



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

Contents

[Immigration and Asylum](#)

[Equality](#)

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

[Other Scottish Parliament and Government](#)

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

[Other News](#)

[Bills in Progress](#)

[Consultations](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

[Funding Opportunities](#)

[Events, Conferences, and Training](#)

[Useful Links](#)

[Back issues](#)

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

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

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Immigration: Offenders

John Hayes (Conservative) [136441] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ban foreign criminals who have served more than one year in jail from entering the UK.

Reply from Chris Philp: New Immigration Rules which came into force on 1 December 2020 provide for the mandatory refusal or cancellation of entry clearance or permission to enter or stay in the UK where a person has been convicted of a criminal offence, in the UK or overseas, for which they have received a custodial sentence of 12 months or more.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-12/136441>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Immigration: Armed Forces

Ben Lake (Plaid Cymru) [139108] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate her Department has made of the number of foreign or commonwealth citizens residing in the UK who have not made an application for indefinite leave to remain despite being eligible upon their discharge from HM forces since 2000.

Ben Lake (Plaid Cymru) [139109] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what support her Department is providing to otherwise eligible foreign or commonwealth citizens who apply for indefinite leave to remain in the UK at least 28 days after their discharge from HM Forces.

Ben Lake (Plaid Cymru) [139110] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the potential merits of waiving visa fees for otherwise eligible foreign or commonwealth citizens who apply for indefinite leave to remain at least 28 days after their discharge from HM Forces.

Reply from Kevin Foster: This Government hugely values every member of our outstanding Armed Forces and we are humbled when non-UK nationals choose to serve our country. It is for these reasons we explicitly provide for non-UK veterans discharged from HM Forces to obtain settlement in the UK.

Home Office guidance gives caseworkers the flexibility to consider cases outside the Immigration Rules for discharged members of HM Forces who have not yet regularised their immigration status:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hm-forces-applications-on-discharge>

It is not possible to estimate the number of non-UK former members of HM Forces living in the UK who have not made an application for indefinite leave to remain despite being eligible to do so, as there are other options available to those who discharge. Some may choose to return to their country of nationality, while others may naturalise as British citizens during their service.

The Home Office is engaging with MPs, campaigners and members of the public to assess whether those who have served in the Armed Forces should continue to pay settlement fees. The Home Secretary recently met the Defence Secretary to consider how we can offer greater flexibility and support for such people, and their families, in future. Subject to collective agreement, the Ministry of Defence will be launching a public consultation on this issue in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-18/139108>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-18/139109>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-18/139110>

Armed Forces: Immigration

Ben Lake (Plaid Cymru) [139111] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what steps his Department is taking to inform foreign or commonwealth citizens currently serving in HM Forces of the eligibility criteria and steps they need to take in order to apply for indefinite leave to remain in the UK following their discharge.

Reply from Johnny Mercer: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) takes a number of steps to ensure our Commonwealth and Gurkha personnel are informed about the process for achieving indefinite leave to remain once they leave Service. It is signposted on all the Service websites for recruits to understand prior to application, so they can make an informed choice about joining the British Armed Forces. Guidance is provided to all units to help them support their Commonwealth and Gurkha personnel throughout their career in the Armed Forces, including signposting them to sources of qualified immigration advice, to ensure that they have the information and support they need to make decisions about their and their

families' immigration status, including prior to discharge. This information is also included in the Service Leavers Pack, which is provided to all those coming to the end of their careers. MOD continues to work with the Joining Forces Credit Union to provide financial education, savings packages and loan packages to help non-UK personnel pay for visa costs, should they wish to remain and settle in the United Kingdom after their service.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-18/139111>

Visas: British National (Overseas)

Sarah Owen (Labour) [138089] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what progress the Government has made on the introduction of the Hong Kong British National Overseas visa scheme.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Hong Kong British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) route opens for applications from 31 January 2021.

Guidance for BN(O) citizens will be kept updated on GOV.UK:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/hong-kong-british-national-overseas-visa-applications>

Further details of this new immigration route will be published in due course.

This government looks forward to realising its commitments to BN(O) citizens and their family members and receiving applications for the Hong Kong BN(O) route in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-14/138089>

British Nationals Abroad: Marriage

Daniel Zeichner (Labour) [134465] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether new British National Overseas citizens on the new British National Overseas visa require a Superintendent Registrar Certificate to get married in the UK.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Hong Kong British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) route opens for applications from 31 January 2021.

BN(O) citizens and their partners with permission on the Hong Kong BN(O) route may give notice of their intention to get married or form a civil partnership, but a referral to Home Office immigration for investigation may take place.

Further information can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/marriages-civil-partnerships>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-08/134465>

Visas: Applications

Holly Lynch (Labour) [138470] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what effect the accidental loss of 150,000 arrest records has had on visa processing.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office temporarily suspended processing those visa applications which might have been impacted.

Once we were satisfied those applications could be processed without adverse impact on the decision-making process, visa operations resumed.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-15/138470>

Visas: Dependants

Dan Jarvis (Labour) [136523] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment he has made of the effect of the Adult Dependent Relative visa eligibility criteria, introduced in 2012, on pressure on NHS and Social Care services.

Reply from Chris Philp: The family Immigration Rules were reformed in July 2012 to prevent burdens on the taxpayer, promote integration and tackle abuse, and thereby ensure family migration to the UK is on a properly sustainable basis which it is fair to migrants and the wider community.

We reformed the route for adult dependent relatives, given the significant NHS and

social care costs which can be associated with these cases and to reduce pressure on the health system. Under the current Rules adult dependent relatives must demonstrate, as a result of age, illness or disability, they require a level of long-term personal care which can only be provided in the UK by their sponsor here and without recourse to public funds.

The Home Office continues to keep the Immigration Rules for adult dependant relatives under review and make adjustments in light of feedback on their operation and impact. However, our overall assessment is the rules represent a fairer deal for the taxpayer, are having the right impact and are helping to ensure public confidence in the immigration system and reduce pressure on our healthcare system.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-12/136523>

The most recent update to the Adult Dependent Relative visa eligibility criteria can be read at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/948056/adult-dependent-relatives-v1.0ext.pdf

The following two questions both received the same answer

NHS: Migrant Workers

Dan Jarvis (Labour) [138441] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment her Department has made of the potential effect of the eligibility criteria for Adult Dependent Relative visas on retaining NHS workers that are sponsors of unsuccessful applicants for those visas.

Dan Jarvis (Labour) [138442] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment her Department has made of the potential merits of broadening the eligibility criteria for Adult Dependent Relative visas where the applicant is an elderly dependent of an NHS worker.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The family Immigration Rules were reformed in July 2012 to prevent burdens on the taxpayer, promote integration and tackle abuse, and thereby ensure family migration to the UK is on a properly sustainable basis which is fair to migrants and the wider community by not being reliant on access to public services funded by UK taxpayers. The route for adult dependent relatives was reformed because of the significant NHS and social care costs which can be associated with these cases.

The Rules seek to ensure only those adult dependent relatives who need to be physically close to and cared for by a close relative in the UK are able to settle here, and require individuals to demonstrate as a result of age, illness or disability, they need a level of long-term personal care which can only be provided for in the UK by their sponsor here and without recourse to public funds.

Adult dependent relatives can continue to visit a family member in the UK (for up to six months) but must return home at the end of their visit.

The Home Office continues to keep the Immigration Rules for adult dependent relatives under review and make adjustments in light of feedback on their operation and impact. However, our overall assessment is the rules represent a fairer deal for the UK taxpayer and are helping to ensure public confidence in the immigration system by providing assurance migration to the UK is not based on access to public services or welfare systems.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-15/138441>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-15/138442>

NHS: Overseas Workers

Rob Roberts (Conservative) [136084] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if he will make an assessment of the potential merits of taking steps with the Home

Secretary to waive the fees for overseas NHS workers applying for (a) indefinite leave to remain and (b) British citizenship with a caveat that those fees would become payable should those workers subsequently leave the employment of the NHS.

Reply from Helen Whately: We have made no specific assessment. However, we value and welcome the contribution of all overseas staff to the National Health Service and have introduced the Health and Care Visa, exempting overseas staff from paying the Immigration Health Surcharge and offering free and automatic visa extensions for those that were due to expire between 31 March 2020 and 31 March 2021.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-11/136084>

Migrant Workers: Physiotherapy

Fleur Anderson (Labour) [137330] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of reducing the minimum salary requirement for settlement in the UK for physiotherapists in response to (a) high vacancy rates in NHS physiotherapy services and (b) the time being taken for the Government to take a decision on the Migration Advisory Committee recommendation to add physiotherapists to the Shortage Occupation List.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Under the new Skilled Worker route, we have already reduced the salary requirements physiotherapists need to meet to gain settlement from £35,800 to the national pay scale for their occupation. This applies whether or not they are included on the Shortage Occupation List.

Whilst we have considered carefully the possible impacts of the new immigration system, additional variables such as the impact of Covid-19 on the UK Labour Market require closer examination. To avoid taking a piecemeal approach to implementing the Migration Advisory Committee's advice, we need to review the various influences on migration flows and the labour market, including introduction of a new immigration system, and whether this is in line with our anticipated outcomes, before considering which changes are required to the Shortage Occupation List.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-13/137330>

Immigrants: Test and Trace Support Payment

Holly Lynch (Labour) [139061] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether people with no recourse to public funds are eligible for test and trace support payments.

Reply from Chris Philp: To qualify for the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme, individuals must be employed or self-employed, unable to work from home, will lose income as a result of self-isolating, and be in receipt of certain 'public funds' benefits. Therefore, people with no recourse to public funds are not eligible for test and trace support payment.

However, a discretionary fund akin to the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme, in the form of a £500 discretionary payment, paid by local authorities is available to those with no recourse to public funds, provided they meet the criteria set by the local authority for discretionary payments in their area. Further information on this scheme can be found at:

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

The Government remains committed to protecting vulnerable people and has acted decisively to ensure that we support everyone through this pandemic.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-18/139061>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Patrick Grady (SNP) [139047] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that the digital record of an EU citizen's settled status in the UK is protected against data loss.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Immigration decisions - and the rights and conditions which flow from those decisions - have been recorded digitally by the Home Office since the turn of the century and maintaining digital records of immigration status is not a new concept.

The following safeguards are in place to protect this data from accidental or deliberate loss:

- the data in the central repository for immigration data is copied across three different data centres (or 'availability zones' within the Home Office cloud service provider's region), which prevents any loss of data in the event of a catastrophic failure to one of those data centres. As a further precaution, the data is also copied across the Home Office cloud service provider's regions which prevents any loss of data in the event of a catastrophic failure to an entire region
- data is modelled in such a way it allows accidental deletions to be undone and a full audit maintained to allow a rollback due to accidental corruption
- frequent backups of immigration data are carried out to act as a point in time snapshot if there is ever a need to refer back in time
- robust security controls are in place to protect personal data against unauthorised access and only those who need access to perform their job are granted. Security and background checks are performed on all staff in these roles to further mitigate the risk there may be a deliberate attempt to corrupt or delete the data.

The Home Office will also look to apply any lessons learnt from the recent issues affecting the PNC to the ongoing management of immigration data, including digital records of immigration status.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-18/139047>

Immigrants: Coronavirus

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [137958] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will suspend the in-person reporting of migrants to immigration reporting centres for the duration of the covid-19 lockdown announced in January 2021.

Reply from Chris Philp: On Tuesday 17 March 2020, following Public Health and Government guidance relating to COVID19 and the developing situation, we paused immigration reporting and sent an SMS text message to reportees with a valid mobile telephone number on our systems informing them of this.

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

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

Following the announcement on Monday 4 January 2021 we decided to maintain face to face reporting for priority cohorts of people. Our robust Safe Systems of

Working and Risk Assessments remain in place and still adhere to current Government guidance. Those that are required to report at this time are covered for movement under The Health Protection Regulations 2020 where movement is permitted for the purpose of fulfilling a legal obligation, including attending court or satisfying bail conditions, or to participate in legal proceedings;

We continue to keep in contact with the overall reporting population by telephone to update individuals on the current reporting position. An SMS text or email/letter is sent to those required to recommence reporting informing them of the date and time they should report, along with relevant advice on COVID. We have also updated the reporting pages on GOV.UK for those who report and their representatives. This information includes how to travel most safely by public transport, avoiding both busy transport hubs and traveling at peak times; advice on reporting alone where possible; and what to do if those reporting have symptoms or are shielding and how to contact their local reporting centre.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-14/137958>

Refugees: Resettlement

Joanna Cherry (SNP) [139041] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effect of the UK-EU Trade and cooperation agreement on refugee resettlement programs and when those programs will be restarted in full.

Reply from Chris Philp: The UK's refugee resettlement schemes operate outside of the EU and we don't envisage any impact on them from the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement.

Following the temporarily pause to the resettlement of refugees, caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, arrivals recommenced in December 2020. The final arrivals under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme will take place during early 2021, delivering on our commitment to resettle 20,000 refugees who have fled the conflict in Syria to rebuild their lives safely in the UK.

We will continue to honour our commitment to those who have been invited to the UK and we will roll out a new global resettlement scheme in the future, along with a new firm and fair asylum system which will welcome people through safe and legal routes.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-18/139041>

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Tommy Sheppard (SNP) [136553] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 10 December 2020 to Question 126060, what oversight the Government will have of the actions and conduct of French reservists from the Gendarmerie and Police Nationale deployed to tackle migrant activity in the Channel; what systems have been established to investigate allegations of mistreatment or abuse of migrants by French police during their deployment; and what the role is of the Government in that process.

Reply from Chris Philp: We work closely with France to prevent Channel crossings by irregular migrants. In November the UK and France agreed a package of £28.1m to support a range of activity as part of ongoing efforts.

We jointly monitor, with France, the impact of that funding through daily operational contact and regular strategic reviews.

French personnel are responsible to the French Government and are therefore required to comply with French law, policies and processes. The UK Government would not be directly involved in any investigation into allegations made against French officers.

France is party to both the ECHR and the Refugee Convention and the UK

Government is confident that France is fully in compliance with its obligations under both Conventions.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-12/136553>

The answer referred to above can be read at

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

Immigrants: Sleeping Rough

Neil Coyle (Labour) [137949] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 11 January 2021 to Question 131288 on Immigrants: Sleeping Rough, when her Department plans to publish guidance for migrants on the recent changes to the Immigration Rules which allow for the cancellation or refusal of leave to remain in the event that a person has experienced rough sleeping.

Reply from Chris Philp: Guidance for decision-makers on the application of the new Immigration Rule relating to rough sleeping will be issued in due course.

Decisions using this provision will not be made until relevant guidance is available to support decision-makers.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-14/137949>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-17/131288>

Asylum and Immigration

John Hayes (Conservative) [136442] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when she plans to bring forward legislative proposals on the asylum and immigration system.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Secretary has set out the Government's ambition to overhaul our approach to asylum and illegal migration, delivering a firm but fair system, including bringing forward new legislation this year.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-12/136442>

Asylum: Scotland

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [137950] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people applied for asylum at Scottish (a) ports and (b) airports in each of the last five years.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office are unable to state how many people applied for asylum at Scottish ports and airports in each of the last five years as the Home Office do not publish this data.

However, the Home Office do publish data to state how many people applied for asylum in each of the last five years, broken down by location (in-country or at Port) found in the Immigration Statistics, Asy_D01:

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-14/137950>

Asylum: Scotland

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [139028] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people residing at an address in Scotland made an in-country asylum application in each of the last five years.

Reply from Chris Philp: Whilst we hold data on the current addresses of asylum claimants, data on the place of residence at the time they made an in-country asylum application could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

However, the Home Office does publish data on how many people applied for asylum in each of the last five years, broken down by location (in-country or at Port)

found in the Immigration Statistics, Asy_D01:

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-18/139028>

Asylum: Applications

Wendy Chamberlain (Liberal Democrat) [138519] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she has taken to speed up the processing of applications for asylum.

Reply from Chris Philp: We are fixing a broken asylum system and creating a new one which will be fairer and firmer and compassionate towards those who need our help.

There are a number of factors that contribute to the length of time to process asylum claims but we are determined to clear the backlog, speed up decisions and prevent people becoming stuck in the system for long periods of time.

We are working to streamline cases and have already made significant progress in prioritising cases with acute vulnerability, those in receipt of the greatest level of support including, Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children, and those that require a reconsideration.

Asylum Operations has developed a recovery plan focused on returning interviews and decisions back to pre-COVID-19 levels as soon as possible. We are also seeking to secure temporary resources to assist from within the Home Office and other government departments, along with other potential options.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-15/138519>

Asylum: Coronavirus

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [137959] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will ensure that all school age children in initial asylum hotel accommodation have access to adequate (a) space, (b) internet connections and (c) other equipment to continue with online learning during the covid-19 lockdown announced in January 2021.

Reply from Chris Philp: It is our aim to move asylum-seeking families with school-age children to suitable dispersed accommodation as quickly as possible. Due to the temporary nature of accommodating families in hotels, it is unlikely that children will have been enrolled in a local school before being moved to dispersal accommodation.

However, in our wider accommodation estate, the Home Office and its providers are taking the steps to ensure that children are able to access education as quickly as possible, including liaising with local authorities to source and provide educational activity packs and securing tablets and Wi-Fi to ensure that service users are able to access online resources.

Wi-Fi is also available throughout hotels and data SIM cards are provided in core initial accommodation where needed.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-14/137959>

Asylum: Finance

Andy McDonald (Labour) [137943] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her Department's timescale is for the change of provider of the ASPEN card for asylum support payments.

Reply from Chris Philp: As part of the COVID-19 contingency measures introduced by the Home Office, the transition to the new ASPEN card was postponed to enable the Department to focus on handling the operational challenges that the pandemic was causing on the wider asylum support system.

However, the current contract has been extended to ensure there is payment service continuity during this challenging time. The new card service provision is scheduled to be in place by the end of May 2021.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-14/137943>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Hunger Strikes

Caroline Nokes (Conservative) [137911] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers in supported accommodation are currently refusing food or fluid.

Caroline Nokes (Conservative) [137913] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers in supported accommodation have refused fluid or food in the last 12 months.

Reply from Chris Philp: We take the welfare of those in our care very seriously. We provide asylum seekers in supported accommodation with safe, Covid-compliant accommodation along with free nutritious meals, all paid for by the taxpayer.

Regular welfare checks are conducted on service users, including behavioural monitoring of those who show signs of vulnerability, and where appropriate safeguarding referrals are made to relevant bodies.

We work closely with our accommodation providers to ensure that all asylum seekers in supported accommodation are aware of, and have access to, Migrant Help's helpline. This service is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, if service users need help, advice or guidance, including signposting to relevant mental and medical health services.

The Home Office does not publish statistics of service users who refuse fluid or food in supported accommodation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-14/137911>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-14/137913>

Asylum: Military Bases

Wendy Chamberlain (Liberal Democrat) [136619] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 11 January 2021 to Question 130841, what progress she has made on timescales for the relocation of asylum seekers at the Penally Camp; and what assessment she has made of the safety of that camp.

Reply from Chris Philp: The current global pandemic has presented us with significant challenges when it comes to the provision of asylum accommodation, including sourcing sufficient suitable accommodation to meet demand.

The use of hotels and wider government facilities are a short-term measure and we are working to move people to longer-term dispersal accommodation as soon as it becomes available.

Following a review of available government property, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) agreed to temporarily hand over two of their sites: the Penally Training Camp in Pembrokeshire and the Napier Barracks in Kent. These sites were immediately available to be used to house asylum seekers and are safe, secure, habitable, fit for purpose and correctly equipped in line with existing contractual requirements for asylum accommodation.

The Home Office have undertaken a number of assessments at the Penally Camp; Equality Impact, Fire, Evacuation controls/plans and Infection controls – including for Covid 19. A rapid review of asylum accommodation was undertaken with the assistance of Human Applications who conducted a 'deep dive' on our approach to initial accommodation during the coronavirus pandemic. We continue to work

closely with the Welsh Health leads and if necessary, conduct an internal evaluation of asylum support provision in Penally with any recommendations being actioned accordingly.

It remains our intention to move all individuals in contingency accommodation into suitable dispersed accommodation as soon as reasonably practical, we are hoping to commence moves for small numbers of people out from week commencing 18th January, however our immediate priority is to ensure that we continue to meet our legal duty to house destitute asylum seekers and ensure their safety and wellbeing.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-12/136619>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-16/130841>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Military Bases

Wendy Chamberlain (Liberal Democrat) [138517] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she has taken to ensure that asylum seekers at Penally Camp can register and receive primary care and GP services free of charge; and whether those arrangements will continue once a decision has been made on their claim.

Wendy Chamberlain (Liberal Democrat) [138518] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she has taken to ensure that the asylum seekers at Penally Camp can receive mental health and specialist support from a GP, accompanied by a professional interpreter; and whether those arrangements are...

Reply from Chris Philp: Refugees, asylum seekers and refused asylum seekers can register for and receive primary care free of charge in the same way as any other patient in any nation of the UK.

At Penally Training camp the Home Office have worked closely with the Local Health Board in Pembrokeshire to ensure that arrangements are in place for asylum seekers to access health care as required.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-15/138517>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-15/138518>

The following four questions all received the same answer

Asylum: Napier Barracks

Apsana Begum (Labour) [139155] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many adults are held at Napier Barracks in Folkestone.

Apsana Begum (Labour) [139156] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many detainees at Napier Barracks in Folkestone are on hunger strike.

Apsana Begum (Labour) [139157] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people detained at Napier Barracks in Folkestone have received positive covid-19 tests in the last 14 days; and what steps she is taking to prevent the transmission of covid-19 amongst adults held at Napier Barracks.

Apsana Begum (Labour) [139158] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many suicide attempts there have been amongst detainees at Napier Barracks in Folkestone in the last 14 days.

Reply from Chris Philp: There are currently 381 asylum seekers accommodated at Napier Barracks, Kent. Those we are accommodating are not detained and are free to come and go.

We take the welfare of those in our care seriously and we have robust measures in place to deal with any cases of Covid-19. Our accommodation provider Clearsprings have an outbreak management plan which is enacted if there are positive Covid-19 tests and the Home Office is following national guidance in

relation to testing.

Despite our best efforts a number of those accommodated at the site have tested positive for coronavirus and are self-isolating.

Asylum seekers at the barracks must self-isolate if they test positive or have been exposed to someone who has. We are working closely with the local health authority and Public Health England and additional support staff, as well as on site medical staff, are there to ensure that all individuals who have to self-isolate can do so and are following all medical advice.

Regular welfare checks are conducted on service users, including behavioural monitoring of those who show signs of vulnerability, and where appropriate safeguarding referrals are made to relevant bodies.

We work closely with our accommodation providers to ensure that all asylum seekers in supported accommodation are aware of, and have access to, Migrant Help's helpline. This service is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, if service users need help, advice or guidance, including signposting to relevant mental and medical health services.

The Home Office does not publish statistics of service users who refuse food or have attempted suicide in supported accommodation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-18/139155>

abd

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-18/139156>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-18/139157>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-18/139158>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Housing

Margaret Ferrier (Independent) [134467] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has made an assessment of potential accommodation alternatives to housing asylum seekers in former army barracks.

Margaret Ferrier (Independent) [134468] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has made an assessment of the potential health and safety risks to asylum seekers housed in former army barracks.

Reply from Chris Philp: Increased asylum intake, alongside measures taken to deal with the coronavirus pandemic, has meant that the Home Office has had to deal with growing demand for asylum support and accommodation services.

In recent months we have faced additional challenges which have required us in some instances to use contingency accommodation, including hotels, to fulfil or statutory obligations to house destitute asylum seekers whilst their claims are examined.

In order to reduce the use of such contingency accommodation we have been working closely with local authorities and devolved administrations to identify opportunities to increase the amount of dispersal accommodation available and to assist those that are no longer eligible for asylum support to 'move-on' from asylum accommodation. This has been handled through a calm, considered and phased approach.

Following a review of available government property, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) agreed to temporarily hand over two of their sites: the Penally Training Camp in Pembrokeshire and the Napier Barracks in Kent.

These sites were immediately available to be used to house asylum seekers and are safe, secure, habitable, fit for purpose and correctly equipped in line with existing contractual requirements for asylum accommodation.

An independent rapid review was also recently conducted to assure ourselves of the health and safety of asylum seekers during the COVID-19 pandemic, the recommendations from which are being reviewed and will be shared in due course. We will also hold round tables with stakeholders to discuss the recommendations, actions taken and proposed next steps.

It remains our intention to move all individuals in contingency accommodation into suitable dispersed accommodation as soon as reasonably practical, however our immediate priority is to ensure that we continue to meet our legal duty to house destitute asylum seekers and ensure their safety and wellbeing.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-08/134467>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-08/134468>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Housing

Helen Hayes (Labour) [137249] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 11 January 2020 to Question 131351 on Asylum: Greater London, what assessment she has made of trends in the number of deaths in asylum accommodation.

Asylum: Coronavirus

Helen Hayes (Labour) [137250] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 11 January 2021 to Question 131351 on Asylum: Greater London, what monitoring her Department is undertaking of the (a) health and (b) mortality of residents in asylum accommodation during the covid-19 outbreak.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office, through its undertaking its statutory duties towards asylum seekers and working with other agencies and organisations, takes a great many steps to safeguard the health, safety and wellbeing of those whom we support. In the event of the death of a service user we work with other agencies to establish the cause of death.

At present there are just over 60000 people in asylum accommodation, with 36 fatalities recorded in 2020. This is in line with or lower than the number of deaths that would be expected given the size of this cohort, based on mortality statistics for the wider UK population of broadly this age profile.

In the significant majority of cases, deaths are as a result of natural causes (e.g. a long-term illness) or as an unintended consequence of their own action (e.g. an accidental drug overdose).

We continue to work closely with a range of organisations to provide support to those that need it and, where necessary, will fully cooperate in any investigation into the cause of an individual's death.

Our providers continue to respond to the needs of at-risk service users to ensure their safety and wellbeing, including ensuring those in need are able to access appropriate medical treatment or wider NHS healthcare services.

Providers will notify the Home Office where safeguarding concerns are identified so that appropriate measures can be put in place to support the individual concerned.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-13/137249>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-13/137250>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-17/131351>

Asylum: Housing

Shabana Mahmood (Labour) [134400] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people residing in asylum accommodation were (a) children and

(b) vulnerable on medical grounds in each of the last three years.

Reply from Chris Philp: 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>

Data is published on a quarterly basis, with the latest information published 26 November 2020. The next quarterly figures are due to be released in February 2021.

The Home Office does not publish a breakdown of these statistics which disaggregates the number of children and vulnerable people based on medical grounds. These figures are not available in a reportable format and to provide the information could only be done at disproportionate cost.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-08/134400>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Detention Centres: Coronavirus

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [135963] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the potential level of risk of continuing to operate immigration removal centres during the covid-19 outbreak, particularly in light of new strains of that virus; and if she will make a statement.

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [135964] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will publish regular data on rates of covid-19 among people in immigration removal centres comparable to the Ministry of Justice's monthly data publication on coronavirus cases and deaths in prisons.

Reply from Chris Philp: The safety and health of people in the detention estate is of the utmost importance. The Home Office has robust contingency plans in place and continues to follow national guidance issued by Public Health England (PHE), Health Protection Scotland and the National Health Service (NHS).

All immigration removal centres (IRCs) have communicable disease contingency plans, based on PHE advice, and dedicated health facilities run by doctors and nurses which are managed by the NHS or appropriate providers. Detained individuals arriving at IRCs are medically assessed by a nurse within two hours of their arrival, are offered an appointment with a doctor within 24 hours and have access to medical assistance throughout their detention. In addition, we are in the process of rolling out COVID 19 testing on reception in all IRCs.

Everyone entering an IRC spends a minimum of 14 days on a 'reverse cohorting' unit; this is dedicated accommodation designed to prevent an asymptomatic individual transmitting the virus to the wider centre population. Reverse cohorting is supported by further measures such as single occupancy rooms in all IRCs and the cessation of social visits. Protective shielding is available to those who are deemed medically high or very high risk. In addition, all staff and visitors to IRCs and short term holding facilities are required to wear a face mask, at all times, when undertaking direct contact duties with those detained and when in the main centre or holding facility.

The Home Office published statistics relating to COVID-19 and the immigration system on Gov.uk on 28 May, and the latest Immigration Statistics publication includes the numbers of individuals detained under immigration powers in prisons. Further information about the operational response to COVID-19 in immigration detention is available on Gov.uk and has been updated throughout the outbreak. This has been supplemented by the publication of guidance associated with COVID-19 and immigration detention on 30 November. We have no current plans

to publish further data on COVID-19.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-11/135963>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-11/135964>

The statistics referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/887808/statistics-relating-to-covid-19-and-the-immigration-system-may-2020.pdf

The guidance referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/940347/detention-and-escorting-services-guidance-during-covid-19-v4.0.pdf

The following two questions both received the same answer

Detention Centres: Hunger Strikes

Caroline Nokes (Conservative) [137910] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people in immigration removal centres are on hunger strike as of 14 January 2021.

Caroline Nokes (Conservative) [137912] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people in immigration removal centres have refused fluid and food for 24 hours or more in the last 12 months.

Reply from Chris Philp: We take the welfare and safety of persons detained in our care very seriously and their health is monitored closely at all times and particularly during periods where they appear to be or are not consuming food and or fluid. Persons detained who appear to be or are not consuming food and or fluid are managed in line with published guidance, Detention Services Order (DSO) 3/2017, 'Care and Management of Detainees Refusing Food and Fluid'.

It is not uncommon for persons detained to refuse set meals at times of fasting, or for religious or dietary reasons. Individuals may also prefer to purchase their own food and drink from the local shop within an Immigration Removal Centre.

As there may be many reasons why an individual is not eating set meals, the Home Office does not publish data on the number of individuals who are being managed in line with the DSO.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-14/137910>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-14/137912>

The guidance referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/892072/DSO_03_2017-management-of-detainees-refusing-food- fluid.pdf

Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre

Mohammad Yasin (Labour) [138006] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 14 January 2021 to Question 136030, whether a person being initially processed at Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal centre will be moved to the new, temporary accommodation for asylum seekers on the adjacent site.

Reply from Chris Philp: All service users that might be accommodated in initial accommodation at Yarl's Wood will have already completed the required period of self-isolation at another location before being transferred there.

Therefore, asylum seekers will not transfer directly from Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre to the initial accommodation on the adjacent site.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-14/138006>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-11/136030>

Deportation: Coronavirus

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [135962] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the potential public health risks of continuing with enforced removals while the UK is subject to covid-19 restrictions, particularly in light of new strains of that virus; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Chris Philp: We remain committed to removing foreign national offenders or those who violate our immigration rules and we have shown that we can continue to do this safely.

Immigration Enforcement are following the latest guidance from Public Health England. On all removal flights public health guidance is adhered to, those on flights are seen by a healthcare professional before they are returned and anyone who is exhibiting symptoms would be removed from the flight and placed into medical isolation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-11/135962>

Deportation: Offenders

John Hayes (Conservative) [136440] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many foreign criminals have been deported in each of the last ten years; and whether it is her policy to increase the number of deportations.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office publishes data on Returns in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on the number of Foreign National Offenders (FNOs) returned from the UK are published in tables Ret_02 and Ret_02q of the Returns '[summary tables](#)'. The latest data on returns relates to the year ending June 2020.

Deportation is used, where appropriate, against foreign national criminals and those whose deportation is otherwise considered to be conducive to the public good. Our priority will always be to keep the British public safe and the Government is clear that foreign nationals who abuse our hospitality by committing crimes should be in no doubt of our determination to deport them. Any foreign national who is convicted of a crime and given a prison sentence is considered for deportation at the earliest opportunity.

Every week we remove foreign criminals who have no right to be here from the UK to different countries. During the Covid-19 pandemic, we have continued to return and deport foreign national offenders and other immigration offenders where flight routes have been available to us, both on scheduled flights and charter flights.

Deportations of foreign national offenders have been negatively impacted by Covid, and we intend to resume historic levels as quickly as possible. It is our intention to deport all foreign criminals as required to by the 2007 Borders Act where we lawfully can, which would imply a further substantial increase in numbers.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-12/136440>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Immigration

Lord Horam (Conservative) [HL11741] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the introduction of the points-based immigration system, what they estimate net migration levels in the UK will be in (1) 2021, (2) 2022, (3) 2023, (4) 2024, and (5) 2025.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office does not forecast future levels of net migration due to the considerable uncertainties involved, including movements by those such as British Citizens returning or migrating from the UK, which are not affected by UK immigration controls.

The estimated impact on migration volumes of the recent changes to the

immigration rules for students and skilled workers can be found in the associated published impact assessments, accessed through:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-documents-for-skilled-worker-immigration-rules>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statement-of-changes-to-the-immigration-rules-hc-707-10-september-2020>

[Statement of Changes - Immigration Rules](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-05/hl11741>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration

Lord Green of Deddington (Crossbench) [HL11926] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many non-visa nationals whose permission to be in the UK expired, and for whom there was no record of departure, there were in each of the past five years.

Lord Green of Deddington (Crossbench) [HL11927] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many visa nationals on (1) six-month visit visas, (2) long-term visit visas, and (3) long-term work, study or family visas, whose permission to be in the UK expired, and for whom there was no record of departure, there were in each of the past five years.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office publishes statistics relating to departures by visa holders as part of its annual Exit Checks report

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/fifth-report-on-statistics-relating-to-exit-checks>

The report includes the percentage of non-EEA visa holders whose leave expired with no initially identified departure in time, including both people for whom there was no record of departure and people with a confirmed late departure.

It is important to note individuals with no departure recorded were not necessarily non-compliant. There are known coverage gaps with the ISA system (most notably the Common Travel Area) which means individuals may have departed and not been recorded. In addition, information regarding a departure may have been received but not successfully matched against their arrival or visa by the system.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-08/hl11926>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-08/hl11927>

Right of Abode: Hong Kong

Lord Craig of Radley (Crossbench) [HL11870] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer from Baroness Williams of Trafford on 14 May 2020 (HL3768) and the letter sent by the Minister for Future Borders and Immigration on 9 June 2020 in the response to the letter from Lord Craig of Radley on 19 March 2020, whether they have made a decision on the requests of 64 Hong Kong Military Service Corps veterans for right of abode in the UK.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Under the British Nationality Selection Scheme, introduced in 1990 and run until 1 July 1997, a limited number of Hong Kong Military Service Corps personnel who were settled in Hong Kong could apply to register as British citizens.

We are giving careful consideration to representations made on behalf of those former Hong Kong Military Service Corps personnel who were unable to obtain citizenship through the selection scheme.

Hong Kong Military Service Corps personnel, who hold British National (Overseas) citizenship, may be eligible for the Hong Kong British National (Overseas) visa which opens on 31 January and provides a route to settlement in the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-07/hl11870>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-04-30/hl3768>

Visas: British National (Overseas)

The Lord Bishop of St Albans [HL11949] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made, if any, of the potential impact of the restrictions in place to address the COVID-19 pandemic on the processing of Hong Kong British National (Overseas) visa applications; and what steps they are taking to address any such impact.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Hong Kong BN(O) Visa route launches from 31 January 2021.

The majority of the case working for the BN(O) Visa route can be completed remotely. A limited number of case workers will need to attend a physical office location and will do so in accordance with Public Health England guidance on social distancing.

We are also working closely with the commercial partner operating our Visa Application Centre (VAC) in Hong Kong regarding overseas applicants should they need to attend an appointment. Social distancing and sanitisation protocols are in place which are aligned with local regulations, and currently the VAC is operating at normal capacity.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-08/hl11949>

Asylum: Children

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL11774] To ask Her Majesty's Government what support they provide to the children of asylum seekers who are expelled from the UK following imprisonment for a criminal offence.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office's immigration departments have a legal duty under section 55 of the 2009 Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act to have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the discharge of its functions.

Where the child of a foreign national offender is not being deported and remains with their other parent or guardian whose asylum claim in the UK is outstanding or being appealed, support may be provided under section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 in the provision of accommodation or cash subsistence in circumstances where the family would otherwise face destitution.

In the event that the asylum-seeking parent or guardian is appeal rights exhausted and their dependents are 18 or over, they may qualify for ongoing support under section 4 of the Act if they face a practical barrier to leaving the UK.

Where an asylum-seeking family have received refugee status, they would be eligible to apply for mainstream social security benefits and accommodation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-05/hl11774>

Asylum: Folkestone and Penally

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL12117] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 27 November 2020 (HL10838), what assessment they have made of protests by asylum seekers at the Napier Barracks on 12 January; and what plans they have to reassess their assessment that "the accommodation itself is entirely adequate for its purpose, with the same standards applied as for other asylum accommodation".

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government takes the wellbeing of asylum seekers extremely seriously. We provide asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute with safe, warm and secure accommodation, where they receive three meals a day, whilst their claims are being processed.

Those we are accommodating are not detained and are free to come and go. We

have a robust complaints process in place where those we support (or those representing them) can raise concerns through the 24/7 helpline operated by Migrant Help.

In response to the protests held at Napier, officials arranged a call with some of the residents to listen to their concerns. Reassurances were provided that moves out of the camp will shortly recommence, with vulnerability, time spent in the asylum process and overall length of stay in initial accommodation as a key considerations in this process. Weekly Home Office-led forums with residents will also be held going forward and surveys in relation to food and living standards at the site will be undertaken.

The Home Office will continue to review the operation of the site and will make any improvements necessary. We continue to work closely with our provider and partners to identify opportunities for improvement, as we do across our entire accommodation estate.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-13/hl12117>

The answer referred to above can be read at

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

UK Parliament Early Day Motions

Brendan O'Hara (SNP) [1377] Pride of Scotland Award for Community Heroes: Bute community and Syrian refugees – That this House congratulates the community of Bute on winning the TSB Community Heroes award at the Pride of Scotland awards 2020, for the support and kindness shown to Syrian refugees fleeing their war torn country and seeking to make a new life in Scotland; recognises that the people of Bute opened their hearts to the Syrian families, many of who were suffering from trauma and had to flee with little or no possessions, by providing them with both emotional and practical support throughout; acknowledges the vital role played by Argyll and Bute Council's Refugee Resettlement Group in coordinating an island wide, multi-agency response to integrate the Syrian families into the local community; recognises that many Syrian families are now happy and settled on the island with some running their own successful businesses, others finding employment in local industries and young people attending local schools before moving on to further and higher education; recognises that the people of Bute have led the way in demonstrating that people from different cultures living together serves only to enrich a community; and calls on the UK government to look to Bute as a positive, shining example of what can happen when a community comes together to provide refuge to people whose lives are in danger in their own country.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/57982>

Dawn Butler (Labour) [1372] UK citizenship for the Windrush generation – That this House deplores the Home Office's treatment of those of the Windrush Generation and their families; further notes that many residents through no fault of their own still await the restoration of citizenship; further notes that many are still waiting for compensation for the actions made by the Home Office such as the destruction of landing cards; further notes that due to these mistakes many of the Windrush Generation have been unfairly deported or detained, lost employment, denied access to the NHS and refused re-entry to the UK; and calls on the Government to immediately reinstate citizenship to all UK residents of the Windrush Generation, whilst their cases are ongoing, in order for them to access the basic fundamental services they had previously.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/57976>

Press Release

People urged to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/people-urged-to-apply-to-the-eu-settlement-scheme>

New Publications

Guidance on implementing overseas visitor charging regulations: Ways in which people can be lawfully resident in the UK

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/953144/lawfully_resident_document_January_2021.pdf

EU Settlement Scheme quarterly statistics, September 2020

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

2021 Windrush Day Grant Scheme

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2021-windrush-day-grant-scheme>

Windrush monument: selecting an artist

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/windrush-monument-selecting-an-artist>

News

Home Office criticised prosecutors for ‘applying the law’ in immigration cases, CPS chief says

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/priti-patel-immigration-cps-migrants-max-hill-b1791407.html>

UK asylum seekers told claims at risk if they ‘misbehave’

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/jan/23/uk-asylum-seekers-told-claims-at-risk-if-they-misbehave>

Two migrant boats intercepted in English Channel

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-55690983>

People smugglers jailed for total of 78 years over deaths of 39 Vietnamese migrants

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/essex-lorry-deaths-vietnam-migrants-jail-b1791171.html>

People-smuggling gang members jailed over Essex lorry deaths

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/jan/22/essex-lorry-deaths-two-ringleaders-jailed-total>

The Hong Kong migrants fleeing to start new lives in the UK

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-china-55357495>

Guidance unlawful in Shortage Occupation List by Home Office

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/guidance-unlawful-in-shortage-occupation-list-by-home-office-vfjw3cc8k>

Calls for Home Office to shut Kent barracks amid large coronavirus outbreak

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-kent-barracks-migrants-coronavirus-b1791626.html>

Home Office accused of 'callousness' after blaming asylum seekers for Covid outbreak in camp of hundreds

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-asylum-seekers-coronavirus-outbreak-napier-barracks-b1789937.html>

Asylum seekers plea for help as Covid sweeps Kent former army barracks

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jan/22/asylum-seekers-plea-for-help-as-covid-sweeps-kent-former-army-barracks>

'I'm scared I will die here': Hundreds of asylum-seekers locked in ex-military camp after Covid-19 outbreak

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-seekers-coronavirus-napier-barracks-b1788902.html>

Less than half of voters want immigration to UK to be reduced, polling shows

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/immigration-asylum-ipsos-home-office-b1790728.html>

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers Equality: Databases

Marsha De Cordova (Labour) [137306] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, with reference to her oral contribution of 13 January 2021, Official Report, on the launch of an equality data project which will look at the life paths of individuals across the UK and deliver hard data about the barriers that people face, what data types he plans to collate.

Reply from Kemi Badenoch: The Equality Data Programme will include aggregated, and individual-level, data across a range of themes. We will focus on the themes that matter to individuals' lives such as the economy, health, education, justice and living standards. We will consider data on a wide range of personal characteristics, including socioeconomic status and geography.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-13/137306>

The oral contribution referred to above was made by the Secretary of State for International Trade, and can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-01-13/debates/B840C3D4-797E-4F01-ADB0-D6A71D063973/EqualitiesPolicyEvidenceBase#contribution-1DC61E2C-5155-4785-9E54-16B45E326460>

Pay: Ethnic Groups

Caroline Lucas (Green) [136482] To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, when he will publish the Government's response to the consultation on ethnicity pay reporting, which closed on 11 January 2019; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Paul Scully: In 2018/19 the Government consulted on options for employer-level ethnicity pay reporting. Following the consultation, the Government met with businesses and representative organisations to understand the barriers to

reporting and explore what information could be published to allow for meaningful action to be taken. We also ran a voluntary methodology testing exercise with a broad range of businesses to better understand the complexities outlined in the consultation using real payroll data. The Government is continuing to analyse this data and will respond to the consultation as soon as we can.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-12/136482>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Employment: Young People

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL12012] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by ClearView Research Ltd Youth Employment 2030: Employment and prospects for young people in England post-COVID19, published on 17 December 2020; and what steps they are taking to support unemployed young people who are black, Asian or minority ethnic.

Reply from Baroness Stedman-Scott: As part of the Plan for Jobs, the department is providing a range of support for young people, in collaboration with the Department for Education, schools and other partners. This will mean whatever their needs young people can find the right support, education or training that will ultimately lead to sustained employment.

We have recognised the substantial risk to the long-term employment and earnings prospects of young people and are taking steps to help minimise the amount of time they spend out of work.

Our £30 billion Plan for Jobs has been designed to deliver targeted support to those most in need and continues to adapt to a changing labour market. We have a variety of support options for all our claimants including specific interventions aimed at young people.

The package includes Kickstart scheme, New Youth Offer, Expansion of the Work and Health Programme to offer new support to those who lost their job as a result of Covid-19, Flexible Support Fund, Expanding Sector Based Work Academy Programmes and Job Finding Support service.

Taken together, the package will ensure that we can get Britain back into work quickly. Every young person, whatever their background or the challenges they face, should have the chance to shape their own futures.

We recognise the particular challenges faced by young unemployed people who are black, Asian and minority ethnic. In addition to our national offer, Jobcentre Plus supports employment through place-based solutions that meet the needs of local communities.

Youth Hubs will provide vital links in the community helping to reach young people who need this support. Additionally, we have DWP Mentoring Circles, developed for twenty local authorities identified as having a high ethnic minority population and high gap between ethnic minority and white employment rate, following the publication of the first Race Disparity Audit in 2017, working in partnership with Business in the Community. They are delivered by leaders from the companies involved and they work with jobseekers to increase their confidence, motivation and job search skills.

The Government is also taking forward activity mitigating the findings of the Public Health England review into disparities in the risks and outcomes of COVID-19 published in June 2020 as well as working with the independent Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities that will make evidence-based recommendations to change lives for the better.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-11/hl12012>

The ClearView report referred to above can be read at <https://www.base-uk.org/sites/default/files/knowledgebase/YE2030-Report-Full-Version.pdf>

An updated version of the Race Disparity Audit referred to above can be read at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/686071/Revised_RDA_report_March_2018.pdf

The Public Health England report referred to above can be read at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/908434/Disparities_in_the_risk_and_outcomes_of_COVID_August_2020_update.pdf

The following three questions all received the same answer

Football: Ethnic Groups

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL11779] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to support the Football Association in the recruitment of BAME referees in grassroots football.

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL11780] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to introduce a racial diversity threshold for boardrooms of all football organisations.

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL11782] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the Football Association about increasing racial diversity amongst football managers.

Reply from Baroness Barran: The Government is in regular dialogue with the Football Association (FA) across a range of matters, including diversity. We welcomed the launch of the FA's 'Football Leadership Diversity Code' which is a step in the right direction to ensure English football better represents our modern and diverse society, on and off the pitch. The Code commits clubs to tackling inequality, including hiring targets, across senior leadership positions, broader team operations and coaching roles. The FA has also committed to following this with a version adapted for the National League System and grassroots clubs in Spring 2021.

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

The Government is also committed to working with all sports to ensure opportunities to progress are open to all, from athletes to administrators, to board members. As an example of this, in July 2020 Sport England and UK Sport announced a joint review of the Code for Sports Governance. The Code sets out the levels of transparency, accountability and financial integrity required from those who ask for government and National Lottery funding. It currently says that organisations must show a "strong and public commitment" to progressing ethnic diversity. However, it is right to review this to ensure that opportunities to progress are open to all. The Government will be working with UK Sport and Sport England to set new expectations and ensure the sport sector leads by example.

However, there is still progress to be made and the Government will continue to liaise closely with the football authorities on their efforts to improve diversity in the sport.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-05/hl11779>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-05/hl11780>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-05/hl11782>

Information about the Diversity Code referred to above can be read at

<https://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/inclusion-and-anti-discrimination/football-leadership-diversity-code>

Football: Ethnic Groups

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL11838] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the English Football League about the impact of the 'Rooney Rule' on the racial diversity of football managers.

Reply from Baroness Barran: The Government is in regular contact with the English Football League on a range of issues, including diversity.

Whilst the 'Rooney Rule' was not explicitly discussed, actions aimed at improving diversity, and their impact, were discussed in a roundtable with key football stakeholders led by Ministers in November 2020.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-06/hl11838>

New Publication

Fol release: Percentage of staff identifying as BAME (Black Asian and minority ethnic)

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/foi-202000113157/>

News

Black, Asian and minority-ethnic UK workers hit worst by Covid job cuts

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2021/jan/19/black-and-minority-ethnic-uk-workers-hit-worst-by-covid-job-cuts>

Only 1% of UK university professors are black

<https://www.bbc.com/news/education-55723120>

'Black and Asian pupils gravitated towards me': why representation in the classroom matters

<https://www.theguardian.com/100-teachers/2021/jan/22/black-and-asian-pupils-gravitated-towards-me-why-representation-in-the-classroom-matters>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Debate

Anti-Semitism: University Campus Incidents

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-01-21/debates/C3E8CDFD-8212-4EFC-8DE4-43B2B0F8C2C8/Anti-SemitismUniversityCampusIncidents>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Metropolitan Police: Racial Discrimination

Daisy Cooper (Liberal Democrat) [136621] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to investigate allegations of institutional racism in the Metropolitan police.

Reply from Kit Malthouse: Racism, in any form, is abhorrent and has no place in our society.

The police's ability to fulfil their duties is dependent on their ability to secure and

maintain public confidence and public support for their actions, as part of the model of policing by consent.

Police forces which reflect the communities they serve are crucial to maintaining public trust, in a modern, diverse society. The police have worked hard to improve equality and diversity - the workforce is now more diverse than it ever has been, but there is no time for complacency. The Government, with senior police leaders, has stressed the need to increase diversity as part of the drive to recruit 20,000 officers. The Government will continue to work with the service to ensure that the right strategies are in place to recruit and retain officers, including those of a BAME background, as well ensuring that position action measures are being used.

The Government has put in place a number of measures to ensure that policing is subject to appropriate levels of transparency and accountability - including regular inspection on the way forces engage with communities, frequent publication of data on use of police powers and strengthening the police complaints and discipline systems.

Accountability is crucial to public confidence in the police. The Government overhauled the police complaints and discipline systems in February 2020, which included greater powers for the police "watchdog", the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) to investigate allegations against the police of its own initiative and without a referral from the police. All allegations of behaviour by the police which is aggravated by discrimination must, by law, be referred to the IOPC under its mandatory referral criteria.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-12/136621>

News

Racism in education: How truth pages helped students fight back

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-55655640>

York University academics see the evil of racism in three wise monkeys

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/york-university-academics-see-the-evil-of-racism-in-three-wise-monkeys-5khx0jwc7>

Keren David: 'Antisemitism never goes away, it just mutates'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/keren-david-antisemitism-never-goes-away-it-just-mutates-dtr3h602l>

TOP

Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Release

Citizens' Panel convened to discuss Scotland Covid-19 restrictions and strategy

<https://www.parliament.scot/newsandmediacentre/116952.aspx>

New Publication

Recorded Crime in Scotland: December 2020

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/recorded-crime-scotland-december-2020/>

TOP

Health Information: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

NHS

NHS Inform (Scotland)

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

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

Protect-Scot contact tracing app

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

Healthcare for overseas visitors

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

Healthcare for refugees and asylum seekers

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

NHS Near Me (Scotland)

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

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

NHS (England and Wales)

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

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Covid-19: Wedding Ceremonies

S5W-34231 Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat): To ask the Scottish Government for what reason the number of people who can attend a wedding ceremony or reception is different depending on the level of restrictions for the area in which they take place, in light of people being able to travel from areas subject to different levels of restrictions to attend such events.

Reply from Ash Denham: All of Scotland is currently at level 3 or level 4. At level 3, marriage ceremonies can take place with up to 20 people attending. At level 4, marriage ceremonies can take place, but under

[The Health Protection \(Coronavirus\) \(Restrictions and Requirements\) \(Local Levels\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2020](#)

no more than 5 people may attend (the couple, their celebrant or registrar and the two witnesses), or no more than 6 if an interpreter is required.

We have published guidance on [marriage ceremonies and civil partnership registrations](#)

At level 3, wedding receptions can take place with up to 20 people attending, whereas wedding receptions cannot take place at level 4. There are restrictions on travel. At level 3, one of the examples of a reasonable excuse for entering or leaving a level 3 area is to attend a gathering which relates to a marriage ceremony or civil partnership registration:

[The Health Protection \(Coronavirus\) \(Restrictions and Requirements\) \(Local Levels\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2020](#)

This is designed to cover both the marriage ceremony or civil partnership registration and any associated reception.

One of the examples of a reasonable excuse for entering a level 4 area from another part of Scotland is to attend a solemnisation of a marriage or registration of a civil partnership:

[The Health Protection \(Coronavirus\) \(Restrictions and Requirements\) \(Local Levels\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2020](#)

This just covers the marriage ceremony or civil partnership registration and does not cover receptions.

One of the examples of a reasonable excuse for leaving home when you live in a Level 4 area is to attend a marriage ceremony or civil partnership registration. This applies only where the person travelling is in relation to that marriage ceremony or civil partnership registration a party, a witness, the religious or belief celebrant solemnising the marriage or registering the civil partnership, or a required interpreter.

In relation to travel to and into Scotland from certain other parts of the common travel area, an example of a reasonable excuse is to attend a marriage ceremony or civil partnership registration. Again, this is only where the person travelling is, in relation to that marriage ceremony or civil partnership registration, a party, a witness, the religious or belief celebrant solemnising the marriage or registering the civil partnership, or a required interpreter. Clearly, receptions are not taking place in level 4 in Scotland. Any person planning to travel to Scotland to attend a wedding should check restrictions on travel in place in the area where they live.

If the member has any specific concerns, he is welcome to write to me so I can consider any detailed points.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-34231>

Covid-19: Wedding Ceremonies

S5W-34232 Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat): To ask the Scottish Government what its reasons are for children under 12 being included in the numbers allowed to attend wedding ceremonies but not included in any other setting.

Reply from Ash Denham: The restrictions on gatherings are a consequence of the current pandemic and are designed to reduce the transmission of the virus. Marriage ceremonies are an exception to the general rules on social gatherings and the number of people who can attend a marriage is higher than the number of people who are generally allowed to meet in one place. This reflects the importance of marriage to society.

All of Scotland is currently at either level 3 or 4 of the Strategic Framework. At level 4, under the Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions and Requirements) (Local Levels) (Scotland) Regulations 2020, only 5 people may attend a marriage ceremony (the couple, the celebrant or registrar, and two witnesses) or, where an interpreter is required, 6 people may attend.

At level 3, no more than 20 people should attend a marriage ceremony. However, children are at present included in the limit of 20 people. If we were to exclude children from this limit, children from several different households could attend, significantly increasing the number of people attending. This could increase the risk of transmission of the virus at a time when it is more important than ever before to limit transmission as much as possible.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-34232>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Ethnic Groups: Coronavirus

Marsha De Cordova (Labour) [138511] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, pursuant to the oral contribution of the Minister for Equalities of 13 January 2021, Official Report, column 276, where in her first report on the disproportionate impact of covid-19 on ethnic minority groups published in October 2020 it concludes that there is no evidence suggesting that ethnicity itself is a risk factor.

Reply from Kemi Badenoch: My first report to the Prime Minister and Health Secretary of 22 October summarised the current evidence which shows that a range of socioeconomic and geographical factors such as occupational exposure, population density and household composition, coupled with pre-existing health conditions, contribute to the higher infection and mortality rates for ethnic minority groups. This is stated in the executive summary of my report and in paragraph 20. As also stated in my report, a small part of the excess risk remains unexplained for some groups, although there is no evidence thus far suggesting that ethnicity on its own is a risk factor. The Race Disparity Unit has been conducting further analysis of risk factors, which I will summarise in my second quarterly report in the coming weeks.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-15/138511>

The oral contribution referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-01-13/debates/C2ECE4A2-B54B-4B14-912E-A74D70B768B6/Covid-19BAMECommunities>

The report referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/941554/First_Covid_Disparities_report_to_PM_Health_Secretary_Final_22-10-20_-_Updated_December_2020.pdf

Scottish Government Press Releases

Vaccination programme update

<https://www.gov.scot/news/vaccination-programme-update/>

Vaccination information campaign

<https://www.gov.scot/news/vaccination-information-campaign/>

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/>

COVID-19: Stay at Home Guidance

<https://tinyurl.com/y3w4hzbF>

Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's statement - 22 January 2021

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-statement-22-january-2021/>

Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's statement 20 January 2021
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-statement-20-january-2021/>

Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's statement - 19 January 2021
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/20210119fm-chamber-rmrks/>

Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's statement - 18 January 2021
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-statement-18-january-2021/>

UK Government Press Releases

Armed Forces to set up vaccine sites in Scotland
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/armed-forces-to-set-up-vaccine-sites-in-scotland>

Government Chief Scientific Adviser, Sir Patrick Vallance on the new variant of COVID-19 in the UK
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-chief-scientific-adviser-sir-patrick-vallance-on-the-new-variant-of-covid-19-in-the-uk>

Deputy Chief Medical Officer Jonathan Van-Tam opinion piece in The Sunday Telegraph
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/deputy-chief-medical-officer-jonathan-van-tam-opinion-piece-in-the-sunday-telegraph>

British public urged to play their part in historic vaccine roll out
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/british-public-urged-to-play-their-part-in-historic-vaccine-roll-out>

More than 4 million people receive first dose of COVID-19 vaccine in UK
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-than-4-million-people-receive-first-dose-of-covid-19-vaccine-in-uk>

COVID-19 vaccines rolled out to people aged 70 years and over from today
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-vaccines-rolled-out-to-people-aged-70-years-and-over-from-today>

UK Government Publications

The R number and growth rate in the UK
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-r-number-in-the-uk>

Prime Minister's statement on coronavirus (COVID-19): 22 January 2021
<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-ministers-statement-on-coronavirus-covid-19-22-january-2021>

Other Organisations

Church of Scotland

Scottish Government sends message to churches

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2021/scottish-government-sends-message-to-churches>

News

Scots are being denied the human right to worship

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/scots-are-being-denied-the-human-right-to-worship-8fvmsvzh5>

TOP

Other News

Muslim students still waiting for government funding plan

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/education-55772773>

It's time for our children to learn the truth about Scotland's role in slave trade

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/19016880.time-children-learn-truth-scotlands-role-slave-trade/>

TOP

Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Children (Scotland) Bill

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

** Domestic Abuse (Protection) (Scotland) Bill

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

Stage 1 Report, Justice Committee

<https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdneq.azureedge.net/published/J/2021/1/21/6d33a751-fbda-41b4-a3b6-c684349ffb1c/JS0521R01.pdf>

** Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill

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

Proposed amendments

<https://beta.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/current-bills/hate-crime-and-public-order-scotland-bill/stage-2/daily-list-of-amendments-19-january-2021.pdf>

and

<https://beta.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/current-bills/hate-crime-and-public-order-scotland-bill/stage-2/daily-list-of-amendments-22-january-2021.pdf>

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

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

UK Parliament

Asylum Seekers (Accommodation Eviction Procedures) Bill

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

Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) Bill

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

Asylum Support (Prescribed Period) Bill

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

European Citizens' Rights Bill

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

Illegal Immigration (Offences) Bill

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

Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill

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

Immigration (Health and Social Care Staff)

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

Marriage (Approved Organisations) Bill

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

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

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

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (Legal Advice and Appeals) Bill

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

TOP

Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** Human Rights Act Review** (closing date 3 March 2021)

<https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/93/human-rights-joint-committee/news/138635/call-for-evidence-the-governments-independent-human-rights-act-review/>

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/>

**** Racial inequality in health and social care workplaces** (closing date not stated)

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/inquiries-and-investigations/inquiry-racial-inequality-health-and-social-care-workplaces>

**** Black Lives in Scotland** (closing date not stated)
<https://blacklivesinscotland.typeform.com/to/YFrnnHSC>

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>

[TOP](#)

Job Opportunities

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

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

[TOP](#)

Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

Grants online: Coronavirus

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

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/>

[TOP](#)

**** this week!**

Organising security for your place of worship

25 January 2021 (online, 7.00)

23 February 2021 (online, 7.00)

Community Security Trust webinar about security and risk management, and how to develop a security plan. The webinar will be of interest to any member of a community that feels vulnerable to violent extremism and hate crime. This will include people who regularly attend a place of worship, and in particular community leaders, managers of places of worship and people who wish to become involved in making their community and place of worship as safe as possible. For information about the 25 January webinar see <https://tinyurl.com/yx8qw3y8> and for 23 February see <https://tinyurl.com/yxdc7kwg>

**** this week!**

Security – why? A brief history of terrorism

28 January 2021 (online, 7.00)

Community Security Trust webinar about the evolution of terrorism, recent and current threats and how SAFE can put you on the path to improved security. The webinar will be of interest to any member of a community that feels vulnerable to violent extremism and hate crime. This will include people who regularly attend a place of worship, and in particular community leaders, managers of places of worship and people who wish to become involved in making their community and place of worship as safe as possible. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yy55pasq>

Past terror attacks – lessons learned

2 February 2021 (online, 7.00)

Community Security Trust webinar about the phases of an attack and how we can learn from past incidents to foil future attacks. The webinar will be of interest to any member of a community that feels vulnerable to violent extremism and hate crime. This will include people who regularly attend a place of worship, and in particular community leaders, managers of places of worship and people who wish to become involved in making their community and place of worship as safe as possible. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yyo6wdtr>

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/>

Refugee Week Slow Conference

4 February to 11 March 2021 (online)

A series of free online workshops exploring arts and culture for change, and to gain new skills, grow your networks, and reflect on work and practice, in preparation for Refugee Week 2021. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y6ao5ufa>

Hate crime and your community

8 February 2021 (online, 7.00)

Community Security Trust webinar about How to deal with racial and religious hatred – especially in the digital age. The webinar will be of interest to any member of a community

that feels vulnerable to violent extremism and hate crime. This will include people who regularly attend a place of worship, and in particular community leaders, managers of places of worship and people who wish to become involved in making their community and place of worship as safe as possible. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y6p95oal>

Basic security for your place of worship

11 February 2021 (online, 7.00)

Community Security Trust introduction to security for places of worship and faith communities. The webinar will be of interest to any member of a community that feels vulnerable to violent extremism and hate crime. This will include people who regularly attend a place of worship, and in particular community leaders, managers of places of worship and people who wish to become involved in making their community and place of worship as safe as possible. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y3u2jzws>

Online Security

17 February 2021 (online, 7.00)

Community Security Trust webinar on how to protect yourself and your community from online threats. The webinar will be of interest to any member of a community that feels vulnerable to violent extremism and hate crime. This will include people who regularly attend a place of worship, and in particular community leaders, managers of places of worship and people who wish to become involved in making their community and place of worship as safe as possible. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y4qdpm9y>

Black and Minority Ethnic Women's Experiences of Domestic Abuse

26 February 2021 (online, 10.00–12.30)

Scottish Women's Aid webinar to raise awareness and broaden understanding of the varied issues for black and minority ethnic women and their children experiencing domestic abuse, forced marriage and other types of gender based violence. For information see <https://womensaid.scot/learning-development/>

Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals

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/>

Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

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/>

TOP

Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TOP

SCoJeC
Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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

BEMIS

Empowering Scotland's Ethnic and
Cultural Minority Communities

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/>



gov.scot

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/>

The copyright of each article belongs to the publisher on whose website it appears, and it may only be copied or reproduced in accordance with the relevant terms and conditions. Full details of these, and the publisher's contact information, are available on each website.