



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

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

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Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Immigration: Welsh Language

Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru) [2386] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 13 July 2020 to Question 71114, what recent assessment her Department has made of the potential merits of bringing forward legislative proposals to amend the immigration rules to ensure that Welsh language skills are awarded equal points as English, including a date whereby final conclusions of that assessment will be published.

Reply from Chris Philp: We are continuing to explore the role of the Welsh language in our immigration system, reflecting its importance to both the communities where it is spoken and to the UK as a whole. Language skills are an important part of integration for those coming to work, study or settle in the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-17/2386>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-07-08/71114>

Migrants

Stephen Timms (Labour) [2171] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the judgment in *ST (a child, by his Litigation Friend VW) & VW v Secretary of State for the Home Department* [2021] EWHC 1085 (Admin), what plans she has to update guidance for no recourse to public funds change of conditions applications to reflect her discretion over transferring applicants from the five year to the 10 year route; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Chris Philp: The No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) policy is by its nature an evolving one and is subject to amendment from time to time. We have studied the judgment in *ST (a child, by his Litigation Friend VW) & VW v Secretary of State for the Home Department* [2021] EWHC 1085 (Admin), and are planning to make amendments to the NRPF policy that are required by that judgment. This includes decisions made following a Change of Conditions application. The different ways in which an individual can be transferred from the five-year route to the 10-year route did not form part of the Court's findings and is currently undergoing separate consideration by the Home Office.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-17/2171>

The judgement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2021/1085.html>

Migrants: Children

Neil Coyle (Labour) [266] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the High Court ruling of 29 April 2021 on the No Recourse to Public Funds policy, what steps she is taking to safeguard children's welfare.

Migrants

Neil Coyle (Labour) [267] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will review her Department's No Recourse to Public Funds policy in light of the High Court ruling of 29 April 2021.

Reply from Chris Philp: The policy of No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) has been upheld by successive governments and maintains that those seeking to establish their family life in the UK must do so on a basis that prevents burdens on the taxpayer and promotes integration.

In the case of *ST vs SSHD* the High Court dismissed five of the six grounds raised by the claimant challenging the lawfulness of the policy. We are currently reflecting on the judgment in relation to our child welfare responsibilities.

People with leave under family and human rights routes can already apply, free of charge, to have the no recourse to public funds condition lifted.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-11/266>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-11/267>

The judgement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2021/1085.html>

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme: Migrants

Stephen Timms (Labour) [2173] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what steps her Department plans to take to support people with No Recourse to Public Funds when the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme ends.

Reply from Justin Tomlinson: The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and the

Self-employed Income Support Scheme have been extended to the end of September 2021 to recognise some industries will return no earlier than 21 June. Immigration status holders who do not return to work because they have lost their employment will need to check the conditions attached to their leave. Where their immigration status is linked to a particular job, they may need to find alternative employment or another basis of stay, and make a further application if they wish to remain in the UK.

Non-UK nationals and family members who are issued with a residence permit with a NRPF condition are not eligible to access taxpayer-funded benefits such as Universal Credit, Child Benefit or housing assistance for the duration of their leave. DWP has no powers to award taxpayer-funded benefits to an individual whose Home Office immigration status specifies no recourse to public funds.

People with leave under the Family and Human Rights routes can apply to have their NRPF condition lifted by making a 'change of conditions' application if they are destitute or at risk of destitution, or if the welfare of their child is at risk due to their low income. NRPF 'change of conditions' applications are prioritised and dealt with compassionately.

Other support is available to people with an NRPF condition once the Coronavirus Job Retention scheme comes to an end. Contribution-based benefits, such as New Style JSA, will continue to be available for those who meet the eligibility criteria.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-17/2173>

Right to Work Checks

Martyn Day (SNP) [364] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to her Department's decision to return to physical right to work checks from 17 May 2021, what assessment her Department has made of the potential public safety implications of the decision; and if she will publish the evidential basis for that decision.

Reply from Chris Philp: On 20 April, we announced that from 17 May, employers would be required to revert back to face to face and physical document checks as set out in legislation and guidance. However, we published an update to this on 12 May, announcing the decision to push back the date for physical document checks to resume from 21 June.

After consulting extensively, we understand that many employers will not be in a position to return fully to the office until 21 June in line with the UK Government's roadmap to ease lockdown restrictions in England and those of the devolved administrations.

The COVID-19 adjusted checking process was a temporary measure and we made clear to employers that we would end it in line with the lifting of social distancing measures.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-11/364>

Right to Rent Checks

Kim Johnson (Labour) [513] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether a landlord conducting right-to-rent checks after 30 June 2021 will be obliged to refuse to rent a property to an EU citizen in the event that they are unable to demonstrate proof of their status and have not applied to the EU Settlement Scheme.

Reply from Kevin Foster: From 1 July right to rent checks will change and EEA citizens will be required to demonstrate eligibility through evidence of their immigration status, rather than their nationality, now free movement has ended. We will be updating our guidance and communicating with landlords in the coming weeks to set out the support available and ensure they are clear on the steps they should take at the end of the grace period.

Where an EEA citizen, who was resident here before the end of the transition

period, has reasonable grounds for missing the EUSS application deadline, they will be given a further opportunity to apply.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-11/513>

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

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

Visas: Married People

Catherine West (Labour) [1146] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of spouse visa applications were processed within her Department's service standard of 8 weeks in Quarter 1 of 2021.

Reply from Kevin Foster: This information requested is routinely published as part of UKVI Transparency data.

The current data is available for Quarter 4 of 2020 and can be found in the attached link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visas-and-citizenship-data-february-2021>

Data for Q1 2021 will be published in the next transparency data release.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-13/1146>

Youth Mobility Scheme: Coronavirus

Caroline Lucas (Green) [676] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effect of covid-19 restrictions on life and work in the UK for people on a two-year Tier 5 Youth Mobility scheme visa; if she will make it her policy to accept applications to extend the period of validity for those affected and consider them on a case-by-case basis; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Government's position on visa extensions in the early stages of this pandemic was to prevent people who were legally in the UK from being subject to enforcement action at a point when international travel was largely unavailable.

Since 1 September 2020 any individual who intends to leave the UK, is not able to do so as a result of Covid-19, and who holds an immigration status which expires before 30 June 2021 may request additional time to stay, known as 'exceptional assurance'. More information can be found at:

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

Those who were unable to travel to the UK on their Youth Mobility Scheme (YMS) visa because of travel restrictions are able to apply for another full 2 year YMS visa.

Those currently in the UK on a YMS visa can switch to another visa from within the UK where they meet the conditions of the route.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-12/676>

Visas: Hong Kong

Gareth Thomas (Labour Co-op) [50] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of visa applications from holders of British National Overseas (Hong Kong) status have been decided within 12 weeks; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The new Hong Kong BN(O) route was launched on 31 January 2021, with the new digital application launching on 23 February.

A breakdown of the application numbers and outcomes will be published as part of the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release', the next update is due for publication on 27 May 2021 and will be found at:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-11/50>

Immigration: Hong Kong

Gareth Thomas (Labour Co-op) [51] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many appointments Sopra Steria UKVCAS provides each day for holders of British National Overseas (Hong Kong) status to complete their biometric enrolment at service and support centres; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The majority of customers applying for the Hong Kong BN(O) visa route are able to complete their applications without attending a biometric enrolment appointment, as they are able to prove their identity through the "UK Immigration: ID Check" smartphone app.

Where a customer applying for the Hong Kong BN(O) visa route is required to attend an appointment, they attend a UK Visa and Citizenship Application Service (UKVCAS) centre which are run by Sopra Steria Ltd (SSL) on behalf of UK Visas & Immigration (UKVI).

UKVCAS appointments are released to all relevant customers simultaneously, irrespective of the immigration route under which they have applied, on a daily basis, 28 days in advance. The number of appointments added into the system is not constant as it depends on a number of factors. In the week commencing 10 May 2021, 17,251 appointments have been offered across the full network of UKVCAS service points.

UKVI works closely with SSL to monitor appointment levels to ensure sufficient appointments are made available overall and including in geographical regions where there appears to be most demand.

The Service and Support Centres (SSCs) are a separate service, run directly by the Home Office, and are designed to provide additional support to more vulnerable customers. Customers are routed to SSCs or UKVCAS depending on their circumstances established through the application process.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-11/51>

Health Services: EU Nationals

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [1299] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether his Department plans to issue guidance to NHS trusts on ensuring that care is not withheld from EU citizens and non-EU family members who are eligible for the EU Settlement Scheme but have not made an application (a) before and (b) after the 30 June 2021 deadline.

Reply from Edward Argar: The Department has issued detailed guidance to National Health Service trusts, making it clear that EU citizens will need to have lawful status under the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) to meet the ordinarily residence test from 1 July 2021. From this date, the Home Office will accept late applications to the EUSS where they accept the person has reasonable grounds. The Department has provided guidance to NHS trusts on the chargeable status of patients who have made a late application. Primary medical care is free of charge to all overseas visitors.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-14/1299>

Health Services: EU Nationals

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [1300] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps EU citizens with Settled Status or non-EU family members with Settled Status should take to evidence that status and the date on which it was received; and what steps EU citizens with Settled Status or non-EU family members who have applied for Settled Status but not yet received it should take to evidence the date of their application to the EU Settlement Scheme upon receiving NHS treatment or care.

Reply from Edward Argar: European Union citizens and non-EU family members that have applied to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) can provide their

Certificate of Application as evidence of this when accessing National Health Service treatment. Those granted EUSS status will be able to provide a share code, through which NHS trusts can establish their immigration status. EU citizens and non-EU family members will still need to meet the ordinarily residence test to be eligible for free healthcare. Primary medical care is free of charge to all overseas visitors. Health services are not withheld from anyone in urgent need.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-14/1300>

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

Alan Brown (SNP) [338] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many live EU settled status applications from Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency are waiting to be resolved.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office publishes data on the EU Settlement Scheme in the '[EU Settlement Scheme statistics](#)'. It is published on the basis of local authority, rather than constituency areas.

Data on the number of applications and concluded applications by UK local authority are published in Tables EUSS_LA_01 and EUSS_LA_03 of the quarterly EUSS statistics local authority tables, which can be found at:

www.gov.uk/government/statistics/eu-settlement-scheme-quarterly-statistics-december-2020

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-11/338>

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

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [1298] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that no EU citizen who has lived in the UK for more than the five years required for Settled Status and is unable to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme by the 30 June 2021 deadline because they were not aware of that scheme and deadline or did not realise they were required to apply will lose their status and rights.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office has received more than 5.4 million applications to the EU Settlement Scheme to 30 April 2021. Our focus remains on encouraging those EU citizens and their family members eligible for the scheme who have yet to apply to do so before the 30 June 2021 deadline for those resident in the UK by the end of the transition period.

We recently launched another marketing campaign for this purpose, bringing to £7.9 million our investment in such activity. The campaign highlights the significant support in applying to the scheme available to those who need it, including from the network of now 72 organisations across the UK, grant funded by the Home Office with £22 million to help vulnerable people apply.

In line with the Citizens' Rights Agreements, we have made clear where a person eligible for status under the scheme has reasonable grounds for missing the 30 June 2021 deadline, they will be given a further opportunity to apply. The non-exhaustive guidance on reasonable grounds for submitting a late application we published on 1 April 2021 includes where there are compelling practical or compassionate reasons why a person may have been unaware of the requirement to apply to the scheme by the deadline or may have failed to do so.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-14/1298>

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

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [772] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether an employer conducting right-to-work checks after 30 June 2021 will be obliged to terminate the employment of an EU citizen where that EU citizen is unable to demonstrate proof of their status or proof that they have applied to the EU Settlement Scheme.

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [773] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether an EU citizen care worker who fails to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme by 30 June 2021 will be prosecuted if they continue to work without status.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Where an EEA citizen has reasonable grounds for missing the EUSS application deadline, they will be given an opportunity to make a late application.

Any EEA citizen encountered by Immigration Enforcement after 30 June 2021, who may be eligible to apply to the EUSS, will be issued with a notice which provides a further 28 days for the individual to submit their application. Further information will be provided to employers shortly about what they should do if they have an employee who finds themselves in this situation.

Each individual case will be considered on its own merits.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-12/772>
and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-12/773>

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

Apsana Begum (Labour) [895] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of (a) EEA Family Permit Applications and (b) EU Settlement Scheme family permits have not met her Department's service standards in the most recent period for which data is available.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The published service standards for EEA and EUSS family permits states:

If you are applying for an EEA family permit or an EUSS family permit you will get a decision as soon as possible after proving your identity and provided your documents.

This can be found at:

www.gov.uk/guidance/visa-decision-waiting-times-applications-outside-the-uk#if-you-want-to-join-family-in-the-uk

Therefore, there is no time-bound service standard attached to these routes.

The Home Office publishes data on entry clearance visas in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on EEA Family Permit and EU Settlement Scheme family permit applications and outcomes are published in table Vis_D01 and Vis_D02 of the entry clearance visa detailed data sets which can be found at:

www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/managed-migration-datasets

Information on how to use the datasets can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-12/895>

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

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

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [282] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, in the absence of bilateral agreements with third countries, how many case-by-case agreements for the return of asylum-seekers have been reached since 1 January 2021.

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [285] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many transfers have been carried out under the inadmissibility rules for asylum claims published in December 2020, from 1 January 2021 to 5 May 2021.

Reply from Chris Philp: Figures on the number of asylum application decisions made in the first quarter of 2021 are due to be published on 27 May 2021. We are working to bring inadmissibility data in line with current reporting and hope to publish that information in the same timeframe.

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-11/282>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-11/285>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Immigration: Scotland

Kenny MacAskill (Alba) [1400] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will (a) set out details of and (b) publish protocols between her Department and Police Scotland on policing of the enforcement of immigration issues.

Kenny MacAskill (Alba) [1401] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will (a) set out details of and (b) publish protocols on the enforcement of immigration issues in Scotland.

Asylum: Glasgow

Kenny MacAskill (Alba) [1402] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions officials in her Department have had with (a) representatives of Police Scotland and (b) the Scottish Government prior to the attempted removal of asylum seekers in Kenmure Street, Glasgow on 13 May 2021.

Reply from Chris Philp: As with our activity throughout the UK, Immigration Enforcement works closely with Police Scotland to ensure that our operations are conducted lawfully and safely – this includes notifying the Police of scheduled visits through operational notifications. The Home Office and Police Scotland have a Memorandum of Understanding for data sharing. Police Scotland and the Home Office share data and intelligence on immigration crime, detecting foreign national offenders in the community, modern slavery and human trafficking amongst many other things.

There are no protocols on the enforcement of immigration issues specific to Scotland. Guidance and procedures for immigration issues throughout the UK are published on WWW.GOV.UK.

This was a routine, lawful, operation: the Police were informed of the visit in advance through an operational notification form and raised no concerns. Routine operations are not normally discussed with any government department prior to activity taking place so no discussions took place with the Scottish Government prior to this visit.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-14/1400>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-14/1401>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-14/1402>

Asylum: Housing

Chi Onwurah (Labour) [725] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whose responsibility it is to arrange and provide cleaning materials, tools and services in accommodation provided to asylum seekers.

Reply from Kevin Foster: For those asylum seekers who are accommodated in Initial Accommodation or other contingency accommodation the relevant providers are responsible for the cleaning of all communal areas, along with the service and maintenance of the accommodation.

In more permanent dispersal accommodation providers are responsible for the maintenance of the accommodation, and any problems with the accommodation should be reported to the provider using the AIRE service. Asylum seekers in this type of accommodation receive a weekly support payment to buy essential items, which includes cleaning products.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-12/725>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Detainees: EU Nationals

Helen Hayes (Labour) [1342] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether EU citizens detained and held in immigration removal centres are able to secure consular assistance from their home country whilst in the UK.

Helen Hayes (Labour) [1343] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether EU citizens detained and held in immigration removal centres are able to access legal advice; and how many EU citizens have been deported before speaking to a lawyer since the signing of the UK-EU Withdrawal Agreement.

Reply from Chris Philp: The rights of all detained individuals are protected by the Detention Centre Rules 2001 (DCR), published Operating Standards for immigration removal centres (IRCs) and individuals under escort and Detention Services Orders (DSO).

All individuals who are detained are made aware of their right to legal representation, and how they can obtain such representation, within 24 hours of their arrival at an immigration removal centre (IRC). The Legal Aid Agency operates legal advice surgeries across the detention estate in England, with detainees receiving up to 30 minutes of advice without reference to financial eligibility or merits of their case. If they require substantive advice on a matter which is in scope of legal aid, then full legal advice can be provided. Following a change of operations in line with Government advice on social distancing, the LAA Detained Duty Advice scheme is currently operating by phone. Detained individuals who wish to access this service are asked to advise centre staff, who will notify the duty solicitor under the scheme. The duty solicitor will contact the individual directly.

All individuals in immigration removal centres are provided with a mobile phone and have access to landline telephones, fax machines, email and video calling facilities which can be used to contact legal advisers. In exceptional circumstances, and for individuals facing imminent removal from the UK face to face legal and social visits can occur where other means of contact are not feasible.

The UK also has bilateral consular conventions with a number of countries which imposes an obligation on detaining authorities to notify the person's Embassy of their detention, even if the individual has not requested this, if they are likely to be detained for more than 24 hours. The only exception to this is where the individual has made an asylum claim or if an asylum claim might be forthcoming.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-14/1342>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-14/1343>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Detainees: EU Nationals

Helen Hayes (Labour) [1340] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many EU citizens have been detained in advance of deportation from the UK in each month since the signing of the UK-EU Withdrawal Agreement.

Deportation: EU Nationals

Helen Hayes (Labour) [1341] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many EU citizens have been deported from the UK in each month since the signing of the UK-EU Withdrawal Agreement.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office publishes data on the number of returns from the UK and the number of people entering detention in each quarter in the [‘Immigration Statistics Quarterly release’](#).

The latest data on enforced returns (of which ‘deportations’ is a subset) are published in the [returns summary tables](#). The data include the number of returns that occurred from detention. More detailed breakdowns, including nationality breakdowns, can be found in Ret_D01 of the [Returns detailed dataset](#).

The term ‘deportations’ refers to a legally-defined subset of returns, which are enforced either following a criminal conviction, or when it is judged that a person’s removal from the UK is conducive to the public good. The published statistics refer to enforced returns which include deportations, as well as cases where a person has breached UK immigration laws and those removed under other administrative and illegal entry powers that have declined to leave voluntarily. Figures on deportations, which are a subset of enforced returns, are not separately available. The Home Office seeks to return people who do not have any legal right to stay in the UK, which includes people who:

- enter, or attempt to enter, the UK illegally (including people entering clandestinely and by means of deception on entry);
- overstay their period of legal right to remain in the UK;
- breach their conditions of leave;
- are subject to deportation action; for example, due to a serious criminal conviction and
- have been refused asylum.

Data on the number of people entering and leaving detention are published in the [Detention summary tables](#). Data on reason for leaving detention (including those ‘Returned from the UK’) are published in table Det_04a of the [‘Detention summary tables’](#). Further breakdowns, including nationality breakdowns, can be found in the [Immigration detention detailed datasets](#).

The latest data for returns relate to the year ending September 2020. The latest data on detention relate to the year ending December 2020. The next quarterly update will be published on 27 May 2021.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-14/1340>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-14/1341>

New Publications

Letter from Kevin Foster MP to Yvette Cooper MP regarding arrangements for British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) status holders from Hong Kong at the UK border and in the UK before 21 June 2021

http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2021-0416/Kevin_Foster_MP_to_Yvette_Cooper_MP.pdf

Ministerial Authorisation under the Equality Act 2010: Equality (Leave outside the rules at the border for Hong Kong British National Overseas Citizens) Authorisation (No. 2) 2021

http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2021-0416/Ministerial_Authorisation.pdf

News

Important info for Aspen card users

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/important-info-for-aspen-card-users/>

New border scheme will make UK safer, says Priti Patel

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-57217739>

Home Office sends letters warning of immigration status to UK citizens

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/may/17/immigration-letter-sent-to-long-term-british-citizens-causes-alarm>

Windrush victims still waiting for compensation - watchdog

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-57196605>

Just six Home Office staff were appointed to handle 15,000 Windrush claims

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2021/05/21/just-six-home-office-staff-appointed-handle-15000-windrush-claims/>

Windrush victims must come forward to help government right wrongs

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/windrush-victims-must-come-forward-to-help-government-right-wrongs-rn6c5lh8f>

Tens of thousands of EU citizens in UK to lose legal status next month due to Brexit 'cliff edge'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/eu-citizens-legal-status-brexit-b1849762.html>

EU citizens are allowed to visit Britain for a job interview, says minister

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/may/18/eu-citizens-are-allowed-to-visit-britain-for-a-job-interview-says-minister>

Handcuffed, detained, denied medicine: EU citizens' UK border ordeals

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/may/17/handcuffed-detained-denied-medicine-eu-citizens-uk-border-ordeals>

Home Office notified Police Scotland in advance of failed Kenmure Street raid, but Scottish Government not told

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/uk-news/home-office-notified-police-scotland-in-advance-of-failed-kenmure-street-raid-but-scottish-government-not-told-3242705>

Glasgow politicians write to Home Office over immigration policy

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-57211999>

Glasgow politicians call on Home Office to halt immigration raids

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/may/21/glasgow-politicians-call-on-home-office-to-halt-immigration-raids>

Home Office takes hard line over Glasgow deportations

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/home-office-takes-hard-line-over-glasgow-deportations-3vkdnrvc>

Home Office raid on Glasgow asylum seekers ‘incited carnage’

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/home-office-raid-on-glasgow-asylum-seekers-incited-carnage-n3b7c9dv8>

Politicians ‘wrong for inciting crowd’ over Glasgow immigration raid

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/politicians-wrong-for-inciting-crowd-over-glasgow-immigration-raid-9jt5brprm>

Glasgow asylum seeker protesters ‘just as selfish as Rangers fans’

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/asylum-protesters-just-as-selfish-as-rangers-fans-8dc30phql>

Too Long to be Illegal: Implications of India’s Consent on ‘Migration and Mobility’

<https://www.paih.org/too-long-to-be-illegal-implications-of-indias-consent-on-migration-and-mobility/>

Shadow minister accuses police of ‘racial profiling’ after immigration checks on food delivery cyclists

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/immigration-checks-delivery-riders-tooting-b1850010.html>

Tooting MP accuses police of ‘racial profiling’ after immigration enforcement stops almost fifty delivery riders

<https://londonnewsonline.co.uk/tooting-mp-accuses-police-of-racial-profiling-after-immigration-enforcement-stops-almost-fifty-delivery-riders/>

Home Office plan for women’s immigration centre faces legal challenge

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/may/17/home-office-challenged-over-planned-womens-immigration-detention-centre>

Dozens of vulnerable asylum seekers wrongly placed in Napier Barracks despite watchdog warnings

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/dozens-of-vulnerable-asylum-seekers-wrongly-placed-in-napier-barracks-despite-mental-health-warnings-b1850679.html>

UK asylum seekers at ‘unprecedented’ risk of suicide amid deportation threat

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/may/21/uk-asylum-seekers-at-unprecedented-risk-of-suicide-amid-deportation-threat>

Home Office’s rush to deport asylum seekers before Brexit was ‘inhumane’, watchdog finds

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/brexit-asylum-seekers-home-office-b1850796.html>

Home Office ordered to move torture victim out of 'prison-like' hotel

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/may/18/home-office-ordered-to-move-torture-victim-out-of-prison-like-hotel>

We must change the culture on immigration

https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/19307861_agenda-must-change-culture-immigration/

Family fined £200 after migrant hid in car roofbox to enter UK

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/05/20/family-fined-200-migrant-hid-car-roofbox-enter-uk/>

TOP

Equality

Press Release

Updated evidence of UK and Wales human rights progress available on human rights tracker

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/updated-evidence-uk-and-wales-human-rights-progress-available-human-rights-tracker>

New Publication

Ethnicity and child poverty

<https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/ethnicity-and-child-poverty/>

News

Black unemployment 'rising three times faster than for white people' new analysis finds

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/black-unemployment-white-people-b1849356.html>

'Immigrant optimism' credited with helping ethnic minority pupils outperform white peers

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/05/19/ethnic-minority-pupils-outperform-white-peers-becuase-immigrant/>

Saroj Lal: Legacy of teacher who was race relations trailblazer

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-57162537>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Prosecution of Hate Crime

Ian Levy (Conservative): What assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the CPS's work to improve community confidence in its prosecution of hate crime. (900282)

Reply from the Attorney General (Michael Ellis): ... I have been appalled by recent examples of hate crime, which are an utter disgrace. I warn racists and antisemites alike that the Crown Prosecution Service recognises the devastating impact that hate crime has on victims and communities, and it is committed to bringing offenders to justice. That is evidenced by the continued rise in sentence uplifts. This year, increases in sentences for hate crime reached the highest rate yet of nearly 80%. Outreach has continued throughout the pandemic with a range of community organisations to increase community confidence and improve the prosecution response to hate crime.

Ian Levy: ... Recently in my constituency, the owner of the Delaval Tandoori was physically and verbally assaulted by two men. The wonderful community of Seaton Delaval has rallied around to support that family-run business in the wake of the attack, but I know they will join me in looking to my right hon. and learned Friend for his assurance that the CPS will do all it can to bring those responsible for hate crime before our courts.

Reply from the Attorney General: ... The Crown Prosecution Service will prosecute cases referred to it by the police and other law enforcement agencies, and where the test set out is met, it will prosecute those offences. Those who commit such offences must understand that their sentences have an 80% likelihood of being uplifted as a consequence of the hate element of their crime. According to one media report, we have recently seen a 600% increase in antisemitic crimes. We recognise that any form of hate crime against any group is obnoxious and antithetical to the interests of this country, and cannot be tolerated. The CPS recognises the devastating impact. Everything will be done and continues to be done to check those offences.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-05-20/debates/7DDB226E-1F79-4C49-87BC-22E6A79B6860/ProsecutionOfHateCrime>

Antisemitism

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour): ... We all share the horror at the reports of antisemitic hate speech and attacks this week, yet some people are falsely defending antisemitic hate speech on university campuses under the guise of free speech, which the Government plan to make into some sort of law. Can I ask the Leader of the House, genuinely, if he will ask the Secretary of State for Education to consider working with, rather than against, universities on how to respond to antisemitism? The priorities of free speech and protecting people from incitement to racial hatred are both important, and his Government will need to exercise care, not a blunt instrument, if our universities are able to call out antisemitism “at every stage”, as the Prime Minister rightly said we should do yesterday. ...

Reply from Jacob Rees-Mogg: I entirely agree that this Government and this country must root out antisemitic hate speech. It has no place in a civilised society. It is the most wrong and wicked of all the unpleasant and wrong prejudices that people have, bearing in mind the history of Europe over the past 100 years. There is absolutely no place for it. Incitement to racial hatred is illegal, and that is not in contradiction to the right to freedom of speech.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-05-20/debates/93FD20B5-3BCE-444C-9F88-174A4B3EB41C/BusinessOfTheHouse#contribution-27A9B519-2CF7-4E72-BD8D-73F010C99CDA>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Hate Crime: Asians

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour) [1180] To ask the Secretary of State for Ministry, Housing and Local Government, what steps he is taking to tackle the level of focussed

hate crime targeted at Asian people.

Reply from Luke Hall: We are clear that all forms of hatred, including that based on race, are unacceptable and will be tackled. We have a strong legal framework in place to deal with the perpetrators of hate crime, and we have asked the Law Commission to undertake a full review of the coverage and approach of current hate crime legislative provisions, which will further strengthen this.

The Government is now considering a range of options to tackle hate crime beyond the current hate crime action plan. We are working with other departments and civil society partners to explore possible approaches, and ensuring a range of views from communities are taken into consideration.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-13/1180>

Social Media: Antisemitism

Elliot Colburn (Conservative) [3171] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps he is taking to ensure that the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism is included in any discussions with a potential regulator on holding social media companies accountable for content hosted on their platforms.

Reply from Caroline Dinenage: The Government is committed to tackling racism, including the spread of antisemitic content online. On 12 May 2021, we published the draft Online Safety Bill, which sets out new expectations on companies to keep their users safe online. Under a new legal duty of care, in-scope companies, including social media, will need to tackle illegal antisemitic content and activity on their services.

In addition, companies providing high-risk, high-reach services will need to assess the risk to adults of legal but harmful content on their services and set clear terms and conditions stating what legal but harmful material they accept (and do not accept) on their service. Companies will have to do this for both priority harms which the government will set out in secondary legislation and for any emerging harms they identify in their risk assessments.

These duties will apply to antisemitic hate speech, which does not meet the threshold of a criminal offence. Companies will need to enforce their terms and conditions consistently and transparently, and could face enforcement action if they do not. All companies in scope will be required to have effective and accessible user reporting and redress mechanisms.

From now onwards we will be working with stakeholders and parliamentarians alike on identifying priority harms, and they will be subject to the usual secondary legislation processes. Ofcom will be responsible for advising the government regarding the list of priority categories of harm, based on evidence of the prevalence and impact of harmful content. Government will not be bound to follow this advice.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-18/3171>

The Draft Bill referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/985033/Draft_Online_Safety_Bill_Bookmarked.pdf

Social Media: Harassment

Chi Onwurah (Labour) [2283] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the algorithms used by social media firms to moderate hate speech and online abuse on their platforms.

Reply from Caroline Dinenage: Companies are not doing enough to prevent hate speech and online abuse.

The Online Safety Bill, which has now been published in draft, will require all

companies to take swift and effective action against hate speech and online abuse. The Bill will ensure that all companies remove and limit the spread of illegal content, and that they keep their promises to stamp out this sort of abuse. Major platforms will also need to deal with abuse that falls below the criminal threshold. They will need to set and enforce clear terms and conditions on how they will tackle this content.

For the first time, companies will be held accountable for keeping their users safe on their platforms, and Ofcom will have robust powers to enforce the rules if companies do not comply.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-17/2283>

The Draft Bill referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/985033/Draft_Online_Safety_Bill_Bookmarked.pdf

Social Media: Regulation

Chi Onwurah (Labour) [2284] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of requiring social media companies to report on the algorithms they use to monitor online hate speech on their platforms and any biases found within those algorithms.

Reply from Caroline Dinenage: Hate speech is completely unacceptable in an open and tolerant society. Our new laws will mean social media companies must keep promises to their users about their standards and stamp out this sort of abuse. Companies will need to take steps to mitigate the risks of harm associated with their algorithms. This will apply in the case of illegal content and, in particular, companies will need to ensure that systems for targeting content to children, such as the use of algorithms, protect them from harmful material.

Ofcom will have a range of powers at its disposal to help it assess whether companies are fulfilling their duties. The largest and most high risk companies will also be required to produce transparency reports, which will include information about the steps companies are taking to protect users. These reports may include information about the processes and tools in place to address illegal and harmful content and activity, including, where appropriate, tools to identify, flag, block or remove illegal and harmful content.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-17/2284>

News

Subnormal: The scandal of black children sent to 'special' schools

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-57099654>

'Black kids were written off': the scandal of the children sent to 'dustbin schools'

<https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2021/may/19/black-kids-were-written-off-the-scandal-of-the-children-sent-to-dustbin-schools>

Subnormal: A British Scandal review – the racist nightmare that scarred black children for life

<https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2021/may/20/subnormal-a-british-scandal-review-racist-nightmare-steve-mcqueen>

Confronting hate against east Asians – a photo essay

<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2021/may/19/confronting-hate-against-east-asians-a-photo-essay>

Recipes Against Racism: How to fight back against anti-Asian hate crime through food
<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/food-and-drink/asian-recipes-against-racism-cookbook-covid-b1842359.html>

Anti-Catholic hate remains a stain on society

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/anti-catholic-hate-remains-a-stain-on-society-vlgmrv60s>

More than 300% increase in antisemitic incidents in recent days, minister tells MPs

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/anti-semitic-comments-uk-robert-jenrick-b1848890.html>

Islamist extremists ‘use protests to spread antisemitism’

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/islamist-extremists-use-protests-to-spread-antisemitism-gcprwrbsp>

Universities told to stop ‘foot dragging’ over antisemitism definition

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/universities-told-to-stop-foot-dragging-over-antisemitism-definition-ncsh3hkp7>

Jewish student told to ‘gas herself’ as antisemitic incidents rise

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/jewish-student-told-to-gas-herself-as-antisemitic-incidents-rise-3t37ph5m9>

‘There is denial that racism exists’: why is there such a lack of diversity at the top of higher education?

<https://www.theguardian.com/future-ready-leadership/2021/may/19/there-is-denial-that-racism-exists-why-is-there-such-a-lack-of-diversity-at-the-top-of-higher-education>

Amnesty chief executive resigns after racism controversy

<https://tfn.scot/news/amnesty-chief-executive-resigns-amid-calls-after-racism-controversy>

Pimlico Academy head resigns after row over ‘racist’ uniform policy

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/05/18/pimlico-academy-head-resigns-row-racist-uniform-policy/>

Pimlico academy head resigns after race discrimination row

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2021/may/18/pimlico-academy-head-resigns-after-race-discrimination-row>

Pimlico Academy headteacher steps down after row over ‘racist’ uniform policy

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/pimlico-academy-london-principal-resignation-b1849728.html>

Pimlico Academy head resigns after row over ‘racist’ uniform policy

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/head-teacher-resigns-after-row-over-racist-uniform-policy-m9pfvlqqz>

Girlguiding charity apologises as audit uncovers racism and Islamophobia

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/girlguiding-charity-racism-islamophobia-b1848730.html>

BBC's lack of black game show hosts is a sign of institutional racism, says Repair Shop host

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/05/18/bbcs-lack-black-game-show-hosts-sign-institutional-racism-says/>

Repair Shop star Jay Blades says BBC is racist by choosing white game show hosts

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/repair-shop-star-jay-blades-says-bbc-is-racist-by-choosing-white-game-show-hosts-r3jqzjfn>

Fair is foul for Shakespeare as his texts are deemed 'racially problematic'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/05/21/shakespeares-language-could-racially-problematic-globe-theatre/>

Michael Rosen condemns 'loathsome and antisemitic' manipulated image

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2021/may/20/michael-rosen-condemns-loathsome-and-antisemitic-manipulated-image>

Focusing on the correct answer in maths 'is racist'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/focusing-on-the-correct-answer-in-maths-is-racist-96gcztfs2>

Mark Walters: No-one spoke about the racist abuse

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-57157076>

Mark Walters on the racist abuse he was subjected to in Scotland - 'I was the only black footballer in the village'

<https://www.scotsman.com/sport/football/mark-walters-on-the-racist-abuse-he-was-subjected-to-in-scotland-i-was-the-only-black-footballer-in-the-village-3246526>

Glasgow churches subjected to anti-Catholic abuse after Rangers win

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/may/19/glasgow-churches-subjected-to-anti-catholic-abuse-after-rangers-win>

SNP condemns 'vile anti-Catholic bigotry' after Rangers celebrations in Glasgow

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/rangers-glasgow-bigotry-sturgeon-snp-b1848710.html>

Eight arrests made over racist online abuse of Tottenham player

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2021/may/21/eight-arrests-made-over-racist-online-abuse-of-tottenham-player>

Eight arrested over online abuse of Tottenham player

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/eight-arrested-over-online-abuse-of-tottenham-player-n5xz3fgbr>

Police make arrests over online racist abuse of Son in Spurs v Man Utd game

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/police-spurs-edinson-cavani-met-scott-mctominay-b1851394.html>

Southend 'appalled and saddened' by online racist abuse sent to Simeon Akinola

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/southend-facebook-instagram-government-football-league-b1851841.html>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

New Ministerial Team – 10 Cabinet Secretaries, and 15 Junior Ministers

First Minister:	Nicola Sturgeon
Minister for Drugs Policy:	Angela Constance
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery:	John Swinney
Minister for Parliamentary Business:	George Adam
Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy:	Kate Forbes
Minister for Just Transition, Employment and Fair Work (also working alongside the Net Zero Secretary):	Richard Lochhead
Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism and Enterprise	Ivan McKee
Minister for Public Finance, Planning and Community Wealth:	Tom Arthur
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care:	Humza Yousaf
Minister for Public Health, Women's Health and Sport:	Maree Todd
Minister for Mental Wellbeing and Social Care:	Kevin Stewart
Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills:	Shirley-Anne Somerville
Minister for Children and Young People:	Clare Haughey
Minister for Higher Education and Further Education, Youth Employment and Training:	Jamie Hepburn
Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport:	Michael Matheson
Minister for Environment, Biodiversity and Land Reform (also working alongside the Rural Affairs Secretary):	Mairi McAllan
Minister for Transport:	Graeme Dey
Cabinet Secretary for Justice:	Keith Brown
Minister for Community Safety:	Ash Denham
Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government:	Shona Robison
Minister for Equalities and Older People:	Christina McKelvie
Minister for Social Security and Local Government:	Ben MacPherson
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands:	Mairi Gougeon
Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, External Affairs and Culture:	Angus Robertson
Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development:	Jenny Gilruth

Press Releases

New Scottish Cabinet

<https://www.gov.scot/news/new-scottish-cabinet/>

New Cabinet appointed

<https://www.gov.scot/news/new-cabinet-appointed-1/>

News

New political line-ups for the parliamentary season ahead

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-57202138>

Finance secretary 'has to tiptoe around' her Christian faith

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-57203901>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Forced Marriage

Munira Wilson (Liberal Democrat) [1202] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the consultation on Preventing and tackling forced marriage, published 15 November 2018, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of a placing a mandatory reporting duty of forced marriages upon safeguarding professionals.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The UK is a world-leader in the fight to end forced marriage, with our dedicated Forced Marriage Unit leading efforts to combat it at home and abroad.

We made forced marriage a criminal offence in 2014 to better protect victims and send a clear message that this practice is unacceptable and will not be tolerated in the UK. And in 2017 we introduced lifelong anonymity for victims of forced marriage to encourage more victims of this hidden crime to come forward.

We are considering our response to the public consultation. The consultation also sought views on how guidance on forced marriage could be improved and strengthened and we are updating our guidance products to reflect the findings.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-13/1202>

The (closed) consultation referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/756200/Forced_Marriage_Consultation.pdf

TOP

Health Information: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

NHS

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 Written Answer

Coronavirus: Death

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [1163] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, with reference to ONS statistics published on 6 May 2021, for what reason risk of death involving covid-19 increased for Sikhs and Muslims compared to Christians between the first and second wave of covid-19; and what steps he plans to take in response to that data.

Reply from Jo Churchill: The exact reasons for these findings are still unknown. The Minister for Equalities (Kemi Badenoch MP) published her second quarterly report on 26 February 2021, which set out work conducted since the first quarterly report, including reviewing the effectiveness of current actions being undertaken by the Government to lessen disparities in infection and death rates of COVID-19. The report reflects that considerable efforts are underway to address these disparities, including through the Community Champions scheme led by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government, which has provided £23.75 million in funding to local authorities.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-13/1163>

The statistics referred to above can be read at

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/articles/deathsinvolveingcovid19byreligiousgroupengland/24january2020to28february2021/pdf>

The quarterly reports 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

and

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/967856/Second_Covid_Disparities_Report_Final_01-03-20_1_.pdf

Scottish Government Press Release

Levels and travel restrictions update

<https://www.gov.scot/news/levels-and-travel-restrictions-update/>

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 – 21 May 2021

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-statement-21-2021/>

UK Government Press Releases

Everyone in the United Kingdom with symptoms now eligible for coronavirus tests

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/everyone-in-the-united-kingdom-with-symptoms-now-eligible-for-coronavirus-tests>

World first COVID-19 vaccine booster study launches in UK

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/world-first-covid-19-vaccine-booster-study-launches-in-uk--2>

Vaccine status drives over one million new users to the NHS app

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/vaccine-status-drives-over-one-million-new-users-to-the-nhs-app>

UK Government Publications

The R value and growth rate

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-r-value-and-growth-rate>

COVID-19: updated guidance for those leading a nomadic way of life

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

News

Scottish Government ordered to pay 'additional' costs after losing court challenge over church closures

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2021/05/19/scottish-government-ordered-pay-additional-costs-losing-court/>

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Other News

Survey finds strong levels of public confidence in Police Scotland

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/what-s-happening/news/2021/may/survey-finds-strong-levels-of-public-confidence-in-police-scotland/>

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

UK Parliament

** Online Safety Bill (Draft)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/draft-online-safety-bill>

Bill as published

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/985033/Draft_Online_Safety_Bill_Bookmarked.pdf

Explanatory Notes

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/985031/Explanatory_Notes_Accessible.pdf

Delegated Powers Memorandum

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/985030/Delegated_Powers_Memorandum_Web_Accessible.pdf

Impact Assessment

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/985283/Draft_Online_Safety_Bill_-_Impact_Assessment_Web_Accessible.pdf

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

** *closes this week!*

Patient Safety Commissioner role for Scotland (closing date 28 May 2021)

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/consultation-patient-safety-commissioner-role-scotland/>

Evidence for Equality National Survey (EVENS) (closing date 30 June 2021)

<https://evensurvey.co.uk/>

Protect Duty (closing date 2 July 2021)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/protect-duty>

Possible changes to the immigration and asylum rules in relation to tribunal reform [in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland] (closing date 14 July 2021)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/possible-changes-to-the-immigration-and-asylum-rules-in-relation-to-tribunal-reform>

Black Lives in Scotland (closing date not stated)

<https://blacklivesinscotland.typeform.com/to/YFrnnHSC>

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

(closing date not stated)

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

Experiences of people with refugee status who are renting private property in Scotland

(closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/YDR67MN>

Experiences of Islamophobia (closing date not stated)

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

Raising skills and standards of supporters of refugees and asylum seekers

(closing date not stated)

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

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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>

Global Majority Fund

Closing date 17 June 2021

Comic Relief and National Emergencies Trust funding of up to £20,000 to provide support for organisations led by and/or serving Black and minority ethnic communities who are experiencing hardships due to COVID-19, and focussed on addressing COVID-19 needs and priorities among communities experiencing racial inequality. For information see <https://www.crer.scot/global-majority-fund>

Adapt and Thrive

Running until June 2021

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>

Public Confidence in Policing: Seldom Heard Communities

Closing date 1 July 2021

Police Scotland, the Scottish Institute for Policing Research and Scottish Police Authority funding for projects and activities which will meet genuine evidence gaps and support Police Scotland to further contact and engagement with all elements of communities in Scotland, particularly those groups which are seldom heard. For information see <http://sipr.ac.uk/research-activities/seldom-heard-communities-grants>

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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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Windrush engagement event

25 May 2021 (online, 5.00–6.00)

Home Office events to raise awareness of the Windrush Compensation Scheme and the work of the Windrush Taskforce. For information see

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/windrush-engagement-events>

Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals

9 June 2021 (online, 10.30–12.30)

4 August 2021 (online, 10.00–12.30)

6 October 2021 (online, 10.00–12.30)

12 January 2022 (online, 10.30–12.30)

2 March 2022 (online, 10.00–12.30)

PAiH training on fundamental issues of housing, homelessness and welfare entitlements of EEA nationals, and look at how service users might prepare themselves to avoid the threats of Brexit. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/24ba4stk>

Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

16 June 2021 (online, 10.00–12.30)

18 August 2021 (online, 10.00–12.30)

20 October 2021 (online, 10.00–12.30)

19 January 2022 (online, 10.00–12.30)

9 March 2022 (online, 10.00–12.30)

PAiH 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 see <https://tinyurl.com/24ba4stk>

No Recourse to Public Funds

30 June 2021 (online, 10.30–12.30)

27 October 2021 (online, 10.30–12.30)

26 January 2022 (online, 10.00–12.30)

PAiH workshop 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 see <https://tinyurl.com/24ba4stk>

Introduction to Working with Religious Diversity

15 July 2021 (online, 10.30–12.30)

Interfaith Scotland workshop on improving confidence in discussing and responding to the religion and belief of those we work with. The event will explore guiding principles behind working with religion and belief diversity, and take a closer look at the core beliefs and cultural practices of Islam, Sikhism and Judaism. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/fsbvp2ac> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

Advantage Is Invisible – Understanding Unintentional Discrimination

3 August 2021 (online, 10.30–12.30)

Interfaith Scotland course exploring the nature and patterns of discrimination, focussing on unintentional discrimination, and exploring its prevalence. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/u6tb4ext> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

Intention Versus Impact – Exploring Challenges Around Group Labels And Unintended Offence

25 August 2021 (online, 13.30–15.30)

Interfaith Scotland workshop exploring the terminology used to describe groups, particularly in relation to protected characteristics such as race, disability, religion and belief. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/z7wcfh46> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

Debiasing Our Systems, Debiasing Ourselves – An Introduction To Tackling Unconscious Bias

14 September 2021 (online, 10.30–1.30)

Interfaith Scotland session exploring the evidence of unconscious bias, methods for reducing its impact on decisions and behaviour, and describing the steps that we can take to become more aware of potential bias and how to reduce its impact. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/tamye4rv> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

Interpreting Culture – Improving Cross-Cultural Communication

14 October 2021 (online, 10.30-13.00)

Interfaith Scotland course to explore how culture forms a lens through which we interpret behaviour, and learn how to improve our inter-cultural communication. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/27mj9h3b> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

Scottish Interfaith Week 2021

31 October to 7 November 2021 (Scotland-wide)

Scottish Interfaith Week will coincide with COP26 (United Nations Climate Change Conference 2021). The theme for 2021 is Together for Our Planet and individuals, faith communities and organisations across Scotland will be encouraged to host climate-related events for the week. For information see <https://scottishinterfaithweek.org/> or sign up to the [Scottish Interfaith Week newsletter](#).

3 Mottos For Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

17 November 2021 (online, 13.00–16.30)

Interfaith Scotland course considering diversity in its widest sense, looking at three models which provide insight on our experience of difference: the role of the dominant identity in shaping organisations; why some people overlook the disadvantages that others experience; and how to respond to misunderstandings or offence. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/b762err8> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

Working With People From Diverse Religion & Belief Identities

14 December 2021 (online, 13.00–16.30)

Interfaith Scotland course on improving confidence in discussing and responding to the religion and belief of those we work with. The event will explore the core beliefs and cultural practices of the main faiths, and individual needs that may arise from a person's faith or belief identity. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/83rwadrb> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

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Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services

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

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

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SCoJeC
Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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

BEMIS
Empowering Scotland's Ethnic and
Cultural Minority Communities

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



*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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