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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

Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Act 2020 (Consequential, Saving, Transitional and Transitory Provisions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-12-10/debates/AD266DC6-55C2-426F-8D3B-888A5FDADA54/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination\(EUWithdrawal\)Act2020\(ConsequentialSavingTransitionalAndTransitoryProvisions\)\(EUExit\)Regulations2020](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-12-10/debates/AD266DC6-55C2-426F-8D3B-888A5FDADA54/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination(EUWithdrawal)Act2020(ConsequentialSavingTransitionalAndTransitoryProvisions)(EUExit)Regulations2020)

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Immigration Offences: Prosecution

Martyn Day (SNP): What recent assessment has [the Minister] made of the effectiveness of the CPS's [Crown Prosecution Service] policy on the prosecution of immigration offences. (910025)

Reply from the Solicitor General (Michael Ellis): The CPS is committed to prosecuting immigration crime to protect UK borders, and, in particular, to bring to justice those who exploit and facilitate the entry of illegal migrants. The CPS has clear and published policy guidance on the prosecution of immigration offences that reflects the memorandum of understanding agreed between the CPS and Home Office Immigration Enforcement.

Martyn Day: The offence of facilitating unlawful immigration has previously been used, quite rightly, to tackle smuggling gangs and traffickers, but in recent months the Crown Prosecution Service has started prosecuting refugees crossing the channel simply because they were the unlucky ones forced to steer the boat. As the chief inspector of borders has made clear, these people are victims of the gangs—they are not gang members—so why are they being prosecuted and put in prison, contrary to the spirit of UN protocols and the published CPS guidance?

Reply from Michael Ellis: The CPS has not changed its policy on prosecuting immigration offences. The joint approach between the CPS and Immigration Enforcement is to consider prosecution for anyone who has been involved in organising and planning these journeys—I emphasise, the organising and planning—together with those responsible for controlling the vessels. As always, every case has to be considered on its merits and on the facts, and decisions must be in line with the code in the usual way. Prosecutors have to be satisfied about that, and prosecutors understand their obligations.

Stuart C McDonald (SNP): The Solicitor General referred to prosecuting the people who control the vessels, but they are ... the victims of these gangs—not members of the gangs—so there has been a change in CPS policy and practice. If he wants to prove me wrong on that, will he publish the new note or guidance on this offence that I understand was issued to CPS lawyers last month, and will he also publish details of any representations made by the Home Office in the last 18 months in relation to this offence?

Reply from Michael Ellis: As I say, the policy is clear on prosecutors' obligations. They have obligations—the obligations that we have under article 31 of the refugee convention—and it is well to point out that those obligations are actually enshrined in our domestic legislation, here in this honourable House. The domestic legislation in section 31 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 is quite clear in this area. Those who facilitate, control and engineer these offences are subject to prosecution.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-12-10/debates/CB222FD2-88F1-4D29-83BC-2A382F384F4D/ImmigrationOffencesProsecution>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Immigration: Income

Abena Opong-Asare (Labour) [124344] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will publish the evidential basis for her Department's claim that the minimum income requirement encourages integration.

Reply from Chris Philp: The purpose of the minimum income requirement, implemented in July 2012 along with other reforms of the family Immigration Rules, is to ensure family migrants are supported at a reasonable level so they do not become a burden on the taxpayer. The Government is committed to promoting social cohesion, good relations and a sense of belonging for all members of society. The ability to participate in activities and organisations outside the home plays a part in this. The minimum income requirement is not the only factor that promotes the ability to participate but the level at which it is set can mean that one particular barrier is reduced.

The Supreme Court has endorsed our approach in setting an income requirement for family migration which prevents burdens on the taxpayer and promotes integration into our communities. In particular that it strikes a balance between the interests of those wishing to sponsor a partner from overseas and the community in general.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-02/124344>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Biometric Residence Permits

Hywel Williams (Plaid Cymru) [114080] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of people who have been unable to (a) work, (b) access healthcare, (c) access social security benefits and (d) enrol onto further or higher education courses as a result of the time taken by her Department to provide biometric residence permits.

Hywel Williams (Plaid Cymru) [114081] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to minimise the time taken by her Department to issue biometric residence permits.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office does not hold the data in a way that would allow it to provide an accurate estimate of people who have been unable to (a) work, (b) access healthcare, (c) access social security benefits and (d) enrol onto further or higher education courses as a result of the time taken to provide Biometric Residence Permits (BRP). Finding the requested information would be likely to breach the disproportionate cost threshold.

The Home Office process includes daily checks on any failure by decision makers to request a Biometric Residence Permit and to identify any request for a BRP which has not been produced. The Home Office aims to deliver a BRP within 10 working days of an immigration application being approved.

The Home Office works closely with the DVLA, which produces BRPs, and TNT/Fedex, which delivers them, to ensure that service level agreements are met and performance is improved, through improved reconciliation reporting and clearer escalation processes.

The DVLA has an SLA to complete 90% of production requests within one working day and the remaining 10% within two working days. While this was met consistently until early 2020 the impacts of Covid-19 restrictions and safe working practices have caused occasional delays of up to four working days since April.

TNT/Fedex is required to attempt first delivery of 99% of BRP within two working days of collection from DVLA. This target was met up until February 2020 and is 91% since then.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-11/114080>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-11/114081>

Immigrants: Finance

Grahame Morris (Labour) [124163] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average waiting time is for UK Visas and Immigration to process a Change of Conditions application to allow someone access to public funds.

Reply from Kevin Foster: People with leave under the Family and Human Rights routes can apply to have the no recourse to public funds (NRPF) restriction lifted by making a 'change of conditions' application. This application can be made if a person is 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. Change of Conditions information is now part of the transparency data which can be found here:

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

The relevant data is in tab CoC_01.

The published data shows the average time taken to decide a Change of Conditions request, for each quarter.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-02/124163>

The following five questions all received the same answer

Free School Meals: Immigrants

Daisy Cooper (Liberal Democrat) [123699] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what estimate he has made of the number of children in low-income families with No Recourse to Public Funds that are (a) eligible for and (b) have access free school meals since the extension of that scheme to those families.

Daisy Cooper (Liberal Democrat) [123700] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, with reference to the Answer of 2 November to Question 106891, when the review on how immigration status and no recourse to public funds interact with free school meals and other educational entitlements will be published.

Daisy Cooper (Liberal Democrat) [123701] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to the Answer of 2 November to Question 106891, when the Government plans to publish the (a) terms of reference and (b) scope of the review on how immigration status and no recourse to public funds interact with free school meals and other educational entitlements.

Daisy Cooper (Liberal Democrat) [123702] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps he is taking to inform schools of the extension in the eligibility for free school meals to children from low-income families with No Recourse to Public Funds; and whether his Department provided an end-date for the temporary extension in that communication.

Free School Meals: Undocumented Migrants

Daisy Cooper (Liberal Democrat) [123703] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether his Department plans to make an assessment of the potential merits of extending eligibility for free school meals to undocumented children.

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.

Once the review is complete, we will update our guidance accordingly. Our current guidance regarding the extension can be viewed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance/guidance-for-the-temporary-extension-of-free-school-meals-eligibility-to-nrpf-groups>

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/2020-12-01/123699>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-01/123700>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-01/123701>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-01/123702>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-01/123703>

The answer referred to above can be read at

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

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: Commonwealth

Nick Thomas-Symonds (Labour) [124259] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people from Commonwealth countries who have served in the British armed forces (a) applied for and (b) were granted (i) indefinite leave to remain and (ii) British citizenship in each year since 2010.

Nick Thomas-Symonds (Labour) [124260] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people from the Commonwealth countries who have served in the British armed forces (a) applied for and (b) were refused (i) indefinite leave to remain and (ii) British citizenship in each year since 2010.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office does not hold published data on indefinite leave to remain applications, grants or refusals under the Appendix Armed Forces route. These are grouped together with other categories and published as 'other' in our published statistics:

<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>

It is not possible to identify those from Commonwealth countries who have served in the British armed forces in the data for British citizenship applications, grants or refusals. Commonwealth citizens are naturalised in the same way as other applicants and service is not recorded in Home Office records.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-02/124259>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-02/124260>

British Nationality: Windrush Generation

Kim Johnson (Labour) [127014] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will amend the British Nationality Act 1981 (Remedial) Order to include British-born Windrush descendants whose families gained rights to settle in the UK via the Immigration Act 1971.

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

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

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-08/127014>

Windrush Generation: Finance

Dawn Butler (Labour) [124692] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what organisations have been allocated funding as part of the £500,000 allocation of the

Windrush Schemes Community Fund; and what the future allocations will be made through that fund.

Reply from Priti Patel: The Home Office has been working with the Windrush Cross-Government Working Group to co-design and deliver the £500,000 Windrush Community Fund. Further details, including eligibility criteria and when the Fund will be open for bids will be released shortly.

The Community Fund will provide community and grassroots organisations with funding to run promotional and outreach activity to raise awareness of the Windrush Compensation Scheme and the Windrush Scheme.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-03/124692>

Windrush Lessons Learned Review

Stephen Timms (Labour) [117165] 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 plans she has to update Parliament after receiving the regular progress reports on the review and evaluation of the compliant environment.

Reply from Priti Patel: The review and evaluation of the compliant environment will look at all the measures individually and then cumulatively, building on existing work.

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.

Wendy Williams will return in September 2021 to review our progress. In line with the wording of recommendation 7, we will publish the outcomes of the review in a timely way. This may include updates to Parliament.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-18/117165>

The answer referred to above can be read at

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

The Lessons Learned Review, referred to above, can be read at

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

The following three questions all received the same answer

Windrush Generation: Compensation

Bambos Charalambous (Labour) [124830] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Windrush Compensation Scheme claims her Department has (a) accepted and (b) rejected, to date.

Bambos Charalambous (Labour) [124831] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average time taken is to process an application to the Windrush Compensation Scheme.

Bambos Charalambous (Labour) [124832] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, whether she has set a time limit by which Windrush Compensation Scheme claims must be settled from the time the claim is first submitted.

Reply from Priti Patel: Information on the Windrush Compensation Scheme claims that have been (a) accepted and (b) rejected, to date is available to view on GOV.UK at:

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

Our priority remains to process claims as quickly as possible. However, the Home Office does not have a set time within which claims are to be resolved. This is because the Windrush Compensation Scheme has thirteen claim categories, each individual's compensation claim is deeply personal and requires detailed consideration to understand their circumstances and experiences. This enables the Home Office to make an individualised assessment of the value of compensation to be awarded. Some individuals' experiences are more complex than others and it is right we take the time to ensure these are considered carefully. This holistic approach necessarily takes time, but is ultimately beneficial to individuals.

In some cases, we will make interim payments on parts of the claim that are straightforward to determine, such as immigration fees, thereby speeding up the provision of compensation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-03/124830>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-03/124831>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-03/124832>

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

Windrush Generation: Compensation

Bambos Charalambous (Labour) [126099] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many successful Windrush Compensation claims have been (a) paid and (b) completed.

Reply from Priti Patel: Information on the Windrush Compensation Scheme claims that have been paid is available to view on GOV.UK at:

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

Information on the number of Windrush Compensation Scheme claims that have been completed is not available in the public domain.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-07/126099>

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

Immigrants: Hong Kong

Stephen Timms (Labour) [123508] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure the successful integration of people arriving from Hong Kong into UK communities after the British National Overseas Passport route opens on 31 January 2021; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office is working in collaboration with other Government departments including the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government, and the Devolved Administrations to plan for the arrival of British National (Overseas) citizens from Hong Kong, including their integration in the UK. We are also engaging with local authorities via the regional strategic migration partnerships and interested civil society organisations.

Immigration: EU Nationals

Steve McCabe (Labour) [124658] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department will take to (a) monitor the effectiveness of the digitalisation of EU citizens' immigration status and (b) report any failures in that scheme to the House.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office is developing a border and immigration system which is digital by default for all applicants, which over time means we will increasingly replace physical and paper-based products for all routes with accessible, easy to use online and digital services. This includes evidence of UK immigration status for all nationalities who hold it, which will increasingly be made available to individuals via online services.

We already monitor the use of these online status services. This includes through user feedback provided via the online services, through ongoing user research and testing and through other channels, and these are used to inform improvements to the services. We also monitor usage volumes and user satisfaction scores for our online services, both of which are already published on a quarterly basis as part of Home Office transparency data.

Any system failures would be reported through appropriate mechanisms, including to Parliament where appropriate.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-03/124658>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Duncan Baker (Conservative) [124876] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether EU citizens with permanent residency status in the UK need to apply for the EU Settlement Scheme by June 2021.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Permanent residence is a status derived from EU law. EU citizens with this status need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme for a UK immigration status by 30 June 2021 in order to continue living in the UK after that date.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-03/124876>

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

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

Immigration: EU nationals

Lloyd Russell-Moyle (Labour Co-op) [125288] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what routes for settlement will be available to unmarried durable partners of EU citizens with pre-settled status after 31 December 2020.

Reply from Kevin Foster: After the transition period ends on 31 December 2020, the durable partner of an EU citizen with pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme can also apply to the scheme, where the partnership was formed and was durable before that date and the partnership remains durable at the date of application.

Where the durable partnership was formed after the end of the transition period, the durable partner of an EU citizen with pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme can apply to come to or remain in the UK as their unmarried partner under Appendix FM to the Immigration Rules.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-04/125288>

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

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

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: Afghanistan

Carol Monaghan (SNP) [124778] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for family reunion there have been under the Afghan ex gratia scheme since March 2019.

Carol Monaghan (SNP) [124779] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for family reunion made under the Afghan ex gratia scheme since March 2019 have since been approved.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Qualifying dependant family members are able to apply to join Afghan interpreters relocated to the UK under the Ex-Gratia Scheme.

The process of identifying family members suitable for relocation is a complicated one which requires employing departments to identify family members in addition to the verification of documents under challenging circumstances in Afghanistan.

The process of relocation has inevitably been impacted by COVID-19, those who have been approved for relocation will be brought to the UK once suitable accommodation has been sourced and support arrangements for arrival are in place.

The Home Office does not publish data on the volume of applications it receives - and approves - under the scheme.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-03/124778>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-03/124779>

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [126060] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will publish a breakdown of how the £28.1 million committed to France as part of the bilateral agreement of 28 November 2020 to tackle migrant activity in the Channel will be spent; and to which French police forces funding will be allocated.

Reply from Chris Philp: We remain committed to tackling illegal migration with France and this is a joint effort. The funding recently agreed for £28.1m supports a range of activity including continued deployment of French reservists from the Gendarmerie and Police Nationale, technical equipment to improve detections of crossings; suitable alternative accommodation for migrants away from the immediate port and beach areas; and border security infrastructure and capabilities at priority ports in France. We are not intending to publish detailed information on the package agreed with the French Government, as it relates to sensitive operational activity.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-07/126060>

Immigration: Children

Stella Creasy (Labour Co-op) [106331] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to consult on a new resettlement scheme for unaccompanied minors.

Reply from Chris Philp: Protecting vulnerable children is a key priority for the Government. In 2019, the UK received more asylum applications from unaccompanied children than any country in the EU and accounted for approximately 20% of all reported UASC claims made in the UK and the 27 EU Member States.

We have had significant numbers of children crossing the Channel on small boats and this is in addition to many other unaccompanied children who are currently being cared for in the UK. The latest Department for Education statistics confirm that there are over 5,000 UASC in English local authorities alone – a 146% increase from 2014. This has placed significant pressure on local authorities and it is

important that we focus on ensuring that we can care of those who are already here before we agree to taking more children.

In July the Government announced it had successfully completed the transfer of 480 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children from Greece, France and Italy under Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 – known as the ‘Dubs’ scheme. Parliament was clear this was a one-off scheme which is now complete.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-20/106331>

Asylum: Interviews

John Spellar (Labour) [126778] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers are waiting to be interviewed.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office does not publish information on how many asylum seekers are waiting to be interviewed as this does not form part of routinely published data.

However, the Home Office does publish data on the number asylum applications awaiting an initial decision by duration, for main applicants only. This data can be found at Asy_04 of the published Immigration Statistics:

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-08/126778>

Asylum: Wales

Jessica Morden (Labour) [124151] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the adequacy of living conditions at temporary accommodation sites for asylum seekers in Wales.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Government demands the highest standards from contractors and their accommodation and monitor them closely to ensure this is maintained.

Accommodation providers are required to provide safe, habitable, fit for purpose and correctly equipped accommodation that complies with the Decent Homes Standard in addition to the standards outlined in relevant national or local housing legislation.

These standards apply to all accommodation used by the Home Office including the Ministry of Defense site in Pembrokeshire.

The Home Office is in daily contact with service providers to ensure that the Government continues to meet its statutory obligation to house destitute asylum seekers and to ensure that all contracted support services are delivered, and service users are housed safely. This is in addition to the monthly and quarterly formal performance boards.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-02/124151>

Immigrants: Sleeping Rough

David Simmonds (Conservative) [126189] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 26 November 2020 to Question 92027 on Immigration Rules: Sleeping Rough, when the Government plans to publish the guidance on the Immigration Rule changes published on 22 October 2020 which make rough sleeping grounds for refusing or cancelling a person’s permission to be in the UK.

Reply from Chris Philp: Guidance on the operation of the new rough sleeping rule is currently being finalised and will be made available on GOV.UK as soon as possible. Until then, we will not refuse or cancel a person's permission to stay in the UK on grounds of rough sleeping.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-07/126189>

The answer referred to above can be read at

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

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: Sleeping Rough

Apsana Begum (Labour) [123728] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reason recently announced changes to immigration rules make rough sleeping a grounds for refusal or cancellation of permission to stay in the UK.

Apsana Begum (Labour) [123729] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent (a) impact assessments, (b) public sector equality duty assessments and (c) consultations with stakeholders have been conducted in relation to changes to immigration law and rough sleeping.

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 citizens from 1 December 2020 and to newly arriving EEA citizens 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.

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

The Home Office and the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government are working together to encourage local authorities and approved charities to resolve the immigration status of eligible 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/2020-12-01/123728>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-01/123729>

The Equality Impact Assessment referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/939712/Equality_Impact_Assessment_Points-Based_Immigration_System.pdf

Immigration Rules: Sleeping Rough

Sarah Champion (Labour) [121847] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effect on modern slavery of immigration rules that would allow officials to refuse leave to remain in the UK on the grounds that an applicant has been rough sleeping.

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 citizens from 1 December 2020 and to newly arriving EEA citizens 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.

The safety and security of modern slavery victims remains a top priority. The Victim Care Contract (VCC) provides support to potential and confirmed victims of modern slavery who have received a positive Reasonable Grounds decision, and who have consented to support. The VCC provides support through accommodation (where needed), financial support and specialist support workers.

Following a positive Reasonable Grounds decision, adult victims will be provided with a period of recovery and reflection of at least 45 calendar days. During that period, support and assistance will be provided on a consensual basis and potential victims will not be removed from the UK. A period of recovery and reflection will not be observed where grounds of public order prevent it.

Immigrants: Sleeping Rough

Apsana Begum (Labour) [124880] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of rough sleeping migrants from the European Economic Area that will be deported as a result of changes to immigration rules.

Reply from Kevin Foster: 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 not apply to those with (or eligible for) leave granted under the EU Settlement Scheme or other cohorts protected by the Withdrawal Agreement. The provision in the immigration rules will be used as a last resort where a person repeatedly engages in anti-social behaviour and refuses offers of support. If we cancel a person's permission to stay in the UK we will ask them to leave voluntarily with government support.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-03/124880>

Deportation: Jamaica

Claire Hanna (SDLP) [122923] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will (a) cancel the deportation flight to Jamaica scheduled for 2 December 2020 to ensure that people on board are protected from the risk of contracting covid-19 and (b) allow no further deportation flights until the Windrush Lessons Learned Review has been fully implemented.

Reply from Chris Philp: No. During the Covid-19 pandemic, we have continued to return and deport foreign offenders and other immigration offenders where flight routes have been available to us, both on scheduled flights and via the use of over thirty charter flights to countries including Albania, France, Germany, Ghana, Lithuania, Nigeria, Poland and Spain.

This flight has nothing to do with the Windrush Review or the wrongs that the Windrush Generation faced. Seeking to deport foreign murderers, rapists and other criminals (whether to Jamaica or elsewhere) is the only responsible course of action and this, and subsequent flights will not be suspended.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-30/122923>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Immigrants: Housing

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL10707] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 2 November (HL9318), what recent monitoring they have conducted of asylum seeker accommodation in Pembrokeshire and Folkestone; whether they will publish any reports or results of such monitoring; and what steps they intend to take should such reports show that the accommodation is not "safe, habitable, fit for purpose and correctly equipped".

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: 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.

Both Penally and Napier Barracks have been inspected during November, neither inspection found any contractual failings. There are no plans to publish the

inspection reports.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-25/hl10707>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-19/hl9318>

Immigrants: Domestic Abuse

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL10701] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 23 November (HL Deb, col 12) that "it is essential that migrant victims of domestic abuse, including those with no resource to public funds, are treated first and foremost as victims", what plans they have to ensure that migrant victims of domestic abuse do not have immigration enforcement action taken against them under the proposed Support for Migrant Victims Scheme.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We are currently reviewing the competition for the Support for Migrant Victims scheme following sector feedback, including considering how information is shared and recorded as part of the scheme to enable an evaluation of the needs of migrant victims.

In particular, we are looking at practical solutions that will provide reassurance to migrant victims of domestic abuse using the scheme that they will be able to access safe accommodation and support as a priority. We will conduct further engagement with the sector on the competition for funding in the near future.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-25/hl10701>

The answer referred to above can be read at

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

Migrant Workers: Construction

Lord Jones of Cheltenham (Liberal Democrat) [HL10603] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to include key construction trades on the Shortage Occupation List to make it easier for migrants to apply for work visas to fill vacancies in that sector.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: In March, the Government commissioned the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to advise on the composition of the Shortage Occupation Lists (SOL) in light of the expanded skills threshold of the new Skilled Worker route, which will come into effect on 1 December. The MAC published its findings and recommendations on 29 September. The Government welcomes the MAC's comprehensive advice, which included a recommendation to add bricklayers and masons; however, we do not consider changes to the SOLs should be made at this time, before assessing how the UK labour market develops postCovid19 and in response to the introduction of the new Points-Based Immigration System.

As published on 22 October, the Immigration Rules for the new Points-Based Immigration System include an Appendix Shortage Occupation Lists. This replaces the existing lists under Appendix K. The contents are the same.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-23/hl10603>

The findings and recommendations referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/927352/SOL_2020_Report_Final.pdf

The Immigration Rules referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/928751/CCS001_CCS1020373376-001_Statement_of_changes_in_Immigration_Rules_-_HC_813_PRINT_.pdf

The following three questions all received the same answer

Asylum: Standards

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL10836] To ask Her Majesty's Government why volunteers at refugee camps in (1) Penally, and (3) Folkestone, are required to sign confidentiality agreements stating that they will not disclose the living conditions of the refugees.

Asylum: Folkestone and Penally

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL10837] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many asylum seekers are accommodated at the camps in (1) Penally, and (2) Folkestone.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL10838] To ask Her Majesty's Government what legal assistance is available at the asylum seeker camps in (1) Penally, and (2) Folkestone, to help those who wish to seek refugee status.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: All asylum seekers have access at all times to Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility (AIRE), a single, integrated service provided for the Home Office by Migrant Help.

The AIRE service provides advice and guidance to asylum seekers on the asylum process, their rights and signposts different services.

This includes information on the availability of legal advice and representation, including legal aid, upon induction into temporary accommodation.

The latest published Immigration Statistics detail the number of asylum seekers accommodated in each local authority area, which includes those in hotel and wider government facilities. These statistics can be found at

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

There is no secrecy about our use of Napier and Penally as 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/2020-11-27/hl10836>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-27/hl10837>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-27/hl10838>

Asylum: Albania

Baroness Doocey (Liberal Democrat) [HL10800] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many unaccompanied Albanian children have claimed asylum in the UK in each of the last three years.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Table 1 – The number of asylum applications the UK has received from Albanian Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) in the last three years and 2020 to date.

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020 (Jan to Sep)
Albanian UASC Applications	265	293	238	67

Note:

Data for UASC provide a count of asylum applications received from main applicants who are treated as an unaccompanied child for at least one day from the date of application, up until the initial decision (where applicable), even if they are

later persons found to be an adult following an age dispute. As a result, some UASC cases relate to over 18.

The Home Office publishes data on asylum applications in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release'

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

Data on the number of asylum applications from unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC), and the initial decision on such applications are published in tables Asy_D01 and Asy_D02 of the asylum and resettlement detailed datasets

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/asylum-and-resettlement-datasets>),

which include nationality breakdowns. Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data relate up to September 2020. Additionally, the Home Office publishes a high-level overview of the data in the 'summary tables' (see attached). The 'contents' sheet contains an overview of all available data on asylum and resettlement.

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

(https://www.gov.uk/search/research-and-statistics?keywords=immigration&content_store_document_type=upcoming_statistics&organisations%5B%5D=home-office&order=relevance).

[Asylum summary tables](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-27/hl10800>

Asylum: Albania

Baroness Doocey (Liberal Democrat) [HL10801] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many unaccompanied Albanian children have been granted discretionary leave to remain in each of the last three years.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office publishes data on asylum applications and grants of extensions in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release'

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

Data on the number of asylum applications from unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC), and the initial decision on such applications are published in tables Asy_D01 and Asy_D02 of the asylum and resettlement detailed datasets

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/asylum-and-resettlement-datasets>),

which include nationality breakdowns. Asy_D02 can be broken down to show grants of discretionary leave (DL) following an asylum application but does not show any grants of DL from non-asylum routes.

Data on the number of non-asylum related grants of discretionary leave granted in-country are published in tables Exe_D01 of the extensions detailed datasets

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/managed-migration-datasets>),

which include nationality breakdowns. Exe_D01 can be broken down to show grants of DL but does not show the reason for the grant, or whether the grant was to an unaccompanied child

Information on how to use the datasets can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data relate up to September 2020. Additionally, the Home Office publishes a high-level overview of the data in both the asylum and resettlement and extensions 'summary tables'. The 'contents' sheet contains an

overview of all available data on asylum and resettlement and extensions.

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

(https://www.gov.uk/search/research-and-statistics?keywords=immigration&content_store_document_type=upcoming_statistics&organisations%5B%5D=home-office&order=relevance).

The data from the tables mentioned above are outlined below.

Table 1 – The number of asylum applications the UK has received from Albanian Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) in the last three years and 2020 to date.

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020 (Jan to Sep)
Albanian UASC Applications	265	293	238	67

Source: Home Office, Immigration Statistics year ending September 2020 Asylum and Resettlement Table Asy_D01

Table 2 – The number of Albanian UASC granted discretionary leave (DL) at initial decision following an application for asylum in the last three years and 2020 to date.

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020 (Jan to Sep)
Albanian UASC granted DL	0	0	2	0

Source: Home Office, Immigration Statistics year ending September 2020 Asylum and Resettlement Table Asy_D02

Table 3 – The number of Albanians granted non-asylum related discretionary leave (DL) in the last three years and 2020 to date.

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020 (Jan to Sep)
Albanians granted DL	55	56	18	12

Source: Home Office, Immigration Statistics year ending September 2020 Extensions Table Exe_D01

Notes:

1. Data for UASC provide a count of asylum applications received from main applicants who are treated as an unaccompanied child for at least one day from the date of application, up until the initial decision (where applicable), even if they are later persons found to be an adult following an age dispute. As a result, some UASC cases relate to over 18.
2. Data on discretionary leave does not include those granted discretionary leave through non-asylum routes.
3. Statistics on extensions of stay (also known as "after-entry applications to vary leave to remain") relate to people wishing to extend or change the status of their stay in the UK.

The data on Discretionary Leave (DL) in the extensions dataset include all grants of discretionary leave to remain to non-EEA nationals except those granted DL following an asylum claim.

[Asylum summary table](#)

[Extensions summary table](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-27/hl10801>

UK Parliament Home Affairs Committee

Evidence Session: The Windrush Compensation Scheme

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/1372/html/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Nadia Whittome (Labour) [1263] Migrant Workers' Rights – That this House would like to thank migrant workers who have been at the forefront of the UK's response to the pandemic; believes that recovery from covid-19 must level up migrant workers' rights; further recognises that the Hostile Environment, particularly No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) and the "illegal working" offence, forces migrants to continue to go into work even when it is not safe to do; is concerned that the illegal working offence pushes undocumented migrants to look for employment among exploitative employers who know they are unable to report abuse in the workplace for fear of immigration enforcement; expresses further concern that the illegal working offence disincentivises employers from hiring migrant workers and creates a culture of discrimination in employment practices; notes that the exploitation of migrant workers in the labour market drives down labour standards and protections for all workers; and calls on the Government to implement the recommendations in the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants "Work It Out" campaign by scrapping NRPF and repealing the "illegal working" offence.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/57853>

New Publications

Updated: EU Settlement Scheme: introduction for employers

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-introduction-for-employers/eu-settlement-scheme-introduction-for-employers>

EU citizens living in Wales: community integration, equality of opportunity and equality of outcome

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2020-12/eu-citizens-living-in-wales.pdf>

News

Windrush victims to be offered 'turbocharged' payments

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/windrush-victims-to-be-offered-turbocharged-payments-g0tsxnr8z>

UK 'reneges on vow to reunite child refugees with families'

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/dec/13/uk-reneges-on-vow-to-reunite-child-refugees-with-families>

More than 70 cross-party MPs call on ministers to provide 'life-saving' sanctuary to child refugees

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/cross-party-mps-child-refugees-b1769379.html>

UK to deny asylum to refugees passing through 'safe' third country

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/dec/10/uk-to-deny-asylum-to-refugees-passing-through-safe-third-country>

Post-Brexit law aims to remove migrants' right to claim asylum if intercepted at sea

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/12/10/deportees-removed-flights-human-rights-lawyers-launch-last-minute/>

Home Office wrongly charged 69 Albanians with entering Britain illegally – despite fact they did not reach UK

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/home-office-migrants-boat-crossings-charges-b1768659.html>

No asylum for migrants caught at sea

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/migrants-caught-at-sea-avoid-charges-rtkx06pff>

Barefoot toddler among record 111 migrants to cross Channel in December

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/12/07/barefoot-toddler-among-new-wave-migrants-cross-channel-expected/>

Channel crossings: More than 100 migrants including baby reach UK by boat in near-freezing conditions

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/channel-crossing-boat-migrants-dover-b1767847.html>

End housing of asylum seekers in old army barracks, UK ministers urged

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/dec/08/end-housing-asylum-seekers-old-army-barracks-uk-ministers-urged>

Planned asylum seeker site near Hampshire village 'like open prison'

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/dec/09/planned-asylum-seeker-site-hampshire-village-open-prison-barton-stacey>

Councils vow to defy UK rule on deporting migrant rough sleepers

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/dec/10/councils-defy-uk-rule-deporting-migrant-rough-sleepers-home-office>

Home Office forced to cancel deportations after coronavirus outbreak in removal centre

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/deportation-coronavirus-outbreak-home-office-brook-house-b1769320.html>

More than 100 public figures call for halt to Osime Brown deportation

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/dec/12/public-figures-call-for-halt-osime-brown-deportation-priti-patel>

Deportation and family rights

<https://ukhumanrightsblog.com/2020/12/10/deportation-and-family-rights/>

We're excited to spend Christmas with the refugee we welcomed into our home

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/family/life/excited-spend-christmas-with-the-refugee-welcomed-home/>

TOP

Equality

Scottish Parliament Debate

Human Rights Day (70th Anniversary)

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13001&i=117532#ScotParlOR>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Topical Questions: Justice

Joanna Cherry (SNP): Recently the Joint Committee on Human Rights found that most black people living in the United Kingdom believe that their human rights are not equally protected compared with those of white people. That is a shocking finding. Does not that finding alone justify a proper examination of whether the [Human Rights] Act is working effectively and, if so, why is that not in the terms of reference?

Reply from Robert Buckland: The hon. and learned Lady knows that I gave evidence to the Committee of which she is a member about a week or so ago and acknowledged the important point made by the Committee. I think it was important for us to set up a very focused review as to the machinery of the Human Rights Act. It is not about the rights themselves; it is about the way in which they interact with our domestic law and the interplay, therefore looking in particular at sections 2, 3 and 4, for example, of the Human Rights Act. However, I am sure that these wider issues will become part of the debate as we see the recommendations come forward and as this place has an opportunity to play its part in those deliberations.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-12-08/debates/B50EA0A3-0C10-4E9C-8880-AAFDA6366DCD/TopicalQuestions#contribution-7203BDA0-AA10-4896-B517-2BFDC355CDAF>

The Committee report referred to above can be read at

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/3440/documents/32850/default/>

Youth Justice: Racial Disparity

Stephen Morgan (Labour): What progress has [the Minister] made on tackling racial disparity in the youth justice system since the publication of the Lammy review in September 2017. (909925)

Sarah Owen (Labour): What progress has [the Minister] made on tackling racial disparity in the youth justice system since the publication of the Lammy review in September 2017. (909941)

Wes Streeting (Labour): What progress has [the Minister] made on tackling racial disparity in the youth justice system since the publication of the Lammy review in September 2017. (909946)

Reply from the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Robert Buckland): We have taken important action across the review recommendations. For the three recommendations specific to youth, we have promoted parental and community involvement in referral order panels and evaluated an update of the Youth Justice Board's ethnic disproportionality toolkit. Beyond that, we have now ended automatic disclosure of youth cautions on criminal records. We have put equalities plans in all young offenders institutions and are piloting the Chance to Change alternative to charge, which was one of the recommendations of the review. However, there is no quick fix and more work will continue to be done.

Stephen Morgan: With fewer than half of the Lammy review's recommendations having been enacted and with many others from many other reviews into deaths in custody still outstanding, what can the Secretary of State do to assure black, Asian and minority ethnic communities that the Government are not just dragging their feet on racial disparity in the justice system?

Reply from Robert Buckland: I can assure the hon. Gentleman that that is far from the case. Indeed, 16 recommendations have been completed. There are two recommendations that we did not take up, but of the 17 that are still in progress, we aim to complete 11 within six to 12 months. I am being told that the further six will take slightly longer. That is not good enough for me and I will be going back to my

officials to make sure we make earlier progress. I can assure him that, as overall numbers go down in the youth estate, what concerns me is that we are still seeing a disproportionate number of BAME children being held in custody, even though the overall numbers are now dramatically fewer. There is clearly more work to be done on that front.

Sarah Owen: The Lammy review was published in 2017 and it said that racial inequality and unfairness runs rife throughout our country's justice system. At that time, zero Supreme Court judges were black. That number is still zero. In fact, not a single Supreme Court judge is from a black, Asian and minority ethnic background. Why does the Secretary of State think that is and what are his Government doing to change it?

Reply from Robert Buckland: Like the hon. Lady, I want to see far more people from a diverse and BAME background in the senior judiciary. The truth is that the senior judiciary is often a product of the supply into the legal professions some 20 or more years ago, when we know things were not as promising when it comes to diversity as they are now at the Bar, in solicitors' practices, or for legal executives and Government lawyers, for example. However, we cannot use that as an excuse, which is why I am working hard with the senior judiciary and the chair of the Judicial Appointments Commission, as part of the Judicial Diversity Forum. We are meeting again this week and in my convening role I am pushing all sides, the Bar Council and the Law Society, to come up with more plans and more engagement, so we can help and support BAME candidates ahead of any application processes to level that playing field.

Wes Streeting: In a 2020 update on progress against the Lammy review, the Secretary of State said: "It is crucial, if everyone is to have confidence in our system, that the people working in it reflect the diversity of Britain today." Yet in written answers to my hon. Friend the Member for Hove (Peter Kyle), the Ministry of Justice confirms that there are zero BAME staff working for the Youth Justice Board outside London. What is the Secretary of State going to do to make sure the system reflects the communities those people are serving?

Reply from Robert Buckland: I am grateful to the hon. Gentleman. I know the new chair of the Youth Justice Board, Keith Fraser, will be particularly concerned about that figure. I reassure the hon. Gentleman that in many other areas we are seeing BAME representation higher than the national average. For example, there is an extremely encouraging figure for the probation service. I will look at that particular issue and discuss it with the chair of the YJB, because clearly he feels strongly about BAME issues and he will want to take appropriate action to see what we can do to improve that.

Peter Kyle (Labour): In 2016, 22% of kids sentenced were black and minority ethnic. Now, it is 27%. Some 41% of youth prisoners were black and minority ethnic. Now, it is over half. The proportion of black and minority ethnic young people subject to the use of force in youth prisons has gone up from 41% to 48% since the Lammy review. This Government have been in power for 10 years. It has been two years since the Lammy review. It is not that not enough progress has been made; things are going backwards. Why should anybody have faith that this lot can sort it out?

Reply from Robert Buckland: With respect to the hon. Gentleman, he is just wrong about that—totally wrong. In the last 10 years, there has been a fall of 83% in the number of children receiving a caution or a sentence, and last year there was a fall of 19%. That means in actual numbers of lives and families, the number of children and BAME children affected is reducing. I accept the point about disproportionality—I acknowledged it earlier—but it is a calumny to say that the Government are inactive or uninterested in the issue. We have made incredible progress in 10 years. The child population in our young offender institutions or other institutions is now down to about 500. That is a generational low, and he should pay

tribute to the Government for presiding over such dramatic change.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-12-08/debates/A5CA2D87-0829-4A24-911D-CE2482A4414B/YouthJusticeRacialDisparity>

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

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/643001/lammy-review-final-report.pdf

Information about the ethnic disproportionality toolkit referred to above can be read at

<https://yjresourcehub.uk/over-representation-and-disproportionality/item/485-ethnic-disproportionality-tool.html>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Maternal Mortality: Ethnic Groups

Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [122820] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if he will make it his policy to introduce a target for the NHS to end the disparity in maternal mortality between Black women and white women.

Reply from Nadine Dorries: Work to reduce health inequalities around maternal mortality rates is being led by Professor Jacqueline Dunkley-Bent OBE, the Chief Midwifery Officer. This includes understanding why mortality rates are higher, considering evidence about what will reduce mortality rates and taking action.

We have established the inequalities oversight forum, with a group of clinical experts, to understand the reasons why the death rate for black women in childbirth is five times higher than for white women and to find out what we can put in place to ensure that, by addressing those issues, we reduce the number of deaths.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-30/122820>

Driving Offences: Ethnic Groups

Dawn Butler (Labour) [123537] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will take steps to require police services to collect and publish data on the ethnicity of vehicle drivers stopped under the Road Traffic Act 1988 as part of the Home Office Annual Data Requirement.

Reply from Kit Malhouse: There are currently no plans to extend the Codes of Practice that support the Police & Criminal Evidence Act 1984 to include road traffic stops.

For motoring offences, there are currently no plans to require police forces to collect data for vehicle stops under section 163 of the Road Traffic Act 1988. For non-motoring offences, the Home Office already collates data on vehicle stops as part of the stop and search data collection, available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-powers-and-procedures-england-and-wales-year-ending-31-march-2020>

The statutory basis for data collection, the Annual Data Requirement (ADR) process, is set by the Police Act 1996. This process works closely with policy and operational colleagues, other government departments, National Policing Leads and other key police stakeholders to ensure that routine statistical data required on police forces remains proportionate and justified and eliminates unnecessary burdens. This ensures a proper balance between the accountability and efficiency of police operation and is reviewed on an annual basis.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-01/123537>

Criminal Proceedings: Ethnic Groups

Peter Kyle (Labour) [123644] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, if he will publish

updated figures from the Relative Rate Index (RRI) model for the measures specified in the 2016 Ministry of Justice paper entitled Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic disproportionality in the Criminal Justice System in England and Wales.

Reply from Alex Chalk: In February 2020, a report on [Tackling Racial Disparity in the Criminal Justice](#) was accompanied by tables which included a 5 year time-series of RRIs up to 2018. The report is the most up to date analysis and links to the biennial [Race and the Criminal Justice System Statistics \(2018\)](#) published in November 2019.

Relative rate indexes (RRIs) are currently being used across a number of Ministry of Justice publications including in the Race in the Criminal Justice System, Youth Justice annual publications and the Judicial Selection and Recommendations for Appointment publications. RRIs allow clear comparisons to identify and understand disparity. A consistent approach across the criminal justice system ensures that the treatment and outcomes for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups can be examined in more detail, with a greater degree of analysis in order to understand disparities and direct reforms where they cannot be explained.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-01/123644>

The paper referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/639261/bame-disproportionality-in-the-cjs.pdf

The following two questions both received the same answer

Prisoners: Ethnic Groups

Lyn Brown (Labour) [121827] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, with reference to Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service Offender Equalities Annual Report 2019-20, published on 26 November 2020, if he will make an assessment of the reasons for a higher proportion of (a) Black or Black British, (b) mixed and (c) Chinese or other ethnicity prisoners being on a Basic Incentives status than White or Asian or Asian British prisoners.

Prisoners: Religion

Lyn Brown (Labour) [121828] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, with reference to Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service Offender Equalities Annual Report 2019-20, published on 26 November 2020, if he will make an assessment of the reasons for a higher proportion of (a) Jewish and (b) Muslim prisoners being on a Basic Incentives status than the average for prisoners of all religious groups.

Reply from Lucy Frazer: In line with recommendation 24 of the Lammy review, to increase the fairness and effectiveness of the Incentives system, the new Incentives Policy Framework requires Governors to establish Incentive Fora involving both staff and prisoners.

These fora must review the fairness and effectiveness of the local Incentives policy, including the efficacy of the incentives offer. Fora must involve staff as well as white, Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic (BAME) and Gypsy, Traveller and Romany prisoners and all prisoner groups with protected characteristics where present in the local population. Where data indicates disproportionate outcomes for BAME prisoners or people with other protected characteristics, the Governor is required to take steps to investigate and explain why these discrepancies exist and set out what reforms or actions are to be put in place to address such discrepancies.

A central quality assurance process has been introduced to monitor the new Incentives Forums and their outcomes. This will ensure that Prison Governors will be accountable in instances where the data indicates potential disproportionate outcomes for BAME service users.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-27/121827>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-27/121828>

The annual report referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/938345/hmpps-offender-equalities-2019-2020.pdf

The Lammy review, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/643001/lammy-review-final-report.pdf

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Public Appointments

Lord Boateng (Labour) [HL10570] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their role in the process for appointments to the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

Reply from Baroness Berridge: Appointments to the board of the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) are ministerial appointments, and the role of ministers in appointing EHRC commissioners is set out in the Equality Act 2006.

The appointments follow a recruitment process set out in the Governance Code for Public Appointments and are regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-23/hl10570>

Equality and Human Rights Commission

Lord Boateng (Labour) [HL10571] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the diversity of the members of the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) in terms of (1) ethnicity, and (2) religion; and what assessment they have made of the value that would be added to the credibility and effectiveness of the EHRC by addressing any deficit in the diversity of the organisation in that regard.

Reply from Baroness Berridge: The Minister for Women and Equalities has recently announced five appointments to the board of the EHRC, to take effect from 1 December 2020. With these appointments, the EHRC board will have four permanent members, out of 14, from minority ethnic backgrounds. This exceeds the government's aim for 14% of all public appointments to come from ethnic minority backgrounds by 2022.

One member of the EHRC board identifies as Muslim, seven as Christian, two as having no religion and four prefer not to say.

The government is committed to maintaining diversity of appointments to the EHRC board.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-23/hl10571>

Equality and Human Rights Commission

Lord Boateng (Labour) [HL10572] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many members of the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) are (1) Black, or (2) Muslim, and what steps (a) they, and (b) the EHRC, plan to take to improve ethnic and religious diversity on the EHRC.

Reply from Baroness Berridge: The Minister for Women and Equalities has recently announced five appointments to the board of the EHRC, to take effect from 1 December 2020. With these appointments, the EHRC board will have four permanent members, out of 14, from minority ethnic backgrounds, including one black commissioner. This exceeds the government's commitment and ambition for 14% of all public appointments to come from ethnic minority backgrounds by 2022. At the moment, one member of the EHRC board identifies as Muslim.

The government is committed to maintaining diversity of appointments to the EHRC board.

At executive levels the EHRC, as an independent body, makes its own operational decisions about staff appointments.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-23/hl10572>

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Black Lives Matter

Lord Boateng (Labour) [HL10573] To ask Her Majesty's Government when Ministers last met with members of the Equality and Human Rights Commission to discuss the Black Lives Matter movement; whether any Black people were present at that meeting; and if so, in what capacity.

Reply from Baroness Berridge: The Minister for Equalities, who is the sponsor Minister for the EHRC and is herself black, met the then Chair of the EHRC and its CEO on two occasions during the summer and more recently met the prospective new Chair of the Commission in mid-November. All these discussions covered, among other issues, the EHRC's work on Covid-19 and ethnic minorities, including black people.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-23/hl10573>

Equality and Human Rights Commission

Lord Boateng (Labour) [HL10574] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many employees at senior civil service grade or equivalent in the Equality and Human Rights Commission are (1) Black, (2) Asian, (3) members of another ethnic minority, or (4) Muslim.

Reply from Baroness Berridge: The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC)'s recruitment practices and human resources strategy is the responsibility of the EHRC itself, as an independent organisation who makes its own operational decisions. I have therefore asked the chief executive of the EHRC to respond directly to the noble Lord and to send me a copy of her response. Copies of the chief executive's response will also be placed in the Libraries of the House.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-23/hl10574>

Ethnic Groups: Social Mobility

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL10674] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by the Social Mobility Commission Changing gears: Understanding downward social mobility, published on 18 November; and what steps they are taking to increase the social mobility of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic individuals.

Reply from Baroness Berridge: The government welcomes the Social Mobility Commission's recent report, Changing gears: understanding downward social mobility. Spreading opportunity is a top priority right across the department, every child should have the same opportunity to express their talents and make the most of their lives.

The report highlights the key role education plays in securing social mobility. The government's approach to social mobility has been to increase opportunity and support higher standards for all pupils, regardless of their ethnic background or race. That ambition has underpinned all of the department's reforms to education since 2010, which have demonstrated that it is possible to achieve the highest standards for pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds. A world-class education system that works for everyone is the surest way to spread opportunity across the country. That is why we are investing over £7 billion more in our schools by the 2022-23 financial year. This means schools around the country can continue to raise standards to give all children the skills and knowledge they need to succeed. Moreover, pupil premium funding, worth around £2.4 billion annually, continues to

benefit the most disadvantaged pupils.

The government has recently launched a commission on race and ethnic disparities, which will review inequality in the UK. We will carefully review the findings of this commission to make sure we continue to tackle the injustice of educational inequality.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/202-11-24/hl10674>

The report referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/936038/SMC_Changing_gears_Downward_mobility_Main_Report.pdf

Blood and Organs: Donors

The Marquess of Lothian (Conservative) [HL11036] To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress the Community Investment Scheme run by NHS Blood and Transplant is making in engaging all communities to address health inequalities related to blood and organ donation.

Reply from Lord Bethell: The Community Investment Scheme was launched in September 2018 and is run by NHS Blood and Transplant on behalf of the Government. Currently, fifty organisations have been funded to address concerns, barriers and misconceptions about organ donation, with a total investment of £345,000. The funded projects cover Muslim, Sikh, Christian, Hindu and Jain faith organisations and within Indian, South Asian, Chinese, African and Caribbean communities. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions on face-to-face contact, many organisations are now delivering educational material online.

An attitudinal survey was carried out twelve months after the launch of the scheme, which showed increasing support for organ donation including in black, Asian and minority ethnic communities. The scheme for 2020/21 has been extended to fund projects to increase participation and engagement in blood donation as well as organ donation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-02/hl11036>

Prisoners: Ethnic Groups and Religion

Lord Bradley (Labour) [HL10577] To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the prison population in England and Wales in each of the last five years (1) broken down by ethnic group, and (2) further subdivided by religion.

Reply from Baroness Scott of Bybrook: The information requested is provided on the attached document.

The total prison population also includes those held on remand or under sentence, immigration detainees and those convicted of civil offences.

Figures of five and fewer have been suppressed in order to protect the potential identification of individuals.

[Table](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-23/hl10577>

Press Releases

Human rights watchdog launches updated online tool to monitor human rights compliance

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/human-rights-watchdog-launches-updated-online-tool-monitor-human-rights-compliance>

Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children and young people to get extra education support
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/gypsy-roma-and-traveller-children-and-young-people-to-get-extra-education-support>

New Publication

Human Rights Tracker
<https://humanrightstracker.com/en/>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Islam: Religious Hatred

Apsana Begum (Labour) [124888] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, if he will commission independent research on the causes of Islamophobia.

Kelly Tolhurst: The Government keeps its policies on addressing hate crime under review and in doing so draws upon extensive existing research regarding the drivers of anti-Muslim hatred.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-03/124888>

Islam: Religious Hatred

Apsana Begum (Labour) [124889] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what assessment his Department has made of trends in Islamophobic hate crime since 2016.

Reply from Luke Hall: The Government engages with Muslim communities in order to tackle hatred against them, this includes understanding issues and trends that drive hate crime. The Government publishes an annual hate crime statistical bulletin which shows the number of hate crimes recorded by the Police that are perceived to have an anti-Muslim motivation. In 2017-18 there were 2965 reports, in 2018-19 there were 3530 reports and in 2019-20 there were 3089 reports.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-03/124889>

The statistical bulletins and associated data tables referred to above can be read at
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2019-to-2020>
and

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2018-to-2019>
and

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2017-to-2018>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Islam: Religious Hatred

Apsana Begum (Labour) [124892] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps he is taking to tackle the level of Islamophobic hate crime in England and Wales.

Religious Hatred: Islam

Apsana Begum (Labour) [124890] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps he is taking to tackle Islamophobia.

Apsana Begum (Labour) [124899] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what recent steps his Department has taken to tackle Islamophobia in (a) Tower Hamlets, (b) London and (c) England.

Reply from Luke Hall: This Government has pledged to tackle prejudice, racism and discrimination. We already have some of the strongest legislation in the world to tackle hate crime and, where groups incite racial hatred or are engaged in racially or religiously motivated criminal activity, we would expect them to be prosecuted. This Government's work to tackle the scourge of anti-Muslim hatred is extensive, and includes:

- supporting Tell MAMA (Measuring Anti-Muslim Attacks) with more than £2.8 million since 2016, helping to monitor and combat anti-Muslim hatred;
- providing almost £5 million through our Places of Worship Security Grant in the last two years alone - helping to secure and protect mosques and other places of worship

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-03/124892>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-03/124890>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-03/124899>

Social Media: Bullying

Apsana Begum (Labour) [124893] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps his Department is taking to reduce Islamophobic bullying and harassment on social media.

Reply from Luke Hall: Muslims in our country should be able to practise their faith in freedom.

We have some of the strongest legislation in the world to tackle hate crime and, where groups incite racial hatred or are engaged in racially or religiously motivated criminal activity, we would expect them to be prosecuted.

To strengthen this, we are working on the Online Harms policy. The online harms policy is focused on making the UK the safest place in the world to be online. Our approach to tackling online harms will support more users to participate in online discussions, by reducing the risk of bullying or being attacked on the basis of their identity (for example their gender, race, disability, sexuality, religion or age).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-03/124893>

Police: ICT

Apsana Begum (Labour) [124895] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, which senior police officer is responsible for the police national strategy on digital intelligence and investigations including Islamophobic online abuse.

Reply from Kit Malthouse: Islamophobic online abuse is completely unacceptable and has no place in British society. In instances where content of this nature reaches the illegal threshold, the police may treat it as a hate crime.

Deputy Chief Constable Mark Hamilton is the National Police Chiefs' Council Hate Crime Lead. His role includes promoting Hate Crime standards and awareness across the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-03/124895>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Higher Education: Racial Harassment

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL10720] To ask Her Majesty's Government

what assessment they have made of the report by Universities UK Tackling racial harassment in higher education, published on 24 November; and what steps they are taking to increase racial diversity training for university staff.

Reply from Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: The government is committed to levelling up the nation and maximising opportunity for all. As part of that important work, on 16 July 2020, my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister announced the establishment of the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities, more information about which can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/commission-on-race-and-ethnic-disparities>

Our world-leading higher education sector is an engine of social mobility and provides life-changing opportunities for thousands of students from all backgrounds every year. We do not agree with the Universities UK report in every respect, but firmly agree that we must stamp out racism wherever it exists, including in universities and higher education institutions.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-25/hl10720>

The report referred to above can be read at

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

Press Release

Hate Crime Bill must be amended, says Justice Committee

<https://www.parliament.scot/newsandmediacentre/116701.aspx>

News

MSPs call for further changes to Hate Crime Bill

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-55252105>

Hate Crime Bill must be amended further, say MSPs

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18934068.hate-crime-bill-must-amended-say-msps/>

Changes to Hate Crime Bill must get the closest scrutiny

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/18938575.herald-view-changes-hate-crime-bill-must-get-closest-scrutiny/>

Hate Crime Bill is the perfect marriage between nationalism and authoritarianism

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/opinion/columnists/18925467.struan-stevenson-hate-crime-bill-perfect-marriage-nationalism-authoritarianism/>

Former Lord Advocate 'depressed' by police discrimination

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-55220263>

Police Scotland chiefs 'horrified' by reports of racism and discrimination in force

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18926236.police-scotland-chiefs-horrified-reports-racism-discrimination/>

'Like section 28 and gay rights': fears UK schools being silenced from discussing racism
<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2020/dec/08/uk-schools-being-silenced-from-discussing-racism>

Charity hits back in white privilege row
<https://tfn.scot/news/charity-hits-back-in-white-privilege-row>

Charity supporting Grenfell victims branded racist by independent review
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/dec/11/charity-supporting-grenfell-victims-branded-racist-by-independent-review>

Charity that helped Grenfell victims 'institutionally racist'
<https://tfn.scot/news/charity-that-helped-grenfell-victims-institutionally-racist>

Charity which helped Grenfell victims 'institutionally racist', review finds
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/grenfell-institutional-racism-westway-trust-tutu-foundation-b1769444.html>

Change is coming. Why I'm chairing the TUC's new anti-racism task force
<https://www.tuc.org.uk/blogs/change-coming-why-im-chairing-tucs-new-anti-racism-task-force>

Black hair code launched to tackle racial discrimination
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-55222620>

What is the Halo Code? New UK guidelines to protect black people with afro textured hair explained
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/people/what-halo-code-new-uk-guidelines-protect-black-people-afro-textured-hair-explained-3064873>

UK sees first black 'hair code' to protect employees against discrimination
<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/afro-code-hair-discrimination-halo-unilver-b1768543.html>

The natural state of someone's hair should never be a hindrance to their ambition and opportunity
<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/halo-code-hair-discrimination-b1770230.html>

Roald Dahl's life was tainted by anti-Semitism – but his work isn't
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/books/authors/roald-dahls-life-tainted-anti-semitism-work-isnt/>

Millwall and QPR players to join arms 'in fight against discrimination'
<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2020/dec/07/qpr-to-take-the-knee-at-millwall-in-show-of-solidarity-after-booming>

Millwall fans applaud anti-racism gesture before draw with QPR
<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2020/dec/08/millwall-qpr-championship-match-report>

Sheffield United's double standards on BLM and anti-Semitism are troubling
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/12/08/sheffield-uniteds-double-standards-blm-anti-semitism-troubling/>

It is not racist to describe someone as black, says John Barnes
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/football/2020/12/09/not-racist-describe-someone-black-says-john-barnes/>

Football's anti-racism campaign now needs to move into a new phase

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/football/2020/12/07/footballs-anti-racism-campaign-now-needs-move-new-phase/>

Robertson Trust sued by Christian ex-CEO Kenneth Ferguson for 'unfair dismissal and religious discrimination'

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18924618.robert-trust-sued-christian-ex-ceo-kenneth-ferguson-unfair-dismissal-religious-discrimination/>

Leading charity facing legal action over claims of anti-Christian discrimination

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/12/04/leading-charity-facing-legal-action-claims-anti-christian-discrimination/>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Funerals: Christmas and New Year Period

S5W-33663 Jeremy Balfour (Conservative): To ask the Scottish Government what advice it has given to (a) procurator fiscals, (b) GPs, (c) local authority burial or cremation departments and (d) registrars on extending their opening hours and availability over the Christmas and New Year period to ensure that funeral directors can continue to arrange and conduct funerals during the pandemic without the bereaved facing delays.

Reply from Joe FitzPatrick: The Scottish Government continues to work closely with all sectors involved in care and management of the deceased to identify potential problems and to minimise disruption and delays which could affect the ongoing provision of funeral services over the Christmas and New Year weekends. The Lord Advocate is constitutionally responsible for the investigation of sudden, unexpected and unexplained deaths in Scotland. That is a function which he exercises independently of any other person, and one that is undertaken on his behalf by procurators fiscal employed within the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS). It is accordingly not for the Scottish Government to give advice to procurators fiscal. COPFS is satisfied that appropriate arrangements are in place for the forthcoming holiday period to ensure that deaths reported to the procurator fiscal during this time will be considered as expeditiously as possible in order to minimise the impact of reporting on nearest relatives and funeral arrangements that are to be made.

The Scottish Government has not advised GPs to extend their opening hours and availability over the Christmas and New Year period. The normal festive contingencies will be in place with surgeries closed 25 and 28 December and 1 and 4 January. This is the normal period of closure.

It is for burial and cremation authorities to decide when their facilities will be open over the festive period. The Scottish Government and the Inspector of Cremation are working with burial and cremation authorities, funeral director representatives and Regional Resilience Partnerships to ensure the sector has the information it requires to plan appropriately for the festive period. The Scottish Government will continue to work with the sector throughout the festive period to monitor the impact on availability of funerals, as has been the case since the beginning of the pandemic.

The opening hours and configuration of local registrar services remains the

responsibility of local authorities. Opening times of registrar offices and availability to register a death remotely are being arranged locally for the festive period, while existing provision for out of hours registration continues to be in place in each local authority area.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-33663>

Press Release

Chanukah Message from the First Minister (video)

<https://twitter.com/scotgov/status/1337126625020928004>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Press Release

Chanukah Message from the Prime Minister

<https://www.facebook.com/borisjohnson/photos/a.238842266316/10158004112781317/>

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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/>

Scottish Government Press Release

First COVID-19 vaccinations in Scotland take place

<https://www.gov.scot/news/first-covid-19-vaccinations-in-scotland-take-place/>

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/>

Reduction in self-isolation

<https://www.gov.scot/news/reduction-in-self-isolation/>

UK Government Press Release

Alister Jack welcomes coronavirus vaccine rollout to Scotland

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/alister-jack-welcomes-coronavirus-vaccine-rollout-to-scotland>

UK Government Publications

A “new normal”?

How people spent their time after the March 2020 coronavirus lockdown

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/articles/anewnormalhowpeoplespenttheirtimeafterthemarch2020coronaviruslockdown/2020-12-09>

Other Organisations

Scottish Community Safety Network

Elected Member Survey June/July 2020

<https://www.safercommunitiesscotland.org/wp-content/uploads/EM-survey-write-up-final-Nov2020.pdf>

Impact of Covid-19 for Community Safety Partnerships, Elected Members and Community Council Chairs: A Summary

<https://www.safercommunitiesscotland.org/wp-content/uploads/Impact-of-covid19-on-community-safety-summary-paper-Oct2020-FINAL-1.pdf>

Community Safety Partnerships and Partner Organisations Questionnaire 2020

<https://www.safercommunitiesscotland.org/wp-content/uploads/Community-Safety-Partnerships-Survey-II-Results-FINAL-1.pdf>

News

1 in 3 BME workers have had to self-isolate during Covid-19 pandemic

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/news/tuc-1-3-bme-workers-have-had-self-isolate-during-covid-19-pandemic>

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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>

Scottish Parliament Information Centre briefing

<https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdnep.azureedge.net/published/2020/12/9/9aebc876-0895-11eb-83ec-000d3a23af40/SB%2020-79.pdf>

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

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

Stage 1 Report, Justice Committee

https://www.parliament.scot/S5_JusticeCommittee/Inquiries/JS52020R22Stage1ReportontheHateCrimeandPublicOrderBill20201210SPPaper878_.pdf

Scottish General Election (Coronavirus) Bill

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

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

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

UK Parliament

Asylum Seekers (Accommodation Eviction Procedures) Bill

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

Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) Bill

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

Asylum Support (Prescribed Period) Bill

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

European Citizens' Rights Bill

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

Illegal Immigration (Offences) Bill

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

Immigration 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!**

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/>

**** What can teachers do to build an inclusive school curriculum that tackles racism in Scotland? (for people aged 12 to 25)** (closing date 3 January 2021)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CLSD3QZ>

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/>

**** Social Distance, Digital Congregation: British Ritual Innovation under COVID-19**

(closing date not stated)

<https://bric19.mmu.ac.uk/take-the-survey/>

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>

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

Resilient & Inclusive Communities Fund

Running until March 2021

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

Covid-19 Transition Fund

Closing date not stated

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

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

For information and to apply see

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

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

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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SCoJeC
Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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



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



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

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