



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

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

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Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Debate

Draft Immigration (Leave to Enter and Remain) (Amendment) (EU Exit) Order 2020

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-11-24/debates/53a546f4-e6a5-4bed-945a-fdd1904a5966/DraftImmigration\(LeaveToEnterAndRemain\)\(Amendment\)\(EUExit\)Order2020](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-11-24/debates/53a546f4-e6a5-4bed-945a-fdd1904a5966/DraftImmigration(LeaveToEnterAndRemain)(Amendment)(EUExit)Order2020)

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Visas: Artificial Intelligence

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [116657] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 19 October 2020 to Question 102174, what decision-making algorithms her Department uses for processing visa applications.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Pursuant to the answer of 19 October 2020 to question 102174, there are no decision-making algorithms used in the processing of visa applications.

Every application is assessed by a decision-maker against the Immigration Rules, on its individual merits and taking into consideration the evidence provided by the applicant and any other relevant factors at the date of the decision.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-17/116657>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-12/102174>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Visas: New Businesses

Martyn Day (SNP) [115734] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effect of covid-19 restrictions on the ability of Tier 1 entrepreneur migrants to meet their visa requirements.

Martyn Day (SNP) [115735] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will issue guidance for Tier 1 entrepreneur migrants who are unable to create at least two full-time jobs by the date that their visa expires owing to covid-19 restrictions.

Martyn Day (SNP) [115736] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will issue guidance on the visa extension eligibility criteria for Tier 1 entrepreneur migrants who are unable to create at least two full-time jobs by the date that their visa expires owing to covid-19 restrictions.

Reply from Kevin Foster: We recognise the impact the ongoing pandemic is having on those establishing businesses under the Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) route.

We have put in place provisions to enable those with leave in the Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) route who are unable to satisfy the job creation requirement, as a result of the pandemic, to extend their leave, allowing them time to create employment opportunities post pandemic.

The Home Office COVID-19 guidance will be updated shortly to reflect this position

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-16/115734>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-16/115735>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-16/115736>

The following five questions all received the same answer

Immigration Rules: Religion

Alexander Stafford (Conservative) [117405] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effect of immigration rules for people of faith on faith groups in the UK.

Alexander Stafford (Conservative) [117406] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent discussions she has had with faith leaders in the UK on immigration rules.

Alexander Stafford (Conservative) [117407] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans the Government has to review immigration rules for clergy and other religious people.

Alexander Stafford (Conservative) [117408] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effect of recent changes to Tier 2 and Tier 5 visa rules in relation to clergy and other religious people on the ability of people of religion to enter the UK.

Immigration: Clergy

Alexander Stafford (Conservative) [117409] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, what recent discussions she has had with representatives of the Catholic Church on immigration routes for members of the clergy.

Reply from Kevin Foster: This Government recognises the importance of faith across our communities in the UK and welcomes the value added by members of religious institutions from across the world. This is reflected in the two dedicated immigration arrangements which exist for Ministers of Religion and Religious Workers. These provisions will continue in the future immigration system and be opened to EEA and Swiss nationals.

Faith leaders have a dedicated point of contact within the Department, who regularly engage on such topics to ensure the future immigration system works for the whole of the UK. I have also met with senior figures from the Roman Catholic Church to discuss their thoughts on the migration system.

All immigration routes, including the two dedicated routes for religious organisations, are subject to regular review.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-18/117405>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-18/117406>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-18/117407>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-18/117408>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-18/117409>

Social Services: Migrant Workers

Jim Shannon (DUP) [106345] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to ensure that overseas applications for jobs in social care are processed without delay.

Reply from Helen Whately: The Government introduced the Health and Care Visa on 4 August 2020, giving eligible overseas recruits quicker and cheaper access to a visa. Applicants for this visa are exempt from paying the Immigration Health Surcharge, pay 50% of visa fees and are guaranteed a decision within three weeks of biometric enrolment.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-20/106345>

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

<https://www.gov.uk/tier-2-health-care-visa>

NHS: Migrant Workers

Martyn Day (SNP) [117298] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what discussions he has had with the Home Secretary on (a) broadening eligibility for the covid-19 pandemic-related visa extension for health workers to include (i) frontline NHS support workers and (ii) other people working in an NHS role, and (b) extending the duration of the existing one-year extension.

Reply from Helen Whately: On 20 November 2020, the Home Secretary announced that frontline and other National Health Service workers' whose Tier 2 (General) visas expire between 1 October 2020 and 31 March 2021 will be entitled to a free, one-year extension. This measure includes doctors, nurses and paramedics amongst others and includes their dependents. The Government previously provided free visa extensions for health professionals that were due to expire between 31 March 2020 and 1 October 2020. This recent announcement means that this offer is extended to 31 March 2021.

This extension only covers those on Tier 2 (General) visas, rather than those on

visas that give a generic right to work in the United Kingdom. The Government has ensured these individuals can benefit from the reimbursement scheme for the Immigration Health Surcharge.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-18/117298>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/thousands-more-health-workers-to-benefit-from-visa-extensions>

Immigration: Coronavirus

Afzal Khan (Labour) [92014] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to Answer of 28 October 2020 to Question 106945 on Immigration: Coronavirus, what the parameters are of her review into previously enrolled biometrics; what her timeframe is for that review; whether she plans to enable MPs to submit evidence; and whether she plans to publish the results of her inquiries.

Reply from Kevin Foster: We want to widen our reuse of previously enrolled biometrics and will develop our plans in the New Year. A rollout plan will be developed to look at expanding the scheme further which will include engagement with relevant stakeholders.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-13/92014>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-21/106945>

Immigrants: Finance

Stephen Timms (Labour) [117164] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 6 November 2020 to Question 105275, for what reason the figure provided for in-country family extensions in the Immigration statistics referred to in that answer does not equate with the figure provided for the proportion of people with no resource to public funds.

Reply from Chris Philp: Pursuant to question 105275, the data on how many people were granted an extension to their Leave to Remain with No Recourse to Public Funds were produced from Management Information on a live database, and caveated subject to change. The published statistics do not include a breakdown of those granted with or without the No Recourse to Public Funds condition; the link to the published statistics was provided in the response to the written Parliamentary Question 105275 to provide context and to show where the headline figures for extensions are published.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-18/117164>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-19/105275>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigrants: Finance

Patrick Grady (SNP) [113137] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effect of No Recourse to Public Funds conditions on the number of people rough sleeping in the UK.

Helen Hayes (Labour) [113160] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the effect of No Recourse to Public Funds conditions on levels of rough sleeping.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office does not hold data on the number of people rough sleeping in the UK who are subject to no recourse to public funds (NRPF).

NRPF is applied to migrants who are expected to maintain and accommodate

themselves in the UK, without recourse to public funds. However, individuals whose basis of stay in the UK is based on their family life or human rights can apply to have the NRPF condition lifted by making a 'change of conditions' application if there are exceptional circumstances related to financial circumstances, to avoid destitution and rough sleeping.

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

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

To avoid destitution and sleeping rough, those without immigration status should regularise their stay or leave the UK. There is support available to do this through the Voluntary Returns Service.

The Rough Sleeping Support Service (RSSS) offers an enhanced service for Local Authorities and registered charities to establish whether a rough sleeper has access to public funds. Part of this service includes the RSSS contacting casework teams (where there is an open application) to request that the case is prioritised. The Home Office remains committed to working with Local Authorities in their work with non-UK national rough sleepers.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-09/113137>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-09/113160>

Immigrants: Finance

Abena Oppong-Asare (Labour) [113668] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment her Department has made of the adequacy of Government support for people with No Recourse to Public Funds conditions.

Reply from Chris Philp: Many of the wide-ranging COVID-19 measures the Government has put in place are available to migrants with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) and have been recently extended.

The assistance being given under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and the Self-employed Income Support Scheme are not classed as public funds and are available to all those who are legally working or self-employed respectively, including those with NRPF status. Both these schemes have been extended until spring 2021.

The Government has continued to keep the situation under review and has introduced further measures as required, such as the Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme in England. This provides a £500 payment to those who have been told to stay at home and self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace. Support is also available for those who do not meet the criteria of the scheme, in the form of a £500 discretionary payment, paid by local authorities. This payment is available to those with NRPF, who meet any additional criteria set by the local authority. Further information on this scheme and discretionary payment can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/test-and-trace-support-payment-scheme-claiming-financial-support/claiming-financial-support-under-the-test-and-trace-support-payment-scheme>

Individuals whose lawful basis of stay in the UK is based on their family life or human rights can apply to have the NRPF condition lifted by making a 'change of conditions' application if they are destitute or at risk of destitution, if the welfare of their child is at risk due to their low income, or where there are other exceptional financial circumstances.

Since the onset of the pandemic, we have continued to assess and prioritise NRPF 'change of conditions' applications and deal with them compassionately. To support

the swifter processing of applications, we have introduced evidential flexibility so that caseworkers can make a decision without requiring every piece of information. Data published in July shows the average time taken to make a decision on cases is 30 days despite a large increase in applications in quarter 2 of 2020. Of the decisions taken in the same period, 89% were granted. More information can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/no-recourse-to-public-funds-applications-to-change-conditions-of-leave-july-2020>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-10/113668>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigrants: Finance

Helen Hayes (Labour) [118041] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if the Government will (a) fully fund local authorities for the additional support they are providing to households with No Recourse to Public Funds conditions during the covid-19 outbreak and (b) reimburse local authorities for additional support already provided to those households.

Helen Hayes (Labour) [118042] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans her Department has to review (a) the No Recourse to Public Funds policy and (b) the effect of that policy on BAME people during the covid-19 outbreak.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Government has provided councils with £6.4 billion to support their communities through this pandemic. This includes £4.6 billion in un-ringfenced funding, £1.1 billion from the Infection Control Fund, £300 million to support Test and Trace as well as funding allocated to councils from the new Local Alert Level system and a number of grants to support communities and vulnerable people

The Government has also provided additional funding for the devolved administrations under the Barnett formula as part of the wider government response. Funding provided to local authorities under the Covid-19 emergency response will be paid through a grant that is not ring-fenced, recognising that local authorities are best placed to decide how this funding is spent.

The assistance being given under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and the Self-employed Income Support Scheme are not classed as public funds and are available to all those in work or self-employment respectively, including those with NRPF status and those on zero-hour contracts.

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

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

The Home Office continues to keep the impact of the pandemic under review and will make changes should these be necessary and appropriate.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-19/118041>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-19/118042>

Immigrants: Coronavirus

Stephen Timms (Labour) [119162] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to the Answer of 16 November 2020 to Question 114047 on Immigrants: Coronavirus, if she will issue guidance to local authorities to clarify that families with No Recourse to Public Funds are eligible for help from Government funds provided for supporting disadvantaged families.

Reply from Will Quince: Our £170 million Covid Winter Grant Scheme will enable

local authorities to support children and vulnerable households this winter with food and key utilities.

We are in regular discussion with Local Authorities about how the Covid Winter Support Grant should be delivered. Detailed guidance, including on support for those with No Recourse to Public Funds, was published on gov.uk on 24 November:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-winter-grant-scheme>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-23/119162>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-11/114047>

Free School Meals: Immigrants

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [118048] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether he plans to end the temporary extension of free school meals eligibility to no recourse to public funds groups.

Reply from Vicky Ford: We are working with departments across government to evaluate access to free school meals for families with no recourse to public funds. In the meantime, the extension of eligibility will continue with the current income threshold until a decision on long-term eligibility is made.

At present, data is not available regarding the take up of free school meals by no recourse to public funds groups during the temporary extension.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-19/118048>

Immigration Bail: Coronavirus

Olivia Blake (Labour) [118138] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the effect of the covid-19 outbreak on immigration bail reporting; and what public health advice or information led to the decision in March 2020 to suspend in-person reporting as a condition of bail.

Reply from Chris Philp: On Tuesday 17 March, following Public Health and Government guidance relating to COVID19 and the developing situation, we paused immigration reporting and sent an SMS text message to reportees with a valid mobile telephone number on our systems informing them of this.

On Tuesday 24 March we maintained the decision to close reporting centres and police reporting temporarily following the Prime Minister's address to the nation. This was because we were not confident that we could practice safe social distancing.

Immigration Enforcement recommenced face to face reporting in July and August for limited, priority cohorts of people. We have implemented Safe Systems of Working (SSOW) and Risk Assessments in all our Reporting Centres where we have put in place robust social distancing measures; health screening questions are asked as a person enters; face masks are offered to those who have travelled without them; one-way systems and sanitiser stations are placed throughout our buildings. We continue to review our current reporting arrangements in line with any new local and national COVID restrictions that are put in place.

Before inviting individuals into reporting, case owners will make an assessment based on the harm that they may pose to the public, as well as the vulnerability and personal circumstances of all of those we ask to report. We continue to keep in contact with the overall reporting population by telephone to update individuals on the current reporting position. An SMS text or email/letter is sent to those required to recommence reporting informing them of the date and time they should report, along with relevant advice on COVID. We have also updated the reporting pages on GOV.UK for those who report and their representatives. This information

includes how to travel most safely by public transport, avoiding both busy transport hubs and traveling at peak times; advice on reporting alone where possible; and what to do if those reporting have symptoms or are shielding and how to contact their local reporting centre.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-19/118138>

Immigration: Health Services

Andrew Gwynne (Labour) [119191] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of providing refunds for payments of the immigration health surcharge made by people working in the (a) health and (b) care sector prior to 31 March 2020.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Health and care workers who paid the health surcharge to cover the period from 31 March 2020 onwards, may be eligible for a refund. This includes those who were working in the health and care sector before that date. More information on this policy can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/healthcare-immigration-application/refunds>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-23/119191>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigrants: Private Rented Housing

Neil Coyle (Labour) [114201] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department will take to ensure that information on tenants' immigration status is kept fully up to date on the new Right to Rent online checking system for landlords.

Neil Coyle (Labour) [114202] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what redress will be available to landlords or prospective tenants who miss out on or have their leases delayed as a result of inaccuracies, errors or missing information on the new Right to Rent online checking system.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office online right to rent service allows landlords to conduct right to rent checks on non-EEA citizens with a valid biometric resident permit or card, EEA citizens and their family members with status granted under the EU Settlement Scheme and EEA nationals granted status under the new points-based immigration system.

The information shown in the online right to rent checking service is derived from the Home Office immigration database, ensuring that information stays in step with the individual's immigration status. The individual will be able to check their information is accurate before they choose to share it. If there are errors or technical issues with the information displayed individuals, are advised to contact our support centre to ask for the issue to be investigated before they share the information with a landlord.

Should errors occur, in order to avoid delays, non-EEA nationals can choose to use their biometric residence card or permit to evidence their right to rent. Furthermore, EEA citizens are able to rely on their passport or national ID card until 30th June 2021.

If a landlord is unable to establish that an individual has the right to rent, they are able to make a request to the Landlord Checking Service.

Work to provide further support to those individuals who encounter difficulties with the service to make sure they are able to demonstrate their right to rent is ongoing.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-11/114201>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-11/114202>

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

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

Windrush Lessons Learned Review

Stephen Timms (Labour) [116378] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to The Response to the Windrush Lessons Learned Review: A comprehensive improvement plan, published in September 2020, CP293, what the scope is of the review and evaluation being undertaken of the public funds stream to the compliant environment; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Priti Patel: The comprehensive improvement plan set out the aim to review all the compliant measures and cumulatively. We are currently in the discovery and scoping phase of the review.

There are six primary streams to the compliant environment – some of which only apply to England and Wales – which will be covered in our response to this recommendation. These are:

- Work – to prevent those who are ineligible from working;
- Housing – to prevent those without lawful status from accessing the private rental sector.
- Public Funds – to prevent those who are ineligible from accessing mainstream support and benefits;
- Health – to charge upfront for non-urgent health care and recover costs for emergency treatment where payment upfront was not possible;
- Financial Services – to prevent people deemed as disqualified due to lack of lawful status from accessing current accounts;
- Driving – to prevent those without lawful status from holding licences while in the UK.

A full evaluation of the Right to Rent scheme is already underway. The evaluation includes a call for evidence to tenants, landlords and letting agents; a large mystery shopping exercise; and surveys of landlords. Members of the right to rent consultative panel provided input into the design of the evaluation. COVID-19 has impacted the field work and delivery of the final implementation report is now scheduled for spring 2021.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-17/116378>

The review referred to above can be read at

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

The Government response to the review, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/922973/CCS001_CCS0820050750-001_Resp_to_Windrush_Lessons_CP_293_Accessible.pdf

Windrush Lessons Learned Review

Stephen Timms (Labour) [117166] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 2 November 2020 to Question 106891 on Windrush Lessons Learned Review, what data on ethnicity she plans to collect to inform the review and evaluation of the public funds stream to the compliant environment.

Reply from Priti Patel: I accepted the Windrush Lessons Learned Review's important findings, including those relating to measures designed to regulate access to work, benefits and services, including access to public funds

We are currently in the discovery phase of the review. We are scoping what data is available on the cohort that may not have recourse to public funds. This scoping phase will include what demographic data is available for analysis.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-18/117166>

The answer referred to above can be read at

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

The review referred to above can be read at

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

Immigration: EU Nationals

Olivia Blake (Labour) [119431] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will ensure that EU citizens who, through no fault of their own, miss the 30 June 2021 deadline to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme will have no interruption to their rights until they apply for, and are granted, settled status.

Reply from Kevin Foster: In line with the Withdrawal Agreement, the Government has made clear, where a person has reasonable grounds for missing the 30 June 2021 deadline for applications to the EU Settlement Scheme by EU citizens and their family members resident in the UK by the end of the transition period, they will be given a further opportunity to apply.

If they do so and are granted status under the scheme, they will, consistent with the Withdrawal Agreement, enjoy the same rights from the time they are granted status as someone who applied before the deadline.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-23/119431>

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

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

The following two questions both received the same answer

Undocumented Migrants: EU countries

Tim Loughton (Conservative) [114759] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many illegal migrants have been (a) successfully returned to EU countries and (b) booked on to planes to return to EU countries but where the place has not been taken up, in 2020 to date; and what the cost was in each case.

Tim Loughton (Conservative) [114760] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the nationality is of illegal migrants returned to EU countries in (a) 2019 and (b) 2020 to date.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office publishes data on returns in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'.

Data on the number of returns and by nationality to EU Member States are published in table Det_D01 of the [returns detailed datasets](#). Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data relates to the year ending June 2020.

Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the '[Research and statistics calendar](#)'.

Providing the information requested on the number of those where removal did not proceed and the costs in each case would require a manual check of individual records which could only be done at disproportionate cost.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-12/114759>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-12/114760>

Refugees: Resettlement

Margaret Ferrier (Independent) [114913] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans her Department has for the resumption of refugee resettlement flights to the UK; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Chris Philp: We have been working closely with key domestic and international stakeholders on plans to safely resume UK resettlement arrivals

against the backdrop of unprecedented restrictions and pressures caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a result of this work, and as announced by Baroness Williams of Trafford in the House of Lords on 9 November, the UK will shortly restart UK resettlement arrivals to fulfil our commitment of resettling 20,000 refugees affected by the conflict in Syria under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) and we are working closely with partners to deliver this commitment.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-12/114913>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-11-09/debates/2BF5F13B-5237-4DC6-979F-981AD6A2287D/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination\(EUWithdrawal\)Bill#contribution-DB7E2454-09E6-47FB-BBCE-2E0F928DF4C2](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-11-09/debates/2BF5F13B-5237-4DC6-979F-981AD6A2287D/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination(EUWithdrawal)Bill#contribution-DB7E2454-09E6-47FB-BBCE-2E0F928DF4C2)

Refugees: Resettlement

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [117989] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 17 November 2020 to Question 111491, what criteria her Department is using to assess when it is safe to resume refugee resettlement activity.

Reply from Chris Philp: Subsequent to the Honourable Member's question of 4 November, I am pleased to say that, as announced by Baroness Williams of Trafford in the House of Lords on 9 November, the UK will shortly restart resettlement arrivals to fulfil our commitment of resettling 20,000 refugees affected by the conflict in Syria under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) and we are working closely with partners to deliver this commitment.

Due to the lead times for refugee arrivals, it is likely that we will see most refugees start to arrive early in the new year

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-19/117989>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-04/111491>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-11-09/debates/2BF5F13B-5237-4DC6-979F-981AD6A2287D/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination\(EUWithdrawal\)Bill#contribution-DB7E2454-09E6-47FB-BBCE-2E0F928DF4C2](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-11-09/debates/2BF5F13B-5237-4DC6-979F-981AD6A2287D/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination(EUWithdrawal)Bill#contribution-DB7E2454-09E6-47FB-BBCE-2E0F928DF4C2)

Refugees: Coronavirus

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [112107] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to support people with refugee status who are unable to work due to delays in accessing national insurance numbers during the covid-19 outbreak.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office has bespoke arrangements with the Department for Work and Pensions to allocate national insurance numbers (NINOs) to refugees. This process has continued to operate throughout the pandemic and has not been subject to delays.

An individual's NINO is printed on their biometric residence permit (BRP). We are aware of a recent a technical issue that delayed the production of a small number of BRPs. That issue has been resolved and measures put in place to prevent it from happening again.

It is possible to start work without a National Insurance number if you can [prove you have a right to work in the UK](#). You can also still apply for benefits.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-05/112107>

Refugees: National Insurance

Abena Oppong-Asare (Labour) [113669] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what data her Department holds on the number of people with refugee status unable to work as a result of delays in accessing National Insurance numbers.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office does not hold the required data in a way that would allow it to provide an accurate assessment of the number of people with refugee status unable to work as a result of delays in accessing National Insurance Numbers (NINo). Finding the requested information would be likely to breach the disproportionate cost threshold.

In January 2018 we introduced an aligned BRP and NINo process for people recognised as refugees. We now obtain the NINo directly from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) for inclusion on the Biometric Residence Permit (BRP). This means that the migrant does not need to make a separate application to DWP for a NINo.

Using this process we have issued nearly 60,000 BRPs to refugees. We have also introduced a number of checks into the BRP NINo alignment process to mitigate any delays that may arise in obtaining the NINo or printing the BRP.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-10/113669>

Asylum

Neil Coyle (Labour) [117277] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when her Department plans to introduce the new service standard for deciding asylum claims.

Reply from Chris Philp: For the year 2020, we are continuing to prioritise claims 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.

Asylum Operations are dealing with sustained high levels of new applications which is creating pressure, however we are working to balance the overall needs of the system to ensure cases are appropriately prioritised.

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 expectations of how and when a decision should be made.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-18/117277>

Asylum: Interviews

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [115701] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she will take to ensure asylum interviews of persons applying for refugee status on grounds of sexual orientation are not affected by the potential views and prejudices of interpreters present at the interview.

Reply from Priti Patel: All interpreters are subject to qualification checks when joining the Home Office interpreter panel and performance is regularly monitored and assessed. Interpreters are also governed by a Code of Conduct that clearly sets out requirements and expectations. Any breaches of standards are rigorously investigated, assessed and appropriate action taken.

A revised version of the Code of Conduct was published in November 2020. We are also in the process of revising our sexual orientation guidance for caseworkers, which will highlight and enhance these requirements.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-16/115701>

The Code of Conduct referred to above can be read at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/935357/interpreters-code-of-conduct-v2.0ext.pdf

The following three questions all received the same answer

Asylum: Housing

Afzal Khan (Labour) [92008] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the order of the High Court of 2 November directing her Department to continue to provide accommodation under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 to former asylum-seekers, whether departmental staff have been instructed to (a) cease to issue new discontinuation notices to persons to whom the order applies and (b) withdraw (i) notices under appeal and (ii) other such notices where they have not yet led to withdrawal of accommodation.

Afzal Khan (Labour) [92009] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the order of the High Court of 2 November 2020 directing her Department to continue to provide accommodation under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 to former asylum-seekers, what instructions she has issued to companies contracted by her Department to provide accommodation and/or advice to former asylum-seekers; and if she will publish those instructions.

Asylum: Coronavirus

Afzal Khan (Labour) [92011] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to Answer of 5 November 2020 to Question 109623, whether she has instructed her staff not to defend discontinuation notices in appeals to the Asylum Support Tribunal as a result of the November 2020 covid-19 lockdown in England.

Reply from Chris Philp: The High Court on 2 November 2020 issued an Interim Order to pause decisions on support for failed asylum seekers.

Departmental staff have been instructed to cease issuing new discontinuation notices to persons to whom the Interim order applies.

The Home Office has withdrawn from appeals lodged as a result of a negative cessations notification letter issued prior to the Interim Order and have continued to provide accommodation and support to those affected. We have also instructed contractors to pause cases that were being implemented at the time that this order came into effect.

Providers have been instructed not to implement Notices to Vacate (NTV) for negative cessations. These instructions have been cascaded to Provider staff and we remain in close contact.

Appeals lodged to the Asylum Support Tribunal regarding cessations of support that do not meet the criteria in the Interim Order will continue to be defended by the Home Office.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-13/92008>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-13/92009>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-13/92011>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-30/109623>

Asylum: Accommodation

Fay Jones (Conservative) [115023] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to support asylum seekers at Penally Barracks, Pembrokeshire.

Reply from Chris Philp: The AIRE (Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility) service

provided for the Home Office by Migrant Help offers support and guidance to vulnerable migrants.

AIRE asylum services provide free independent advice, guidance and information on the asylum process, accommodation, financial support, finding legal representation and any other asylum related matters. AIRE run a national helpline that is free and accessible to all asylum seekers in the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-12/115023>

Asylum: Penally

Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru) [119323] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has discussed with the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Penally training camp in Pembrokeshire had been regularly used as accommodation continuously during the winter months prior to its conversion as a temporary site for accommodating asylum seekers.

Reply from Chris Philp: All accommodation provided is required to be safe, habitable, fit for purpose and correctly equipped, and to comply with relevant national or local housing legislation. These standards apply to all accommodation used by the Home Office including the Ministry of Defence site in Pembrokeshire. There are electric wall heaters in place in all accommodation blocks and communal areas within Penally.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-23/119323>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Penally

Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru) [119325] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment her Department has made of the adequacy of accommodation at (a) Napier Barracks in Folkestone and (b) Penally Training Camp in Pembrokeshire.

Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru) [119327] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of (a) the health of asylum seekers housed at the Penally training camp site and (b) the effect of that site on their health; and what steps she will take with the Welsh Government to protect and maintain the health and safety of the people housed in that camp.

Reply from Chris Philp: All asylum seekers are subject to an initial screening process by UK Visas and Immigration, which includes health and safeguarding checks. Further checks are also made, to confirm suitability for transfer to the accommodation. On site, accommodation provider staff are available at all times should health concerns arise, with healthcare arrangements in place, linked to local NHS provision.

Additionally, all asylum seekers have access to the Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility (AIRE) service provided for the Home Office by Migrant Help offers support and guidance to vulnerable migrants.

AIRE asylum services provide free independent advice, guidance and information on the asylum process, accommodation, financial support, finding legal representation and any other asylum related matters. AIRE run a national helpline that is free and accessible to all asylum seekers in the UK.

We remain in regular contact and committed to working with the Welsh Government and relevant health bodies in respect of the accommodation of asylum seekers at Penally.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-23/119325>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-23/119327>

Military Bases: Penally

Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru) [119326] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effect of the conditions at Penally training camp on the potential for an outbreak of covid-19 in that facility.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office has sought Public Health advice on how we can make best use of this accommodation, working within the constraints of the configuration, whilst minimising risks from Covid-19.

Risk mitigations include limiting occupancy in dormitories ensuring a minimum distance between beds of at least 2 metres. This is complemented by a range of additional safety measures including increased cleaning of surfaces, availability of hand sanitisers, a track and trace system and communications with residents around covid-19 control measures. Asylum seekers will have the same access to testing as the general population.

The Home Office's contractor has an outbreak management plan which will be enacted if we experience an outbreak.?

The Government demands the highest standards from contractors and their accommodation and monitor them closely to ensure this is maintained. All accommodation provided is required to be safe, habitable, fit for purpose and correctly equipped, and to comply with relevant national or local housing legislation.

These standards apply to all accommodation used by the Home Office including the Ministry of Defence sites in Pembrokeshire and Folkestone.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-23/119326>

Military Bases: Folkestone

Drew Hendry (SNP) [119296] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the effect on operational transparency of the use of confidentiality agreements issued to volunteers by the contractors running immigration detention operations at the Napier Barracks in Folkestone on behalf of her Department.

Reply from Chris Philp: We have worked closely with our accommodation provider Clearsprings Ready Homes and stakeholders to ensure the Napier site is safe and secure.

Asylum seekers are not being detained at Napier Barracks; it is temporary contingency initial asylum accommodation.

There is no secrecy about our use of Napier as asylum accommodation, but privacy of individuals must be maintained. The accommodation itself is entirely adequate for its purpose, with the same standards applied as for other asylum accommodation. We are taking great care to ensure that we provide safe, secure accommodation and that everyone has access to the support they need. This includes providing asylum seekers with privacy and confidentiality as would be expected for those seeking sanctuary in the UK where it would be damaging for their identities to be revealed.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-23/119296>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Asylum: Coronavirus

Afzal Khan (Labour) [92010] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to Answer of 5 November 2020 to Question 109623, whether Public Health England has advised her Department that the eviction of destitute former asylum seekers poses no threat to public health.

Afzal Khan (Labour) [92012] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to Answer of 5 November 2020 to Question 109623 on Asylum: Coronavirus, which (a) other Government Departments and agencies and (b) local authorities she has

consulted in her regular review of the process of issuing discontinuation notices.

Asylum: Evictions

Afzal Khan (Labour) [92013] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has conducted an Equality Impact Assessment in relation to the decision to recommence evictions from asylum accommodation.

Reply from Chris Philp: Failed asylum seekers who have exhausted their appeal rights are eligible to receive accommodation and other support provided they take reasonable steps to leave the UK or there is a legal or practical obstacle to their departure. The Home Office Voluntary Returns Scheme pays for the flight to the home country and provides reintegration assistance.

Only failed asylum seekers who are able to take steps to leave the UK, but choose not to, are therefore issued with notices that their support will be discontinued.

The process of issuing discontinuation notices is kept under regular review, taking consideration of public health guidance and the impact of the virus on those from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities.

We have been working closely with National and Local health officials throughout the pandemic to inform our approach and will continue to do so.

We remain committed to working closely with the accommodation providers and communicating with local authorities to relieve pressure and capacity as much as possible and ensure that health guidance is being followed.

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

We continue to consult public health officials in relation to the application of relevant guidance for supported asylum seekers.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-13/92010>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-13/92012>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-13/92013>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-30/109623>

Yarls Wood Immigration Removal Centre

Zarah Sultana (Labour) [116669] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans her Department has for the future of Yarls Wood immigration removal centre and the detention of women under immigration powers there.

Reply from Chris Philp: The immigration removal estate is kept under ongoing review to ensure that the Home Office has sufficient capacity, in the right places and that it provides value for money.

In August, the pre-existing Short-Term Holding Facility (STHF) at Yarls Wood, in which clandestine entrants may be held by UK Visas and Immigration for a short time to resolve their position before being dispersed through appropriate routes, was temporarily expanded to incorporate the whole site. At this time Yarls Wood was operated solely in accordance with the STHF Rules 2018.

In light of changing demands in the immigration removal estate and in line with business recovery, we have now transitioned part of the Yarls Wood site back to an immigration removal centre for women.

In order to meet operational needs and demands, we will continue to operate the immigration removal estate, including Yarls Wood, in a flexible manner and in line

with the STHF Rules 2018 and the Detention Centre Rules 2001, as appropriate.
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-17/116669>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Sleeping Rough: Deportation

Patrick Grady (SNP) [113134] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether an equality impact assessment has been carried out in respect of her Department's plans to make rough sleeping grounds for deportation under the immigration rules.

Patrick Grady (SNP) [113135] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, under what circumstances would someone who is rough sleeping be considered to have refused support under her Department's plans to make rough sleeping grounds for deportation under the immigration rules.

Patrick Grady (SNP) [113136] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what guidance will be given to immigration caseworkers to ensure that her Department's plans to make rough sleeping grounds for deportation under the immigration rules will be used as a last resort.

Reply from Chris Philp: The new Immigration Rules make provision for the refusal or cancellation of permission to stay in the UK on the basis of rough sleeping. This will only be used where individuals have repeatedly refused support offers such as accommodation and are engaged in anti-social behaviour.

Guidance will be provided for decision makers to make clear the circumstances in which permission may be cancelled or refused, and this will also be available on GOV.UK when the new provision comes into force.

An Equality Impact Assessment was completed for all the Immigration Rules laid on 22 October 2020.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-09/113134>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-09/113135>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-09/113136>

The Impact Assessment referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/936121/Revised_Impact_Assessment_for_the_Skilled_Worker_Route_signed.pdf

Immigration Rules: Sleeping Rough

David Simmonds (Conservative) [92027] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans her Department has to release guidance on the new Immigration Rules that make rough sleeping grounds for cancelling or refusing permission to be in the UK which are due to be enforced from 1 December 2020.

Reply from Chris Philp: The new Immigration Rules make provision for the refusal or cancellation of permission to stay in the UK on the basis of rough sleeping. The new rule will apply on a discretionary basis to non-EEA nationals from 1 December 2020 and to newly arriving EEA nationals from 1 January 2021. The provision will be used sparingly and only where individuals have repeatedly refused support offers, such as accommodation, and are engaged in persistent anti-social behaviour.

Guidance will be provided for decision-makers to make clear the circumstances in which permission may be cancelled or refused, and this will also be available on GOV.UK when the new provision comes into force.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-13/92027>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Immigration Rules: Sleeping Rough

David Linden (SNP) [11809] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the new discretionary power in the Immigration Rules to refuse or cancel a person's permission to stay in the UK on the basis of that person's rough sleeping, what guidance is available on safeguards and the permissible use of that discretionary power.

Immigrants: Sleeping Rough

David Linden (SNP) [118096] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the compliance of the new discretionary power in the Immigration Rules to refuse or cancel a person's permission to stay in the UK on the basis of that person's rough sleeping with (a) the public sector equality duty, (b) Section 6 Human Rights Act 1998, (c) Articles 2,3, 8 and 14 European Convention of Human Rights and (d) covid-related public health policy (i) in general and (ii) with respect to BAME groups.

David Linden (SNP) [118098] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the new discretionary power in the Immigration Rules to refuse or cancel a person's permission to stay in the UK on the basis of that person's rough sleeping, whether that power can be used in relation to persons whose asylum claim has been finally determined and refused.

Reply from Chris Philp: The new Immigration Rules make provision for the refusal or cancellation of permission to stay in the UK on the basis of rough sleeping. The new rule will apply on a discretionary basis to non-EEA nationals from 1 December 2020 and to newly arriving EEA nationals from 1 January 2021. The provision will be used sparingly and only where individuals have refused support offers such as accommodation and are engaged in persistent anti-social behaviour.

A person is expected to leave the UK if their leave is cancelled or refused, including where they have been refused protection status and have no other legal basis to remain here. If they do not choose to leave voluntarily we may enforce their removal. They will not be subject to deportation action unless they have been convicted of criminal offences other than those relating to immigration, or have demonstrated serious or persistent criminality, or for reasons of national security. Guidance will be provided for decision-makers to make clear the circumstances in which permission may be cancelled or refused, and this will be available on GOV.UK when the new provision comes into force.

An Equality Impact Assessment was completed for all the Immigration Rules laid on 22 October 2020.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-19/118097>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-19/118096>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-19/118098>

The Impact Assessment referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/936121/Revised_Impact_Assessment_for_the_Skilled_Worker_Route_signed.pdf

Deportation: Sleeping Rough

Helen Hayes (Labour) [113161] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions she has had with (a) charities and (b) local authorities on her Department's proposals to deport foreign national rough sleeper after the transition period.

Reply from Chris Philp: The new Immigration Rules, which make provision for the refusal or cancellation of permission to stay in the UK on the basis of rough sleeping, will apply to non-EEA nationals from 1 December 2020 and to newly arriving EEA citizens from 1 January 2021 and will only be used after all support is

rejected.

The Home Office and the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government are encouraging local authorities and approved charities to resolve the immigration status of rough sleepers and unlock access to any benefits and entitlements that rough sleepers may be eligible for.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-09/113161>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Windrush Compensation Scheme

Lord Dholakia (Liberal Democrat): To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made in settling claims under the Windrush Compensation Scheme.

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

My Lords, the Windrush compensation scheme was established in April 2019 to compensate members of the Windrush generation for the losses and impacts that they suffered because they were unable to demonstrate lawful status. The first payment was made within four months of the scheme's launch and, to the end of September, over £2.8 million has been paid or offered in compensation, including multiple offers of over £100,000. More payments and offers are being made every week.

Lord Dholakia: My Lords, there are serious allegations of racism and racial discrimination against those who are dealing with outstanding Windrush compensation claims. The injustice has lasted for over 70 years. The evidence from Wendy Williams has been accepted. We deal with contracts on Covid, awarding millions of pounds, without proper scrutiny. The Home Office cannot be the fit and proper body to sort out these grievances. Many people have died awaiting their claims while the Home Secretary's mind is on other matters. I ask the Minister to set out a date when all the outstanding claims will be resolved. Failing this, experience proves that the anger of the community will spill on to our streets.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I will not give some sort of defensive response to the noble Lord's point because, if serious allegations of racism are being put out, we need to take that extremely seriously. If the noble Lord can provide me with further detail, I will take that back. He also asked whether the Home Office is indeed the right department to deal with this. I think it is the right department to deal with this in the sense that people's identity needs to be established—which, of course, is the purview of the Home Office—before the claims are looked into. He is absolutely right to raise the issue of deceased people: first, it is tragic that someone is deceased before their claim is heard; secondly, it says to us that we need to be quicker at responding; but, thirdly, where someone is deceased, that claim can be dealt with in the appropriate manner with respect to their next of kin.

Lord Rosser (Labour): Wendy Williams, who carried out the Windrush review, told the Home Affairs Select Committee last month that she was surprised that only 168 people—certainly, at that time—had been compensated. She also expressed concern that there had been so little progress in reviewing the hostile environment policies and said that the Home Office could either embrace her recommendations or pay lip-service to them, and not institute fundamental cultural change. There is clearly a lack of leadership at the very highest level in the Home Office. A culture change was promised; it still has not been, and is not being, delivered. It is actions, not words, that count. Do the Government agree, or has even Wendy Williams got it all wrong?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I totally agree with the noble Lord that a culture change is badly needed. A culture change does not come in a quick timescale but over time. On the figure of 168 people, we need to move faster in

processing claims, and I know my right honourable friend the Home Secretary is looking at that. We have also enlisted more resource to try to help process those claims. On complexity, yes, it is complex; people have complex lives, and each case has to be taken on the evidence and information that is brought forward. We do not want people to go short on what they receive but to get the full amount they deserve—and all these people are very deserving of the compensation they get. Regarding the slow progress on the recommendations, I do not contradict what Wendy Williams said at all. One thing she said was that we should reflect, rather than jump to action, in implementing some of the recommendations. That is not to say that we should drag our heels, but we are going as fast as we can in what is a very sensitive area indeed.

Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, is it appropriate that, as reported, many officials working on the compensation scheme have immigration enforcement backgrounds, where the default response for so long has been to say “No”, rather than “Yes”?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I cannot substantiate the point that the noble Baroness makes; that is possibly my ignorance rather than anything else. First and foremost, however, we must assist people to get the compensation that they deserve for the wrongs that they have suffered over the past 70 years under successive Governments.

Baroness Prashar (Crossbench): My Lords, as a result of the complaints about the way the scheme is being administered, the Home Office is reported to have launched an internal inquiry about racism and so on. Can the Minister please tell the House: what is the remit of this inquiry, when will it be completed and will the results be made public?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, I shall provide the noble Baroness with more details, in terms of whether it will be made public and other details, because I am afraid that I have scant information on that at the moment.

Lord Sheikh (Conservative): My Lords, about 12,000 people are expected to claim under the compensation scheme. Nine have died before receiving any compensation and, unfortunately, there may be more deaths before the payments are made. Can my noble friend the Minister explain the Government’s plans to support the bereaved families?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I have to agree with my noble friend that someone dying before they receive compensation is absolutely tragic. Of course, we would work with the next of kin to ensure that any compensation due to that person is paid to the next of kin or to the designated chosen person. The point is that it is not acceptable that people die before they get the compensation they deserve. It is incumbent upon the Home Office to ensure that these claims are expedited more quickly than they have been.

The Lord Bishop of St Albans: My Lords, the Windrush protests are a wake-up call to all of us and to every institution in this country. Indeed, the Church of England has set up an antiracism taskforce to look at this issue and to achieve change. Is it correct that the Equality and Human Rights Commission, which is investigating this issue with regard to the Home Office, does not have a single black commissioner on the current board? What do Her Majesty’s Government plan to do to make the EHRC more representative so that it can undertake this work?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I do not think it essential that there is every protected characteristic on the EHRC. However, I take the right reverend Prelate’s point that—certainly in the current climate—BAME representation or indeed black representation might be a really good asset to the EHRC. I am sure he is correct, but I will check out the veracity of that and get back to him.

Lord Woolley of Woodford (Crossbench): My Lords, this is particularly personal to me. My mother was part of the Windrush generation and gave the best part of her life, more than 50 years, to working for the NHS. The most senior black civil servant working on the

Windrush compensation scheme resigned, citing racism and stating that there was a complete lack of humanity in dealing with applicants. Equally strong was Wendy Williams' Windrush review, which highlighted that people were not coming forward because the burden of proof for their legal status was far too high. Given that trust in the system is at an all-time low, particularly among black people, and that things are still going catastrophically wrong, does the Minister agree that we should pause deportation flights such as the one to Jamaica scheduled for 2 December?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: On the last point, I understand that none of the people scheduled for deportation is Windrush, and actually there are some very serious criminals due to go on that flight. That said, as I said earlier to the noble Lord, Lord Dholakia, the fact that the most senior black civil servant made those claims is not something that I can stand here and be defensive about. We need to listen very carefully to what people are saying as opposed to dismissing it—although I am not saying that it is being dismissed at all. The scheme was designed with some of the claimants in mind, but it is something for us as the Home Office to reflect on in the weeks and months ahead.

Baroness Stuart of Edgbaston (Non-affiliated): My Lords, we have known since 2013 that there was a documentation problem regarding the Windrush generation. We have had years of trying to put this right but the progress we have made so far is clearly insufficient and inadequate. Identity is sometimes difficult to prove, but are we making that process too difficult? Will the Minister at least undertake to update the House, shall we say on the anniversary in April 2021, on what further progress has been made?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I would be very happy to update the House. Regarding the EU settlement scheme, the attempt was to make identity assurance very easy. The noble Baroness says that we have known about this since 2013; the sad thing is that we have actually known it for decades, and we all need to reflect upon that.

Lord Loomba (Crossbench): My Lords, we are all aware that in situations such as this where a wrong has been committed, there can be a ripple effect and wider family members suffer as well. What is being done to ensure that everyone who has suffered is compensated in due course?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: As I said earlier, each case will be treated sensitively and each person who makes a claim will be assisted through that process—not to prove them wrong but to prove them right regarding the compensation they are owed. There is no cap on the level of compensation or indeed on the scheme itself. However, we need to encourage more people to come forward. There have been communications campaigns and money has been given out to community organisations to promote the scheme, but by this point we would have expected more people to have come forward for their claims to be processed.

Baroness Hoey (Non-affiliated): My Lords, does the Minister recognise that many of the Windrush generation who have been treated so badly for so long are actually quite frightened about approaching the Home Office because they see it as an institution that has been responsible for many unfair deportations? Will the Home Office think about being much more proactive about going out and talking to these people, many of whom are now in the last stages of their lives? If we do not get this sorted out soon, it is going to be a real travesty of justice for all those people.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I totally take that point on board. I agree with the noble Baroness that they might be frightened and that any notion of “state” might be frightening to them. As I have said, we have done quite a lot of outreach through church leaders, faith leaders and community leaders, but I shall certainly take that back. I know we will be reflecting on how far we have got with people coming forward and trying to make that process better, because clearly, more people should be coming forward.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-11-23/debates/6DF5BF3A-4F5F-4A35-8A41-30AD13FCAD51/WindrushCompensationScheme>

Information about the Windrush Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/windrush-prove-your-right-to-be-in-the-uk>

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

The Windrush review, referred to above, can be read at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874022/6.5577_HO_Windrush_Lessons_Learned_Review_WEB_v2.pdf

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

Migrant Women: Domestic Abuse

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour): To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to protect migrant women who have been subjected to domestic abuse who have no recourse to public funds.

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

My Lords, it is essential that migrant victims of domestic abuse, including those with no recourse to public funds, are treated first and foremost as victims. Already, the destitution domestic violence concession provides emergency crisis support to protect victims on certain spousal visas. We are taking steps to provide further protection through the £1.5 million scheme to support migrant victims, and to assess and address shortfalls in the current provision.

Baroness Lister of Burtersett: My Lords, instead of listening to the Joint Committee on the Draft Domestic Abuse Bill, organisations on the ground and the commissioner-designate, the Government's review of migrant domestic abuse victims has produced a pilot widely condemned as unnecessary, totally inadequate and, despite what the Minister has just said, potentially discriminatory, because it subordinates abused women's needs to their immigration status. Will the Government act on these concerns and rethink the pilot or, better still, enshrine in the Bill protection for abused migrant women and the Istanbul convention principle of non-discrimination, as is widely called for?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We listened very carefully to the Joint Committee's recommendations. I will discuss with colleagues whether there is any discrimination inherent in the scheme. While it will be in force for only four months, we fully intend to roll it out far beyond March. I will keep the noble Baroness updated, and certainly take back her point about discrimination within the scheme.

Baroness Warsi (Conservative): My Lords, the destitution domestic violence concession is a limited way in which some of these women can access some support, but can the Minister confirm how long it currently takes for such applications to be considered, and for a payment to be made to these vulnerable women?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I cannot confirm the time but, particularly during Covid, our intention is to get funds to people and to lift any restrictions on recourse to public funds as quickly as possible, so that those people—mostly women—get the support that they need when they need it.

Baroness Butler-Sloss (Crossbench): ... Can the Minister take into account that, among migrants subjected to domestic abuse, there may be those in enforced marriage situations?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I agree that the two are not mutually exclusive at all. One might assume that, having been forced into a marriage, those women are more vulnerable to specific types of abuse than the general population.

Baroness Armstrong of Hill top (Labour): My Lords, the Joint Committee, of which I was

a member, was shocked by the evidence from those women with no recourse to public funds about how perpetrators exploited their immigration status. We now know that many of these women, during the pandemic, have been forced by those same perpetrators into sex for survival. It is shocking that in Britain today we are unable to support these women, so that they do not have to resort to such extreme and deplorable activity. This is urgent. What are the Government prepared to do to support them so that they are not exposed to such huge vulnerabilities?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: If anyone is subjected to domestic violence or any other type of exploitation outlined by the noble Baroness, we will treat them first and foremost as victims. The Government have—particularly during the Covid situation, as she outlined—put quite substantial funding into ensuring that people in these vulnerable positions, and their children, get the help that they need, when they need it.

Baroness Burt of Solihull (Liberal Democrat): The Minister has told me that she believes that all domestic abuse victims should be protected, no matter what their status. Therefore will she confirm that, when amendments to the Domestic Abuse Bill to afford financial protection to all are put forward, they will be favourably received?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I do not know what the amendments are, but the noble Baroness will know, since I have responded to her previously on this, that we will look as carefully as we can at any amendments that seek to protect women at a very vulnerable time in their lives, hence the support for migrant victims scheme which will be rolled out very shortly. We will look at gaps in provisions but, to return to her initial point, people will be treated as victims first and foremost.

Lord Griffiths of Burry Port (Labour): My Lords, this is such a difficult area. On 19 October, the Government put forward the support for migrant victims scheme, which we have been alluding to. The day after, they reported to the authorities of the Council of Europe that this was evidence of their making progress towards ratification of the Istanbul convention and their need to comply with its requirements. The trouble is that I have here 58 signatures from leaders in this field who feel that this was an entirely misconceived initiative that will end up with measures that “directly contravene” Article 4.3 of the Istanbul convention, the non-discrimination principle in relation to migrant or refugee status. Can the Minister help me to see my way through these apparently contradictory remarks?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, I do not think that the Government wish in any way to contradict themselves on what they intend to do on the Istanbul convention. I understand that when the Domestic Abuse Bill becomes an Act, extraterritorial jurisdiction over specified offences, as required by the convention, will enable the convention to be ratified. However, I will look into it further and perhaps get back to the noble Lord on any further measures that are needed—or indeed any contradictions that do exist, because we would not want that unintended consequence of the passage of what I think is quite forward-leaning legislation.

Baroness Gardner of Parkes (Conservative): My Lords, many of these women have very little English, so huge language barriers isolate them from help that could be available to them. Will the Minister encourage local authorities and voluntary organisations to help groups and individuals to overcome these barriers? An additional problem that has been researched by charities in north Kensington is that very few such individuals have internet contact of any sort—the figures are quite alarming—so there will be no help for them at all until they become more conscious of using the internet and can afford to get some appliances.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I agree with my noble friend that accessibility to online services is crucial, and in fact we announced funding to help with online services during the Covid period. I wholeheartedly support her point about people who have very little English. I have met women in such situations who

not only cannot speak English but have had their passports taken away from them. That leaves them in the most vulnerable situation imaginable, as they are not even able to explain what has happened to them.

Lord Woolley of Woodford (Crossbench): The Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants argued, even before the Covid pandemic, that having no recourse to public funds had pushed families into abject poverty, unsustainable debt and homelessness. Covid has exacerbated this problem, particularly with regard to the rise of domestic violence suffered by migrant women. As a matter of urgency and decency, can we massively widen the exceptions to “no recourse to public funds” or, at best during this difficult time, abandon it?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: As a matter of course during the Covid pandemic, if someone is a victim of domestic violence, they are effectively supported as such first and foremost, before any other considerations are taken into account. Certainly, “no recourse to public funds” change of conditions grants have been 89% successful. I do not take away from what the noble Lord says at all, because he is asking whether we can help these people as victims of domestic violence first and foremost.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-11-23/debates/5FDFC54E-18F6-4F13-BA73-97348126C857/MigrantWomenDomesticAbuse>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

British Nationality

Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench) [HL10152] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 10 November (HL9699), whether Tier 4 or Tier 5 visas are classified as a route to settlement.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Tier 4 route was replaced by the Student route on 5 October. Neither the current Student route, nor the previous Tier 4 route acts as a route to settlement. Neither route leads directly to settlement within the UK. Any time spent studying within the UK on the Student route, does not count towards the time required for an applicant to accrue settlement rights.

Our existing Tier 5 visa arrangements offer a variety of routes and cater for those wishing to enter the UK to undertake work on a temporary basis, rather than being a route to settlement.

To be able to settle within the UK, an applicant must be on a route which leads to settlement, such as Tier 2.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-10/hl10152>

The answer referred to above can be read at

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

Immigration: Afghanistan

Baroness Coussins (Crossbench) [HL10275] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to amend the Immigration Rules to allow applications for relocation to the UK from former interpreters who have fled Afghanistan, who are otherwise eligible under the Ex-Gratia Redundancy Scheme, but need to apply from a third country.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We keep the Immigration Rules for the ex-gratia scheme for those Afghan interpreters who supported HM Forces under regular review, and will continue working with the Ministry of Defence to consider options for those who may otherwise be eligible to relocate to the United Kingdom but have left Afghanistan.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-12/hl10275>

Immigration: Appeals

Lord Blencathra (Conservative) [HL10207] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many of the immigration cases refused for review on the grounds of being without merit have been reported by presiding judges to the Solicitors Regulation Authority; and what proportion of the total number of such cases this represents.

Reply from Baroness Scott of Bybrook: Following the case of R (Hamid) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2012] EWHC 3070 (Admin), the High Court affirmed that it has the power to oversee the conduct of lawyers in immigration cases. The disciplinary process, known as the Hamid jurisdiction, is part of the court and tribunal's powers to govern its own procedure and to ensure that legal practitioners abide by their duties to the court or tribunal and otherwise conduct themselves according to the proper standards of behaviour. This jurisdiction is engaged when a case is advanced in a professionally improper manner and is not confined to circumstances when the underlying claim is totally without merit, nor restricted to immigration cases.

As the Hamid jurisdiction comes within the court and tribunal's inherent powers, the MoJ does not keep records of referrals made to the Solicitors Regulation Authority. If the Hamid jurisdiction is activated, any court or tribunal orders made in relation to the referral may be published and placed in the public domain and any such publication will include the explanation provided by the legal representative. The judiciary is independent of Government, and the Government has made no such assessment of the use of the jurisdiction.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-11/hl10207>

The judgement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2012/3070.html>

Immigrants: Coronavirus

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL10239] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether people with no recourse to public funds will be eligible for assistance under (1) the Covid Winter Grant Scheme, and (2) the Holiday Activities and Food programme.

Reply from Baroness Stedman-Scott: The eligibility rules relating to immigration status have not changed. Local authorities can and do use their judgement in assessing what support they may lawfully give those who are ineligible for public funds or housing support, on an individual basis and taking into account their specific needs and circumstances. This includes providing basic safety net support if it is established that there is a genuine care need that does not arise solely from destitution, for example, where there are community care needs, migrants with serious health problems, or family cases where the wellbeing of a child is in question.

The £220m Holiday Activities and Food programme will be expanded across England next year. The Department for Education will work closely with local authorities as they prepare for delivery of the programme to begin at Easter. More details about the scheme, including eligibility, will be available over the coming weeks.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-11/hl10239>

Visas: Performing Arts

Lord Jones of Cheltenham (Liberal Democrat) [HL10174] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the introduction of Tier 2 and Tier 3 visas for workers in (1) live music venues, (2) theatres, and (3) other live performance venues.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Overseas musicians and performers

make an important contribution to the UK's creative sector and remain welcome in the United Kingdom.

We have set out plans to introduce a future points-based immigration system, which together with our generous existing routes for visiting artists, entertainers and musicians, will continue to provide both a short-term and long-term route for workers within the creative sector, suited to their individual needs.

The Home Office continues to engage with the creative sector to ensure the future points-based immigration system will enable the UK's cultural life to thrive.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-10/hl10174>

Windrush Generation: Compensation

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL10100] To ask Her Majesty's Government how much compensation has been paid out by the Windrush Compensation Scheme to date; and how much they estimate will be paid out in total before that Scheme ends.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Information on the total number of claims paid and the overall amount paid out by the scheme is available to view on GOV.UK at:

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

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

[Windrush Compensation scheme data - Oct 2020](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-09/hl10100>

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

Refugees: Resettlement

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL10240] To ask Her Majesty's Government why they are not planning to restart the refugee resettlement schemes until early 2021.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We have been working closely with key domestic and international stakeholders on plans to safely resume UK resettlement arrivals against the backdrop of unprecedented restrictions and pressures caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a result of this work, and as announced by Baroness Williams of Trafford in the House of Lords on 9 November the UK will shortly restart UK resettlement arrivals to fulfil our commitment of resettling 20,000 refugees affected by the conflict in Syria under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) and we are working closely with partners to deliver this.

Due to the lead times for refugee arrivals it is likely that we will see most refugees start to arrive early in the new year.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-11/hl10240>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-11-09/debates/2BF5F13B-5237-4DC6-979F-981AD6A2287D/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination\(EUWithdrawal\)Bill#contribution-DB7E2454-09E6-47FB-BBCE-2E0F928DF4C2](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-11-09/debates/2BF5F13B-5237-4DC6-979F-981AD6A2287D/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination(EUWithdrawal)Bill#contribution-DB7E2454-09E6-47FB-BBCE-2E0F928DF4C2)

The following two questions both received the same answer

Refugees: Resettlement

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL10217] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the

Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 28 October (HL9221), what plans they have to ensure that once the refugee resettlement schemes are resumed, the commitment to resettle 20,000 vulnerable refugees through the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme will be fulfilled, in addition to the new Global Resettlement Scheme commitment of 5,000 per year.

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL10218] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 28 October (HL9221), what assessment they have made of the impact that the suspension of the refugee resettlement schemes has had on (1) local authorities, and (2) the (a) financial sustainability, and (b) long-term capacity, of other refugee resettlement service providers.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We have been working closely with key domestic and international stakeholders on plans to safely resume UK resettlement arrivals against the backdrop of unprecedented restrictions and pressures caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a result of this work, and as announced by Baroness Williams of Trafford in the House of Lords on 9 November, the UK will shortly restart UK resettlement arrivals to fulfil our commitment of resettling 20,000 refugees affected by the conflict in Syria under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) and we are working closely with partners to deliver this commitment.

Due to the lead times for refugee arrivals, it is likely that we will see most refugees start to arrive early in the new year.

Decisions regarding resettlement beyond the completion of this scheme are yet to be made and will need to take account of the impact of COVID-19 and the ongoing pressures on the asylum system. We have committed to a review of safe and legal routes to the UK. We are aware that the pause in resettlement has had an impact on our resettlement partners and will continue to work with them as future plans are developed.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-11/hl10217>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-11/hl10218>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-15/hl9221>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-11-09/debates/2BF5F13B-5237-4DC6-979F-981AD6A2287D/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination\(EUWithdrawal\)Bill#contribution-DB7E2454-09E6-47FB-BBCE-2E0F928DF4C2](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-11-09/debates/2BF5F13B-5237-4DC6-979F-981AD6A2287D/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination(EUWithdrawal)Bill#contribution-DB7E2454-09E6-47FB-BBCE-2E0F928DF4C2)

Asylum: Coronavirus

Baroness Coussins (Crossbench) [HL10274] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure information about the COVID-19 pandemic is made available to asylum seekers in the UK; and in which languages such information is made available (1) in printed form, (2) online, and (3) on social media.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: There are currently no plans to update social Media with COVID-19 guidance in languages other than English and Welsh.

Guidance for COVID-19 has been translated into 60 different languages in partnership with the British Red Cross and other partners such as Migrant help and is available using the link provided:

<http://www.doctorsoftheworld.org.uk/coronavirus-information/>

Also, videos with key COVID-19 information for migrants in the UK are being released here:

<https://www.doctorsoftheworld.org.uk/key-covid-19-information-for-migrants/>

Alternatively links to translated support and guidance can be found through our Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility (AIRE) provider, Migrant Help here:

<https://www.migranthehelpuk.org/translated-support>

Providers signpost the people we support to these website where these documents are available to download, print or view online. Printed guidance has also been given to those residing in Home Office initial accommodation in their own languages relating to hygiene, washing hands, social distancing, coronavirus symptoms and what to do if they become symptomatic

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-12/hl10274>

Detainees: Females

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL10076] To ask Her Majesty's Government what strategy they currently have in place on the use of immigration detention for women; and what plans they have (1) to build on the Action Access pilot, and (2) to expand the use of case management-focused alternatives to detention for women.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: As part of the Department's immigration detention reform programme, we are conducting a series of pilots exploring alternatives to detention, with the first pilot being 'Action Access'.

Now in its second year, Action Access has provided women who would otherwise be detained with a programme of support in the community, including case management support. In June 2020 the Home Office signed a contract with the King's Arms Project in Bedford for the second pilot in the series, the Refugee and Migrant Advisory Service, which is supporting both men and women. The first participants joined this second pilot last month.

We are working with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on these pilots and they have appointed the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) to independently evaluate this work. These evaluations will be published, with the evaluation report of the 'Action Access' pilot scheduled for Summer 2021. We will use the evaluation of these pilots to inform our future approach to case-management focused alternatives to detention.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-09/hl10076>

UK Parliament Home Affairs Committee

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

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/1242/html/>

Press Releases

UK and France sign new agreement to tackle illegal migration

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-france-sign-new-agreement-to-tackle-illegal-migration>

Home Office failed to comply with equality law when implementing 'hostile environment' measures

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/home-office-failed-comply-equality-law-when-implementing-'hostile-environment'>

New Publications

UK-France joint statement: next phase of collaboration on tackling illegal migration

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-france-joint-statement-collaborating-on-illegal-migration/uk-france-joint-statement-next-phase-of-collaboration-on-tackling-illegal-migration-28-november-2020>

EU Settlement Scheme quarterly statistics, September 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-quarterly-statistics-september-2020/eu-settlement-scheme-quarterly-statistics-september-2020>

Immigration statistics, year ending September 2020

Overview of the immigration system

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

Summary of latest statistics

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-september-2020/summary-of-latest-statistics>

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

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

Why do people come to the UK? To work

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

Why do people come to the UK? To study

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

Why do people come to the UK? For family reasons

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

How many people do we grant asylum or protection to?

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

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

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

How many people are detained or returned?

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

Long-term international migration estimates: 2019

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/longterminternationalmigrationestimates2019>

Immigration statistics data tables, year ending September 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/immigration-statistics-data-tables-year-ending-september-2020>

Public Sector Equality Duty assessment of hostile environment policies

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/public-sector-equality-duty-assessment-of-hostile-environment-policies.pdf>

News

Home Office broke equalities law with hostile environment measures

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/nov/25/home-office-broke-equalities-law-with-hostile-environment-measures>

Home Office ignored equality law in treatment of Windrush generation under 'hostile environment', says EHR

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/11/25/home-office-ignored-equality-law-treatment-windrush-generation/>

If Home Office were an animal, it would be a vulture, alligator or sloth, young migrants say

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-young-migrants-vulture-alligator-sloth-b1762313.html>

Windrush generation: UK 'unlawfully ignored' immigration rules warnings

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-55065061>

Racism within the Windrush compensation scheme

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/audio/2020/nov/24/racism-within-the-windrush-compensation-scheme>

Windrush policies a 'shameful stain on British history', watchdog concludes

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/windrush-policies-a-shameful-stain-on-british-history-watchdog-concludes-xdbh7wxdv>

Channel crossings: More officers to patrol French beaches

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-55116475>

UK and France sign deal to prevent Channel migrant crossings

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/11/28/uk-france-sign-deal-prevent-channel-migrant-crossings/>

UK and France sign deal to make Channel migrant crossings 'unviable'

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/nov/28/uk-and-france-sign-deal-to-make-channel-migrant-crossings-unviable>

Channel crossings: Britain and France reach agreement to prevent migrants making journey

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/channel-crossings-britain-france-migrants-b1763336.html>

Four migrant boats cross English Channel

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-55064107>

'I was 17 but they said I was 28': Home Office age rulings cost young refugees an education

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2020/nov/24/i-was-17-but-they-said-i-was-28-home-office-age-rulings-cost-young-refugees-an-education>

UK immigration officials accused of using coercive tactics to access homes

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/nov/25/uk-immigration-officials-accused-using-coercive-tactics-access-homes-without-warrants>

New statistics show fewer asylum applications in 2020 than in previous year

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/new-statistics-show-fewer-asylum-applications-in-2020-than-in-previous-year/>

Medical staff urge Priti Patel to close barracks housing asylum seekers

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/nov/26/medical-staff-urge-priti-patel-to-close-barracks-housing-asylum-seekers>

Home Office 'removal windows' risked preventing access to justice for migrants

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/home-office-removal-windows-risked-preventing-access-to-justice-for-migrants-m2zlmkp6x>

Lockdown asylum freeze puts Iraqi doctor 'in limbo'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-55086216>

The Home Office, mired in racism claims, now plans another mass deportation of black people

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/nov/27/home-office-racism-deportation-black-people-jamaica-flights>

Deportation of man with children in UK was 'disproportionate', court rules

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/nov/24/deportation-of-man-with-children-in-uk-was-disproportionate-court-rules>

TOP

Equality

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-23448 Linda Fabiani (SNP): Young Women Lead Report on How to Increase Employment Opportunities for BAME Women – That the Parliament welcomes the publication of the 2019-20 Young Women Lead (YWL) report, which investigates what measures are being taken to increase employment opportunities for women from ethnic minorities; understands that this topic was chosen because there is a lack of Scotland-specific data regarding BAME women's experiences moving from education to employment; believes that, despite a number of policy initiatives and recognition of the problems, the report states that "outcomes for minority ethnic communities have not improved over the past two decades and that the focus needs to be on action"; acknowledges that the YWL committee researched its work through evidence sessions, online surveys and interviews with employers, employees, teachers and students; believes that this report brings an opportunity to better understand the barriers faced by young BAME women in East Kilbride and across the country, and notes the calls for the report's recommendations to be considered in an effort to improve outcomes for everyone affected

so as to create a fairer, better Scotland for all.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-23448>

The report referred to above can be read at

https://www.ywcascotland.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/YWL-Report-19_20.pdf

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Commission On Race and Ethnic Disparities

Marsha De Cordova (Labour) [106484] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, when the first report of Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities will be published.

Reply from Kemi Badenoch: Since the Prime Minister established the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities in July of this year, it has met with a broad range of stakeholders across sectors around the UK, in each of its priority areas. It has also held evidence gathering sessions with a range of external stakeholders and influencers, and launched a call for evidence on 26 October.

The Commission will aim to report its findings to the Prime Minister at the end of the year. The Commission is independent, and its Commissioners have been appointed by the Prime Minister.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-20/106484>

Equality: Training

Andrew Lewer (Conservative) [94533] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what the Government's policy is on the use of unconscious bias training; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Kemi Badenoch: The Government recognises that it is important to tackle bias in workplaces and in wider society, and it is good practice to use a range of evidence based measures to achieve this, and evaluate their success. The request for a statement on this has been noted and the Government will provide an update, detailing its position on unconscious bias training, in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-23/94533>

History: Ethnic Groups

Helen Hayes (Labour) [117317] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, how much and what proportion of his Department's funding has been allocated to (a) organisations and (b) projects focused on black history in each financial year since 2015.

Reply from Caroline Dinéage: The majority of DCMS's funding goes directly to its Arms Length Bodies (ALBs) such as Arts Council England, National Heritage Memorial Fund, Historic England, British Film Institute. Decisions to fund organisations or projects focused on black history would be made by them.

In 2018 the Department did allocate £200,000 to the Black Cultural Archives to secure its immediate future.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-18/117317>

Galleries and Museums: Ethnic Groups

Helen Hayes (Labour) [117318] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the representation of black, Asian and minority ethnic people in the senior leadership of museums and archives (a) with national museum status and (b) in receipt of direct funding from his Department.

Reply from Caroline Dinéage: DCMS has a role in promoting diversity across its

sectors, as set out in the department's Single Departmental Plan. This includes understanding where there are barriers to specific groups, bringing people together and creating connections between individuals and communities.

The majority of senior leadership appointments are a matter for each museum to decide, and DCMS works with its ALBs [Arms Length Bodies] to ensure they consider diversity and inclusion in terms of both their staff and audiences.

Diversity, including BAME representation, is considered, as one of the eight key Principles of Public Appointments in the Governance Code on Public Appointments and must be considered when appointing boards.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-18/117318>

The Departmental Plan referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/department-for-digital-culture-media-and-sport-single-departmental-plan/dcms-single-departmental-plan-2019>

The Governance Code referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/578498/governance_code_on_public_appointments_16_12_2016.pdf

Galleries and Museums: Ethnic Groups

Helen Hayes (Labour) [117319] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the number of exhibits and projects focused on black history in museums and archives with national museum status; and if he will make an estimate of the amount and proportion of direct funding from his Department that has been allocated to those exhibits and projects.

Reply from Caroline Dinéage: DCMS-sponsored museums operate at arm's length from the Government and DCMS does not have a role in creative or curatorial decisions. As such we do not directly fund any particular exhibitions or projects.

Many national museums and galleries display or hold material relating to black history with collections including relevant art, ceramics, fashion and photography.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-18/117319>

Arts Council England: Ethnic Groups

Helen Hayes (Labour) [117320] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the representation of black, Asian and minority ethnic people in the senior leadership of Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisations.

Reply from Caroline Dinéage: The Government is clear that it expects the cultural sectors to represent our diverse society in their artistic talent, workforce and audiences. As the national development agency for art and culture, Arts Council England has a responsibility to ensure that public money benefits all of the public.

They are keen to ensure the diversity of audiences, leaders, producers and creators of arts and culture reflect the diversity of contemporary England. They measure their progress and the progress of the organisations they fund by collecting, analysing and reporting on data relating to diversity, publishing this online annually in the 'Creative Case for Diversity' reports. The key figures for black, Asian and minority ethnic people in leadership roles in National Portfolio Organisations can be found in the Arts Council's most recent report for 2018-19 [here](#) (page 23)

The department has set the diversity of Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisations' board members as a key performance indicator measured on an annual basis and reported on in Arts Council England's Annual Report. The latest one can be viewed [here](#).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-18/117320>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Legal Profession: Equality

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL10196] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to improve racial and gender diversity within the legal profession.

Reply from Baroness Scott of Bybrook: The legal profession in England and Wales is independent of Government. Statutory responsibility for encouraging an independent, strong, diverse and effective legal profession sits with the approved regulators and the oversight regulator, the Legal Services Board (LSB).

The Ministry of Justice remains committed to encouraging the sector to ensure it properly represents the diverse society it serves.

In 2017 the LSB published guidance for legal services regulators for encouraging a diverse workforce. In January 2020, the LSB produced a summary of progress of regulators against four diversity outcomes, which highlighted important progress but also acknowledged the need for further action.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-10/hl10196>

The guidance referred to above can be read at

https://www.legalservicesboard.org.uk/what_we_do/regulation/pdf/2017/S162_Guidance_For_Regulators_On_Encouraging_A_Diverse_Profession.pdf

Football Association: Ethnic Groups

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL10396] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the Football Association about how that organisation can improve on issues of racial diversity.

Reply from Baroness Barran: The Government welcomed the launch of the Football Association's (FA) 'Football Leadership Diversity Code' to ensure English football better represents our modern and diverse society.

Ministers discussed the Code with the FA, as well as other matters including tackling discrimination, in a football roundtable on 17th November 2020.

There is still more to do, however, and the Government will continue to liaise closely with the football authorities to improve diversity in the sport.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-16/hl10396>

The Diversity Code referred to above can be read at

<https://www.thefa.com/-/media/thefacom-new/files/about-the-fa/2020/football-leadership-diversity-code-final.ashx?la=en>

Press Releases

Welsh Government works with BAME community partners to address racial inequality in Wales

<https://gov.wales/welsh-government-works-bame-community-partners-address-racial-inequality-wales>

Backsliding on minority rights weakens democracy

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/backsliding-on-minority-rights-weakens-democracy>

New Publications

The Black Curriculum Report 2021: Black British History in the National Curriculum
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5f5507a237cea057c5f57741/t/5fbe90435147b148040bbfcd/1606324296650/The+Black+Curriculum%2C+Black+British+History+in+The+National+Curriculum+2021+%281%29.pdf>

Council of Europe: Biennial Report – Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities
<https://tinyurl.com/yxob4vuk>

News

History GCSE to be given Black Lives Matter makeover
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/2020/11/27/history-gcse-given-black-lives-matter-makeover/>

National curriculum ‘systematically omits’ black British history
<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2020/nov/25/national-curriculum-in-england-systematically-omits-black-british-history>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Institutional Racism

Wendy Chamberlain (Liberal Democrat): What steps the Government are taking to tackle institutional racism. [909393]

Reply from the Minister for Equalities (Kemi Badenoch): We are committed to a fairer society. In July, the Government set up the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities, which is reviewing inequality in the UK, focusing on areas that include education, employment, health and the criminal justice system. The commission is looking at outcomes for the whole population and is due to report at the end of the year.

Wendy Chamberlain: This year, one of the issues about which I received the most correspondence was the Black Lives Matter movement and the death of George Floyd. A key thing that came across was that my constituents want to ensure that what we teach in schools is properly representative of the role that black Britons and other people of colour have played in our history. Today, the “Black Curriculum” report, led by Dr Jason Arday of Durham University, has concluded that the national curriculum in England “systematically omits the contribution of Black British history”. Will the Minister speak to the Secretary of State for Education, urge him to work with colleagues in the devolved Administrations, such as Kirsty Williams in Wales, and ensure that we have a truly reflective curriculum?

Reply from Kemi Badenoch: I have not seen the report that the hon. Lady refers to, but I will look at it with interest, decide, from an equalities perspective, whether I agree with the conclusions that have been made, and then speak to the Secretary of State for Education about it.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-11-25/debates/EC4C80B2-6003-49A5-92EF-051290020B1C/InstitutionalRacism>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5f5507a237cea057c5f57741/t/5fbe90435147b148040bbfcd/1606324296650/The+Black+Curriculum%2C+Black+British+History+in+The+National+Curriculum+2021+%281%29.pdf>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer

Cricket: Racial Discrimination

Dan Jarvis (Labour) [115674] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, whether he has made an assessment of the potential merits of using a similar initiative to Kick it Out to tackle racism in cricket.

Dan Jarvis (Labour) [115676] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what recent assessment his Department has made of the level of (a) structural and (b) institutional racism in professional cricket.

Reply from Nigel Huddleston: Racism or any form of discrimination has no place in cricket or wider society. Organisations such as Kick It Out play an important role in helping to tackle discrimination in local, national and international sport. It is ultimately for individual sports to decide on the appropriate initiatives for their circumstances. The Government welcomes the steps taken by the English Cricket Board (ECB) in recent years to increase diversity in cricket, including the announcement in July this year around strengthening its Inclusion and Diversity Strategy. There is still more to do, however, and we will continue to liaise with the ECB to ensure this issue is tackled effectively.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-16/115674>
and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-16/115676>

Press Releases

Universities UK calls for urgent action on racial harassment in higher education

<https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/news/Pages/uuk-calls-urgent-action-racial-harassment-higher-education-november-2020.aspx>

UN Committee issues recommendations to combat racial profiling

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=26548&LangID=E>

New Publications

Tackling racial harassment in higher education

Report

<https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/policy-and-analysis/reports/Documents/2020/tackling-racial-harassment-in-higher-education.pdf>

Case studies

<https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/policy-and-analysis/reports/Documents/2020/tackling-racial-harassment-case-studies.pdf>

Annexes

<https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/policy-and-analysis/reports/Documents/2020/tackling-racial-harassment-higher-education-annexes%20.pdf>

News

Hate crime bill: Ministers have 'open mind' over controversial laws

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-55046068>

Humza Yousaf defends 'insulting' as a race hate crime in new Bill

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/humza-yousaf-defends-insulting-race-hate-crime-new-bill-3046350>

Black Lives Matter has increased racial tension, 55% say in UK poll

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/nov/27/black-lives-matter-has-increased-racial-tension-55-say-in-uk-poll>

'Racism's still around': Notting Hill 50 years on from Mangrove

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/nov/27/racisms-still-around-notting-hill-50-years-on-from-mangrove>

UK universities perpetuate institutional racism, report says

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2020/nov/24/uk-universities-perpetuate-institutional-racism-report-says>

University leaders should be given anti-racist training on 'white privilege', new guidance says

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/11/24/university-leaders-should-given-anti-racist-training-white-privilege/>

Institutional racism 'rife at universities'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/institutional-racism-rife-at-universities-flsqgjzhs>

Supermarkets join forces for anti-racism message

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/supermarkets-anti-racism-asda-aldi-tesco-b1762127.html>

Arsenal and Leeds condemn 'vile' racist abuse of Nicolas Pepe and Ezgjan Alioski on social media

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/premier-league/arsenal-leeds-pepe-alioski-racism-b1760210.html>

ECB announces raft of new anti-racism measures in response to revelations about shocking abuse

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/cricket/2020/11/25/ecb-announces-raft-new-anti-racism-measures-wake-revelations/>

Students want the word 'black' banned from textbooks and lectures

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/11/28/students-want-black-banned-textbooks-lectures/>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Releases

More resource needed to ensure 2021 elections can take place

<https://www.parliament.scot/newsandmediacentre/116624.aspx>

Sheku Bayoh Public Inquiry to begin next week

<https://www.gov.scot/news/sheku-bayoh-public-inquiry-to-begin-next-week/>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

New Publications

Household wealth by ethnicity, Great Britain: April 2016 to March 2018

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/personalandhouseholdfinances/incomeandwealth/articles/householdwealthbyethnicitygreatbritain/april2016tomarch2018/pdf>

Female Genital Mutilation July-September 2020

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

News

Coronavirus: Concern as FGM reports fall during pandemic

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-55089000>

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Health Information: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

NHS

NHS Inform (Scotland)

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

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

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/>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups

Jane Hunt (Conservative) [95761] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking ensure that guidance on covid-19 relating to BAME people is more accessible to people whose first language is not English.

Reply from Jo Churchill: Since March 2020, Public Health England has translated key public guidance on COVID-19 in multiple languages including Arabic, Bengali, Chinese (traditional), Chinese (simplified), French, Gujarati, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi and Urdu. This now also includes translation of shielding guidance into Bulgarian, Hindi and Nepali. Examples of guidance are available at the following links:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-25/95761>

Ethnic Groups: Coronavirus

Yasmin Qureshi (Labour) [116446] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what steps her Department has taken to help tackle the disproportionate effect of the covid-19 outbreak on Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities.

Reply from Kemi Badenoch: The steps we have taken to tackle the disproportionate effect of COVID-19 on ethnic minority groups were set out in my first quarterly progress [report](#) to the Prime Minister, published on 22 October, and in my statement to the House of Commons on the same day.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-17/116446>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Travellers: Coronavirus

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Conservative) [HL10049] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assistance they are making available to Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities during the period while national restrictions are in place to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: My Department has been supporting the co-ordination of cross Government work in response to the impact of Covid-19 on

Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, to ensure their needs are reflected in response and recovery planning.

I recently wrote to all local authority Chief Executives about support some Gypsy and Traveller families may need during the national restrictions to find a safe place to stop and access basic amenities, including water, sanitation and waste disposal facilities.

Government also published Covid-19 guidance for people living a nomadic lifestyle on traveller sites, in vehicles and canal boats.

Whilst it is for local authorities to determine how best to support vulnerable groups, in line with their public health responsibilities, I intend to continue to work closely with them to ensure that Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities needs are met.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-09/hl10049>

The guidance referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-those-leading-a-nomadic-way-of-life/covid-19-guidance-for-those-leading-a-nomadic-way-of-life>

Scottish Government Press Releases

Cautious approach to Christmas

<https://www.gov.scot/news/cautious-approach-to-christmas/>

Four nations approach to Christmas

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/four-nations-approach-to-christmas/>

Helping families get online

<https://www.gov.scot/news/helping-families-get-online/>

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/>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance for festive period

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

UK Government Press Release

Prime Minister publishes COVID Winter Plan

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-publishes-covid-winter-plan>

UK Government Publications

[England only] COVID-19 Winter Plan

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/937529/COVID-19_Winter_Plan.pdf

[England only] Guidance for the Christmas Period

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/guidance-for-the-christmas-period>

Prime Minister's statement on coronavirus (COVID-19): 23 November 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-ministers-statement-on-coronavirus-covid-19-23-november-2020>

News

Obesity, age and BAME ethnicity associated with higher COVID-19 antibody levels

<https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/university/colleges/mds/news/2020/11/higher-covid-19-antibodies.aspx>

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New Publication

Guide to Running a Charity or Social Enterprise 2020-21

<https://tfn.scot/2020-21/udElagK0N9ODwJM1>

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Children (Scotland) Bill

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

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=12954&i=117092#ScotParlOR>

** Scottish General Election (Coronavirus) Bill

<https://beta.parliament.scot/bills/scottish-general-election-coronavirus-bill>

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee Report

<https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdnep.azureedge.net/published/SPPA/2020/11/26/2ec6a2c0-236f-11eb-bcff-000d3a23af40/SPPAS052020R12.pdf>

The Scottish Parliament (Elections etc.) Miscellaneous Amendments) Order 2020 [draft]
– Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee Report

<https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdnep.azureedge.net/published/SPPA/2020/11/26/a2d97cfd-13ec-400d-b9ba-ecb64f968af1/SPPAS052020R13.pdf>

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

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

UK Parliament

Asylum Seekers (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 Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill

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

Immigration (Health and Social Care Staff)

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

Marriage (Approved Organisations) Bill

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

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

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

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (Legal Advice and Appeals) Bill

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

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes 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>

The Windrush Compensation Scheme (closing date 16 December 2020)

<https://committees.parliament.uk/call-for-evidence/317/the-windrush-compensation-scheme/>

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/>

**** Experiences of people with refugee status who are renting private property in Scotland** (closing date not stated)
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/YDR67MN>

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

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

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

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Job Opportunities

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

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

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Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

Grants online: Coronavirus

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

**** Winter Social Wellbeing Fund (Glasgow)**

Closing date 29 January 2021

Glasgow Health and Social Care Partnership funding for organisations in Glasgow City to support people who may be isolated over the winter months. Priority will be given to organisations working with individuals most at risk of social isolation and loneliness as well as those most impacted by coronavirus. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y22jeads>

Resilient & Inclusive Communities Fund

Running until March 2021

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

Covid-19 Transition Fund

Closing date not stated

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

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

For information and to apply see

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

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

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**** this week!**

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

Windrush engagement events

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>

**** Emerging Futures: Conversation**

6 January 2021 (online, 10.00–11.30)

7 January 2021 (online, 10.00–11.30)

7 January 2021 (online, 12.30–2.00)

8 January 2021 (online, 10.00–11.30)

11 January 2021 (online, 12.30–2.00)

13 January 2021 (online, 10.00–11.30)

14 January 2021 (online, 10.00–11.30)

14 January 2021 (online, 12.30–2.00)

15 January 2021 (online, 10.00–11.30)

15 January 2021 (online, 12.30–2.00)

Amina workshops for women to meet other women, and be guided through some simple exercises to help share the highs and lows of 2020. Life in the time of a Pandemic is a creative collaborative project, designed to elevate the voices and experiences of Muslim and BME women in Scotland. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y6fsh994>

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 or see <https://www.paih.org/our-services/training/>

Interpreting Culture

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

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

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

20 January 2021 (online, 10.00–12.00)

10 March 2021 (online, 10.00–12.00)

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

No Recourse to Public Funds

3 February 2021 (online, 10.00–12.00)

17 March 2021 (online, 10.00–12.00)

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

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Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services

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

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

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



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



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

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