed Forces set a target for 2020 that 10 per cent of recruits should be BAME; in the 12 months to 31 March 2020, 11.7 per cent of total intake into the combined UK Regular Forces and Future Reserves 2020 were BAME.

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) publishes biannual statistics on diversity declarations for Armed Forces personnel. The latest edition can be found at the

following link and provides a detailed breakdown of the strength of the Armed Forces, including by self-declared religion, in each of the requested years:

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-09/113240>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-09/113241>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

### Apprentices: Ethnic Groups

**Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated)** [HL9585] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to increase BAME representation on apprenticeship schemes.

**Reply from Baroness Berridge:** Apprenticeships benefit people of all ages and backgrounds and we want to ensure that more people from underrepresented backgrounds can undertake them, particularly those that offer higher wage returns and progression opportunities. We are pleased to have seen positive outcomes in the representation of black and minority ethnic (BAME) people in apprenticeships, with a particular increase in higher-level apprenticeship starts.

We have worked with some of the country's most influential employers through our Apprenticeship Diversity Champions Network to promote best practice in recruiting and supporting apprentices from diverse backgrounds. We are building on this work to ensure that we continue to see improved representation of BAME people starting apprenticeships, especially in sectors that carry historic under-representation. We will work closely with these sectors to understand why this is the case, and to co-develop targeted solutions. We will also be working extensively with employers, with a particular focus on small and medium enterprises, to understand what barriers they face in taking on apprentices and how they can improve the diversity profile of their apprentices.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-26/hl9585>

## New Publications

### Race Equality, Employment and Skills: Making Progress?

<https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdnep.azureedge.net/published/EHRiC/2020/11/15/Race-Equality--Employment-and-Skills--Making-Progress-/EHRiCS052020R3.pdf>

### Race Inequality in the Workforce: Analysing the state of play in the coronavirus economy

[https://d1ssu070pg2v9i.cloudfront.net/pex/carnegie\\_uk\\_trust/2020/11/11113419/Race-Inequality-in-the-Coronavirus-Economy-FINAL-1.pdf](https://d1ssu070pg2v9i.cloudfront.net/pex/carnegie_uk_trust/2020/11/11113419/Race-Inequality-in-the-Coronavirus-Economy-FINAL-1.pdf)

## News

### Met police told 40% of recruits must be from BAME backgrounds

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/nov/13/met-police-told-40-of-recruits-must-be-from-bame-backgrounds>

TOP

# Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

### Hate Crime

**Mary Kelly Foy (Labour):** What steps [is the Minister] taking to tackle the recent increase in recorded hate crime. [908401]

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Victoria Atkins):** The Government take hate crime very seriously. The police recorded hate crime figures have benefited from an improved understanding on the part of the public but also, importantly, improvements in the way that the police record these crimes. Interestingly, the recent crime survey for England and Wales, which provides wider information on the nature of hate crime and is not affected by how the police record crime, shows a decrease of about 40% in the experience of hate crime over the past decade. However, we do not rest on our laurels on this. As well as doubling hate crime funding for places of worship this year, the Government are working closely with the police to ensure that all forces are providing reassurance to affected people and encouraging hate crime reporting during the pandemic.

**Mary Kelly Foy:** Reported hate crimes have more than doubled since 2013, and it is a well-established fact that these crimes often spike with an increase in political rhetoric. When the Home Secretary brands Travellers as criminal and violent, and reportedly explored options to house asylum seekers on Ascension Island, what responsibility do the Government take for these increases, and does the Minister agree that it is time for our own lowering of the temperature?

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** I welcome any call from Labour Members with regard to working together to tackle these dreadful, dreadful crimes, but I again draw the hon. Lady back to the fact that the reports that people make to the crime survey show that there is not the same increase that we are seeing in police recorded crime. The importance of police recorded crime is that it suggests very strongly, first, that the public are recognising when they are victims of the crime, but also that the police are recording it better. That must be key to us tackling this terrible crime. If we measure it properly, then we can make sure that our methods to address it are doing exactly that and stopping this terrible crime.

**Bambos Charalambous (Labour):** Tell MAMA is running its “No2H8” campaign this month, and the Home Office has acknowledged in its own stats that this year’s rise in hate crimes is partly driven by far-right groups targeting Black Lives Matter campaigners. Will the Minister tell me what the Government are doing to support groups that they have been recognised as victims of an increase in hate crime?

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** The hon. Gentleman will know that we published the hate crime action plan in 2016 and refreshed it in 2018, and we have seen significant improvements, as I have said, which goes back to the point about police recorded crime as well. We are also investing. Through schemes such as the places of worship scheme, we can have a real impact on the local communities most affected by hate crime. In terms of the Black Lives Matter far-right counter-protest, there was a rise in racially or religiously aggravated and non-aggravated public order offences in June and July this year, as compared with the previous year. To push back a little on what the hon. Member for City of Durham (Mary Kelly Foy) said earlier, we must all fight back against extremist politics, whether it is the far right, as the hon. Gentleman has just talked about, or indeed the far left, because there is an awful lot of hatred coming from that direction at the moment. I welcome the calls—I am taking them to be universal—to lower the temperature, to be responsible with our use of language and to ensure that we have the sorts of

discourse in politics that I am sure we all wish for.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-11-09/debates/86490094-0F56-4EEE-8DC1-74E787BC2F39/HateCrime>

The Crime Survey statistics referred to above can be read at

<https://www.crimesurvey.co.uk/en/SurveyResults.html>

The action plans referred to above can be read at

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/927673/2016\\_Hate\\_Crime\\_Action\\_Plan.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/927673/2016_Hate_Crime_Action_Plan.pdf)

and

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/748175/Hate\\_crime\\_refresh\\_2018\\_FINAL\\_WEB.PDF](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/748175/Hate_crime_refresh_2018_FINAL_WEB.PDF)

## Press Releases

**MSPs call for action to tackle ‘institutional racism’ in public sector employment**

<https://www.parliament.scot/newsandmediacentre/116499.aspx>

**Human rights of Black people not equally protected, say Committee**

<https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/93/human-rights-joint-committee/news/121927/human-rights-of-black-people-not-equally-protected-say-committee/>

## New Publications

**Black people, racism and human rights**

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/3376/documents/32359/default/>

**Islamophobia and the Muslim Experience: The Labour Party Report**

<https://tinyurl.com/y2mrzcmh>

**Sporting Equals BAME Terminology Survey Statement**

<http://www.sportingequals.org.uk/news-and-blogs/sporting-equals-bame-terminology-survey-statement.html>

## News: Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill

**Humza Yousaf pleads with MSPs over Hate Crime Bill**

<https://www.thenational.scot/news/18861575.humza-yousaf-pleads-msps-hate-crime-bill/>

**Humza Yousaf: To build a safer nation we must confront hate crime**

<https://www.thenational.scot/news/18861560.humza-yousaf-build-safer-nation-must-confront-hate-crime/>

**Holocaust deniers 'potentially given defence' after hate crime u-turn**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18860929.holocaust-deniers-potentially-given-defence-hate-crime-u-turn/>

**Hate Crime Bill changes are retrograde step, says Scottish Jewish leader**

<https://www.eveningexpress.co.uk/news/scotland/hate-crime-bill-changes-are-retrograde-step-says-scottish-jewish-leader/>

**Intention caveat in hate crime bill is 'retrograde' step, says Scottish Council of Jewish Communities**

<https://www.holyrood.com/news/view,intention-caveat-in-hate-crime-bill-is-retrograde-step-says-scottish-council-of-jewish-communities>

**Hate crime bill: Concessions 'give bigots a get out of jail free card'**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/hate-crime-bill-concessions-give-bigots-a-get-out-of-jail-free-card-7bt6zb532>

**Hate Crime Bill: Journalists could be 'put through the mill' to prove innocence**

<https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/politics/scottish-politics/2638327/hate-crime-bill-journalists-could-be-put-through-the-mill-to-prove-innocence/>

**Draft Scottish Hate Crime Bill 'poses clear dangers' to media and theatre**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/draft-scottish-hate-crime-bill-poses-clear-dangers-media-and-theatre-3031309>

## **News: Other Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination**

**Over one in three Muslims report seeing Islamophobia in Labour Party**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/labour-party-islamophobia-muslims-keir-starmer-b1722747.html>

**Over half Muslim Labour members 'do not trust party to tackle Islamophobia'**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/nov/14/over-half-muslim-labour-members-do-not-trust-party-to-tackle-islamophobia>

**Kamala Harris: NI peer Lord Kilclooney told to apologise for 'offensive' tweet**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-54874541>

**Peer condemned as racist after remarks about new US vice president Kamala Harris**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18858390.peer-condemned-racist-remarks-new-us-vice-president-kamala-harris/>

**Lord Kilclooney: Former MP and Peer accused of racism for a second time after tweet about Vice President Elect Kamala Harris**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/lord-kilclooney-former-mp-and-peer-accused-racism-second-time-after-tweet-about-vice-president-elect-kamala-harris-3030363>

**UK peer sparks outrage after calling Kamala Harris 'the Indian'**

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/nov/09/uk-peer-sparks-outrage-after-calling-kamala-harris-the-indian>

**Damning report finds bigotry and misogyny in Police Scotland**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18863352.damning-report-finds-bigotry-misogyny-police-scotland/>

**Police reforms planned after damning report exposes racism**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/police-reforms-planned-after-damning-report-exposes-racism-qwv8hzm2b>

**Racism 'rife within Police Scotland'**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/racism-rife-within-police-scotland-8wmfx35nv>

**Damning report 'exposes racism' within police and calls for drastic overhaul of complaints system**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/11/11/damning-report-exposes-racism-within-police-calls-drastic-overhaul/>

**Met Police 'not free of racism or bias,' commissioner admits as London mayor launches review of stop and search**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/cressida-dick-sadiq-khan-met-police-racism-stop-and-search-b1722337.html>

**Elite private school faces racism claims as ex-pupils allege annual 'slave auction' took place**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/11/10/elite-private-school-faces-racism-claims-ex-pupils-allege-annual/>

**'Culture of racism' thrived at Fettes College, former pupils claim**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/culture-of-racism-thrived-at-fettes-college-former-pupils-claim-6rd3565pb>

**Private school with 'culture of racism' held mock slave auctions, claim former pupils**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/private-school-slave-auction-fettes-college-edinburgh-b1720351.html>

**Greg Clarke: Football Association chairman apologises for remark about black players**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/football/54878817>

**FA chairman Greg Clarke apologises after using the term 'coloured'**

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2020/nov/10/fa-chairman-greg-clarke-forced-to-apologise-after-using-the-term-coloured>

**FA chief Greg Clarke quits over 'coloured players' gaffe**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/fa-chief-greg-clarke-quits-over-coloured-players-gaffe-s6phkmqng>

**Greg Clarke resigns as FA chairman after telling MPs about 'coloured' footballers and describing being gay as 'life choice'**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/football/2020/11/10/greg-clarke-resigns-fa-chairman-unacceptable-comments-black/>

**'BAME' term offends those it attempts to describe, sporting survey finds**

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2020/nov/12/bame-term-offends-those-it-attempts-to-describe-sporting-survey-finds-sporting-equals>

**Azeem Rafiq says Asian players at Yorkshire were called 'elephant washers'**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/cricket/2020/11/13/azeem-rafiq-asian-players-yorkshire-called-elephant-washers/amp/>

**Religious intolerance is 'bigger cause of prejudice than race', says report**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/nov/15/religious-intolerance-is-bigger-cause-of-prejudice-than-race-says-report>

TOP



## Other Scottish Parliament and Government

### Scottish Parliament Motion

**S5M-23310 Alasdair Allan (SNP): Plantation Slavery and Landownership in the West Highlands and Islands: Legacies and Lessons** – That the Parliament welcomes the publication by Community Land Scotland of an independent research report, *Plantation slavery and landownership in the west Highlands and Islands: Legacies and Lessons*, by Dr Iain Mackinnon of the University of Coventry and Dr Andrew Mackillop of the University of Glasgow as part of Community Land Scotland’s discussion paper series, Land and the Common Good; notes the conclusion that the proceeds of slave ownership, slavery-derived wealth and slave compensation payments coincided with the purchase of Highlands and Islands estates or otherwise helped maintain existing estate holdings among many established landed families; welcomes the greater understanding that it believes the report brings of the impact of slavery on patterns of Scottish land ownership history; notes the evidence that specific estate purchases have direct links to slave-related income; regrets that land purchased from the proceeds of slavery rests on the misery of breaches to the human rights of dispossessed peoples; notes that slavery-derived wealth has contributed to historic patterns of land markets that have left legacies of monopoly land ownership, depopulation and an emphasis on extractive estate management that continue to operate today, and notes the calls for a discussion of an appropriate permanent memorial for these historic connections and their impact on peoples in Africa, the Caribbean and the Highlands and Islands.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-23310>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.communitylandscotland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Plantation-slavery-and-landownership-in-the-west-Highlands-and-Islands-legacies-and-lessons.pdf>

### Press Releases

**First Minister’s Interfaith Week message**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hlQwtcsvXZc>

**First Minister’s Diwali message**

<https://twitter.com/scotgov/status/1327657846633357312>

**Supporting each other during winter**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/supporting-each-other-during-winter/>

**Independent police complaints review**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/independent-police-complaints-review-2/>

### New Publications

**Independent Review of Complaints Handling, Investigations and Misconduct Issues in Relation to Policing**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/independent-review-complaints-handling-investigations-misconduct-issues-relation-policing/>

**Ready Scotland website**

<https://ready.scot/>

## News

**Coronavirus in Scotland: Nicola Sturgeon sends her best wishes to Scots celebrating a 'very different' and 'difficult' Diwali tomorrow**

<https://www.scotsman.com/whats-on/arts-and-entertainment/coronavirus-scotland-nicola-sturgeon-sends-her-best-wishes-scots-celebrating-very-different-and-difficult-diwali-tomorrow-3032869>

TOP

## Health Information: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

### NHS

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

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

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

#### **Protect-Scot contact tracing app**

<https://protect.scot/how-it-works>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Scottish Parliament Motion

**S5M-23332 Elaine Smith (Labour): Keep Churches and Places of Worship Open** – That the Parliament believes that churches and places of worship have made every effort to reduce the opportunity for the spread of COVID-19; understands that the procedures put in place are in the main working effectively; appreciates that being able to worship together is crucial for many people; acknowledges that this provides personal

connection and gives people hope, which is vital for mental health and wellbeing, especially for people who are older or isolated, and believes that, as far as possible, churches and places of worship should be kept open during any further lockdown restrictions.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-23332>

## 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/>

## UK Government Press Release

**Latest findings from COVID-19 study published**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/latest-findings-from-covid-19-study-published>

## UK Government Publications

**REACT-1: real-time assessment of community transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) in October 2020**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/react-1-study-of-coronavirus-transmission-october-2020-final-results/react-1-real-time-assessment-of-community-transmission-of-coronavirus-covid-19-in-october-2020>

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey, UK: 13 November 2020**

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/bulletins/coronaviruscovid19infectionsurveypilot/13november2020/pdf>

**Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain: 13 November 2020**

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandwellbeing/bulletins/coronavirusandthesocialimpactsongreatbritain/13november2020/pdf>

## Other Organisations

**University of Leicester published in EClinical Medicine**

**Ethnicity and clinical outcomes in COVID-19: A systematic review and meta-analysis**

<https://www.thelancet.com/action/showPdf?pii=S2589-5370%2820%2930374-6>

**Muslim Council of Britain**

**Together in Tribulation: British Muslims and the COVID-19 Pandemic**

<https://mcb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/MCB-Together-in-Tribulation-British-Muslims-and-the-COVID-19-Pandemic.pdf>

## News

**Coronavirus: Scottish Government urged to correct legislation 'mistake' creating places of worship loophole**

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/18864554.coronavirus-scottish-government-urged-correct-legislation-mistake-creating-places-worship-loophole/>

**Black people 'twice as likely to catch coronavirus'**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-54907473>

**Church leaders launch legal challenge over lockdown closure of places of worship**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/lockdown-coronavirus-church-places-of-worship-b1722922.html>

**Communal worship 'criminalised' under lockdown, church leaders in England say**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/nov/14/communal-worship-criminalised-under-lockdown-church-leaders-say>

**Diwali celebrations 'will be difficult', says Rishi Sunak**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-54927053>

**Celebrating Diwali in the shadow of a winter lockdown**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/diwali-how-to-celebrate-lockdown-coronavirus-b1721867.html>

**'Not the usual Diwali': Indians urged to stay at home amid Covid surge**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/nov/14/not-the-usual-diwali-indians-urged-to-stay-at-home-amid-covid-surge>

TOP

## New Publication

**Fundraising in the time of Covid-19**

[https://www.ciof.org.uk/loF/media/IOF/Policy/2CIOF\\_Supporter-Experience-Report.pdf](https://www.ciof.org.uk/loF/media/IOF/Policy/2CIOF_Supporter-Experience-Report.pdf)

TOP

## Other News

**Lord Sacks obituary**

<https://www.theguardian.com/global/2020/nov/08/lord-jonathan-sacks-obituary>

**Jonathan Sacks: Former chief rabbi who tried to preserve Jewish traditions in a fast-changing world**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/obituaries/jonathan-sacks-chief-rabbi-obituary-lord-b1721120.html>

TOP

## **Bills in Progress**

\*\* new or updated this week

### **Scottish Parliament**

#### **Children (Scotland) Bill**

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

#### **Domestic Abuse (Protection) (Scotland) Bill**

<https://beta.parliament.scot/bills/domestic-abuse-protection-scotland-bill>

#### **\*\* Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill**

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

Justice Committee, Stage 1 evidence session

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12934&i=116898#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Government Freedom of Information release

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/foi-202000077510/>

#### **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>

House of Lords consideration of House of Commons amendments ('ping pong')

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-11-09/debates/2BF5F13B-5237-4DC6-979F-981AD6A2287D/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination\(EUWithdrawal\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-11-09/debates/2BF5F13B-5237-4DC6-979F-981AD6A2287D/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination(EUWithdrawal)Bill)

Royal Assent

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-11-11/debates/7D94CFC1-DF42-47DB-9E16-77552D77BDAA/RoyalAssent>

## **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>

[TOP](#)

## **Consultations**

\*\* new or updated this week

### **Ethnic disparities and inequality in the UK** (closing date 30 November 2020)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/ethnic-disparities-and-inequality-in-the-uk-call-for-evidence/ethnic-disparities-and-inequality-in-the-uk-call-for-evidence>

### **Hate crime laws [in England and Wales]** (closing date 24 December 2020)

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

### **Future Arrangements for Early Medical Abortion at Home** (closing date 5 January 2021)

<https://consult.gov.scot/population-health/early-medical-abortion-at-home/>

### **Tackling modern slavery [in Northern Ireland]** (closing date 7 January 2021)

<https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-tackling-modern-slavery>

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

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

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

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

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

### **Experiences of Islamophobia** (closing date not stated)

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

### **Raising skills and standards of supporters of refugees and asylum seekers**

(closing date not stated)

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

[TOP](#)

## Job Opportunities

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

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

TOP

## Funding Opportunities

\*\* new or updated this week

### **Grants online: Coronavirus**

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

### **Scotland's Winter Festivals: Acts of Kindness Fund**

*Closing date: 23 November 2020*

BEMIS funding to encourage community groups to come together to celebrate St Andrew's Day by performing an act of kindness in their community – something that celebrates and promotes inclusion, diversity, and togetherness. For information see <https://bemis.org.uk/swf/acts-of-kindness/>

### **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/emnrrn/transition-fund/>

### **Places of Worship Fund**

*Running until mid January 2021*

Interfaith Scotland grants of up to £500 for places of worship that are struggling to meet the safety requirements of re-opening their buildings and safely holding services within Government Guidelines. With discretion the funds can also be used to assist in keeping open places that have managed their initial outlay with regard to safely reopening their place of worship but are now struggling to keep up the measures required to stay open.

This fund will help places of worship to:

- **Re-open** safely, including deep clean premises, provide appropriate signage and ensure that all volunteers and staff have appropriate training and PPE.
- **Keep open** places of worship that are struggling with the on-going health and safety costs during the pandemic
- **Remain connected** with those still too vulnerable to come to a place of worship – this may be through regular mail outs, telephone calls or the provision of mobile devices to allow those without digital access to keep in touch
- **Advancing Equality and Tackling Loneliness** Supporting faith communities to open the doors of their places of worship in a safe and inclusive manner will enable thousands of lonely and isolated people across Scotland to re-connect with their wider community.

The funding will be available for faith communities and community groups that utilise places of worship only, and will be offered to faith communities that are members and associate members of Interfaith Scotland in the first instance. For full details and an application form contact Frances Hume [frances@interfaithscotland.org](mailto:frances@interfaithscotland.org)

TOP

## Events, Conferences, and Training

\*\* new or updated this week

**\*\* this week!**

### **Windrush engagement events**

17 November 2020 (online, 4.30–6.00)

25 November 2020 (online, 4.30–6.00)

15 December 2020 (online, 4.30–6.00)

UK Government events to raise awareness of the Windrush Compensation Scheme and the work of the Windrush Taskforce, and provide information on who may be eligible for the Windrush Compensation Scheme, what kinds of losses and impacts it covers and how to apply. For information see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/windrush-engagement-events>

**\*\* this week!**

### **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](mailto:training@positiveactionh.org) or see <https://www.paih.org/our-services/training/>

**\*\* this week!**

### **No Recourse to Public Funds**

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](mailto:training@positiveactionh.org) or see <https://www.paih.org/our-services/training/>



**\*\* this week!**

### **Holocaust Memorial Day 2021 Scotland Workshop**

18 November 2020 (online, 7.00–8.30)

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust workshop for anyone planning a Holocaust Memorial Day activity in Scotland, providing an opportunity to find out more about this year's theme, "Be the light in the darkness", explore powerful life stories of those affected by the Holocaust and genocide, participate in thought-provoking activities and discussions, and network with other activity organisers. For information about the 11 November event see <https://tinyurl.com/y626d5bt> and the 18 November event see <https://tinyurl.com/y43q4pkm>

**\*\* this week!**

### **Racism in Scotland**

21 November 2020 (online, 12.00–1.00)

Scottish Parliament Festival of Politics panel discussion in partnership with CRER: With people in Scotland reporting daily racism, what needs to change on an individual and national level? For information see <https://www.festivalofpolitics.scot/events/racism-in-scotland>

### **\*\* Scots Charity Law Engagement: Transparency & Accountability**

2 December 2020 (online, 1.00–2.30)

9 December 2020 (online, 1.00–2.30)

Scottish Government event in partnership with ACOSVO and SCVO to hear views on enhancing transparency and accountability in Scottish charities, and the possibility of increased regulatory powers for the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator. For information about the 2 December event see <https://tinyurl.com/yx9pdavx> and the 9 December event see <https://tinyurl.com/yxadkkyo>

### **Interpreting Culture – Improving Cross-Cultural Communication**

9 December 2020 (online, 1.00–4.00)

Interfaith Scotland course to explore how culture forms a lens through which we interpret each other's behaviour, and learn how to improve our inter-cultural communication. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y2yr6qaw> or contact Jamie Spurway [jamie@interfaithscotland.org](mailto:jamie@interfaithscotland.org)

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

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](mailto: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](mailto:training@positiveactionh.org) or see <https://www.paih.org/our-services/training/>

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](mailto:training@positiveactionh.org) or see <https://www.paih.org/our-services/training/>

TOP

## Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services**

<https://www.volunteerscotland.net/for-organisations/disclosure-services/>

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

TOP

**SCoJeC**  
Scottish Council of  
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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



**BEMIS** is the Scottish national Ethnic Minorities led umbrella body, supporting, empowering, and building the capacity of minority third sector community organisations. As a strategic partner with Government, it is proactive in influencing the development of race equality policy in Scotland, and helps develop and progress multicultural Scotland, active citizenship, democracy, and Human Rights Education at the Scottish, UK, and European levels. (Scottish Charity, no. SC027692) <http://www.bemis.org.uk/>



The **Scottish Government** is committed to promoting equality of opportunity and social justice for all those who live in Scotland. **One Scotland** is the Scottish Government campaign designed to tackle racism. It aims to raise awareness of racist attitudes, highlight its negative impact and recognise the valuable contributions that other cultures have made to our society – and make Scotland no place for racism. <http://www.gov.scot/>

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