



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

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

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## Immigration and Asylum

### Scottish Parliament Written Answer

#### COVID-19 vaccine: Essential Information

**Jackie Baillie (Labour)** [S5W-35059] To ask the Scottish Government what action is being taken to communicate essential information about the COVID-19 vaccine to people with no recourse to public funds.

**Reply from Mairi Gougeon:** The Scottish Government has been very clear from day one that the pace and rollout of our national vaccine programme is key to tackling the pandemic and we are determined to reach as much of the population, and in order of vulnerability based on clinical advice, as fast as the vaccine supply allows us. The health of every person living in Scotland is important which is why the Scottish Government is making proactive policy decisions to make this

programme as inclusive and accessible as possible, given the current constraints of supply and social distancing.

The Scottish Government and Public Health Scotland are actively engaging with third sector organisations, such as BEMIS and Scottish Refugee Council, to reach people with no recourse to public funds (NRPF), including both new entrants into Scotland and people who have lived and worked in the UK for many years.

The Scottish Government has undertaken a wide range of campaigns in print, online and across media, and in various locations, to try to reach everyone in Scotland and inform them of the vaccination campaign. As part of this, the vaccination work builds on the other coronavirus messaging aimed at these individuals, which has included highlighting the self-isolation funding available to eligible individuals with NRPF.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-35059>

## UK Parliament Debate

### **Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 (Juxtaposed Controls) (Amendment) Order 2021**

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-03-02/debates/4FCB501A-A2B3-458C-9AD6-6F7B7AC40D12/NationalityImmigrationAndAsylumAct2002\(JuxtaposedControls\)\(Amendment\)Order2021](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-03-02/debates/4FCB501A-A2B3-458C-9AD6-6F7B7AC40D12/NationalityImmigrationAndAsylumAct2002(JuxtaposedControls)(Amendment)Order2021)

## UK Parliament, Ministerial Statement

### **Changes in Immigration Rules**

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Kevin Foster)** [HCWS822] ... We have made a change to the immigration rules which will open the new graduate route to enable international students to remain in the UK to work, or look for work, for two years (three years for doctoral students) after they have completed their studies. The route will open on 1 July 2021. All international students who have successfully completed a degree (or other qualifying course) at undergraduate level or above at a higher education provider with a track record of compliance, and who have valid student (or tier 4) permission, will be able to apply. The doctorate extension scheme (DES) will close when the graduate route opens. The introduction of this route, which was announced in September 2019, will significantly improve the UK's offer to international students.

We are making changes to accommodate the launch of the new graduate route. The first change is to expand the definition of a new entrant to include those switching from the graduate route. Time spent in the graduate route will count towards the maximum period of four years for which a person can be considered a new entrant. We are also making a change so those previously on the student or graduate routes, who make a short visit to the UK, do not disqualify themselves from being considered a new entrant.

We are also giving effect to some of the recommendations made by the Migration Advisory Committee in its review of the shortage occupation list (SOL) in September 2020. We are adding eight occupations in the health and care sector as well as modern language teachers to the UK-wide SOL. We are removing chefs from the SOL, although they will continue to be eligible for the skilled worker route due to the expanded skills threshold.

In addition, we are accepting the recommendation to add deck hands on large fishing vessels and vent chicken sexers, where those occupations meet experience requirements, to the list of occupations which are eligible for the skilled worker route.

We are updating the salary thresholds to include a minimum hourly rate to safeguard against employers who may require employees to work longer hours to make up for the lower rates of pay. We are including a transitional arrangement for those already on the skilled worker route in a job paying less than the minimum (£10.10 per hour) to avoid anyone losing their job as a result of the change.

We are making a change to prevent employers from reducing their skilled worker salaries below the level of tradeable points which have been assessed and awarded by the Home Office. If a sponsor wishes to reduce a salary based on a different set of tradeable points, a new application will be required. This ensures the Home Office has assessed and confirmed that the skilled worker continues to meet the requirement of the route.

We are expanding the academic technology approval scheme to include those coming to the UK under a sponsored work route to work in an occupation which includes postgraduate research in an academic environment, in certain sensitive subjects where an individual's knowledge could be used in programmes to develop advanced conventional weapon technology, weapons of mass destruction (WMD), or their means of delivery. This change is designed to protect UK research from exploitation and from inadvertently supporting the proliferation of WMD or advanced conventional weapon technologies.

Some adjustments are being made to the EU settlement scheme (EUSS) and the EUSS family permit. These will ensure their continued operability and the full implementation of the citizens' rights agreements beyond the 30 June 2021 deadline for applications to the EUSS by those EEA citizens and their family members resident in the UK by the end of the transition period. By 31 January 2021, more than 5 million applications to the EUSS had been received and more than 4.5 million grants of status had been issued.

We are making changes to the global talent route to enable applicants who have reached the pinnacle of their careers to bypass the endorsement requirement and instead qualify if they have received a prestigious prize. An initial list of prizes have been identified and agreed by the endorsing bodies for the route based on their expert opinion and represent the leading awards in their respective fields.

Applicants meeting this requirement will not be required to apply for endorsement, which should expedite the application process. In all other aspects, the requirements and conditions applying to individuals relying on a prestigious prize will be consistent with those who qualify using an exceptional talent endorsement, including having a three year qualifying period for settlement and identical conditions applied to their permission.

There are currently two separate schemes to assist current and former locally employed staff (LES) in Afghanistan: the ex-gratia scheme (EGS) and the intimidation policy. The existing intimidation policy is available to any current or former Afghan LES who have been employed directly by the UK Government in Afghanistan since 2001, from the first day of their employment, regardless of their role, job or length of service. This is being replaced with the Afghan relocation and assistance policy (ARAP) for current and former Afghan LES to reflect the changing security situation in Afghanistan and the risk faced by current and former LES there. The EGS will continue to operate without change until the closing date of 30 November 2022 already set out in the immigration rules.

The ARAP moves away from the present policy model which is based on the investigation of alleged cases of intimidation and requires discrete evidence, and into an assessment-oriented approach. This will be grounded in a recognition that the situation in Afghanistan has evolved and poses a latent threat to many current and former LES in particular roles. Other assistance, e.g. internal moves in-country and bespoke security advice, will still be available where appropriate and reflects that not all LES are able or willing to relocate.

An amendment is being made to clarify the grounds for refusal policy intention that permission may only be refused or cancelled on the basis of rough sleeping where the person has repeatedly refused offers of support and engaged in persistent antisocial behaviour.

Finally, a change is being made to Appendix Hong Kong British national (Overseas) which will allow those on the British national (Overseas) route to apply to vary their conditions to have their no recourse to public funds condition lifted where they are able to demonstrate they are destitute or at imminent risk of destitution.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-03-04/debates/21030423000011/ChangesInImmigrationRules>

*The Changes to Immigration Rules referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/966644/CCS001\\_CCS0221107260-001\\_Statement\\_of\\_changes\\_in\\_Immigration\\_Rules\\_Web\\_Accessible\\_.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/966644/CCS001_CCS0221107260-001_Statement_of_changes_in_Immigration_Rules_Web_Accessible_.pdf)

*with an Explanatory Memorandum at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/966648/CCS001\\_CCS0221107260-002\\_Statement\\_of\\_changes\\_in\\_Immigration\\_Rules\\_-\\_EM\\_Web\\_Accessible\\_.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/966648/CCS001_CCS0221107260-002_Statement_of_changes_in_Immigration_Rules_-_EM_Web_Accessible_.pdf)

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

### Children in Asylum Accommodation: Remote Learning

**Anne McLaughlin (SNP):** What support [have] the Government provided to ensure that children living in asylum accommodation with limited or no wi-fi during covid-19 lockdowns are able to access remote

**Reply from the Minister for School Standards (Nick Gibb):** The Get Help with Technology programme is helping disadvantaged children in England without a connection at home, including those living in asylum accommodation, to access the internet. We have delivered more than 60,000 4G wireless routers and are partnering with the UK's leading mobile operators to provide free data uplifts.

**Anne McLaughlin:** Wi-fi is not a standard feature in asylum accommodation. As more and more learning is done online, even outside of the pandemic, is the Minister prepared to work with counterparts in the Home Office to ensure that all children in the asylum system are able to access digital learning opportunities, so that they do not fall behind and are able to integrate as quickly as possible?

**Reply from Nick Gibb:** Yes, of course. The Home Office is in charge of the asylum seeker estate, and it does ensure that wi-fi is available. In terms of schools generally, as of 15 February, more than 1 million laptops and tablets have been delivered to schools and local authorities. It is one of the biggest procurement exercises of its kind, with 1 million computers built to order and shipped to Britain, with software added before being delivered. The process started last April, and throughout the summer and autumn we continued to order more and more computers, as we prepared for future contingencies.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-03-01/debates/0F32193E-5984-4B04-A121-A3EDE9E9A4E3/ChildrenInAsylumAccommodationRemoteLearning>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

### Migrants: Coronavirus

**Lyn Brown (Labour) [154904]** To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if he will make an assessment of the effect of no regular social security income for people who have no recourse to public funds on the likelihood of those people (a) requesting a covid-19 test as per Government advice and (b) self-isolating due to the covid-19 outbreak.

**Reply from Helen Whately:** We introduced the Test and Trace Support Payment

(TTSP) scheme to support those where financial concerns can make it difficult to self-isolate.

We continue to work closely with the 314 local authorities in England to monitor the efficacy and payments made under the TTSP scheme. The discretionary element of TTSP is specifically designed to address the needs of people on low incomes, including those with no recourse to public funds, who need financial support for self-isolation and to encourage greater uptake of testing and to undertake self-isolation. We have provided an additional £20 million a month to extend the current scheme beyond 31 March into the summer.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-19/154904>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Biometric Residence Permits**

**Apsana Begum (Labour)** [156605] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of visa applications requiring the distribution of a new or replacement Biometric Resident Permit card have taken longer than her Department's standard processing time.

#### **Biometric Residence Permits: Coronavirus**

**Apsana Begum (Labour)** [156606] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she has taken to ensure the timely distribution of Biometric Residence Permit cards during the covid-19 outbreak.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** UKVI does not hold figures relating to the number of customers who have waited longer than 10 working days to receive their Biometric Resident Permit (BRP) after a positive decision. However, it does have service level agreements with its production provider the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) and its secure delivery provider FedEx.

Customers who applied for leave to enter from abroad will usually be expected to collect their BRP from a Post Office or from an Alternative Collection Location (ACL) such as a University International Student Team office. Considering the global pandemic, The Post Office agreed to hold BRPs for up to 90 days from receipt before returning them to UKVI if uncollected to enable delayed travellers to collect their BRP. Usually the Post Office would hold BRPs for 60 days before returning any uncollected BRPs to UKVI.

The DVLA has a target of producing 90% of BRPs within 24 hours of receiving the production request and 100% within 48 hours. For the financial year to date DVLA has achieved 72.4% within 24 hours, 97.4% within 48 hours and 2.6% over 48 hours.

FedEx has a target to attempt first delivery for 99% of BRPs within 48 working hours of collection of the BRP from DVLA. For financial year 2020 to end December 2020 FedEx were achieving 94.4%. UKVI is working closely with FedEx to improve this performance and an improvement plan is in place to achieve this.

Further steps UKVI have taken to improve the timely delivery of BRPs includes introducing an 'Post Arrival Process' for closed university ACLs. This was introduced to enable BRPs for overseas students to be delivered directly to their UK residential address instead of to their ACL for collection. Twenty-one ACLs signed up to the scheme enabling 10,348 BRPs to be produced and delivered.

UKVI has continued to improve the pre-delivery notification messaging we send to customers including the timing of when it is sent. It now includes the BRP reference number, in addition to the FedEx delivery consignment number, delivery post code and clearer instructions relating to help customers organise re-delivery if first delivery fails.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-22/156605>

and

### **NHS: Migrant Workers**

**Mark Hendrick (Labour Co-op)** [154782] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of giving Indefinite Leave to Remain to all migrant NHS workers and their families.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Workers from overseas in the NHS and wider health and care sector have made a huge contribution in tackling COVID-19 and the Government has taken unprecedented measures to ensure the sector is supported fully, including free 12-month visa extensions for those working in eligible occupations in health and social care.

Individuals working in healthcare, on a route which leads to settlement, will be able to apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) for themselves and their family, providing they meet the requirements, including a period of lawful residence in the UK without excess absences, sufficient knowledge of the English language and life in the UK. In sponsored work routes, settlement relies on applicants having worked in their sponsored job for five years. Given the wider requirements for a grant of ILR we will not be making a general grant of it to those working in the NHS.

We will though grant immediate indefinite leave to remain (ILR), free of any charges, to family dependants of NHS, health and care workers who unfortunately lose their lives as a result of contracting COVID-19. We hope this number will be limited.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-19/154782>

### **Health Services and Social Services: Migrant Workers**

**Justin Madders (Labour)** [157183] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many families of (a) NHS workers and (b) independent health and social care workers who have died after contracting covid-19 have (i) applied for and (ii) been granted indefinite leave to remain in the UK since 29 April 2020.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Home Office is granting immediate indefinite leave to remain (ILR), free of any charges, to family members of NHS, health and care workers who unfortunately lose their lives as a result of contracting COVID-19.

The Home Office has received 49 applications for ILR for those held in this route, with 10 granted to date.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-23/157183>

### **Health Services and Social Services: Migrant Workers**

**Justin Madders (Labour)** [157184] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many extensions UKVI has processed via the covid-19 auto-extension visa scheme for eligible health professionals (a) working in the NHS, (b) working in independent health and social care and (c) in total since March 2020.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The information requested is not held in a published format and to gather it would attract a disproportionate cost.

The most recent published migration statistics can be viewed:

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

The available published data shows the numbers of visas granted in each work route but does not provide any data on the specific numbers that have been granted on this scheme nor the number of Biometric Residence Permits received by UKVI.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-23/157184>

### **Migrant Workers: Social Services**

**Luke Evans (Conservative)** [155414] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to promote the Settled Status scheme to EU workers in the social care sector.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** As of 11 February 2021, over five million applications had been received to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS), and 4.5 million grants of status have been made, delivering on the government's promise to secure the rights of millions of Europeans in UK law for years to come

A comprehensive range of communications activity has been delivered to date to increase awareness of the EUSS across sectors and audience demographics including EEA and Swiss national key workers including those working in the social care sector.

Communications activity includes extensive engagement with a wide range of stakeholders, a refresh of EUSS promotional materials, and an extensive new wave of targeted UK advertising on social media, website banners, catch up TV and radio, launched earlier this month, to ensure EEA and Swiss citizens are aware of the scheme and supported to apply.

The Home Office has also provided up to £17million in grant funding to a current network of 72 organisations that provide bespoke support to vulnerable and hard to reach EU citizens and their family members eligible to apply to EUSS. The Home Office recently announced a further £4.5 million of funding to the 72 organisations to continue these support services well beyond the 30 June 2021 deadline.

Communications to reach eligible workers via their employer have been ongoing since the scheme's launch with hundreds of engagement events delivered alongside the provision of an employer toolkit, equipping organisations with the information required to support their staff.

This has included a bespoke event for NHS employers, and with several regional strategic migration and enterprise partnerships. NHS employers, Scottish Social services and Wales Social care also sit on EUSS advisory groups.

Workers in the social care sector were given early access under the pilot phases of the scheme and we have provided extensive outreach and support to the sector. We continue to work closely with the Department for Health and Social Care, and Local Authorities to provide support and materials to eligible individuals in the sector.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-19/155414>

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

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

### **Migrant Workers: Au Pairs and Day Care**

**Nickie Aiken (Conservative)** 155387] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how private individuals and households can register as an approved UK employer for the purposes of employing an au pair, child care assistant, child minder or nanny under the Skilled Worker visa scheme.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The sponsorship system is designed to ensure employers fulfil specific duties to confirm those who apply for permission to enter or stay in the UK to work are eligible and will comply with the conditions of their visa.

Businesses are able to comply with these duties and demonstrate a verifiable track record of operating lawfully in the UK, both within the immigration system and the wider employer regulatory regime, in a way individuals or households cannot. Individuals cannot therefore be licensed to sponsor workers. This approach ensures the integrity of the immigration system from abuse and safeguards migrants from exploitative practices.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-19/155387>

*The following five questions all received the same answer*

#### **Visas: Overseas Visitors**

**Alison Thewliss (SNP)** [157194] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many visitor visas are not taken up because of a death of (a) the applicant or (b) the sponsor.

**Alison Thewliss (SNP)** [157195] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many visitor visas have been granted but not used within the time limit in each month of each of the last 10 years.

#### **Visas: Married People**

**Alison Thewliss (SNP)** [157196] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many spousal visas have been issued, but not taken up, in each month in each of the last 10 years.

#### **Visas**

**Alison Thewliss (SNP)** [157197] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many family visas have been issued but not taken up in each month of each of the last 10 years.

#### **Visas: Migrant Workers**

**Alison Thewliss (SNP)** [157198] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many temporary worker and equivalent visas have been issued but not taken up in each month of each of the last 10 years.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Home Office Migration Statistics do not capture the number of visas not taken up or used within the time limit as to capture these numbers would require a manual trawl of data, incurring disproportionate cost.

The Home Office does though publish data on the total number of decisions made on visitor visas, spousal visas, family visas and temporary worker visas. These can be found in our published statistics:

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-23/157194>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-23/157195>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-23/157196>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-23/157197>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-23/157198>

#### **Windrush Lessons Learned Review**

**Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat)** [157994] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Government's response to recommendation 17 of the Windrush Lessons Learned Review as set out in the Comprehensive Improvement Plan, whether the ethical decision making model has been produced.

**Reply from Priti Patel:** A draft ethical decision-making model has been produced and this is now being tested with different teams across the Home Office.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-24/157994>

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

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/874022/6.5577\\_HO\\_Windrush\\_Lessons\\_Learned\\_Review\\_WEB\\_v2.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874022/6.5577_HO_Windrush_Lessons_Learned_Review_WEB_v2.pdf)

#### **Windrush Lessons Learned Review**

**Neil Coyle (Labour)** [158072] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 5 October 2020 to Question 96770 on Windrush Lessons



Learned Review, if she will publish a progress report on that full evaluation of the compliant environment policy and measures.

**Reply from Priti Patel:** Transparency and engagement will remain at the heart of our approach to the evaluation of the compliant environment. I can confirm we intend to publish a progress report on the evaluation at a suitable juncture.

As set out in the Comprehensive Improvement Plan initial analysis of data and evidence on the compliant environment will be completed by Autumn 2021. We are expecting the evaluation of the right to rent scheme to be completed by Summer 2021.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-24/158072>

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

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/874022/6.5577\\_HO\\_Windrush\\_Lessons\\_Learned\\_Review\\_WEB\\_v2.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874022/6.5577_HO_Windrush_Lessons_Learned_Review_WEB_v2.pdf)

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-29/96770>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Alan Brown (SNP)** [155181] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many EU citizens have been awarded settled status (a) in total and (b) in each month since that scheme was launched.

**Alan Brown (SNP)** [155182] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many EU citizens have had their settled status applications rejected.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The latest published information on EU Settlement Scheme applications concluded by outcome type and nationality can be found on the Home Office's 'EU Settlement Scheme statistics' quarterly publication at:

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

Specifically, in table EUSS\_03\_UK available at:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/964547/eu-settlement-scheme-quarterly-statistics-tables-28-august-2018-to-31-december-2020.ods](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/964547/eu-settlement-scheme-quarterly-statistics-tables-28-august-2018-to-31-december-2020.ods)

Total applications concluded by type and month of decision to 31 December 2020 can be found in table EUSS\_MON also available at:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/964547/eu-settlement-scheme-quarterly-statistics-tables-28-august-2018-to-31-december-2020.ods](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/964547/eu-settlement-scheme-quarterly-statistics-tables-28-august-2018-to-31-december-2020.ods)

EUSS statistics by nationality and outcome type to 31 March 2020 will be published in May 2021 in 'EU Settlement Scheme quarterly statistics, March 2021' which will be available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/eu-settlement-scheme-statistics>

Monthly summary figures of total applications received by UK nation and conclusions by type to 31 January 2021 can be found at the link above. Data to 28 February 2021 will be published on 11 March 2021.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-19/155181>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-19/155182>

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

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

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Marsha De Cordova (Labour)** [156555] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and

Pensions, whether EU nationals who moved to the UK after March 2020 and prior to 31 December 2020 are eligible to apply for a National Insurance number.

**Reply from Guy Opperman:** EU Nationals who moved to the UK after March 2020 and prior to December 2020 are eligible to apply for a National Insurance number. Prior to allocating a National Insurance Number, the applicant's identity must be confirmed. For those who have already had their identity verified through another government department, primarily the Home Office, they are able to apply for a National Insurance Number. This includes EU/EEA nationals who have been granted settled or pre-settled status through the EU Settlement Scheme

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-22/156555>

### **Refugees: Resettlement**

**Nickie Aiken (Conservative)** [156562] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when she plans to launch the new UK Resettlement Scheme; whether the scheme includes the Government's current ambition to resettle 5,000 refugees in its first year; and if she will make a statement.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The UK will continue to welcome refugees through resettlement following the completion of the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS). We continue to work closely with domestic and international partners on plans to complete the VPRS and to assess the UK's capacity for resettlement activity, as we recover from the pandemic.

Resettlement will continue to play a primary role, alongside a reformed asylum system, which will see us continue to offer safe and legal routes to the UK for vulnerable people in need of protection.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-22/156562>

### **Homelessness: Migrants**

**Peter Dowd (Labour)** [156430] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, if he will bring forward emergency legislative proposals to ensure people who have no recourse to public funds and who require homelessness assistance can access emergency accommodation for the next 12 months.

**Reply from Eddie Hughes:** The rules as to eligibility relating to immigration status, including for those with NRPF, have not changed.

Local authorities must use their judgement in assessing what support they may lawfully give to each person on an individual basis, considering that person's specific circumstances and support needs.

Local authorities already regularly make such judgements on accommodating individuals who might otherwise be ineligible, during extreme weather for example. We want to ensure that local areas have the tools they need to support as many people as possible off the street as possible. That is why we have established programmes such as the Next Steps Accommodation Programme and the Home Office's Rough Sleeping Support Service.

More information on the support available to migrants during the pandemic, including those with NRPF, can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-get-support-if-youre-a-migrant-living-in-the-uk>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-22/156430>

### **Asylum**

**Anne McLaughlin (SNP)** [160716] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many fresh asylum applications were submitted in 2020 by individuals who had previously been refused asylum in the UK.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Home Office records indicate that a total of 7,341 Further

Submissions in support of fresh asylum/protection claims were submitted in 2020 by individuals who had previously been refused asylum in the UK.

Where people who have previously been refused asylum in the UK wish to make representations in support of a fresh asylum application these are recorded as Further Submissions.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-01/160716>

### **Asylum**

**Stuart C McDonald (SNP)** [160690] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average duration of the asylum procedure at first instance is in the UK.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office is unable to report what the average duration of the asylum procedure at the first instance is in the UK as this information is not recorded and held in a reportable format.

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-december-2020/list-of-tables#asylum-and-resettlement>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-01/160690>

### **Asylum: Homelessness**

**Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour)** [158173] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 16 February 2021 to Question 151819 on Asylum: Homelessness, how (a) homeless and (b) other asylum-seeking persons are made aware that they can obtain support through contact with her Department.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** All asylum seekers are advised at the time they register their asylum claims that support is available from the Home Office if they would otherwise be destitute.

Information about applying for support is also published at:

<https://www.gov.uk/asylum-support/how-to-claim>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-24/158173>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-09/151819>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Asylum: Housing**

**Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat)** [157992] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what monitoring and evaluation is conducted on the contracts held by companies providing accommodation to asylum seekers.

**Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat)** [157993] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what penalties are incurred by asylum seeker accommodation providers in the event that they do not meet the requirements of their contracts.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** We expect the highest standards from our providers, who are expected to conduct regular checks across the accommodation estate. The Home Office have access to providers' systems to monitor compliance.

Throughout the pandemic, the ability to inspect accommodation in the usual way has faced some understandable logistical challenges, however we have robust systems in place to monitor and ensure continued accordance with the high standards of service we and those we accommodate expect.

Asylum seekers can also raise specific issues or concerns about their accommodation through the 24/7 Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility (AIRE) service operated by Migrant Help. The Home Office and our providers receive

feedback on complaints raised through our regular dialogue with Migrant Help, which enables attention to be focussed on any areas of concern.

The Asylum Accommodation and Support Services contracts (AASC) have a robust performance management system, against which providers are expected to deliver. Where performance falls short of the required standard, failures are recorded and can result in the award of points and, ultimately, service credits being applied. Providers' performance is monitored closely by dedicated staff in each contract area, who are in daily contact with them.

This is supplemented by a formal governance process which includes quarterly Strategic Review Management Boards and monthly Contract Management Groups. Service credits and subsequent improvement plans are discussed and monitored as part of this process.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-24/157992>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-24/157993>

### **Asylum: Temporary Accommodation**

**Stephen Timms (Labour)** [158847] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many section 95 asylum seekers were accommodated in dispersal accommodation for the first time in each quarter in each of the last two years, by local authority.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The latest published Immigration Statistics detail the number of asylum seekers accommodated in each local authority area. These statistics can be found at

[https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/asylum-and-resettlement-datasets#asylum-support\(opens in a new tab\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/asylum-and-resettlement-datasets#asylum-support(opens in a new tab))

Data is published on a quarterly basis, with the latest information published 25 February 2021. The next quarterly figures are due to be released in May 2021.

The Home Office does not publish a breakdown of these statistics which disaggregates the number of asylum seekers accommodated in dispersal accommodation for the first time in each quarter in each of the last two years, by local authority. 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/2021-02-25/158847>

### **Asylum: Temporary Accommodation**

**Stephen Timms (Labour)** [160512] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what notification her Department provides to a local authority of the placement of Section 95 asylum seekers in dispersal accommodation in its area; in what circumstances such notification is provided; and if she will make a statement.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office and Property providers have developed close working relationships with the Local Authorities in which asylum seekers are accommodated to support the effective coordination of delivered services, acting in the best interests of the asylum seekers.

The Home Office will consider individual requests for specific accommodation or location on a case by case basis. The provider is instructed by the Home Office to provide accommodation that meets the needs of each individual case subject to the availability of accommodation.

We do not provide Local authorities with details of each individual placement of asylum seekers into their area. However, we do provide statistical data on the number of people living in each local authority area and the number of new arrivals to the Strategic Migration Partners who are expected to share this with Local Authorities. Where there is a safe guarding or urgent care need referrals are made

to the local authorities to coordinate appropriate services for the individual. Furthermore, our providers are instructed to consult Local Authorities when procuring dispersed property. A standard operating process for procurement allows for consultation with LAs and statutory bodies.

We have established the Local Government Chief Executive Group (HOLGCEX) group to bring together senior representatives from Home Office, Local Government Association and local authorities with the aim of working in partnership to improve the asylum dispersal process for the people who use this service and the communities in which they reside.

We are trying to implement national structures across 150 LAs who will have a localised view and their own processes and practice. To allow us to better engage, we fund Strategic Migration Partners within each UK region to enhance engagement.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-01/160512>

### **Asylum: Military Bases**

**Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat)** [154917] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what process her Department uses to assess asylum seekers to determine whether they have particular vulnerabilities which mean they cannot be housed in either Penally or Napier Barracks.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The sites at Penally and Napier are being used to accommodate single, adult males. All asylum seekers are subject to an initial screening process by UK Visas and Immigration, which includes security and safeguarding checks and we are taking great care to ensure that those with identified vulnerabilities are moved to appropriate accommodation. We will also take swift action in relation to any new safeguarding issues that emerge (for example the identification of previously unknown vulnerabilities).

Further checks are made, to confirm suitability for transfer to the accommodation, before individuals are moved to sites and asylum seekers will be briefed by the accommodation provider in advance of their move.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-19/154917>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Asylum: Penally Camp**

**Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru)** [158149] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans her Department has to suspend the use of the Penally training camp as temporary accommodation for asylum seekers between 21 March and mid-April 2021 as the camp will be under occupation but without the requisite planning consents in place during that period.

**Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru)** [158150] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many confirmed cases of covid-19 there have been at the temporary accommodation site for asylum seekers at Penally training camp since September 2020.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office secured use of the site for six months under emergency provisions within the Town and Country Planning regulations, Part 37 of which can be used for Crown emergency development. We are aware of the need for further planning consent for use of the site beyond March 2021.

Any further planning application will be made in line with the legal requirements and in consultation with the County Council local planning authority and other statutory bodies

There have been no confirmed cases of Covid at the Penally Training camp since September 2020.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-24/158149>

and

### **Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre**

**Richard Fuller (Conservative)** [154921] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what costs have been incurred to date to provide temporary accommodation for asylum seekers at Yarl's Wood.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office have stood down plans to use Yarl's Wood as a temporary accommodation site for asylum seekers.

Accommodation costs are considered to be commercially sensitive and we would not provide this information for that reason.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-19/154921>

### **Asylum: Detainees**

**Anne McLaughlin (SNP)** [160715] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people applied for asylum from detention in the UK in 2020.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office publishes data on asylum claims made at ports of entry or "in country" and the latest figures can be found in table Asy\_D01 within the [Asylum and Resettlement](#) datasets published on gov.uk. We do not publish further detail on the location of where an asylum claim is made as this is not held centrally on Home Office databases and could only be determined at disproportionate cost.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-01/160715>

### **Migrants: Detainees**

**Diane Abbott (Labour)** [158849] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans her Department has to create small units for the detention of women within existing immigration removal centres; how many women will be detained in those centres; and for what reason the detention estate for women is being expanded by the creation of a new detention centre in Durham.

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

The Home Office has acquired the former Hassockfield Secure Training Centre in County Durham and will open it as an immigration removal centre (IRC) for around 80 women by the autumn. Initial discussions with the planning authority have taken place and work has commenced at the site. An Equality Impact Assessment will be completed as part of this programme of work.

The immigration detention capacity for women is not being expanded. We plan to supplement the new Hassockfield IRC by continuing to provide some detention capacity for women at Colnbrook, Dungavel and Yarl's Wood IRCS, in order to provide flexibility in placement and shorter escorting journeys for those in detention, including women.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-25/158849>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Immigration Bail**

**Holly Lynch (Labour)** [155200] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the pilot for reducing the time period of auto-bail hearings from four to two months has concluded.

**Holly Lynch (Labour)** [155202] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the pilot on reducing the time period for automatic referrals for immigration bail hearings from four to two months has concluded.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The pilot for making an automatic referral for

consideration of immigration bail for non-FNOs at two months, as opposed to four months at present, has concluded and the department is in the process of evaluating the findings. Automatic bail referrals are an additional safeguard and do not affect the rights of detainees to apply for bail at any time, regardless of the timeframe for automatic referrals.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-19/155200>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-19/155202>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

### United Kingdom Resettlement Scheme

**Baroness Ludford (Liberal Democrat):** To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the planned (1) programme, and (2) timetable, for refugee resettlements under the United Kingdom Resettlement Scheme.

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

My Lords, the UK Government are committed to resettling refugees to the UK and we continue to work closely with domestic and international partners to assess capacity for resettlement activity as we recover from the pandemic. This commitment, alongside a fair and firm asylum system, will ensure that we continue to offer safe and legal routes to the UK for vulnerable refugees who need our protection.

**Baroness Ludford:** My Lords, only 800 people were resettled in the UK last year, compared to 5,600 in 2019. This is against the UNHCR's assessment of the global need for almost 1.5 million places. Why have the Government failed to fulfil their pledge of a new consolidated UK resettlement scheme to succeed the schemes closed a year ago? Will the Minister now give an assurance not only of 5,000 places here in the current year but of an ambitious 10-year commitment to resettle vulnerable refugees from Syria and other conflict areas?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** I am very glad that the noble Baroness recognises the extent of our efforts to resettle people who need our protection. She is right to point out that not many resettled last year, but of course we had, and continue to have, a global pandemic. To move people, unless absolutely vital, was not advisable at that time. However, it is vital that we continue to provide those safe and legal routes for people in need of our protection. Refugee resettlement will continue to be a core safe and legal route for those vulnerable people.

**Lord Touhig (Labour):** Across Europe, hundreds—perhaps thousands—of unaccompanied young refugees are suffering. They are being abused and trafficked, are self-harming and some have taken their own lives. In January 2020, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, which Winston Churchill helped found and of which we remain leading members, called for each member state to appoint a parliamentary commissioner to oversee the work of caring for refugee migrant children. What has been the Government's response?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The noble Lord will know that we have left the European Union—[*Interruption.*] I will get to that if noble Lords do not interject. Our commitment is to resettle people from around the world who need our protection. It has been difficult to achieve resettlement in the last few months, but our commitment is not dimmed despite the pandemic hindering some of our efforts.

**Baroness Sheehan (Liberal Democrat):** My Lords, the Government's own documents say that resettlement schemes "target those in greatest need ... including ... survivors of violence and torture, and women and children at risk." Does the Minister agree that an

apology is owed to the 3,477 people accepted on to the new UK resettlement scheme this year for the unexplained and, quite frankly, inexplicable delay to their arrival in the UK?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Naturally the pandemic has hindered our efforts. Everything has been delayed, including resettlement schemes. We have restarted the resettlement schemes because we have reached over 20,000 under our previous commitment. I am not sure “apology” is the right word as we are doing everything we can, and we have restarted our resettlement schemes.

**Lord Vaizey of Didcot (Conservative):** My Lords, I mention in passing how much work is being done by Arts Council-funded organisations to support and help refugees. I have a specific question for the Minister: how many family reunion visas have been granted in the last five years?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** I join my noble friend in paying tribute to those Arts Council organisations. Their efforts are very much appreciated. We have issued almost 30,000 family reunion visas in the last five years. This House often goes on about Dublin transfers, quite rightly, but those figures pale into insignificance compared with the number of family reunion visas we have issued.

**Baroness Wheatcroft (Crossbench):** My Lords, the Minister explained delays in getting refugees into this country as being due to the pandemic. But in 2019, UK resettlement took 63 weeks on average, compared with the 35 weeks that had previously been the norm. Can the Minister explain why that process had lengthened to such an extent and reassure the House that this prolonged delay is not an attempt to reduce refugee resettlement?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Any delays in resettlement are in no way an attempt to frustrate resettlement—quite the contrary. My noble friend will have heard me say how many people we resettled between 2010 and this year under the vulnerable persons resettlement scheme, which was well over 20,000—far in excess of some of the numbers suggested. It is absolutely not an attempt to frustrate the system; in fact, we have restarted our resettlement schemes.

**The Lord Bishop of Durham:** I am a trustee of Reset and a member of the RAMP project. As the Minister knows, stakeholders continue to warn that, without parity of the timing of the resettlement scheme and a long-term funding commitment, they are unable to plan their services to resettle refugees. Indeed, some are having to place staff on notice and scale back their existing operations. Can the Government confirm now when the scheme will be launched for the long term with secure funding from the Treasury?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** I am most grateful to the right reverend Prelate for the meeting I had with him and Reset. We talked about funding and the importance of the security of funding. We will continue with resettlement. That process has been paused and almost stopped at times, but we are reworking our approach to asylum to deliver a fair but firm system. I look forward to bringing those provisions forward.

**Lord Balfe (Conservative):** My Lords, the key word in the Minister’s Answer was “legal”. I point out that we have a lot of refugee programmes and a visa programme for Chinese nationals. When we look at the resettlement scheme, I ask the Minister to ensure that, when we choose the refugees to resettle, we pay some attention, like the Canadian Government do, to the contribution they can make to the British economy and its future?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** I totally agree with my noble friend. Just because someone is a refugee, it does not mean they cannot contribute to society and the economy. Many of them can and are highly skilled. Going back to the conversation I had with the right reverend Prelate the Bishop of Durham, that is precisely what we are looking at. These people have much to contribute to our economy.

**The Earl of Sandwich (Crossbench):** We in the UK cannot easily imagine and must not forget the extent of suffering in cities such as Aleppo and Idlib. I am glad we have a good reputation for resettlement. Following the right reverend Prelate’s question, can the



Government explain the true situation of local authorities and confirm that they really are ready to welcome a further 5,000 vulnerable refugees under the new UK resettlement scheme? What is the cause of any delay? I understand people are being laid off.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The noble Earl is right to point out that we are dependent on local authority places and accommodation to bring forward resettlement. We are very grateful to local authorities, but we cannot go beyond their capacity. We will launch the new UK global resettlement scheme in March this year. We intended to launch it in March last year, but clearly the pandemic placed restrictions on this. Resettlement arrivals have been coming since December 2020. We have received regular calls for that commitment, and it will be forthcoming.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-03-03/debates/A294F0F7-A670-4BD3-902C-DC391A7CD945/UnitedKingdomResettlementScheme>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

### Coronavirus: Vaccination

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL12548] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether all NHS staff who are not UK citizens will be offered COVID-19 vaccinations.

**Reply from Lord Bethell:** Vaccination against COVID-19 is offered to every adult living in the United Kingdom free of charge, regardless of immigration status. For the first phase of the vaccination programme, the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation have advised that the vaccine be given to care home residents and staff, as well as frontline health and social care workers. This includes foreign National Health Service frontline healthcare workers.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-25/hl12548>

### Penally Camp

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL13492] To ask Her Majesty's Government how long the former army barracks at Penally were vacant after service personnel left; and what assessment was made of the living conditions of the billets upon vacation.

**Reply from Baroness Goldie:** Prior to the transfer of Penally to the Home Office on 21 September 2020, the site was last used by military personnel from 7 to 14 September 2020 to support military training. The Ministry of Defence (MOD) maintained Penally through the National Training Estate Prime (NTEP) contract, which included an inspections regime to maintain legal compliance. No additional assessment of living conditions was made by the MOD upon its vacation by MOD and transfer of use to the Home Office.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-22/hl13492>

### Penally Camp

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL13493] To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent assessment they have made of the suitability of Penally army barracks for use by the British Armed Forces.

**Reply from Baroness Goldie:** Prior to the handover of the site to the Home Office, the Ministry of Defence maintained Penally camp through the National Training Estate Prime (NTEP) contract, which included an inspections regime to maintain legal compliance.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-22/hl13493>

## Napier Barracks

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL13494] To ask Her Majesty's Government how long the former Napier barracks were vacant between service personnel leaving and its use to accommodate refugees in 2020.

**Reply from Baroness Goldie:** Prior to the transfer of Napier Barracks to the Home Office on 21 September 2020, the site was last used by military personnel on 10 September 2020 to support military training. It was vacant for 11 days.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-22/hl13494>

## UK Parliament Early Day Motion

**Christine Jardine (Liberal Democrat)** [1589] **Overseas NHS Workers Day** – That this House supports Overseas NHS Workers Day in recognition of the extraordinary contribution of all foreign nationals working tirelessly in the UK's fight against Covid-19; applauds the efforts of the Doctors' Association UK with support from the Royal College of Physicians (RCP), British Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (BAPIO), British International Doctors Association (BIDA), Hospital Consultants and Specialists Association (HCSA), Royal College of Surgeons and Unison for creating this awareness day to celebrate foreign nationals in all their roles within the NHS; notes the almost 200 different nationalities represented within the NHS; further notes that although the NHS is the UK's biggest employer, there is still not enough staff to meet demand; believes that the most meaningful way to recognise the contributions of foreign nationals and secure staffing capacity is to grant indefinite leave to remain in the UK; and calls on the Government to grant indefinite leave to remain to all foreign nationals currently working in the health and social care sector, and to their families.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/58212>

## Press Releases

**New immigration rules provide boost for Scottish fishing industry**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-immigration-rules-provide-boost-for-scottish-fishing-industry>

**Inspection Report Published: An inspection of the work of Border Force, Immigration Enforcement, and UK Visas and Immigration to identify, investigate, disrupt and prosecute perpetrators of modern slavery and human trafficking**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/inspection-report-published-an-inspection-of-the-work-of-border-force-immigration-enforcement-and-uk-visas-and-immigration-to-identify-investigate>

**Wales is your home, FM tells EU nationals**

<https://gov.wales/wales-is-your-home-fm-tells-eu-nationals>

## New Publications

**Statement of Changes to Immigration Rules, March 2021**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/966644/CCS001\\_CCS0221107260-](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/966644/CCS001_CCS0221107260-001_Statement_of_changes_in_Immigration_Rules_Web_Accessible_.pdf)

[001\\_Statement\\_of\\_changes\\_in\\_Immigration\\_Rules\\_Web\\_Accessible\\_.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/966644/CCS001_CCS0221107260-001_Statement_of_changes_in_Immigration_Rules_Web_Accessible_.pdf)

**Explanatory Memorandum to Statement of Changes to Immigration Rules, March 2021**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/966648/CCS001\\_CCS0221107260-](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/966648/CCS001_CCS0221107260-002_Statement_of_changes_in_Immigration_Rules_-_EM_Web_Accessible_.pdf)

[002 Statement of changes in Immigration Rules - EM Web Accessible .pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/966648/CCS001_CCS0221107260-002_Statement_of_changes_in_Immigration_Rules_-_EM_Web_Accessible_.pdf)

**Guidance: 2021 Windrush Day Grant Scheme**

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

**An inspection of the work of Border Force, Immigration Enforcement, and UK Visas and Immigration to identify, investigate, disrupt and prosecute perpetrators of modern slavery and human trafficking October 2019 – April 2020**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/966139/An inspection of the work of BF IE and UKVI to identify investigate disrupt and prosecute perpetrators of modern slavery and human trafficking.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/966139/An_inspection_of_the_work_of_BF_IE_and_UKVI_to_identify_investigate_disrupt_and_prosecute_perpetrators_of_modern_slavery_and_human_trafficking.pdf)

**Government response to the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration's report on work to identify, investigate, disrupt and prosecute perpetrators of modern slavery and human trafficking**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/response-to-an-inspection-of-work-to-deal-with-modern-slavery-and-human-trafficking/response-to-the-independent-chief-inspector-of-borders-and-immigrations-report-on-work-to-identify-investigate-disrupt-and-prosecute-perpetrators-o>

## News

**Immigration rules changed to help NHS plug vacancies gap**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/immigration-rules-changed-to-help-nhs-plug-vacancies-gap-hxh708gwx>

**Points system for granting leave to remain to entrepreneur migrants is procedurally fair**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/points-system-for-granting-leave-to-remain-to-entrepreneur-migrants-is-procedurally-fair-d6l9phh3d>

**EU workers may lose right to live in UK after returning to home country in Covid crisis, report warns**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/brexit-settled-status-coronavirus-report-b1808287.html>

**Number of Channel migrants reaching UK doubles but no deportation flights since Brexit**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/03/02/number-channel-migrants-reaching-uk-doubles-no-deportation-flights/>

**Channel migrants seeking UK asylum are smuggling themselves back to France, says charity**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/03/01/channel-migrants-seeking-uk-asylum-smuggling-back-france-says/>

**Channel 'armada' plan blocked amid fears it would become 'migrant magnet'**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2021/03/05/exclusive-channel-armada-plan-blocked-amid-fears-would-become/>

**Home Office housed asylum seekers in barracks 'despite knowing Covid risk'**

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2021/mar/04/home-office-housed-asylum-seekers-in-barracks-despite-knowing-covid-risk>

**Home Office to move more people into Napier Barracks despite multiple warnings from health officials**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/napier-barracks-asylum-seekers-home-office-b1812445.html>

**Hundreds of thousands of migrants 'much less likely' to get vaccine due to hostile environment fears, MPs warn**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/migrants-undocumented-vaccine-hostile-environment-covid-b1812985.html>

**Windrush scandal: 'I started taking my own teeth out'**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-56215349>

**Windrush victim denied UK citizenship despite Home Office admitting error**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/mar/05/windrush-victim-denied-uk-citizenship-home-office-admitting-error-trevor-donald>

**Home Office delays leave Sri Lankan man in immigration limbo**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/mar/03/home-office-delays-leave-sri-lankan-man-in-immigration-limbo>

**Britain is home to 10,000 foreign criminals who could be deported**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/britain-is-home-to-10-000-foreign-criminals-who-could-be-deported-jdp3zfv6x>

**Tough talk won't solve the migrant problem**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/tough-talk-wont-solve-the-migrant-problem-z8cljl658>

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## Equality

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

#### **BAME Voting**

**Virendra Sharma (Labour):** What steps [is] the Electoral Commission taking to improve voting levels among Black, Asian and minority ethnic people. (912860)

**Reply from Christian Matheson:** The focus of the Commission's work is on voter registration, to ensure that all eligible people are able to vote should they choose to do so. Its research has consistently shown that eligible citizens from ethnic minority backgrounds are less likely to be registered. In delivering its voter registration campaigns, it therefore targets the work towards under-registered groups, including people from black, Asian and minority backgrounds. The Commission uses advertising, media coverage and partnership work in the delivery of such campaigns.

**Virendra Sharma:** I thank my hon. Friend for that response. How important is the Electoral Commission in preventing malign influence on elections in this country and ensuring that

volunteers and ideas lead the debate, not online trolls and fake news?

**Reply from Christian Matheson:** My hon. Friend raises an essential point. The Commission has been doing work to get online imprints to make sure that people who put fake news and trolling online can be identified, and that any such adverts have to be registered so that the individuals who post them can be identified and, if necessary, held to account. This is a major issue that affects people from BAME backgrounds and all voters, and my hon. Friend is absolutely right to raise it. I shall pass his concerns on to the Commission.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-03-04/debates/EAFFAA84-3A06-42AD-9C17-C2E7EE697359/BAMEVoting>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

### Government Departments: Equality

**Marsha De Cordova (Labour)** [157266] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what steps her Department is taking to (a) co-ordinate equalities strategies across government and (b) monitor departmental performance against those strategies.

**Reply from Kemi Badenoch:** All departments ensure that equality considerations are at the heart of their decision-making; this is key to the Government's commitment to delivering equality of opportunity for all as well as complying with legal requirements under the Public Sector Equality Duty. My officials in the Equality Hub provide advice to departments to assist with this.

We also work with other departments to ensure they publish substantive equality objectives, as part of their departmental plans, that relate to their policy and service delivery responsibilities. Publishing equality objectives as part of core departmental planning processes means that performance against these objectives is measured and that we are advancing equality across Government.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-23/157266>

### Pay: Ethnic Groups

**Marsha De Cordova (Labour)** [157267] To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, if he will make an assessment of the potential merits of introducing mandatory ethnicity pay reporting.

**Reply from Paul Scully:** In 2018/2019, the Government consulted on options for employer-level ethnicity pay reporting. Following this, the Government met with businesses and representative organisations to understand the barriers to reporting and to explore what information could be published to allow for meaningful action to be taken.

Following the consultation, we ran a methodology testing exercise with a broad range of businesses to better understand the complexities outlined in the consultation. This highlighted the genuine difficulties in designing a methodology that will produce accurate figures that facilitate analysis, interpretation and meaningful action.

The Government is continuing to analyse this data. We will respond to the Ethnicity Pay Reporting consultation as soon as we can.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-23/157267>

### Schools: Charities

**Ben Bradley (Conservative)** [156540] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what his policy is on school engagement with (a) race equality and (b) other charities.

**Reply from Nick Gibb:** External agencies, including charities, can provide speakers, tools, and resources to enhance and supplement a school's curriculum

and wider activities. It is important when using external agencies that schools take particular care that the agency and any materials used are appropriate and in line with their legal duties.

Schools must not promote partisan political views and should ensure the balanced treatment of political issues. Schools should also ensure that speakers, tools and resources do not undermine the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-22/156540>

TOP

## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**

**Dawn Butler (Labour)** [157968] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what plans the Government has to mark United Nations International Day for the elimination of racial discrimination in 2021.

#### **International Decade for People of African Descent**

**Dawn Butler (Labour)** [157969] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what plans the Government has to mark the remainder of the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent 2015-2024.

**Reply from Nigel Adams:** The United Kingdom is committed to combatting all forms of racism, both and home and abroad. The United Kingdom ratified the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in 1969, and we believe that one of the most effective ways to tackle injustices and advocate respect among different religious and racial groups is to encourage states to uphold their human rights obligations, particularly through international institutions such as the United Nations. We have participated in and joined consensus on the key 21st century UN events and instruments on racism. We have not yet made any specific plans for marking the UN International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in 2021.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-24/157968>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-24/157969>

#### **Discrimination**

**Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour)** [156567] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what steps her Department is taking to tackle hair discrimination in (a) dress code policies in schools and (b) places of work.

**Reply from Kemi Badenoch:** The Equality Act 2010 covers both education and employment settings.

In formulating its school uniform policy, a school must consider its obligations not to discriminate unlawfully under equality law. The Department for Education provides guidance to help schools understand how the Equality Act affects them and how to fulfil their duties under the Act. The guidance makes clear to schools that decisions related to appearance, including on hair, must be made in accordance with their responsibilities under the Equality Act.

In the workplace, any absolute ban on someone's ability to manifest their religious beliefs through a chosen hairstyle could constitute direct discrimination because of religion and therefore would be likely to be unlawful, while a ban on hairstyles associated with a particular ethnicity could constitute indirect discrimination because of race which would require the employer imposing the ban to justify why it was necessary, for instance because of health and safety reasons.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-22/156567>

### **Antisemitism: Local Government**

**Steve Reed (Labour Co-op)** [147865] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what information he holds on which local authorities in England have adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism and examples.

**Reply from Luke Hall:** Adopting the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism sends a clear signal that local authorities are serious about tackling antisemitism in their local communities. The definition is already used in guidance for the Police and Crown Prosecution Service, the Premier League, and a number of political parties, providing examples of the kinds of behaviours which, depending on the circumstances, could constitute antisemitism.

The Secretary of State wrote to all local councils in early 2020 to further encourage those who had not taken this important step to combatting antisemitism in their communities. We are currently compiling the information from local authorities and will encourage those who have not adopted the definition to do as at the earliest opportunity.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-02/147865>

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

### **Universities: Freedom of Expression**

**Baroness Deech (Crossbench)** [HL13580] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether their proposals to champion freedom of speech in universities extends to (1) hate speech, and (2) antisemitic speech, as defined by the International Holocaust Remembrance Association.

**Reply from Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay:** My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Education, announced new measures to strengthen free speech and academic freedom at universities in England on 16 February 2021, in order to stamp out unlawful silencing on campuses. The new measures set out in the policy paper will help to ensure that our universities are places where free speech can thrive. The policy paper can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/higher-education-free-speech-and-academic-freedom>

However, the right to free speech does not include the right to harass others, or to incite violence or terrorism. The government has always been very clear that there is no place in our society, including in higher education, for hatred or any form of harassment, unlawful discrimination or racism, including antisemitism. Universities have clear responsibilities in this regard: they and other higher education providers should be at the forefront of tackling hatred.

In October 2020, the Secretary of State wrote to all higher education providers in England urging adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism. It is estimated that at least 31 additional institutions have adopted the definition since this letter, with more indicating their intention to adopt. We have been clear that adopting the IHRA definition sends a

clear and important signal to students and staff that antisemitism is taken seriously and it will not be tolerated. The IHRA definition allows providers better to understand and recognise incidents of antisemitism, which helps them to address hatred or unlawful discrimination in higher education settings. We will continue to call on providers to adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism.

The government does not see a conflict between protecting freedom of speech and adopting the IHRA definition. Indeed, our strengthened protections for free speech are likely to support Jewish students who on a number of occasions have had their freedom of speech curtailed by others. Universities have clear legal responsibilities regarding discrimination and harassment, and must balance these with their legal duties to protect free speech.

We will continue to work across government to ensure that racism and religious hatred of any kind is not tolerated anywhere, including in our world-leading universities.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-23/hl13580>

*The announcement referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/landmark-proposals-to-strengthen-free-speech-at-universities>

## UK Parliament Early Day Motion

**Colum Eastwood (SDLP) [1569] Anti-Irish discrimination** – That this House condemns anti-Irish racism in all its forms; notes that recent reports of anti-Irish and anti-Irish Traveller sentiments are disturbing; further notes the immeasurable contribution to public life of Irish people and recognises the important role Irish culture through language, dance, music and the arts plays in the lives of many people across the UK; recognises that Irish people have made an immensely positive contribution to society on the island of Britain; and urges the Government to do more to protect Irish people from discrimination and to consider bringing forward legislation to enshrine in law those protections.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/58195>

## New Publications

**Defining Islamophobia: A Contemporary Understanding of How Expressions of Muslimness are Targeted**

[https://mcb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/SINGLE-SPREAD-Report-020321\\_compressed.pdf](https://mcb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/SINGLE-SPREAD-Report-020321_compressed.pdf)

**Hope Not Hate resource pack for teachers, students and parents to guide young people who are at risk of involvement in extremist groups or radicalisation**

<https://charity.hopenothate.org.uk/radicalisation-in-schools>

## News

**Humza Yousaf accused of ignoring concerns over protections for free speech in Hate Crime Bill**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/humza-yousaf-accused-of-ignoring-concerns-over-protections-for-free-speech-in-hate-crime-bill-3151019>



**Substantial meal policy may have discriminated against BAME customers in pubs, High Court rules**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/03/01/substantial-meal-policy-may-have-discriminated-against-bame/>

**Guide to spotting far-right extremism sent to schools in England and Wales**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/mar/02/guide-to-spotting-far-right-extremism-sent-to-schools-in-england-and-wales>

**Bristol race attack: Mum of victim says it 'ruined our lives'**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-bristol-56264239>

**Dr Seuss: Six books withdrawn over 'hurtful and wrong' imagery**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-56250658>

**Resale of Dr Seuss books scrapped by publisher for racist imagery halted by eBay**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/03/05/resale-dr-seuss-books-scrapped-publisher-racist-imagery-halted/>

**Six Dr Seuss books cease publication over racist and insensitive portrayals**

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2021/mar/02/six-dr-seuss-books-cease-publication-racism>

**Dr Seuss books axed over racist stereotypes**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/dr-seuss-books-banned-for-racist-stereotypes-qdt55xnjl>

**Joe Biden omits Dr Seuss from Read Across America Day proclamation amid concerns over racist undertones**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/books/news/dr-seuss-racist-joe-biden-read-across-america-day-virginia-b1810163.html>

**Dr Seuss's stepdaughter says he didn't have 'a racist bone' in his body after books removed**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/books/news/dr-seuss-books-racist-removed-b1811365.html>

**Pontins used blacklist of Irish surnames to bar Gypsy and Traveller families from holiday parks**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/03/02/pontins-used-blacklist-irish-surnames-bar-gypsy-traveller-families/>

**Secret Pontins blacklist prevented people with Irish surnames from booking**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/mar/02/secret-pontins-blacklist-irish-surnames>

**Irish outrage at Pontins obscures the truth about anti-Traveller racism**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/mar/04/irish-pontins-traveller-racism-blacklist-ireland>

**Pontins had blacklist of Irish surnames**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/pontins-had-blacklist-of-irish-surnames-5mzxckz9n>

**Rhyl War Memorial: Man arrested for anti-Semitic graffiti**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-56272209>

**Chinese groups in UK are being taught how to handle Covid hate crimes after brutal attack on lecturer**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/coronavirus-racism-chinese-hate-crimes-b1811881.html>

**Barrister tells of racial abuse on bus amid warnings pandemic is fuelling hatred**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/03/02/barrister-tells-racial-abuse-bus-amid-warnings-pandemic-fuelling/>

**Vicar accuses church over race and gender 'vendetta'**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/vicar-accuses-church-over-race-and-gender-vendetta-9g9txpw0j>

**Football racism: Premier League and EFL asked to help tackle problem**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-56253020>

**Swansea's Dhandu says 'no excuse' for racist trolling**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-56255826>

**Crystal Palace's Patrick van Aanholt reveals racist abuse online after Manchester United draw**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/premier-league/crystal-palace/patrick-van-aanholt-racist-abuse-social-media-b1812276.html>

**Unconscious bias training alone will not stop discrimination, say critics**

<https://www.theguardian.com/money/2021/mar/02/unconscious-bias-training-alone-will-not-stop-discrimination-say-critics>

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## Other Scottish Parliament and Government

### Press Releases

**Scottish Parliament election**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/scottish-parliament-election/>

**The Electoral Commission: Educator Handbook: Helping young people feel better prepared to vote**

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-11/Political%20Literacy%20Resources%20-%20Handbook%20for%20educators%20in%20Scotland.pdf>

**The Electoral Commission: Welcome to Your Vote: A guide to voting in Scotland**

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/sites/default/files/2021-01/Handbook%20for%20young%20people%20in%20Scotland.pdf>

**The Electoral Commission: powerpoint presentations for young people**

- Your vote in Scotland
- Campaigning in Scotland
- How to vote in Scotland

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/media/8117>

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## Other UK Parliament and Government

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

#### **Female Genital Mutilation**

**Sarah Champion (Labour)** [157139] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to FORWARD UK's February 2021 report entitled Do No Harm: Lived Experiences and Impacts of FGM Safeguarding Policies and Procedures, if the Government will make an assessment of the effectiveness of the safeguarding approach for FGM in the UK.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** FGM is a crime and it is child abuse. We will not tolerate a practice that can cause extreme and lifelong physical and psychological suffering to women and girls.

The Government significantly strengthened the law in 2015 to improve protections for victims and those at risk. This included the introduction of a new safeguarding measure which compels certain professionals to report if they have encountered someone who appears to have been a victim of FGM and who is under the age of 18, regardless of what community they are from.

We are committed to ensuring that professionals take the right action to help protect those at risk of FGM and the Government provides free resources, including a resource pack, e-learning, statutory multi-agency guidance and a range of communication materials to ensure that they have the training and guidance they need to provide effective advice and support on this issue. Our Statement Opposing FGM is available in 11 different languages.

The Home Office has recently awarded emergency Covid-19 funding to charities which have so-called 'honour'-based abuse (which includes FGM) as the main or a core part of their remit, including £42,269 to The Vavengers, which supports survivors of FGM.

Over 600 FGM Protection Orders have been issued by the courts since they were introduced in 2015.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-23/157139>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.forwarduk.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/FORWARD-UKs-FGM-Safeguarding-Research-Report-Bristol-Study-2021.pdf>

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## Health Information: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

### NHS

#### **Scottish COVID-19 vaccination helpline and booking service**

The Scottish COVID-19 vaccination helpline and booking service is available from 8am to 8pm, seven days a week on 0800 030 8013.

<https://nhs.uk/services/our-covid-19-response/covid-19-vaccination-helpline-and-booking-service>

#### **Coronavirus helpline**

People living in Scotland who don't have any symptoms but are looking for general information can call the coronavirus helpline. If you're a non-English speaker you can still use this service. Phone 0800 028 2816, tell the call handler that you need an interpreter,

give the name of your preferred language and you will be connected to a Language Line interpreter. You will not have to pay for this.

### **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 refugees and asylum seekers**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Covid-19: Ethnic Minority Disparities**

... **The Minister for Equalities (Kemi Badenoch):** On Friday, I published my second quarterly report summarising the progress the Government have made in understanding and tackling covid-19 disparities experienced by ethnic minority groups. In my first report of 22 October, I concluded that ethnicity in its own right did not appear to be a factor in the disproportionately higher infection and mortality rates among ethnic minority groups. Rather, the evidence showed that a range of socioeconomic and geographical factors were responsible. The evidence base continues to grow.

The early second-wave data shows very different outcomes for different ethnic groups. In the first wave, for instance, black African men were four and a half times more likely to die from covid-19 than white British men of the same age, but in the early part of the second wave the risk of death was the same for both groups. The second wave has, however, had a much greater impact on some south Asian groups, driven primarily by differences in exposure and infection. This strengthens the argument that ethnic minorities should not be viewed as a single group in relation to covid-19 and means that our response to the pandemic and to the disproportionate impact that it has had on certain groups will continue to be shaped by the latest evidence. ...

**Marsha De Cordova (Labour):** ... We know that covid-19 has had a devastating and disproportionate impact on our black, Asian and ethnic minority communities. In the second wave, Bangladeshi and Pakistani people have been three times more likely to die, so my first question is to ask the Minister what steps the Government are taking to protect these groups.

I agree with the Minister that the term “BAME” has been unhelpful in assessing the impact of the virus. However, I do not agree with her conclusion that ethnicity is not a risk factor for covid-19, as in reality ethnicity risk factors cannot be separated from the socioeconomic

risk factors. For example, ethnic minorities are more likely to live in overcrowded and intergenerational homes where they are unable to self-isolate effectively. What action is being taken to address this issue, especially as schools are set to return next week?

The vaccine roll-out offers hope, but take-up remains low among our ethnic minorities. The Minister's report rightly lists misinformation and disinformation as contributing factors, but fails to address the mistrust and long-standing health inequalities faced by some ethnic minority communities. What actions are being taken to tackle issues of historical mistrust? We need localised data from those who choose not to take the vaccine so that we can effectively target those people, so when will that data finally be published? ...

**Kirsten Oswald (SNP):** There is clear evidence of both higher covid-19 infection and higher mortality rates among people from ethnic minority backgrounds, as well as greater pandemic-related economic damage affecting these diverse groups. I also know from my own constituency that the no recourse to public funds policy locks many people, including children, out of vital support. Will the Minister urge her colleagues in the UK Government to review this damaging and discriminatory policy, which has such a disproportionate impact on BAME families? ...

**Wera Hobhouse (Liberal Democrat):** In the year to September 2020, the drop in employment for people from ethnic minorities was 26 times higher than for white workers. Unless the Government take meaningful action to address workforce inequalities, including the ethnicity pay gap, the fall-out from covid will make these glaring inequalities even worse. May I ask again: will the Government finally commit to bringing forward the long-awaited ethnicity pay gap reporting? ...

**Navendu Mishra (Labour):** Polling by HOPE not hate found that black people were more likely than any other group to blame a previous bad experience with the health system as justification for not wanting the vaccine. What steps will the Minister take to build trust in black communities who have experienced structural racism in the health system? ...

**Reply from Kemi Badenoch:** The Government are doing everything they can to improve vaccine confidence and reduce vaccine hesitancy. Vaccines are the best way to protect people from coronavirus and save thousands of lives, and we want every eligible person to benefit from the offer of a free vaccine, no matter their ethnicity or religious beliefs.

The Department of Health and Social Care and the NHS are working closely with black, Asian and minority ethnic communities to support those receiving a vaccine. As part of that, we are working with faith and community leaders to give them advice and information about the universal benefits of vaccination and how their communities can get a vaccine. That has incorporated many activities. Most recently, as the hon. Gentleman will probably be aware, the Minister for Covid Vaccine Deployment requested a cross-party video for black MPs, so that we can show that we as parliamentarians believe that this is important, and I have promoted that in my role as Minister for Equalities. ...

**Diane Abbott (Labour):** The Minister is insistent that the wildly disproportionate rate of infection and death among black, Asian and minority ethnic communities has nothing to do with the fact that they are black, Asian or from a minority ethnic group. Has it occurred to her that the fact that they are more likely to be in overcrowded, poor housing conditions and in the types of job that leave them liable to infection is not random, but is to do with race and ethnicity?

Will the Minister do more in the area of data? First, will she speak to colleagues about having ethnicity routinely put on death certificates? Can we have more information on the Haredi and ultra-orthodox Jewish communities, who have had disproportionate levels of deaths from covid in America? Will she speak to Public Health England to make sure that local directors of public health make constituency-level data, particularly on ethnicity, available to constituency stakeholders, including Members of Parliament?

**Reply from Kemi Badenoch:** ... Recording ethnicity data on death certificates was one of the recommendations in my previous report. It is not something that can be done overnight—it will probably require legislation—but we are on our way to getting it, so that is some good news. ...

Research from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine estimated that 64% of the orthodox Jewish community may have had covid-19 in 2020. The researchers said that the reasons behind this high rate of infection are not yet known.

Strictly orthodox families have significantly larger households than the UK average. They also live in areas of increased population density and, in pre-pandemic times, had regular attendance at communal events and gatherings. I use them as an example because this is why it is wrong for us to mix together lots of different groups. The orthodox Jewish community has been more impacted than many of the ethnic minority groups that get a lot of attention in the press, but we do not say that that is due to structural antisemitism. We look at the underlying factors. Where there are multi-generational households, for instance, that is not due to racism, but is often due to cultural factors. We are not going to take grandparents away from their families because of covid. We are going to provide them with guidance to ensure that they can look after themselves safely; that is this Government's priority. ...

**Kate Griffiths (Conservative):** We all know that vaccination is imperative for protecting lives and for economic recovery. ... May I urge my hon. Friend to ensure that resources are available for further work to reach out to those communities and ensure more clinics in communities where take-up is low?

**Reply from Kemi Badenoch:** We are ensuring that public health messages are accessible, and are published in a large number of media that ethnic minorities read, watch and listen to. That will be critical in ensuring that the message gets to all communities, especially those that are harder to reach. ... local efforts will be key in driving vaccine uptake. It cannot all be done from Whitehall and Westminster. We are delivering communication on the channels that we believe people from ethnic minorities use, and are communicating through individuals such as religious and community leaders, as I have mentioned. The DHSC has also set up regular interviews with clinicians for more than 20 ethnic minority newspapers and programmes, including *The Voice*, BBC Asian Network, Al Jazeera, British Muslim TV, Zee TV, *Hamodia* and the *Jewish Chronicle*. ...

**Zarah Sultana (Labour):** When I challenged the Minister on the disproportionate impact of covid-19 on black and minority ethnic groups after the first wave of the virus, the Minister denied that systemic injustice was to blame. This new report shows that, in the second wave, Bangladeshi and Pakistani people were three times more likely to die from covid, and that black and minority ethnic communities as a whole are still significantly disproportionately in critical care with it. Does the Minister now acknowledge that it is systemic injustice that black and minority ethnic communities face from higher rates of poverty and overcrowded housing to higher rates of frontline work and barriers to accessing healthcare?

**Reply from Kemi Badenoch:** ... What we need to understand is what exactly we mean by systemic and structural. We have seen that the data show that, at some point, ethnic minority gaps in terms of disproportionate impact completely disappeared. If these were structural issues, that is not what we would expect to see. For example, at the beginning of the second wave, we saw the disparity between black groups completely close. It is not credible to say that people were being structurally racist and stopped being so during the summer, and then over Christmas these structural issues re-emerged. That does not explain what is happening.

We need to look at what the data tells us. We cannot start from the conclusion that

we want this to be systemic injustice so that we can continue to move from a political ideological perspective. We are using a scientific perspective —what does the data tell us?—and the data is telling us that this is a very complex situation. There are multiple factors, and that is why the recommendations, which the Government have, are addressing those underlying factors. It is not a genetic disease, and being an ethnic minority is not the risk factor specifically. ...

**Barbara Keeley (Labour):** We know that one of the drivers of the spread of covid-19 is people being unable to self-isolate, because they cannot afford to miss work. That is a particular problem for people in insecure or zero-hours contract jobs. Black, Asian and minority-ethnic people are more likely to be on those contracts, so are less likely to qualify for sick pay. If we want to drive down covid-19 rates everyone needs to be able to self-isolate, so will the Minister work with her colleagues to expand eligibility for the self-isolation support payment to everyone who needs it?

**Reply from Kemi Badenoch:** What I can tell the hon. Lady is that, certainly in the Treasury, we look at how different groups are being impacted to make sure that we target help on those who are most vulnerable. All the various schemes—not just the ones that I have mentioned such as the self-employment income support scheme or the CJRS but others such as kickstarter—are targeted at the groups that are most vulnerable, which includes ethnic minority people in particular. ...

**To read this very lengthy question and answer session in full see**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-03-01/debates/9A4CA2B2-0929-4312-864E-5CF0089B192A/Covid-19EthnicMinorityDisparities>

*The second quarterly report, referred to above, can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/965093/Second\\_Covid\\_Disparities\\_Report\\_Final\\_2\\_.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/965093/Second_Covid_Disparities_Report_Final_2_.pdf)

*The first quarterly 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](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)

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

### Coronavirus: Vaccination

**Catherine West (Labour)** [137264] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether data on ethnicity will be recorded as part of the national rollout of the covid-19 vaccination programme.

**Reply from Nadhim Zahawi:** From 28 January 2021, NHS England and NHS Improvement have published the total number of vaccinations administered by recorded ethnicity at the following link:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-vaccinations/>  
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-13/137264>

### Ethnic Groups: Coronavirus

**Marsha De Cordova (Labour)** [156547] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what assessment she has made of the implications for the Government's policies of the findings published by the BBC on 9 February 2020 entitled Covid: South Asian death rates still alarming; and what steps her Department is taking to help (a) protect ethnic minority communities from the health and economic effects of covid-19 and (b) encourage covid-19 vaccine uptake in those communities.

**Reply from Kemi Badenoch:** The government continues to assess all of the latest data and evidence about the impact of COVID-19 on different ethnic groups,

including the findings of the Office for National Statistics' analysis on which the BBC article of 9 February was based. This has been summarised in my latest report to the Prime Minister and Health Secretary, which I sent to you on Friday 26 February. We have taken a number of steps to improve health outcomes for ethnic minority groups, including providing additional funding to the Public Health England *Better Health* campaign in order to reach Black African, Black Caribbean, Indian, Bangladeshi and Pakistani groups. This is in addition to existing efforts within the COVID-19 campaign to engage ethnic minorities. To mitigate the economic effects of COVID-19 we introduced an unprecedented package of support – including boosts to Universal Credit, the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme and the Kick-start Scheme – helping to protect incomes, jobs, and support those most in need.

Uptake of vaccines is the best way to protect people from COVID-19 and will save thousands of lives. The government has launched a multi-channel communications campaign to encourage uptake of vaccines among ethnic minority groups and to counter misinformation. We have also provided over £23m in funding to the Community Champions scheme which is enabling local authorities to use trusted local voices to encourage vaccine uptake.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-22/156547>

*The BBC report referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-56002506>

*The Office for National Statistics analysis referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.02.03.21251004v1.full.pdf>

### **Test and Trace Support Payment: Ethnic Groups**

**Lyn Brown (Labour)** [154903] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what assessment he has made of ethnic disparities in the rates of (a) application for a covid-19 self-isolation support payment and (b) receipt of such payment.

**Reply from Helen Whately:** The Department is currently working with local authorities to gather information on the operation and impact of the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme, including an assessment of the ethnicity of those applying for and receiving the payments. The results of the assessment and information covering any ethnic disparities will be published in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-19/154903>

### **Coronavirus: Vaccination**

**Marsha De Cordova (Labour)** [156554] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps he is taking to ensure that the most diverse local authority areas receive additional funding for community champions to increase vaccine uptake in Black, Asian and ethnic minority communities.

**Reply from Luke Hall:** On 25 January we confirmed £23.75 million funding - allocated to 60 councils and further voluntary groups across England - to expand work to support those most at risk from COVID-19 and improve the reach of public health guidance and to boost vaccine take up through the Community Champions scheme. This is part of over £7.9 billion government funding provided to councils to help them support their communities during the pandemic.

The Community Champion scheme is specifically targeted at areas where challenges may be greatest due to the local combination of disproportionately impacted groups – including people with disabilities and Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-22/156554>



## UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

### Covid-19: Ethnic Minority Disparities

... **Baroness Wilcox of Newport (Labour):** ONS statistics last week showed that the unemployment rate for ethnic minorities is 9.5%, compared with 4.5% for white people. A key example of a risk factor is socioeconomic deprivation. Research shows that black, Asian and ethnic minority people are more likely to be on zero-hours contracts. One in five people on such contracts is not eligible for statutory sick pay. What plans do the Government have to address precarious work for ethnic minorities specifically? Do the Government acknowledge that this is evidence that structural racism in the labour market and socioeconomic risk factors interact?

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Education and Department for International Trade (Baroness Berridge):** My Lords, we recognise that certain occupations have had an increased exposure to the virus. That is one of the risk factors for ethnic minority populations. That is why with transportation, for instance, we have issued two different sets of guidance, for private hire and for public service vehicles, and included those within the mass testing. In relation to the economic disadvantage, we are investing £30 billion in a plan for jobs to enable people who have been put out of work by the pandemic to get work.

**Baroness Hussein-Ece (Liberal Democrat):** My Lords, the increasing levels of Covid-19 are now impacting far more on the south Asian community, particularly the Pakistani and Bangladeshi communities. What targeted actions involving public health and policies are being deployed to combat this? Will the Government now publish equality impact assessments on the pandemic responses, including vaccine uptake, given the clear structural social inequalities and institutional racism that have exacerbated the pandemic's impact on the majority of ethnic minority communities?

**Reply from Baroness Berridge:** My Lords, the noble Baroness is correct that the report published last Friday revealed that in the second wave of the pandemic sections of the south Asian population were disproportionately affected by the virus. We have funded community champions to get the message out across certain communities through local authorities. In relation to community centres and places of worship, we have now set up asymptomatic testing centres and vaccination centres to try to increase the take-up within those communities, as getting vaccinated is the best way to protect them from the virus. ...

**The Lord Bishop of St Albans:** What are Her Majesty's Government doing to engage with the Gypsy, Traveller and Roma communities, who are often left out of these discussions, to raise awareness of the positive vaccination process that is available?

**Reply from Baroness Berridge:** My Lords, the right reverent Prelate is correct that this marginalised community is often left out. My noble friend Lord Greenhalgh, who is in the House, is leading a specific initiative out of MHCLG on this community. We now have data on the level of take-up of the vaccine in particular communities. The local directors of public health, who are the best people to know how many vaccines have been offered and how many have been taken up on the ground, should have the detailed information in the coming weeks in order to focus on that particular community in their locality. ...

**To read the question and answer session in full see**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-03-02/debates/5EC2161E-72E8-468E-9FBB-A50C14440033/Covid-19EthnicMinorityDisparities>

## Scottish Government Publications

**Coronavirus (COVID-19): daily data for Scotland**

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

**Coronavirus (COVID-19): trends in daily data**

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

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's statement - 5 March 2021**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-statement-5-march-2021/>

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's statement - 4 March 2021**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-statement-4-march-2021/>

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: Health Secretary's statement - 3 March 2021**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-health-secretarys-statement-3-march-2021/>

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's statement - 2 March 2021**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-statement-2-march-2021/>

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: Health Secretary's statement - 1 March 2021**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-health-secretarys-statement-1-march-2021/>

## UK Government Press Release

**Mandatory form for international travel launched to prevent illegal trips**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mandatory-form-for-international-travel-launched-to-prevent-illegal-trips>

## UK Government Publications

**The R value and growth rate in the UK**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-r-number-in-the-uk>

## Other Organisations

**Office for National Statistics**

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey, UK: 5 March 2021**

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/bulletins/coronaviruscovid19infectionsurveypilot/march2021/pdf>

## News

**Covid-19: Sprinter urges BAME groups to 'have conversation' about the job**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-essex-56251119>

**Covid Scotland: Church leaders call for end to Scottish Government rule on congregation size**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/19126713.covid-scotland-church-leaders-call-end-scottish-government-rule-congregation-size/>

**Glasgow priest Canon Tom White joins legal action against Scottish Government over lockdown rules**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/19137373.glasgow-priest-canon-tom-white-joins-legal-action-scottish-government-lockdown-rules/>

**Lockdown rules trespass against us, say churches**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/lockdown-rules-trespass-against-us-say-churches-dkdh5r0pt>

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## New Publication

**Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator: Updated guidance for charities campaigning on political issues**

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/news/updated-guidance-for-charities-campaigning-on-political-issues/>

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## Other News

**Funding available for charity employers to take on young people**

<https://scvo.scot/p/42534/2021/03/01/funding-available-for-charity-employers-to-take-on-young-people>

**PVG has gone online!**

<https://www.volunteerscotland.net/for-organisations/disclosure-services/disclosures-latest/pvg-has-gone-online/>

**BBC criticised over 'offensive' debate asking whether Jews are an ethnic minority**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/03/01/bbc-criticised-offensive-debate-asking-whether-jews-ethnic-minority/>

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## **Bills in Progress**    \*\* new or updated this week

### **Scottish Parliament**

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

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

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

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

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

<https://beta.parliament.scot/bills-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-3/marshalled-list-of-amendments-at-stage-3.pdf>

Supplementary Financial Memorandum

<https://beta.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/current-bills/hate-crime-and-public-order-scotland-bill/stage-2/supplementary-financial-memorandum.pdf>

Scottish Parliament Information Centre Briefing: Consideration prior to Stage 3

<https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdnp.azureedge.net/published/2021/3/4/613b4dd7-5451-4415-9f8a-d283631f974a/SB%2021-16.pdf>

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

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

### **UK Parliament**

#### **Asylum Seekers (Accommodation Eviction Procedures) Bill**

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

#### **Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) Bill**

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

#### **Asylum Support (Prescribed Period) Bill**

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

#### **European Citizens' Rights Bill**

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

#### **Illegal Immigration (Offences) Bill**

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

#### **Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill**

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

#### **Immigration (Health and Social Care Staff)**

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

## **Marriage (Approved Organisations) Bill**

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

## **Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill**

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

## **Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (Legal Advice and Appeals) Bill**

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

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## **Consultations**

\*\* new or updated this week

### **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/>

### **Evidence for Equality National Survey (EVENS): Documenting the Lives of Ethnic and Religious Minorities in a Time of Crisis** (closing date 11 May 2021)

[bit.ly/evensurvey](http://bit.ly/evensurvey)

### **Glasgow Museums Legacies of Slavery & Empire Questionnaire** (closing date not stated)

<https://surveys.glasgowlife.org.uk/s/legacies/>

### **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)

(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)

(closing date not stated)

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

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## Job Opportunities

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

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

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## Funding Opportunities

\*\* new or updated this week

### **Grants online: Coronavirus**

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

### **Adapt and Thrive**

*Running until March 2021 (still open)*

This programme, which is part of the Scottish Government Community and Third Sector Recovery Programme, offers grants of up to £75,000, loans, and specialist advice to organisations across the third sector to adapt to the challenges presented by COVID-19 and build back better to thrive in the future. For information see

<https://scvo.scot/support/coronavirus/funding/scottish-government/community-recovery/atf>

### **Resilient & Inclusive Communities Fund**

*Running until March 2021 (still open)*

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/>

### **Equality and Human Rights Fund**

*Closing date 14 May 2021*

Scottish Government funding to support work which advances human rights, promotes equality and tackles discrimination around age, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, disability and race. Grants will support projects over the next three years, and there is no minimum or maximum amount that can be applied for. For information and to apply see <https://www.inspiringscotland.org.uk/what-we-do/our-funds/equality-and-human-rights/>

### **Vaccine Information Fund**

*Running until August 2021*

Grants of up to £1,000 are available to eligible organisations to create appropriate resources and activities to ensure that all people in Scotland have informed and equal access to information about the vaccine. For information see <https://bemis.org.uk/vif/>

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**\*\* this week!**

**Refugee Week Slow Conference**

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>

**\*\* this week!**

**Basic security for your place of worship**

9 March 2021 (online, 2.00)

7 April 2020 (online, 2.00)

Community Security Trust webinar providing an introduction to security for places of worship and faith communities. For information about the March event see <https://tinyurl.com/y4gakb6y> and for the April event <https://tinyurl.com/y23d82hn>

**\*\* this week!**

**Exploring enablers and barriers to uptake of the COVID-19 Vaccine**

10 March 2021 (online, 10.00–11.30)

Voluntary Health Scotland event exploring the likely impact of the Covid-19 vaccine programme on health inequalities. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yap6qjjb>

**\*\* this week!**

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

**No Recourse to Public Funds**

17 March 2021 (online, 10.00–12.00)

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

**\*\* Scottish Elections May 2021**

17 March 2021 (online, 6.30–7.30)

Electoral Commission/CEMVO Scotland session to provide information and resources to empower people to have their say in the Scottish Parliament elections on 6 May. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y8yfssf1>

**Online Security + Hate crime and your community**

17 March 2021 (online, 7.00)

Community Security Trust webinar covering Online Security (how to protect yourself and your community from online threats) combined with Hate Crime and your Community (how to deal with racial and religious hatred – especially in the digital age). For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yykp38wb>

## **Scotland's Human Rights Report Card: Getting Involved**

24 March 2021 (online, 10.30–12.30)

Scottish Human Rights Commission event to enable people to contribute to Scotland's 'Human Rights Report Card' which is sent to the United Nations every few years as part of the Universal Periodic Review, to help other countries around the world make recommendations back to our governments. For information and to register contact [events@scottishhumanrights.com](mailto:events@scottishhumanrights.com)

## **Online Security + Hate crime and your community**

24 March 2021 (online, 2.00)

Community Security Trust webinar about the phases of an attack and how we can learn from past incidents to foil future attacks. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y4ctbg6m>

## **SAFE by CST: Q & A Session**

31 March 2021 (online, 7.00)

Community Security Trust question and answer session about the safety of your community. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y6js3ax2>

## **Organising security for your place of worship**

12 April 2021 (online, 7.00)

Community Security Trust webinar about security and risk management, and how to develop a security plan for places of worship. For information about the February webinar see <https://tinyurl.com/yxdc7kwg> and for April see <https://tinyurl.com/y329uhx7>

## **Event security for your community**

20 April 2021 (online, 7.00)

Community Security Trust webinar about appropriate security measures to ensure the safety of large numbers of people. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y5ahbbgu>

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## **Useful Links**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



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

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