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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 Oral Answers

#### Freedom to Crawl Campaign

**Bob Doris (SNP):** I know that the First Minister is aware of the Freedom To Crawl campaign, which calls on the Mears Group and the United Kingdom Government to cease using a mother-and-baby unit in Glasgow that houses asylum-seeking mums and their children.

I back the campaign. The unit is cramped, with limited personal space and unsatisfactory communal facilities. Twenty families share just three washing machines, the unit has restrictive visiting hours and there are various other worrying concerns.

Does the First Minister welcome the fact that Scotland's Children and Young People's Commissioner is now investigating the impact on families who live in the unit? Does she agree that the current system of housing asylum-seeking families is deeply flawed? Does

she agree that mothers and their babies should be supported in our community and housed in appropriate, self-contained accommodation?

**Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon):** I agree very much with the context of the question. It is not for me to comment on what the commissioner might do, but I support any efforts to improve the situation of, and the conditions for, children of asylum seekers.

The Freedom To Crawl campaign was raised with me in the chamber last week or the week before. I have since looked into the matter and, like every other member I am sure, I receive lots of letters from constituents asking me to support the campaign.

The concerns that are being raised are legitimate. I say again that all asylum seekers, particularly young children, must be provided with accommodation that properly meets their needs, ensures that they get support and can access the services that they need, and enables them to be a part of the community. The issues underlying the campaign need to be resolved quickly in the best interests of mothers and babies.

We have repeatedly called on the Home Office to deliver more humane and flexible asylum and immigration policies, and we make clear again that our strong preference is for asylum accommodation to be delivered by the public sector or the third sector.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13236&i=119949#ScotParlOR>

## Scottish Parliament Motion

**Pauline McNeill (Labour) [S6M-00290] Refugee Festival Scotland 2021** – That the Parliament warmly welcomes the Refugee Festival Scotland 2021, which again promises to be an inspiring and diverse series of online events, from 14 June until World Refugee Day on 20 June, spanning arts and crafts, literature and poetry, dance, political activism, and a range of family friendly sessions with, and for, children, with a thread through them all of bringing people together in the best traditions of the festival; applauds the resilience and courage of the refugee communities, groups and individuals, in contributing to their new communities across the country, helping neighbours to get through the public health emergency together and to come out with stronger relationships than before the COVID-19 pandemic; notes with concern the apparent hardening of the hostile environment, with the UK Government's new plan for immigration reportedly imperilling the right to seek refugee protection, on the 70th anniversary of the Refugee Convention, and resolves to stand together with refugees.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/votes-and-motions-search/S6M-00290>

## UK Parliament Debates

**British Nationality Act 1981 (Immigration Rules Appendix EU) (Amendment) Regulations 2021**

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-06-07/debates/76A9DE40-DFE3-46F2-9C59-9336986843D1/BritishNationalityAct1981\(ImmigrationRulesAppendixEU\)\(Amendment\)Regulations2021](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-06-07/debates/76A9DE40-DFE3-46F2-9C59-9336986843D1/BritishNationalityAct1981(ImmigrationRulesAppendixEU)(Amendment)Regulations2021)

**Immigration (Collection, Use and Retention of Biometric Information and Related Amendments) Regulations 2021**

## UK Parliament, Ministerial Statement

### EEA citizens and Right to Work and Rent Schemes

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Chris Philp)** [HCWS83] The UK has left the European Union (EU), and the Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Act 2020 ended free movement law in the UK on 31 December 2020. On 1 January 2021, a grace period of six-months began, during which time relevant aspects of free movement law have been saved to allow eligible EEA citizens and their family members resident in the UK by 31 December 2020 to apply to the EU settlement scheme. This period ends on 30 June 2021.

We have committed to providing parity between EEA and non-EEA citizens under the new immigration system. All migrants residing and coming to the UK will be required to obtain the correct immigration status, regardless of their nationality. From 1 July 2021, EEA citizens and their family members require UK immigration status to evidence their rights and entitlements in the UK, in the same way as other foreign nationals, such as their right to work or right to rent.

The right to work and right to rent schemes—the schemes—were introduced as part of a suite of measures designed to tackle and deter illegal immigration. They are intended to prevent individuals without lawful immigration status in the UK from taking up employment or accessing accommodation in the private rented sector; and to support efforts to tackle those who exploit vulnerable migrants, often in very poor conditions.

Employers and landlords are required to carry out simple checks, applicable to everyone, including British citizens, to ensure the individual has lawful status in the UK before they employ or let a property to an individual.

Today, I have laid before Parliament the Immigration (Restrictions on Employment and Residential Accommodation) (Prescribed Requirements and Codes of Practice) And Licencing Act 2003 (Personal and Premises Licences) (Forms) Order.

The order seeks to amend the schemes' lists of acceptable documents which demonstrate a right to work or a right to rent, by removing EEA passports and national identity cards. It provides the following additions to the lists: an Irish passport or passport card, frontier worker permit, service provider of Switzerland visa, and documents issued by the Crown dependencies EU settlement schemes.

From 1 July, employers and landlords will undertake right to work and right to rent checks on EEA citizens, who have been issued with digital evidence of their UK immigration status using the Home Office online services. We have already begun this journey, with employers being able to use the online right to work service since January 2019. Since the launch of the optional online right to work service, there have been over 1.3 million views by individuals and over 390,000 views by employers carrying out right to work checks digitally. The online right to rent checking service went live in November 2020, and since then there have been over 36,000 profile views by individuals, and over 6,500 views by landlords carrying out right to rent checks digitally.

The online services make it simpler for employers and landlords to carry out the checks, as they do not need to see or check documents. The checks can be carried out by video call, as the individual's immigration status information is provided in real time directly from Home Office systems. The service is secure and free to use.

However, we recognise that some individuals are anxious about navigating a digital system. Therefore, users will be supported to adapt through clear guidance, with direct support available for those who are less digitally confident, ensuring they are not

disadvantaged due to any inability to access or use digital services, including where they have no access to a device or the internet.

The order also enables employers and landlords to confirm via the Home Office employer or landlord checking service a certificate of application or document issued by the UK, Bailiwick of Jersey or Bailiwick of Guernsey EU settlement schemes, which confirms an outstanding application made by the 30 June deadline. This will ensure that EEA citizens can continue to evidence their eligibility to work and rent until the application is finally determined.

The order also amends the Immigration (Residential Accommodation) (Prescribed Requirements and Codes of Practice) Order 2014 by extending the list of those granted status as a visitor who can prove their right to rent using the combination of a national passport, plus proof of their arrival within the last six months, for example a physical or electronic air/sea/rail ticket or boarding pass, to EEA citizens.

Finally, the order amends and updates the existing statutory codes of practice to reflect these important changes which will improve the operation of the schemes. It also makes consequential amendments to the Licensing Act 2003 (Personal licences) Regulations 2005 and the Licensing Act 2003 (Premises licences and club premises certificates) Regulations 2005, and the Illegal Working Compliance Order Regulations 2016, to align with the changes in this order in relation to right to work check.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-06-10/debates/21061040000015/EEACitizensAndRightToWorkAndRentSchemes>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

### Windrush Compensation Scheme

**Matt Western (Labour):** What progress [has the Minister's] Department made on disbursing payments through the Windrush compensation scheme. (901001)

**Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op):** What progress [has the Minister's] Department made on disbursing payments through the Windrush compensation scheme. (901013)

**Reply from the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Priti Patel):** In December, I overhauled the Windrush compensation scheme to pay people more money more quickly; that has now taken place. We have now paid six times more than the total amount paid previously. That means that we have offered almost £30 million in compensation, of which £20.4 million has been paid to approximately 687 claimants.

**Matt Western:** I heard what the Secretary of State said, but the recent National Audit Office report into the Windrush compensation scheme that was published on 21 May stated that just 4% of the 15,000 people who may be eligible for the scheme had received payments—way below the numbers forecast and a small fraction of the total expected payout. I have constituents in Warwick and Leamington who have been patiently awaiting compensation for almost 18 months. Given that the process takes an extraordinary 15 steps and an average of 154 staff hours, will the Secretary of State detail how many full-time caseworkers are dealing with the compensation scheme, and how many caseworkers she estimates are required to expedite this scheme in the next two years?

**Reply from Priti Patel:** First, it is important to reflect on how the scheme has fundamentally changed since December. I have already highlighted the levels of payment and the speed at which the claims are being dealt with. It is important to recognise that the changes I put in place in December have had an immediate effect; within six weeks of making the changes we had offered more in terms of payout and compensation payments than were made in the first 19 months of the scheme. I say openly to the hon. Gentleman and all Members of the House who have constituents who are awaiting claims: provide me with the details and I will

look into those cases.

The fact of the matter is that we have been reaching out to those who are entitled to compensation. We are working across the board. We have overhauled the team; we have more caseworkers than ever. Another £9 million has been offered to claimants, and we are awaiting responses from those individuals.

**Kate Osamor:** “Sitting in Limbo”—a drama about my constituent Anthony Bryan, who had his life turned upside down by the Windrush scandal—won a BAFTA yesterday. At the time of its release, the Home Secretary rushed to meet Anthony and told him that he would be given a voice. Yet it was not until two days ago—18 months after he made his claim—that Anthony finally received an offer of compensation. Will the Home Secretary tell us how long the hundreds of others like Anthony will have to remain in limbo before the Home Office gets its act together?

**Reply from Priti Patel:** If the hon. Lady heard my earlier remarks, she will have heard that fundamental reform of the Windrush compensation scheme has taken place. She will also recognise that when the scheme first launched, it was put together very quickly, but in consultation with members of the Windrush generation and representatives from the community. She asked me how long it takes for people to be paid. Due to the changes that I have put in place, it now takes an average of three weeks from receipt of an acceptance to payment. Finally, I am delighted to hear that the hon. Lady’s constituent has finally received the payment that he deserves.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-06-07/debates/7300C639-AE2E-463F-87A6-AECAEA6CCB19/WindrushCompensationScheme>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Investigation-into-the-Windrush-compensation-scheme-.pdf>

*Information about the Windrush compensation scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-windrush-compensation-scheme>

### **EU Settlement Scheme**

**Clive Lewis (Labour):** What rights will be protected for EU citizens and non-EU family members unable to apply to the EU settlement scheme by the 30 June 2021 deadline. (901010)

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Chris Philp):** In relation to EU citizens who are granted EUSS status, where their family who are not EU citizens reside in the United Kingdom, they can apply for EUSS status as well. For close family members who are not in the United Kingdom at present, they are able to join the person who is granted EUSS status. If it is a child under the age of 21, that is automatic. If it is parents, grandparents or children over the age of 21 where there is a degree of dependency, they can join as well. So I think those are extremely generous arrangements—far more generous than the arrangements for other cohorts of people.

**Clive Lewis:** ... Even where the guidance provides a route back to status, it will not protect EU citizens who missed the deadline from hostile environment policies, or prevent them from being denied access to homelessness assistance and free NHS care, as recently confirmed by other Departments. Will the Minister assure the House that EU citizens and non-EU family members who miss the deadline will maintain the right to such assistance, and be able to continue working without fear of criminal liability?

**Reply from Chris Philp:** On the deadline, I will repeat what I said earlier: the critical thing is to encourage constituents, very strongly, to apply by that deadline. If somebody misses the deadline, of course they can apply where they have reasonable grounds to do so. Guidance is about to be published on precisely what



will happen to those who miss the deadline. I assure the hon. Gentleman that the Government intend to take a reasonable and proportionate approach, and I ask him to wait just a short time until that guidance is published.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-06-07/debates/175A8167-D928-4C02-8292-C27CFCF985C4/EUSettlementScheme>

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

### **EU Citizens: Settled Status**

**Sarah Olney (Liberal Democrat):** What steps is [the Minister] taking to ensure that EU citizens with indefinite leave to remain will not be required to apply for EU settled status. (901006)

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Chris Philp):** ... It is, of course, open to EU citizens with indefinite leave to remain to apply for EU settled status. Some of them choose to do so because the rules are slightly better for EUSS in terms of the ability to leave the country for a particular period and the family reunion rules. There is no obligation on people with ILR to apply for EUSS, but it is a choice that each individual may or may not choose to make according to their own personal wishes and circumstances.

**Sarah Olney:** ... Many constituents of mine who have previously been granted indefinite leave to remain have received letters suggesting that they should apply for EU settled status instead. This has created a great deal of consternation and a fear that their indefinite leave to remain status may not be valid in the future. Can the Minister tell me why those letters were sent? It is not clear to people whether or not they should be applying for EU settled status. Could he give a clear answer to my constituents on this matter?

**Reply from Chris Philp:** My understanding is that those people with ILR who are also eligible for EUSS can continue to enjoy ILR whether or not they apply for EUSS. Letters were sent out to people who might be eligible for EUSS, but I believe those letters did make it clear that someone who received those letters who was already naturalised as a British citizen or indeed had ILR needed to take no further action. If the hon. Lady thinks those letters were unclear, I will be happy to look into it further, but I understand that they were worded in such way as made it clear that no further action was taken in the circumstances she describes.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-06-07/debates/B4204DF8-B830-4028-9C31-73F0DE653433/EUCitizensSettledStatus>

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

### **EEA Nationals: Settled or Pre-settled Status**

**Alan Brown (SNP):** What guidance [the Minister] plans to put in place for EEA nationals eligible for settled or pre-settled status whose applications for that status have not been approved by 30 June 2021. (901004)

**Patricia Gibson (SNP):** What guidance [the Minister] plans to put in place for EEA nationals eligible for settled or pre-settled status whose applications for that status have not been approved by 30 June 2021. (901019)

**Kirsten Oswald (SNP):** What guidance [the Minister] plans to put in place for EEA nationals eligible for settled or pre-settled status whose applications for that status have not been approved by 30 June 2021. (901028)

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Chris Philp):** ... I am glad to say that the EU settlement scheme is going extremely well. So far, 4.9 million people have been granted status. Only 1%

of applications have been refused. It is a true United Kingdom success story. Those who have applied prior to 30 June will keep their status until such time as their applications are decided, so I strongly encourage anybody who is eligible to apply for EUSS status before 30 June to make sure that their status is indeed protected.

**Alan Brown:** The reality is that the Minister will know that covid has impeded outreach work to EU nationals who are still to apply. Covid has also caused other issues, such as hampering my constituent's efforts to travel to London to renew his passport at his embassy. That caused real anxiety. If the Minister will not heed our call to grant automatic status, will he at least look at extending the deadline for a year in order to avoid another Windrush scandal?

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Of course, the EUSS has been open since March 2019, so it has been over two years now and significantly predates covid. There are a number of documents people can use if for any reason they do not have their passport or European ID card, and we have given grant funding of £22 million to 72 organisations to help people who need assistance in making the application. I would just say to anyone in the United Kingdom who is entitled to EUSS status to please apply by that deadline. Even if their status is not decided by 30 June, providing they have applied by that deadline, their status will be protected until the decision is made.

**Patricia Gibson:** Many of the tens of thousands of essential NHS EU workers across the UK may not even be aware that there is a problem with their lack of settled or pre-settled status until their employer or landlord, or another agency, tells them. Does the Minister not agree that there should be an obligation or duty on organisations to signpost individuals to independent advice on the possibility of a late application whenever they encounter an EU national who may be eligible?

**Reply from Chris Philp:** I am not sure I entirely agree with the hon. Lady's suggestion that somebody may not have noticed Brexit happening. But, quite seriously, we have grant-funded 72 organisations with a total of £22 million to do outreach and to make sure that people who are vulnerable or require assistance, including outreach, are helped to make the application, and 5.4 million people have applied already, which shows that the scheme has been an enormous United Kingdom success story. However, I repeat that anyone who is eligible should please apply by 30 June. It is about three weeks' time. Now is the time to apply if they have not applied already.

**Kirsten Oswald:** We have already heard about IT problems, meaning that EEA citizens have been unable to prove their settled status, which the Home Office only allows them to do by digital means. The UK Government are happy providing printed proof of vaccination for those who have no smartphone, or letting people print a PDF if they want back-up in case their phone dies at the airport, so why can something similar not be done for EU settled status?

**Reply from Chris Philp:** I thank the hon. Lady for her question. Fundamentally, this is a UK success story. This system is working, as evidenced by the 5.4 million applications and the 4.9 million grants. To be honest, given all the prognostications of gloom and doom that we heard a couple of years ago, this has been an astonishing success story. If any Member of Parliament has any particular case where a constituent has encountered difficulties, please send it in to my colleague, my hon. Friend the Member for Torbay, or to the Home Secretary, and we will make sure it gets dealt with quickly. We are completely committed to making sure that everybody who is entitled to EUSS status, which is many millions of people, gets that status, which they deserve.

**Stuart C McDonald (SNP):** ... Despite our fundamental disagreements about the design of the scheme, we do all want it to succeed, but we are concerned that a lot of questions still remain outstanding at this late stage. One of the most fundamental is what happens

when tens—possibly hundreds—of thousands put in a late application and have to wait for a decision? Will an EU national still be able to keep working as a carer in our NHS in the meantime, for example, or to rent the flat that they are staying in while they are waiting weeks and possibly months for a decision? Surely the answer to that must be yes. But is it?

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The answer is yes. Providing the application is received by 30 June, while the application is being considered—and if it is made on 30 June, clearly it will be decided after 30 June—that particular person will be able to continue working and living as normal with status. So the critical point is to make sure that the application is made by 30 June.

**Bambos Charalambous (Labour):** On 26 May, in response to a question from the hon. Member for North Down (Stephen Farry), the Prime Minister told the House that the law would be “merciful” to any EU citizens left in a “difficult position” after the EU settlement scheme deadline passes on 30 June. Further to that, I note that today the Home Office website says that late applications to the scheme will be accepted if there are “reasonable grounds” for missing the deadline. Can the Minister assure me that the mercy that the Prime Minister spoke about will guarantee that no one who is entitled to EU settled status but has missed the deadline will lose their rights or access to benefits, or be forcibly detained or removed? Can he tell me how long the late application provision to the scheme will remain open for?

**Reply from Chris Philp:** I reiterate the critical point that people should apply before the 30 June deadline, which is already six months after the end of the transition period. The shadow Minister is right and, indeed, the Prime Minister was right as well. If somebody does apply late and there are reasonable grounds for them to have done so—for example, they might have been ill—then latitude will be shown. There is no hard time deadline to that. A reasonable approach will be taken, but again, the best thing to do for any constituent who is entitled to EUSS is to apply for it before 30 June.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-06-07/debates/5FA909B7-2C9E-48E0-9DCC-E25462CF88AB/EEANationalsSettledOrPre-SettledStatus>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-05-26/debates/BE811BBD-D662-4121-8823-3A126BD3CE3F/Engagements#contribution-79F3C0B3-E031-437D-955F-9AA758538056>

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

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

### **EU Settlement Scheme: Children in Care**

**David Simmonds (Conservative):** What steps [the Minister's] Department is taking to ensure that children in care can apply for settled status after the EU settlement scheme deadline has passed. (901017)

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Chris Philp):** We will take steps to ensure that children in care are handled sensitively. As I mentioned in answer to previous questions, if someone misses the 30 June deadline, where they have reasonable grounds for doing so—that could conceivably very well apply to children in care—discretion will be exercised and a late application accepted.

**David Simmonds:** I welcome the Government's commitment that we will learn lessons from Windrush and ensure that vulnerable people, especially children, do not find themselves with a question mark over their status in years to come. Will my hon. Friend confirm that the offer of support to care leavers making applications out of time includes those who were aged 18 to 25—and therefore had care leaving status under the Children Act 1989—before 31 December 2020, not just those who were under 18 at the time? Will



he consider tweaking the case study provided in the Home Office guidance to make that absolutely clear?

**Reply from Chris Philp:** As I mentioned earlier, we are doing a great deal of active outreach via grant-funded organisations, in particular with local authorities, to make sure that vulnerable people of the kind my hon. Friend describes are reached. I can give him an assurance that the care leavers he describes are potentially included, because the reasonable grounds provision potentially applies to anybody. Anyone who misses the deadline, whether they are a care leaver or, indeed, anyone else, can make the case that they have reasonable grounds for having missed the deadline, so they are absolutely included. The list of case studies is, of course, non-exhaustive; it is designed not to list everything, but to give a few examples. Anybody can apply for the reasonable grounds exemption. I repeat that anyone who thinks that they are eligible should apply by 30 June. That is the best way to make sure that their case is handled properly and fairly.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-06-07/debates/EEF84118-D89E-495C-BE63-8E84BCD735B7/EUSettlementSchemeChildrenInCare>

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

### Asylum

**Stuart C McDonald (SNP):** May we have apologies from the Home Secretary, first, to the thousands of destitute asylum seekers across the UK who have endured days and weeks without any support because of the botched handling of the Aspen card handover and, secondly, to the people she placed in danger, including through an inevitable coronavirus outbreak, by sending them to Napier barracks, against clear PHE advice? What has been done to fix these latest asylum system scandals?

**Reply from Priti Patel:** ... Let us be clear that the Government are absolutely doing everything possible—I make no apology for this—within my powers, to meet our legal duties to provide shelter and accommodation to those in need during the exceptional times of this coronavirus pandemic. Of course, that is in line with the Asylum and Immigration Appeals Act 1993, and that also refers to the way in which we financially support and house asylum seekers. When it comes to Napier barracks, the provisions had been put in place in terms of welfare, catering, accommodation, cleaning, laundry facilities and non-governmental organisation support, along with other recreational facilities, such as yoga classes, and migrant helplines. That is all in line with our statutory duties and responsibilities, so I simply do not agree with the representation of the hon. Gentleman.

**Peter Bone (Conservative):** This year, more than 3,500 men, women and children have illegally crossed the channel, after paying thousands and thousands of pounds to evil human trafficking gangs. If the Home Secretary were the President of France, would she not be totally embarrassed by the complete failure of the French Government to properly look after asylum seekers in France, to such an extent that they risk their lives to flee France to get to England? (900974)

**Reply from Priti Patel:** My hon. Friend makes a very important point. We are working with our French counterparts—I will be very clear about that—and we should recognise that upstream migration flows into France are a serious issue. But, of course, asylum seekers should be claiming asylum in the first safe country; that does include France, and it includes many other EU member states that, because of the open borders policy across the EU, people are just transiting through. Our French counterparts absolutely must do more, and we are constantly impressing this point on them.

**Zarah Sultana (Labour):** In January I asked the Home Secretary about Napier barracks, highlighting the unsafe, inhumane conditions. She told me “to listen to the facts”—[\[Official](#)

[Report, 26 January 2021; Vol. 688, c. 178.](#)] Well, here are the facts. On Thursday the High Court ruled that the conditions were unlawful. They were described as “squalid” in court, and evidence suggests that Public Health England guidance was not, and is still not, being followed. So I ask the Home Secretary: how many people are currently sleeping in each dormitory, why is Public Health England guidance still not being followed, and why did she claim that the standards were very high when they were unlawful? (900971)

**Reply from Priti Patel:** That is absolutely incorrect in terms of the misrepresentation from the hon. Lady. I have already made it abundantly clear that I have been vigorous in following and making clear the need to protect public health and stop the spread of the virus. Not only that: I make no apology for doing everything in my power to fulfil our legal duties to provide shelter to people who otherwise would have been destitute; to provide accommodation to people who otherwise have been sleeping in dirty, makeshift tents in France and in other European countries, on the streets; and to provide them with beds, food, clean sanitation, access to healthcare and access to welfare provision. That is not putting forward squalid conditions.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-06-07/debates/4244B7BD-603C-4C4F-AA6C-AC0DD7579547/TopicalQuestions#contribution-30341173-0C57-4F86-B1CB-12AFD35B3891>

### **Napier Barracks Asylum Accommodation**

**Yvette Cooper (Labour):** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a statement on the judicial review judgment on Napier barracks contingency asylum accommodation.

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Chris Philp):** ... Covid-19 has had a major and unprecedented impact on the asylum system. We make absolutely no apologies for doing everything in our power to provide shelter to those in need during these exceptional times.

Between March and October last year, nearly 12,000 extra people needed to be housed as a result of the pandemic, nearly 10,000 of whom ended up in hotels, at huge public expense. Every accommodation option had to be considered.

Those accommodated at Napier barracks are catered with three nutritious meals per day, with options for special dietary or religious requirements. There is a recreational building with a library. Prayer rooms are available and scheduled activities now include yoga, English conversation and art. There is a nurse on site and access to a GP. All asylum seekers housed at Napier have access to a 24/7 advice service, provided for the Home Office by Migrant Help.

Napier barracks has been happily used for many years by Army and police personnel. The army itself has continued to use barrack accommodation around the country during the pandemic, when needed. While we are disappointed by some of the judgment, the High Court found in the Home Office’s favour in a number of areas. It rejected the claim that conditions at Napier amounted to “inhuman or degrading treatment.” The judge declined to rule that dormitories or barrack accommodation could never provide “adequate accommodation” for asylum seekers, and the judge rejected the claim that the expectation that residents would be back on site by 10pm amounted to a curfew or unlawful imprisonment.

Furthermore, the judgment was based on conditions in the past, before several significant improvements. These include a stronger cleaning regime, reopening of communal areas with staggered access times, limiting the period of residency and using lateral flow tests three times a week. The overall capacity of the site has also been reduced. At all stages, the Home Office believed it was taking reasonable steps to respond to Public Health England suggestions on public health, where possible.

We have published the suitability criteria that we use for assessing who is suitable to be accommodated at Napier. If it becomes apparent that someone is resident but unsuitable, a transfer is then arranged.

Through our new plans for immigration and the upcoming sovereign borders Bill, this Government are taking action to increase the fairness and efficiency of our asylum system but also to fight illegal and unnecessary migration, such as that by small boats coming across the English Channel. I hope Members will support that Bill when it comes forward, as it is sorely needed to support reform of the system.

**Yvette Cooper:** In January, there was a major covid outbreak at the Home Office centre at Napier barracks. Some 200 people got covid, both residents and staff, impacting on the local community too. Last week's damning court judgment said: "The 'bottom line' is that the arrangements at the Barracks were contrary to the advice of PHE...The precautions which were taken were completely inadequate to prevent the spread of Covid-19 infection, and...the outbreak which occurred in mid-January 2021 was inevitable."

The Home Office put people in dormitory blocks, with shared facilities for up to 28 people, at the height of a pandemic.

When the Home Affairs Committee asked the Home Secretary about this, she said that "the use of the accommodation was all based on Public Health England advice, and...working in line with public health guidance...so we have been following guidance in every single way."

The permanent secretary told the Committee "we were following the guidance at every stage". But the court judgment and the evidence from PHE shows the opposite is true.

An internal Home Office email from 7 September records PHE advice as "advice is that dormitories are not suitable".

Public Health England told the Home Affairs Committee they "don't know how dormitories can be COVID compliant."

They told the Home Office to follow youth hostel guidance—single rooms only and dormitories to be closed, except for household groups. They and Public Health Wales advised that if the Home Office were going ahead, they should at least limit the number of beds to six, keep people in bubbles with clear isolation facilities and have strong cleaning regimes. None of those things happened at Napier.

Instead, the independent inspectorate and local health officials found poor ventilation in dormitories, inadequate shared washing facilities, a deficient cleaning regime and no proper arrangements for self-isolation, with those testing positive and negative all kept in the same large dormitories. The Home Office was clearly not following public health advice in every way or at every stage. The Minister has an obligation to correct the record, so will he now admit that the Home Office did not follow public health advice and apologise for the inaccurate information given?

Will the Minister tell us what is happening now? Leading local health professionals have warned that the site still cannot be considered safe, and the Home Office's own documents show local health professionals saying that another outbreak is inevitable. Charities have told me that there are still 12 to 14 people in a room and 28 people in shared blocks. Is that true, even after a damning inspectorate report and a damning court judgment, and even after 200 people caught covid on the site? The Home Office has a responsibility to keep people safe. Why has it been ignoring public health advice in the middle of a pandemic and putting public health at risk?

**Reply from Chris Philp:** First, the Select Committee Chair should take into account the context that pertained last September: 60,000 people needed to be accommodated in the middle of a pandemic—an increase of 12,000 people in just the space of a few months. With the best will in the world, it is operationally extremely difficult to accommodate 60,000 people in a pandemic—an extra 12,000 people at a matter of a few weeks or a few months' notice.

The reality is that in the middle of a pandemic outbreaks in some places occur. We

have had outbreaks in the hotels that have been used. In other parts of Government—in prisons and other places—there have been covid outbreaks. We have had covid going around Parliament as well. I have caught covid myself; in fact, 5 million people have tested positive for covid. The virus knows no boundaries, and it is very difficult to manage 60,000 people in those circumstances. The measures taken to combat covid on site included rigorous cleaning built into the contract, hand sanitisers, social distancing, personal cleaning equipment provided to service users, isolating and cohorting arrangements. They have now been enhanced further, with more cleaning, staggered access to communal areas and, three times a week, lateral flow testing. We have also reduced the numbers currently on the site.

Public Health England wrote to the Select Committee Chair on 1 June. I have the letter in front of me. In the second paragraph, it says: “PHE has been in a positive ongoing dialogue and working collaboratively with Home Office (HO) colleagues on a range of COVID-19 related issues since spring 2020.”

Moreover, public health guidance published on gov.uk on 15 December 2020, which she will be aware of, said that ideally accommodation providers would “identify single-rooms with en suite bathroom facilities”.

That is difficult to do for 60,000 people. However, it then said that “if single occupancy accommodation is not available”—thus acknowledging that that will not be possible in all cases—“accommodation where cohorting is possible should be provided”.

We have maintained a close dialogue with Public Health England. Where possible we have followed its guidelines, and a number of improvements have been made in recent months.

**Damian Collins (Conservative):** Whatever people’s view on the asylum situation in this country, people in Folkestone are united in their opposition to the use of Napier barracks in this way. It has been destructive to the community, not least because the barracks have been the focal point of protests—both people protesting about migrant crossings and people protesting about the use of the barracks. It has been a drain on other public services as well. Does the Home Office intend to renew its lease on Napier barracks, which expires in September?

**Reply from Chris Philp:** ... Unfortunately, very often the local population is not terribly keen on accommodation centres of this kind, for the reasons that he outlined.

We are obviously working hard to mitigate those impacts. Kent police, for example, have received extra funding, and we are working closely with the local health service. The current arrangements on the site are due to run until September. No decision has been made beyond that, but I assure my hon. Friend that he will be closely engaged with at all stages as any further decision is taken.

**Bambos Charalambous (Labour):** ... The recent High Court judgment was a further shameful indictment of the Government’s approach to asylum accommodation. My right hon. Friend highlighted the failure of the Home Office to listen to the public health advice about Napier barracks that led to the covid outbreak affecting 197 asylum seekers and staff and posing a danger to the wider community.

On 30 November, as a result of a fire safety inspection at Napier, the Crown premises fire safety inspectorate concluded that “identified individuals or groups of people would be at risk in case of fire.”

In January, a fire broke out in Napier. The independent chief inspector of borders and immigration noted that the CPFSI’s concerns had not been addressed prior to the fire. Can the Minister tell me why the Home Office ignored the advice of Public Health England and the CPFSI? Can he give me a categorical assurance that the Home Office will now follow all future advice from PHE and CPFSI, and publish the advice it was given by PHE?



The Kent and Medway clinical commissioning group's infection prevention report outlined that the site did not facilitate effective social distancing. Quite simply, how on earth did this happen in the middle of a global pandemic?

**Reply from Chris Philp:** I have said already that having to accommodate 60,000 people in the middle of a pandemic, and an increase of 12,000 in a few months, poses very substantial challenges. Where we were able to, we followed suggestions that were made. The hon. Gentleman asked about publishing PHE advice. I said in my first answer that it was published on gov.uk on 15 December last year. He said that a fire broke out. A fire did not break out; there was an act of deliberate arson by the people who were accommodated there, which was disgraceful, outrageous, unjustifiable and unconscionable. It did not break out; it was arson.

In relation to the points about public health, I have already listed, in answer to the Select Committee Chairman, the measures that have recently been taken to improve conditions at the Napier site. ...

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

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-06-10/debates/2CBACD06-7E45-4EB3-8FA3-976D1D4488E6/NapierBarracksAsylumAccommodation>

### **Immigration Detention for Women**

**Kate Osborne (Labour):** What steps [the Minister's] Department is taking to reduce the use of immigration detention for women who have survived torture, rape or trafficking. (901016)

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Chris Philp):** The use of detention, including the detention of women for immigration purposes, has reduced significantly over the past few years. In particular, for women who have survived torture, rape or trafficking it is used extremely sparingly, if ever. There is an adults-at-risk policy, which makes sure that people who have suffered in that way are detained only in extremely rare cases where the vulnerability is outweighed by very serious risk, for example, to public safety. Those exceptions are extremely rare.

**Kate Osborne:** The Minister says that these cases are extremely rare, but an immigration removal centre for women is set to open in the north-east on the former Medomsley detention centre site, despite, as he said, the Home Office previously committing to reducing its use of detention for women. Research shows that many detainees are survivors of torture, rape or trafficking, and detaining women in this way severely impacts on their mental health. Does he agree that reopening the Medomsley site should be reviewed and that immigration cases can be resolved more humanely and at less cost in the community?

**Reply from Chris Philp:** First, I remind the hon. Lady again that the use of detention in general and for women in particular has reduced very significantly already over the past few years. Secondly, Hassockfield is replacing the Yarl's Wood facility, which is being converted for mainly male use and, therefore, the number of female places for immigration detention as a result is going down dramatically. Thirdly, no, we are not going to review the use of Hassockfield—first, for the reason I have just mentioned, it actually represents a reduction in total numbers, and, secondly, because the adults-at-risk policy very actively, carefully and thoughtfully weighs up vulnerability against questions of detention. My hon. Friend the Member for North West Durham (Mr Holden) has been fully engaged on this issue. The new centre will create local jobs, and, as I said, it will also represent a reduction in the women's detention footprint.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-06-07/debates/E5D5423F-10EA-4F52-9461-5F7F65964E34/ImmigrationDetentionForWomen>



### **Immigration: British Armed Forces Interpreters**

**David Davis (Conservative):** What steps [the Minister] is taking to ensure that interpreters who assisted British armed forces overseas will be included as part of reforms to the immigration system. (901011)

**Reply from the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Priti Patel):** The Government owe an immense debt of gratitude to the brave interpreters who worked alongside our armed forces overseas. In April we launched the Afghan relocations and assistance policy, under which any current or former staff members in Afghanistan who are at risk are offered priority relocation to the United Kingdom, regardless of their employment status, rank, role, or length of service.

**David Davis:** ... It is right that we accelerate the relocation scheme for Afghan interpreters and their families—people who have protected us and our country so well for so long. In view of worrying reports in the press last week, will my right hon. Friend clarify that not only Afghan interpreters directly employed by the Ministry of Defence but sub-contracted interpreters will share the right to those Afghan relocations?

**Reply from Priti Patel:** My right hon. Friend is absolutely right, and the entire House should pay tribute to those who worked alongside our armed forces in Afghanistan, in harrowing conditions. The Defence Secretary and I were determined to ensure that this policy went through. In light of what is taking place in Afghanistan now, with further withdrawal and drawdown, it is right that we reach out to those who, as my right hon. Friend said, are part of that wider support network and have worked with our armed forces.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-06-07/debates/D299FB65-512A-4736-8A66-2C897E09E973/ImmigrationBritishArmedForcesInterpreters>

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

### **British Nationality: EU Nationals**

**Peter Grant (SNP) [11592]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the adequacy of the requirement for people who have proved their residency rights through the EU Settlement Scheme to do so again when applying for British Citizenship.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The EUSS only looks at physical presence and not lawful residence, and so there may be cases where nationality caseworkers need to satisfy themselves the person was here lawfully, when applicants are applying for British citizenship.

This is not a new requirement and was an assessment we have always been making. In most cases this will not involve any additional evidence, for example where the person was working in the UK and so clearly in the UK in accordance with EEA regulations.

There may be cases, however, where it is not clear on what basis a person was in the UK and so we will need to make further enquiries to establish lawful residence.

This is a statutory requirement and cannot be ignored and applies to all applicants for British Citizenship.

We have amended the application forms to ensure we can gather as much of this information upfront at the application stage where possible.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-07/11592>

### **Armed Forces: Immigration**

**Jamie Stone (Liberal Democrat) [7900]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of Commonwealth service leavers who are eligible to apply for Leave to Remain have applied for Leave to Remain.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Home Office does not hold data on the number of Commonwealth service leavers who are eligible to apply for Leave to Remain or the number of applications received from Commonwealth service leavers.

Commonwealth service leavers can apply for an immigration status on a variety of routes. To capture numbers would require a manual trawl of data and to do so would incur disproportionate cost.

Applications from Commonwealth service leavers are grouped together with other categories in our published statistics:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2021/how-many-people-continue-their-stay-in-the-uk-or-apply-to-stay-permanently>  
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-26/7900>

### **Armed Forces: Immigration**

**Jamie Stone (Liberal Democrat) [7901]** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what recent assessment he made of the potential merits of waiving the cost of fees for Leave to Remain for Commonwealth service leavers and their families.

**Reply from Leo Docherty:** The Secretary of State greatly values the commitment and dedication of all those serving in our armed forces, including those from the Commonwealth and Nepal. He understands the financial impact visa fees have on Non-UK Service Personnel wishing to remain in the UK after their service and that is why he and the Home Secretary launched a public consultation on this issue on 26 May 2021. The consultation is seeking views on a policy proposal for waiving settlement costs for non-UK service personnel. The consultation will run for six weeks and will close on 7 July 2021.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-26/7901>

*The consultation referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/immigration-fees-public-consultation>

### **Immigration: Armed Forces**

**Dan Jarvis (Labour) [901098]** What steps [the Minister] is taking to support non-UK (a) veterans and (b) armed forces dependants with regularising their immigration status.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** I am immensely proud that brave servicemen and women from around the world want to call the UK their home after their service.

The Government has launched a public consultation on how we recognise their contribution by not only smoothing the pathway to residency and citizenship, but also by waiving the fee for doing so after 12 years of service.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-07/901018>

*The consultation referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/immigration-fees-public-consultation>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Immigration: Armed Forces**

**Stephanie Peacock (Labour) [8701]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many successful applications for Indefinite Leave to Remain were processed via the SET (AF) route in each of the last three years.

**Stephanie Peacock (Labour) [8702]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of successful Indefinite Leave to Remain applications were via the SET (AF) route in each of the last three years.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** We do not publish the specific data relating to grants of ILR made under the SET(AF) route, as to do so would incur disproportionate cost. The published statistics relating to individuals granted Indefinite Leave to Remain in the United Kingdom are recorded together as part of published Migration

Statistics and can be located at:

[www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release)  
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-27/8701>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-27/8702>

### **Armed Forces: Immigration**

**Stephanie Peacock (Labour)** [8697] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what estimate the Government has made of the net cost of the implementation of his proposal relating to settlement fees applicable to non-UK Service Personnel leaving the UK armed forces and wishing to remain in the UK, published on 26 May 2021.

**Reply from Leo Docherty:** The policy proposal outlined in the public consultation seeks to waive the current settlement application cost of £2,389 for Service personnel who have served a minimum of their initial engagement period of 12 years when they leave the UK Armed Forces. The number of non-UK Service personnel leaving at this point in their service varies each year.

Until the public consultation closes and a decision is made regarding the final policy, it is too early to know exactly how many non-UK Service personnel may be eligible for a fee waiver if they choose to settle in the UK on discharge and what the associated costs are likely to be.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-27/8697>

*The consultation referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/immigration-fees-public-consultation>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Migrants**

**Neil Coyle (Labour)** [8624] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to reduce the number of pending applications for a change of conditions to lift the No Recourse to Public Funds restriction, as outlined in the Immigration and Protection data: Q1 2021.

**Neil Coyle (Labour)** [8625] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference for her Department's transparency data, Immigration and Protection data: Q1 2021, published on 27 May 2021, for what reasons there has been an increase in pending applications for change of conditions to lift No Recourse to Public Funds conditions.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) constantly monitor intake volumes and will deploy resources flexibly to address increases in the volume of Change of Conditions applications.

Following a peak in quarter 2 of 2020, intake has reduced significantly during the ensuing quarters.

The published data is a 'snapshot' of work in progress at the point of publication. The 'pending' cases for the most recent quarter can be expected to have been mostly completed in the next quarter, as comparison with the previously published data reveal; the 'pending' in Q4 2020 showing as 539 in the February data release has reduced to 39 in the latest release.

Although intake in the most recent quarter has increased by 8%, the data shows that output has increased by 7%, reflecting the dynamic deployment of resource.

The number of applications decided as a proportion of the number of cases received over the published periods has remained consistent at 96% for the most recent data table against 96.8% for the previous table.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-27/8624>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-27/8625>

The latest release of the data referred to above can be read at

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/990612/UKVI\\_IP\\_Q1\\_2021.ods](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/990612/UKVI_IP_Q1_2021.ods)

### **Visas: Hong Kong**

**Sarah Owen (Labour)** [7289] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people from Hong Kong have successfully taken up a British National (Overseas) visa since that visa scheme was introduced.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Information on how many visas for the Hong Kong BN(O) route have been granted between 31 January and 31 March was published in the quarterly migration statistics release on 27 May and can be found at:

[www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-statistics](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-statistics)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-25/7289>

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Neil Coyle (Labour)** [8621] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether an EU national will need to prove pre or settled status to enter the UK if they are not entering for the purpose of visa free travel; and what documentation is required to allow them to enter.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Free movement between the EU and the UK ended on 31 December 2020. EU nationals seeking to enter the UK for reasons other than visa free travel must be eligible for the EU Settlement Scheme or use the new UK points-based immigration system.

EU citizens have until 30 June 2021 to apply for the EU Settlement Scheme if they were resident in the UK before 31 December 2020. When seeking to enter the UK, EU citizens are not routinely asked to prove they have applied for or been granted status under the EU Settlement Scheme, but systems are in place to allow border officials to make such checks where necessary.

For those who are not eligible for the EU Settlement Scheme, we require evidence of an individual's right to live and work in the UK. We encourage all EU nationals to check whether they need a visa before they travel and the prevailing health regulations in relation to travel to the UK, set by the UK Government and the Devolved Administrations, which they must also comply with.

Information for EU citizens about the points-based immigration system is available at:

[www.gov.uk/guidance/the-uks-points-based-immigration-system-information-for-eu-citizens](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-uks-points-based-immigration-system-information-for-eu-citizens)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-27/8621>

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

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

### **Au Pairs: EU Nationals**

**Hilary Benn (Labour)** [10161] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, in what circumstances an EU citizen coming to the UK as an au pair requires a work permit.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Now free movement has ended, the UK's immigration system does not distinguish between EEA and non-EEA nationals.

As has been the case since 2008, successive governments have decided the UK's immigration system will not offer a dedicated visa route for au pairs.

Any person seeking employment as an au pair in the UK requires permission to do so via an appropriate visa route with general work rights.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-04/10161>

### **Migrant Workers: Denmark**

**Virginia Crosbie (Conservative)** [10711] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Danish workers have been turned back from the UK's borders since 1 January 2021; and what steps she is taking to enforce the work permit and cross border rules that apply to Danish citizens working in the UK, particularly those in the offshore and the wind farm sector.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** EU Nationals who do not have status under the EUSS and are not eligible to apply for it, can enter the UK for up to six months as visitors, visa free. However, now freedom of movement has ended, those coming to work or study must prove they meet our entry requirements.

In addition to the immigration rules, any travel to the UK at this time must be in line with the Border Health Requirements relating to the global pandemic set by the UK Government and the three devolved administrations. We urge people to check these requirements carefully before travelling, as entry to the UK may also be denied by Border Force on the basis of failure to comply with these regulations.

Border Force treat all arrivals with respect and consider each passenger's situation on an individual basis to check everyone entering the UK has the right to do so.

We have issued instructions to our officers to reinforce the principle; in all cases there exists a presumption in favour of bail.

The Home Office published data on how many people are detained or returned on gov.uk. the latest publication can be found at:

[www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-december-2020/how-many-people-are-detained-or-returned](http://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-december-2020/how-many-people-are-detained-or-returned)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-04/10711>

*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**

**Alun Cairns (Conservative)** [11541] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications have been submitted to the EU Settlement Scheme to date; and how many of those applications have been granted.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The latest figures can be found on the Home Office's 'EU Settlement Scheme statistics' web page available at: [EU Settlement Scheme statistics](https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-07/11541>

*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**

**Wendy Chamberlain (Liberal Democrat)** [11673] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what additional resources the Government has provided to (a) the EU Settlement Scheme Resolution Centre and (b) relevant grant-funded third sector organisations to ensure that there is sufficient capacity to deal with people applying for the EU Settlement Scheme ahead of the 30 June 2021 deadline.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Resource for the EUSS Resolution Centre is kept under close review and additional resource is made available as required.

Regarding grant funded organisations we have already awarded £17 million of funding to a network of now 72 organisations, including charities and community organisations across the UK, to ensure important information and assistance gets through to those who are hardest to reach, and no one is left behind. These organisations have helped more than 250,000 vulnerable people to apply to the EUSS already.



In addition, we recently announced a further £4.5 million for the Grant Funded Network so it can continue to provide a wide range of invaluable support across the UK, including after the 30 June deadline, ensuring those most at-risk continue to get the help they need.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-07/11673>

*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**

**Neil Coyle (Labour)** [8618] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that EU nationals living in the UK and working in health and social care will have secured their EU settled status by the 1 July 2021.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** As of 30 April 2021, 5.4 million applications had been received to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS), and 4.9 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 and those working in the health and social care sectors.

Communications activity includes extensive engagement with a wide range of stakeholders, and, since 2019, nearly £8million spent on targeted UK advertising on social media, website banners, catch up TV and radio, to ensure EEA and Swiss citizens are aware of the scheme and supported to apply. The latest £1.95million burst launched in May and will run to the end of June.

The Home Office has provided up to £22million in grant funding to a current network of 72 organisations providing bespoke support to vulnerable and hard to reach EU citizens and their family members eligible to apply to EUSS.

Workers in the social care sector were given early access under the pilot phases of the scheme. Communications to reach eligible health & social care 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 a number regional strategic migration and enterprise partnerships. NHS employers, Scottish Social services and Wales Social care also sit on EUSS advisory groups. We have recently worked with DHSC to develop an internal update for NHS staff, and with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to include an update on EUSS in their bulletin to care sector employers.

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/2021-05-27/8618>

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

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Paul Blomfield (Labour)** [11534] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications to the EU Settlement Scheme have waited more than three months for a decision as at 1 June 2021.

**Paul Blomfield (Labour)** [11535] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department,

how many applications to the EU Settlement Scheme have waited more than six months for a decision as at 1 June 2021.

**Paul Blomfield (Labour)** [11536] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications to the EU Settlement Scheme have waited more than twelve months for a decision as at 1 June 2021.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Our aim is to process all applications to the EU Settlement Scheme as expeditiously as possible. Complete applications are usually processed in around five working days.

More information about processing times for applications under the scheme is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-application-processing-times/eu-settlement-scheme-pilot-current-expected-processing-times-for-applications>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-07/11534>  
and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-07/11535>  
and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-07/11536>

*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**

**Allan Dorans (SNP)** [7276] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that European citizens who are resident in the UK who may not be aware of the requirement to apply for settled status because they are (a) elderly, including those living in local authority and private care homes and suffering from conditions such as dementia, and (b) young people who may be in local authority and foster care have access to information to enable them to apply for that status under the EU Settlement Scheme by the deadline of 30 June 2021.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Since the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) opened in March 2019, the Home Office has undertaken a broad range of communications and stakeholder engagement activity to encourage EU, EEA and Swiss citizens and their family members to apply for and obtain status. This has included targeted stakeholder engagement with hard to reach and vulnerable groups, including collaborative work with local authorities, and a comprehensive, £7.9 million advertising campaign.

We are committed to making sure everybody eligible for the EUSS can apply, including those who are vulnerable or need extra support. We have awarded £22 million of funding to a network of now 72 charities and community organisations across the UK, to ensure important information and assistance gets through to those who are hardest to reach and no one is left behind. These organisations have helped more than 250,000 vulnerable people to apply to the EUSS already, including elderly people living in local authority and private care homes and those suffering from dementia.

In England, the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services is continuing to engage with social care departments across the country. They are delivering engagement webinars to key stakeholders such as the Principal Social Workers and the Care Provider Alliance to provide information and are signposting the support available through the grant-funded network.

In Scotland, Citizen's Advice Scotland are working with care providers in the Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling local authority areas.

In Northern Ireland, Advice NI and Step are funded to provide support to the care sector.

In Wales, support is provided by both Newport Mind and TGP Cymru.

In relation to children in care and care leavers, the Home Office continues to engage extensively with relevant stakeholders, such as the Department for Education, local authorities and local government associations in England, Wales and Scotland, Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland and the Association of Directors of Children's Services, to ensure staff and applicants are supported and informed throughout the application process.

The Home Office also holds a programme of teleconferences for local authority staff working with children in care, which provide a forum to exchange information, ask questions and raise issues.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-25/7276>

*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**

**Peter Grant (SNP)** [7864] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of EU citizens residing in the UK who still need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The total number of applications received up to 31 April 2021 was 5.42 million (5,423,300).

The latest published information on EU Settlement Scheme applications received can be found on the Home Office's 'EU Settlement Scheme statistics' web page available at:

[www.gov.uk/government/collections/eu-settlement-scheme-statistics](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/eu-settlement-scheme-statistics)

The published figures refer specifically to applications made to the EU Settlement Scheme and cannot be directly compared with estimates of the resident population of EU/EEA nationals in the UK.

The published figures include non-EEA family members, Irish nationals, and eligible EEA citizens not resident in the UK, none of whom are usually included in estimates of the resident EU population.

Furthermore, the population estimates do not take account of people's migration intentions and will include people who have come to the UK for a range of purposes, including some who have no intention to settle in the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-26/7864>

*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**

**Kevin Brennan (Labour)** [11487] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent discussions she has had with the Office of National Statistics to estimate the number of eligible EU nationals who have not yet submitted an application to the EU Settlement Scheme.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Published EUSS figures refer specifically to applications made to the EU Settlement Scheme and cannot be directly compared with estimates of the resident population of EU/EEA nationals in the UK.

The published figures include non-EEA family members, Irish nationals, and eligible EEA citizens not resident in the UK, none of whom are usually included in estimates of the resident EU population.

Furthermore, the population estimates do not take account of people's migration intentions and will include people who have come to the UK for a range of purposes, including some who have no intention to settle in the UK.

The Office for National Statistics published a further explaining note discussing the

strengths and limitations of UK Population Estimates  
[Population of the UK by country of birth and nationality](#)

ONS are currently transforming their population and migration statistics to put administrative data at the core of what they do. The latest information on their work programme and longer term plans to transform migration and population statistics was published on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

[Population and migration statistics system transformation](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-07/11487>

*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**

**Owen Thompson (SNP)** [7877] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what options are available to EU nationals who seek to apply for settled status and who do not own bio-chipped documents.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Any EU nationals who wish to apply to the European Union Settlement Scheme who do not own a bio-chipped document can still apply through the postal route.

A step by step guide on how to apply can be found on gov.uk at

[www.gov.uk/eusettledstatus](http://www.gov.uk/eusettledstatus)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-26/7877>

*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**

**Catherine West (Labour)** [10550] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will publish her timetable for publishing revised guidance on the effect of the covid-19 pandemic on applications under the EU Settlement Scheme after its withdrawal on 6 May 2021; and if she will make it her policy to (a) publish and (b) publicise that guidance in time for applicants to review its contents before the EU Settlement Scheme's 30 June 2021 deadline.

**Catherine West (Labour)** [10551] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how she plans to take into account the effect of the covid-19 pandemic on international travel when considering applications to the EU Settlement Scheme where the applicant was unable to be resident in the UK by 31 December 2020 due to travel restrictions.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Government is working to publish revised COVID-19 guidance for the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS). The guidance will be available on GOV.UK in advance of the 30 June 2021 deadline.

The end of the transition period at 11pm on 31 December 2020 remains the point by which EEA and Swiss citizens need to have been resident in the UK to be eligible for the EUSS. There are no plans to extend the deadline for those who wished to travel to the UK for the first time in order to apply to the EUSS, but did not do so. Travel is and was permitted from the EEA and Switzerland for the purpose of taking up residence in the UK, subject to complying with the relevant local public health regulations in each nation.

EEA and Swiss citizens and their family members who were resident in the UK by 31 December 2020 and were outside the UK on this date are eligible to apply to the EUSS, including from overseas, by the deadline of 30 June 2021.

EEA and Swiss citizens and their family members, who were resident in the UK by 31 December 2020, are permitted to be absent from the UK for a period of up to 12 months without breaking their continuity of residence where this is for an important

reason, which can include COVID-19. The revised guidance will provide additional flexibility to those EEA and Swiss citizens who would otherwise have broken their continuous qualifying period of residence because of COVID-19. The guidance will set out a non-exhaustive list of examples for what may constitute permitted absence for a COVID-19 related reason.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-04/10550>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-04/10551>

*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**

**Kevin Brennan (Labour)** [11485] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of extending the deadline for the EU Settlement Scheme.

**Kevin Brennan (Labour)** [11486] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what consideration will be given to applications submitted by vulnerable individuals to the EU Settlement Scheme beyond 30 June 2021.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** There are no plans to extend the deadline for applications to the EU Settlement Scheme.

The Home Office has invested nearly £8 million in marketing campaigns to encourage EU citizens and their family members to apply to the scheme. We recently launched a new wave of UK advertising to ensure EU citizens and their family members are aware of the deadline and know they need to apply. We are also working closely with employers, local authorities and charities to raise awareness.

We have continued to receive and process thousands of applications a day to the scheme throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, with over 5.4 million applications received, and over 5.1 million applications concluded by 30 April 2021.

We are committed to making sure everybody eligible for the scheme can apply, including those who are vulnerable or need extra support. There is significant help available for applicants from a network of 72 organisations across the UK grant funded by the Home Office with £22 million to help vulnerable people apply to the EUSS, including after the 30 June deadline.

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. Non-exhaustive guidance on reasonable grounds for submitting a late application was published on 1 April 2021, and 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, including where someone else would have been responsible for making an application on behalf of a vulnerable person.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-07/11485>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-07/11486>

*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**

**Rachael Maskell (Labour)** [10491] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home



Department, what her Department's policy is on how UK citizens who have been working in the EU and have a spouse or partner from the EU can acquire settled status for their spouse or partner if their return date to the UK is after the closing date for settled status.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Eligible British citizens who were resident in an EEA country or Switzerland by 31 December 2020 may return to the UK with their close family members until 29 March 2022.

Family members can apply to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) or for an EU Settlement Scheme family permit to come to the UK before 29 March 2022. Following a successful application to the EUSS, they would be eligible for settled status after five years. The relationship must usually have existed before 1 February 2020 for family members to be eligible to apply. Full information can be found on GOV.UK:

[www.gov.uk/family-permit/eu-settlement-scheme-family-permit-join-a-british-citizen](http://www.gov.uk/family-permit/eu-settlement-scheme-family-permit-join-a-british-citizen)

After 29 March 2022, a spouse or partner will need to apply under the UK's family Immigration Rules and, if successful, would qualify for settlement in five years. Full details can be found on GOV.UK here:

[www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-fm-family-members](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-fm-family-members)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-04/10491>

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

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

*The following four questions all received the same answer*

#### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Neil Coyle (Labour)** [8617] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department plans to take to support EU nationals to access work and essential services in the event that their EU Settlement Scheme application is still pending after the 30 June 2021 deadline.

**Neil Coyle (Labour)** [8619] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when her Department plans to publish further guidance on the Right to Work and rent checks for people with pending EU Settlement Scheme applications; and whether that guidance will include information on how those undertaking the checks can signpost eligible people to the EU Settlement Scheme.

**Neil Coyle (Labour)** [8622] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether an employer could be subject to a criminal penalty for failing to dismiss an EU national if that employee started a period of employment after 1 July 2021 and the employer knows or has reasonable cause to believe that the employee has not yet applied for EU Settled Status.

**Neil Coyle (Labour)** [8623] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether a landlord could potentially be subject to a civil penalty for failing to check and subsequently evict a person who is an EU national who rented accommodation before and remained in the same tenancy agreement after 1 July 2021 and the landlord has not sought confirmation of whether the tenant has secured their status under the EU Settled Status scheme.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Right to work and rent checks for EEA citizens will change at the end of the grace period – which ends on 30 June 2021.

Employers and landlords will maintain a continuous statutory excuse against liability for a civil penalty if the initial checks were undertaken in line with legislation and published guidance at the time. Employers and landlords will not be required to conduct retrospective checks on existing employees and tenants if the initial check was undertaken on or before 30 June 2021.

From 1 July, EEA citizens and their family members will require an immigration status in the UK, in the same way as other foreign nationals. They can no longer

rely on an EU passport or national identity card to prove their right to work or rent. Those with an outstanding application to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) will be able to rely on their Certificate of Application as proof of eligibility to access their right to work or rent when this is verified by the Home Office checking services. The Department for Work and Pensions and HMRC will also be able to determine an individual's status using existing services with the Home Office. Consistent with the Citizens' Rights Agreements, the rights of someone who has made an application to the EUSS by the 30 June 2021 deadline will be protected while the outcome of the application (and of any appeal against the decision) is pending. We will be updating our guidance and communicating with employers and landlords in the coming weeks to set out the support available, and ensure they are clear on the steps they should take from 1 July.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-27/8617>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-27/8619>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-27/8622>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-27/8623>

### **Afghanistan: Interpreters**

**Kevan Jones (Labour)** [10172] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many Afghan interpreters have moved to the UK under the intimidation scheme since its inception.

**Reply from James Heapey:** Prior to the launch of the Afghanistan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP), under the intimidation policy, 21 people were relocated to the UK. This includes the Locally Employed Staff member and their immediate family.

The ARAP scheme came into effect on 1 April 2021 and offers the relocation of current and former local staff in Afghanistan, including interpreters and their immediate families.

This new scheme acknowledges and reflects that the situation in Afghanistan has changed, and with it the potential risk to the local staff who have worked for the UK Government over the past twenty years.

Under the new policy, any current or former locally employed staff who are assessed to be under serious threat to life are offered priority relocation to the UK regardless of their employment status, rank or role, or length of time served.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-04/10172>

### **Immigration: Afghanistan**

**Jessica Morden (Labour)** [10255] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what support the Government is providing to Afghanistan-based spouses of Afghan interpreters who are based in the UK in cases where the marriage occurred after the interpreter re-settled in the UK.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Government recognises the vital role of interpreters in operations in Afghanistan. This is why there are two dedicated schemes designed to help them relocate to the UK: the ex-gratia scheme and the Afghan relocations and assistance policy (ARAP). Over 1,300 former Afghan interpreters, and their family members, have been relocated to the UK under these schemes since 2014.

Under the immigration rules, only partners and dependent children under the age of 18, who are not married or leading an independent life are eligible under the relocation schemes.

We will consider exceptional circumstances on a case by case basis taking into account the level of risk faced and family dependencies.

Those who apply and are approved for relocation are brought to the UK as soon as suitable accommodation has been sourced and support arrangements are in place.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-04/10255>

### **Undocumented Migrants: English Channel**

**Natalie Elphicke (Conservative)** [901023] What steps [the Minister's] Department is taking to stop illegal immigration across the English Channel.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The danger to life from Channel crossings and the criminality behind it is simply unacceptable.

Journeys are often illegally-facilitated and totally unnecessary; France and other EU countries are safe with fully functioning asylum systems.

We are working tirelessly to make this route unviable.

We are introducing legislation to fix our broken asylum system and create a fairer and firmer system.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-07/901023>

### **Undocumented Migrants**

**Rupa Huq (Labour)** [10547] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants' report entitled We Are Here: routes to regularisation for the UK's undocumented population, published in April 2021, whether the Government plans to (a) implement recommendations made in that report, (b) introduce new routes to regularisation and (c) remove barriers that can result in migrants becoming undocumented.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** There are already several options available for those in the UK without lawful leave to regularise their status. The Immigration Rules set out the requirements to be met to qualify for a right to remain which provides clarity for applicants and decision makers alike. There are also discretionary policies for leave to be granted outside the Immigration Rules in exceptional circumstances.

We welcome feedback and regularly engage with our partners and stakeholders on a wide range of issues, including regularisation of undocumented migrants, and we have noted with interest the recommendations made by the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants. Existing provisions continue to be reviewed following recommendations in the Law Commission report on Simplification of the Immigration Rules.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-04/10547>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.jcwi.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=5467543a-6e30-4e28-a39f-db48ffad6d3a>

### **Refugees: Children**

**Rupa Huq (Labour)** [7231] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to provide safe and legal routes to the UK for unaccompanied child refugees.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Government committed to review safe and legal routes to the UK, and has a statutory duty to conduct a public consultation on family reunion for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in the EU. We are meeting our statutory duty by completing a comprehensive consultation and engagement process as part of the wider consultation on the New Plan for Immigration, which closed on 6 May 2021. We will consider the consultation responses carefully.

The UK already provides a number of routes for children to reunite with family members in the UK under our Immigration Rules. We have also published guidance

that signposts these existing routes at the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/overview-of-family-reunion-options-in-the-immigration-rules>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-25/7231>

### **Asylum: Correspondence**

**Alex Cunningham (Labour)** [11553] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will undertake an audit to ensure that accurate and up-to-date addresses are held for asylum seekers by (a) her Department and (b) accommodation providers.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office asylum accommodation providers maintain accurate and up to date addresses for all supported asylum seekers and systems and processes are in place to ensure that the department records are updated in advance of any change of address. As part of the lessons learnt and project closure, we will review how such address data was used during the transition of the new ASPEN card provider

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-07/11553>

### **Asylum: Finance**

**Margaret Ferrier (Independent)** [901027] For what reason [the Minister's] Department continues to monitor asylum seekers' usage of Aspen Cards.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Aspen cards are prepaid debit cards used to provide financial support to destitute asylum seekers. Their use is recorded and will be investigated where there are safeguarding concerns, for example to help locate a person who has gone missing, or potential breaches of the conditions of support to which the recipients have agreed, such as to prevent fraud.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-07/901027>

### **Asylum: Finance**

**Alex Cunningham (Labour)** [11552] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will undertake an urgent and full review of the ASPEN card contract transition; and if she will make a statement.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The PrePaid Financial Services (PFS) solution is a well-established Mastercard pre-paid card which is used by organisations across the UK as well as abroad and has undergone over 5 months of rigorous testing to integrate with Home Office systems. A significant majority of service users have received their new Aspen card, have successfully activated it and are using it.

The relevant Home Office teams continue to proactively work with all appropriate delivery partners to provide resolutions for any issues faced since the new service went live on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

Cash payments were made available in emergencies. This was in place to happen well before the transition took place.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-07/11552>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Asylum: Housing**

**John Healey (Labour)** [7735] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the oral contribution of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State of the Home Department of 25 May 2021, column 81WH on the Asylum Dispersal System, how many inspections her Department conducted of provider properties for the Asylum Dispersal Scheme in 2019-20.

**John Healey (Labour)** [7736] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the oral contribution of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State of the

Home Department of 25 May 2021, column 82WH, how many provider properties under the Asylum Dispersal Scheme her Department has inspected by region in each year since 2010.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** As well as the many tens of thousands of property inspections carried out by our providers, 2,525 property inspections were carried out by Home Office staff in 2019/20. Routine Home Office inspections were paused towards the end of the year due to the emerging Covid-19 crisis but have now recommenced in line with coronavirus guidelines.

Data on the number of properties the Home Office has inspected since 2010 by area is not held in a reportable format and can only be provided at disproportionate cost by examination of individual inspection records.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-26/7735>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-26/7736>

*The oral contributions referred to above can be read at*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-05-25/debates/C332BC19-2FD8-48F0-B2E3-91D2B0BE2BBA/AsylumDispersalSchemeStoke-On-Trent#contribution-F6A8D50B-76B4-44AF-9010-62CBE40FEAF7>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Asylum: Housing**

**John Healey (Labour) [7733]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the oral contribution of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State of the Home Department of 25 May 2021, column 81WH on the Asylum Dispersal System, if she will publish a list of the local authorities which have adopted voluntary dispersal agreements.

**John Healey (Labour) [7734]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the oral contribution of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State of the Home Department of 25 May 2021, column 81WH on the Asylum Dispersal Scheme, if she will publish the 40 local authorities which have adopted the voluntary dispersal agreements but have providers unable to find suitable properties for the Asylum Dispersal System.

**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>

Data is published on a quarterly basis, with the latest information published 27 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/2021-05-26/7733>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-26/7734>

*The oral contribution referred to above can be read at*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-05-25/debates/C332BC19-2FD8-48F0-B2E3-91D2B0BE2BBA/AsylumDispersalSchemeStoke-On-Trent#contribution-F6A8D50B-76B4-44AF-9010-62CBE40FEAF7>



### **Migrants: Detainees**

**Hilary Benn (Labour)** [10166] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department collects figures on the number of people detained in short-term detention facilities run by (a) UK border force and (b) contractors at airports and ports.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office publishes statistics on people in detention on the last day of each quarter in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on people in detention under immigration powers, are published in Table Det\_03a of the '[Detention summary tables](#)', which includes those detained in residential short term-holding facilities. Figures on people in detention at the end of March 2021 were published on 25 February 2021.

Border Force does not have a standalone short-term holding facility detention system. The only recording capability is via CID/Atlas. All cases are entered onto these systems when an individual has been issued with an IS91 Authority to Detain form.

Figures on the number of people detained in contractor operated short-term holding facilities at airports and ports are collated locally by the contractor. We do not hold a central record of these figures.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-04/10166>

### **Offenders: Deportation**

**Kieran Mullan (Conservative)** [7995] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to remove foreign national offenders from the UK.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Government is clear foreign nationals who abuse our hospitality by committing crimes should be in no doubt of our determination to deport them.

Any foreign national who is convicted of a crime and given a prison sentence is considered for deportation at the earliest opportunity and since January 2019 we have removed 7,985.

For non-European Economic Area (EEA) nationals, deportation will be pursued where it is conducive to the public good including where a person receives a custodial sentence of 12 months or more, commits an offence that caused serious harm or is a persistent offender. European Economic Area (EEA) and Swiss citizens, and their family members, who are protected by the EU Withdrawal Agreement Act 2020 are considered for deportation on public policy and public security grounds where it concerns conduct (including any criminal convictions relating to it) committed on or before 31 December 2020.

Our New Plan for Immigration will make it easier to deport foreign criminals with no right to be in the UK and keep our citizens safe.

The Home Office publishes data on the number of Foreign National Offenders (FNOs) returned from the UK in each quarter in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly release](#)'. The latest data, published on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021, can be found in tables Ret\_02 and Ret\_02q of the '[returns summary tables](#)'. The latest data relate to the calendar year 2020.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-26/7995>

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

### **Housing: Immigration**

**Lord Mann (Non-affiliated)** [HL519] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the impact of their policy towards immigration from Hong Kong has been incorporated into housing allocation (1) calculations, and (2) provision.

**Reply from Lord Greenhalgh:** The Hong Kong British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) visa route is a positive offer for British National (Overseas) status holders and their dependants. To be eligible for the Hong Kong BN(O) visa route, status holders must prove that they are able to sustain themselves and their families in the UK for six months.

Those on the BN(O) visa route will have a 'no recourse to public funds' (NRPF) condition attached to their leave, which prevents them from accessing local authority-allocated social housing allocations and homelessness assistance.

After 5 years, Hong Kong BN(O) status holders will be able to apply for settled status, and if granted settled status will then be eligible for both social housing and homelessness assistance on the same basis as British citizens. We will keep the position in relation to social housing allocations under review.

We recognise that local authorities may be expected to provide some form of housing support, for example, in managing tenancies, assessing any eligibility for local deposit schemes and understanding rights and entitlements to housing and welfare support, where it is appropriate. That is why the Government is making over £30 million available to local authorities in England to provide targeted support to Hong Kong British National (Overseas) status holders who need additional English for Speakers of Other Languages and/or destitution support including support with housing costs. This targeted support funding factors in the potential impacts on homelessness, housing and translation services demands.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-24/hl519>

### **Immigration Controls: EU Nationals**

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL450]** To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports of EU citizens (1) being handcuffed at British airports, (2) made to sleep in parked vans, and (3) prevented from accessing medication, after being denied entry into the UK.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** EU citizens are our friends and neighbours and we want them to stay in the UK, which is why we launched our ground-breaking EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS), and for those who do not have status under the EUSS, they can enter the UK for up to six months as visitors, visa free.

Separate to the Immigration Rules any travel to the UK at this time is also subject to requirements relating to the global pandemic. Until 17 May, it was not generally permissible to travel the UK simply for a visit under health regulations set by the UK Government and the Devolved Administrations. Those claiming to be entering for work or study in relation to these regulations must prove they meet our entry requirements, including holding the correct immigration status, for the purpose stated for their journey in relation to the border health regulations.

Individuals, including EU Citizens, may be refused permission to enter the UK if they do not meet COVID19 related health or immigration requirements. COVID19 testing requirements set by EU and other nations, combined with a lack of flights, has meant some cannot be returned as quickly and easily as normal.

We will accept nothing but the highest standards from both Home Office staff and the companies employed to provide detention and escorting services on our behalf. Home office staff have a duty to act professionally and only use detention when it is proportionate, reasonable, and justified in the circumstances. We have issued instructions to staff to reinforce the principle, in all cases there exists a presumption in favour of bail.

In detention, 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).

Published guidance, and the training received by Border Force and Detainee Custody Officers makes it clear physical force and restraint equipment should only be used after a thorough assessment of risk, and in consideration of each individual's personal circumstances. Where restraints are used, they are removed at the earliest opportunity.

The Home Office and our escorting provider regularly review procedures to reduce the amount of time detained individuals spend on board escorting vehicles. Officers are instructed to process individuals as quickly as practically possible, whilst ensuring they still have a full and proper induction and ultimately maintain the safety and security of all detained individuals and staff involved.

All IRCs have dedicated health facilities run by doctors and nurses which are managed by the NHS or appropriate providers. Detained individuals arriving at IRCs are medically assessed by a nurse within two hours of their arrival and offered an appointment with a doctor within 24 hours. Those carrying prescribed medication, have this medication checked and re-issued by healthcare teams at the earliest possible opportunity. Individuals continue have access to medical assistance, including medication, throughout their time in an IRC.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-20/hl450>

## Welsh Senedd

### **Statement by the Minister for Social Justice: EU Settled Status**

<https://record.assembly.wales/Plenary/12305#A65961>

## New Publication

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19): EU Settlement Scheme – updated guidance for applicants**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-eu-settlement-scheme-guidance-for-applicants>

## News

### **Home Office facing legal challenge over 'insufficient' consultation on new immigration plans**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/immigration-plans-consultation-priti-patel-home-office-b1862693.html>

### **EU settlement scheme: 'Worry' as deadline nears**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-politics-57441727>

### **Channel crossings: Patel calls on social media companies to take down videos**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-57373084>

### **Public are fed up with migrants arriving in small boats, says Priti Patel**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/public-are-fed-up-with-migrants-arriving-in-small-boats-says-priti-patel-6hrttshz1>

### **Illegal migrant wave swells, with nearly 1,000 crossing Channel already in June**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/06/10/june-could-set-new-record-illegal-migrant-crossings/>

**Anger as France stops fewer boats from crossing Channel**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/anger-as-france-stops-fewer-boats-from-crossing-channel-xnlwn577s>

**Covid rife among Channel migrants, say border staff**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/covid-rife-among-channel-migrants-say-border-staff-6dqs2wplp>

**Exposed, the brazen people-traffickers selling tickets to Britain for £10,000**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/exposed-the-brazen-turkish-people-traffickers-selling-tickets-to-britain-for-10-000-59nnt6vst?ilc=timesradio:morefromthetimes>

**Toddler's body washes up in Norway after migrant boat sinks during Channel crossing**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/toddler-norway-migrant-boat-channel-crossing-b1861165.html>

**Body found in Norway of 15-month-old boy who died crossing Channel**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/jun/07/body-found-in-norway-of-15-month-old-boy-who-died-crossing-channel>

**Norway police say body washed on shore is 18-month-old Kurdish-Iranian boy who died in Channel**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/06/07/norway-police-say-body-washed-shore-18-month-old-kurdish-iranian/>

**The short life and long journey of Artin, found dead on Norway beach**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jun/08/artins-journey-asylum-seeker-speaks-of-the-smuggling-trade-that-killed-iranian-baby>

**Migrant deaths: safe routes are essential**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/jun/08/the-guardian-view-on-migrant-deaths-safe-routes-must-be-created>

**Kent council in child migrant legal threat to Home Secretary**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-57369175>

**Kent council refuses to accept more unaccompanied child migrants**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/jun/11/kent-county-council-refuses-accept-unaccompanied-child-migrants>

**Kent council threatens to sue Patel as child services buckle under asylum strain**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/channel-crossings-glamorised-online-282kjpxbd>

**Reforms for councils to 'share the load' on child asylum seekers welcomed - but do they go far enough?**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/independentpremium/news-analysis/asylum-children-councils-b1863286.html>

**Councils on rota to handle influx of child migrants across Channel**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/councils-on-rota-to-handle-influx-of-child-migrants-across-channel-2m0wbwx3r>

**50 charities urge Home Office to act on ‘crisis’ in asylum support payments**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-seekers-aspen-card-home-office-letters-b1863540.html>

**Public backs ban on illegal migrants claiming asylum**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/06/08/ban-illegal-migrants-claiming-asylum-say-majority-new-poll/>

**Napier barracks: Priti Patel accused of misleading MPs**

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2021/jun/10/napier-barracks-priti-patel-accused-of-misleading-mps>

**Home Office ignored public health warnings when placing asylum seekers in non-Covid compliant barracks**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-seekers-military-barracks-home-office-b1862538.html>

**UK failing to deport ‘inadmissible’ migrants because EU countries will not take them**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/06/07/exclusive-no-migrants-returned-safe-countries-year-despite-inadmissible/>

**Home Office fails to deport 1,500 migrants despite ‘inadmissability’ rules**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/home-office-fails-to-deport-1-500-migrants-despite-inadmissability-rules-ssstpf0xp>

**Migrants avoid deportation despite orders**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/migrants-avoid-deportation-despite-orders-2hd7k225s>

**Protesters in London and Glasgow call for halt to Osime Brown deportation**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/jun/12/protesters-in-london-and-glasgow-call-for-halt-to-osime-brown-deportation>

**Orphaned boy told he can stay in UK permanently**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-57459817>

**Teenage orphan told he can stay in Scotland permanently**

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2021/articles/Teenage-orphan-told-he-can-stay-in-Scotland-permanently>

**Refugee hopes to study at Oxford University despite advice to settle for job at Pizza Hut**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/refugee-aims-for-oxford-university-b1861240.html>

**Poetry and Settled Status for All – call for submissions**

*Closing date 30 June 2021*

<http://conversationswithwriters.blogspot.com/2021/02/poetry-and-settled-status-for-all.html>

**TOP**



## Community Relations

### Scottish Parliament Motion

**Elena Witham (SNP) [S6M-00279] Gypsy, Roma Traveller History Month** – That the Parliament recognises that June 2021 is the annual Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month (GRTHM), which aims to raise awareness of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people throughout the UK; understands that, with over 12 million people, these people are the largest ethnic minority community in the EU, with some 300,000 in the UK; notes that, through celebration, education and raising awareness, GRTHM helps to tackle prejudice, challenge myths and amplify the voices of Gypsies, Romas and Travellers in wider society; recognises what it sees as the contribution that Scotland’s Gypsies, Romas and Travellers have made to the fabric of the nation over the centuries; notes the view that everyone can help GRTHM 2021 in celebrating and promoting the culture of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people and helping them in raising their voices; commends the work already achieved through the Joint Action Plan between the Scottish Government and COSLA to improve the lives of our Gypsy/Traveller communities as part of a significant human-rights commitment, but notes the view that there is a large body of work still to be carried out to ensure that Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people no longer face what has been described as Scotland’s “last acceptable form of racism”.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/votes-and-motions-search/S6M-00279>

*The Action Plan referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/improving-lives-scotlands-gypsy-travellers-2019-2021/>

### UK Parliament Early Day Motion

**Martin Docherty-Hughes (SNP) [171] Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month 2021** – That this House notes that during the month of June 2021 it is Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month; understands that the theme in 2021 is Make Some Space where it is hoped that people from different backgrounds and professions will make some space in their day to day lives, from teaching school pupils on the histories, cultures or present realities of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people to governmental bodies, both local and across these islands ensuring that there is space for Gypsy, Travellers in local areas and that any services provided are inclusive to the communities; believes that the rich culture and history of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities is something that must be celebrated and protected and encourages everyone to positively engage with the communities.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/58615>

### News

**Is this about that article? Didsbury locals dismiss ‘no-go areas’ claims**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/jun/07/is-this-about-that-article-didsbury-locals-dismiss-no-go-areas-claims>

TOP

## Equality

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

#### **Mental Health Services: Ethnic Groups**

**Helen Hayes (Labour)** [10524] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to improve community engagement with Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities to help tackle inequalities in mental health services.

**Reply from Nadine Dorries:** As outlined in the Mental Health Implementation Plan 2019/20 to 2023/24, all local health systems are expected to set out how they will address inequalities in access and outcomes for groups with protected characteristics, including ethnicity by 2023/24. To support this, NHS England and NHS Improvement commissioned the Advancing Mental Health Equality resource for local commissioners and providers to identify and address inequalities in mental health care. This guide is available at the following link:

[www.rcpsych.ac.uk/docs/default-source/improving-care/nccmh/amhe/amhe-resource.pdf](http://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/docs/default-source/improving-care/nccmh/amhe/amhe-resource.pdf)

As part of our proposals on reforms to the Mental Health Act 1983 we have committed to introducing a new Patient and Carer Race Equality Framework. This will support National Health Service mental healthcare providers and local authorities to work with their local communities to improve the ways in which patients of diverse ethnic backgrounds access, engage with and experience mental healthcare.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-04/10524>

#### **Perinatal Mortality: Ethnic Groups**

**Marsha De Cordova (Labour)** [10630] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to reduce the disparities of race and ethnicity enclosed in the latest still birth data published by the ONS.

**Reply from Nadine Dorries:** The Chief Midwifery Officer for England is leading work to reduce health inequalities around maternal and perinatal mortality. NHS England and NHS Improvement are also working to develop an equity strategy that will focus on reducing disparities. In January, the Department launched a £7.6 million Health and Wellbeing Fund which aims to reduce health inequalities among new mothers and babies.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-04/10630>

*The data referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/file?uri=/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/childhealth/datasets/birthsandinfantmortalitybyethnicityenglandandwales/2007to2019/birthsandinfantmortalitybyethnicity2007to20192.xlsx>

### UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

#### **Schools: Equality**

**Lord Woolley of Woodford (Crossbench)** [HL547] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to support schools which seek to create (1) equal, (2) racially diverse, and (3) inclusive, environments for their pupils.

**Reply from Baroness Berridge:** All schools must offer a balanced and broadly based curriculum, which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society, and prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

In November 2018, the department published Respectful School Communities, a self-review and signposting tool to support schools to develop a whole-school approach which promotes respect and discipline:

<https://educateagainsthate.com/school-leaders/?filter=guidance-and-training-school-leaders>

This can combat bullying, harassment and prejudice of any kind. It will help schools to identify the various elements that make up a whole school approach, consider gaps in their current practice, and get further support.

Citizenship education also plays an essential role in developing knowledge and understanding about the world today through teaching politics, democracy, power, the law, human rights, justice and the economy, as well as the changing nature of communities, identities, diversity in the UK and the UK's relations with the wider world.

From September 2020, relationships education became compulsory for all primary school pupils, relationships and sex education compulsory for all secondary school pupils, and health education compulsory for pupils in all state-funded schools:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>

These subjects are designed to give pupils the knowledge they need to lead happy, safe and healthy lives and to foster respect for other people and for difference.

The teaching workforce has become steadily more racially and ethnically diverse over the last decade, which is the period for which we have comparable data, although we know there is further to go to attract and retain diverse teachers who are representative of the communities they serve:

<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/school-workforce-in-england>

Our recruitment campaigns are targeted at audiences of students/recent graduates and potential career changers of all ethnicities and characteristics.

Finally, it is important all children and young people are treated fairly and there is no place for discrimination in our education system. The Equality Act 2010 ensures that schools cannot unlawfully discriminate against pupils or staff because of their sex, race, age, sexual orientation, disability, religion or belief. The department has published guidance on the Equality Act 2010 for schools, which includes advice on how they can meet their duties under the act:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/315587/Equality\\_Act\\_Advice\\_Final.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/315587/Equality_Act_Advice_Final.pdf)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-24/hl547>

## Press Release

### Minority Ethnic emerging Leaders Programme

<https://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/socialpolitical/johnsmith/ourwork/meelp/>

## News

### Lack of diverse curriculum 'hampers BAME students', university study finds

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leicestershire-57350735>

### Edinburgh Council pays damages for cancelling religious speaker

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-57429026>

## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### Scottish Parliament Motion

**John Mason (SNP)** [S6M-00324] **Too Many Marches** – That the Parliament notes reports that there are three Orange or "Loyalist" marches planned in Glasgow on 1 July, and five on 3 July; considers that one of the aims of such marches may be to stir up hatred against Irish and/or Catholic people, and that it is likely that such hatred will be stirred up during the planned marches; encourages public and legal debate, as to whether such marches are racist and anti-Catholic, and considers that eight marches in three days is far too many and that, at the very least, the number should be reduced.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/votes-and-motions-search/S6M-00324>

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

#### **Hate Crime: Ethnic Groups**

**Navendu Mishra (Labour)** [11690] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate he has made of the number of reported instances of hate crime towards people of Indian heritage in the UK in the last (a) 3 and (b) 12 months.

**Reply from Kit Malthouse:** The Home Office collects and publishes statistics annually on the number of hate crime offences recorded by the police in England and Wales by five centrally monitored strands: race, religion, sexual orientation, disability and transgender. Information has not previously been collected on the race or ethnicity of victims but will be during 2021/22 and published in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-07/11690>

#### **Hate Crime and Racial Discrimination: Ethnic Groups**

**Navendu Mishra (Labour)** [11692] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what assessment the Government has made of the effect of the use of the term Indian variant to refer to a variant of covid-19 on levels of (a) racism and (b) hate crime towards Indians and people of Indian heritage in the UK.

**Reply from Luke Hall:** The World Health Organisation on 31<sup>st</sup> May announced a [new naming system](#) for SARS-CoV-2 variants, with a view to providing easy-to-pronounce, non-stigmatising labels, such as Delta Variant, and Public Health England has incorporated this into our own naming system.

We have one of the strongest legislative frameworks in the world to protect communities from hostility, violence and bigotry, and racism will continue to be tackled wherever it is found.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-07/11692>

#### **Religious Hatred: Islam**

**Steve Reed (Labour)** [11572] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, whether his Department holds data on how many and what proportion of local authorities in England have adopted the All-Party Parliamentary Group

on British Muslims' definition of Islamophobia.

**Reply from Luke Hall:** The definition proposed by the APPG on British Muslims is not in line with the Equality Act 2010 and would have severe consequences for freedom of speech, which is why the Government does not accept it or hold data on its adoption.

Government does not, and will not, tolerate anti-Muslim hatred in any form and will continue to combat such discrimination and intolerance wherever it occurs.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-07/11572>

*Information about the APPG definition can be read at*

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/599c3d2febbd1a90cffdd8a9/t/5bfd1ea3352f531a6170ceee/1543315109493/Islamophobia+Defined.pdf>

### **Religious Hatred: Hinduism**

**Navendu Mishra (Labour)** [11691] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps the Government is taking to tackle Hinduphobia in the UK.

**Reply from Luke Hall:** The Government is committed to tackling hatred against people of all faiths, including the Hindu community. The Hate Crime Action Plan (2016) and Refresh (2018) set out our plans to tackle hatred directed at anyone for their race, religion, sexuality, disability or gender identity, which includes raising awareness of hate crime and encouraging reporting. We are now looking at ways to renew our strategy and will be engaging with a wide range of stakeholders from religious communities.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-07/11691>

*The Action Plan referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/927673/2016\\_Hate\\_Crime\\_Action\\_Plan.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/927673/2016_Hate_Crime_Action_Plan.pdf)

*The Refresh referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/748175/Hate\\_crime\\_refresh\\_2018\\_FINAL\\_WEB.PDF](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/748175/Hate_crime_refresh_2018_FINAL_WEB.PDF)

### **Antisemitism: Demonstrations**

**Robert Halfon (Conservative)** [901026] What steps [is the Minister] taking to tackle anti-Semitism at public demonstrations.

**Priti Patel:** The grotesque antisemitic scenes to which my Rt Hon Friend refers were utterly chilling and disgraceful. And this sort of behaviour will not be tolerated. The police must take the toughest possible action against any form of antisemitism. Jewish people must feel safe.

Everyone has freedom of speech and the right to protest peacefully. That does not include the right to be racist, to harass anyone, or to incite hatred or violence. Moreover, holding Jewish people collectively responsible for the actions – real or imagined - of the Israeli state is antisemitic. Anyone who engages in antisemitic behaviour must feel the full force of the law.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-07/901026>

### **Social Media: Hate Crime**

**Sam Tarry (Labour)** [11700] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps his Department is taking to hold (a) Instagram and (b) other social media platforms to account for (a) racist and (b) other hateful content.

**Reply from Caroline Dinenage:** Online abuse of any kind is unacceptable. Racist abuse and other hateful content has no place in an open and tolerant society.

We are taking groundbreaking steps to hold companies accountable. Under new



online safety laws, all companies in scope of the framework will need to take swift and effective action against criminal online abuse - including abuse which takes place anonymously. Major platforms will also need to address legal but harmful content for adults. Priority categories of legal but harmful content for adults will be set out in secondary legislation and these are likely to include some forms of online abuse.

Users will also be better able to report abuse, and should expect to receive an appropriate response from the platform. This might include the removal of harmful content, sanctions against offending users, or changing processes and policies to better protect users. If a company fails in these duties, it could face an investigation and enforcement action from the regulator, Ofcom, including large fines.

The draft Online Safety Bill, which will give effect to the regulatory framework, has now been published for pre-legislative scrutiny. It is for Parliament to determine how and when the Bill will be scrutinised, which the government hopes will be soon.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-07/11700>

*The draft Online Safety Bill, referred to above, can be read at*

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

### **Social Media: Hate Crime**

**Elliot Colburn (Conservative)** [11725] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, pursuant to the Answer of 21 May 2021 to Question 3171 on Social Media: Antisemitism and with reference to the priority harms to be set out in secondary legislation under the planned Online Safety Bill announced in the Queen's Speech 2021, whether he plans to include in those priority harms (a) anti-Semitic abuse, (b) homophobic abuse, (c) abuse on the grounds of disability and (d) abuse on the grounds of other protected characteristics defined in the Equality Act 2010.

**Reply from Caroline Dinenge:** We know that groups with protected characteristics or with particular mental or physical health conditions are currently more likely to experience harm and abuse online. We are continuing to work with stakeholders, Parliamentarians and Ofcom to identify specific priority harms and to determine how to formulate these in legislation. The list of primary harms will need to capture online abuse, both where it is legal and where it constitutes a criminal offence.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-07/11725>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

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

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

### **Travellers: Caravan Sites**

**Baroness Whitaker (Labour)** [HL644] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the research by Katharine Quarmby 'Systemic Racism within a Rigged System', published in Byline Times on 24 May, on the risks to health and wellbeing on 242 authorised Gypsy and traveller sites; and what steps they will take in response.

**Reply from Lord Greenhalgh:** The Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS) which was published alongside the National Planning Policy Framework (the Framework) in 2012 recognises the differing needs and land use of travelling communities and encourages improved site provision.

The Planning Policy for Traveller Sites sets out that authorities should ensure that traveller sites are sustainable economically, socially and environmentally ensuring

that (amongst other matters) policies provide for proper consideration of the effect of local environmental quality (such as noise and air quality) on the health and well-being of travellers that may locate there.

The Government remains firmly committed to delivering a cross-government strategy to tackle the inequalities faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-26/hl644>

*The research referred to above can be read at*

<https://bylinetimes.com/2021/05/24/systemic-racism-within-a-rigged-system-new-investigation-reveals-how-travellers-sites-are-routinely-placed-in-risky-locations/>

*The Planning Policy for Traveller Sites, referred to above, can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/457420/Final\\_planning\\_and\\_travellers\\_policy.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/457420/Final_planning_and_travellers_policy.pdf)

*The National Planning Policy Framework, referred to above, can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/810197/NPPF\\_Feb\\_2019\\_revised.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/810197/NPPF_Feb_2019_revised.pdf)

### **Antisemitism**

**The Marquess of Lothian (Conservative) [HL663]** To ask Her Majesty's Government how many anti-Semitic attacks were reported during May in (1) England, and (2) London; and what steps they are taking to address such abuse.

**Reply from Lord Greenhalgh:** There is no place in our society for antisemitism. The Home office do not release monthly statistics – these will be published in due course. However, the recent figures from the Community Security Trust have recorded 267 antisemitic incidents between the 8th and the 24th of May. Of those, 115 were registered in London specifically.

This Government takes hate crime against any community very seriously and are clear that victims should be supported and the individuals who carry out these heinous crimes must be brought to justice. We are providing £14 million this year to the protective security grant to protect Jewish schools and community buildings. We were also the first country to take the important step of adopting the international holocaust remembrance alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism in 2016; and, following our encouragement, over 3/4s of local councils have adopted the definition, along with many other organisations, including the Premier League and over 80 Universities– demonstrating their willingness to support the Jewish community.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-27/hl663>

## **UK Parliament Early Day Motion**

**Clive Lewis (Labour) [176] Racism in football** – That this House applauds England football manager Gareth Southgate and his players for their principled opposition to racism; stands in solidarity with all football players and supporters who have been subjected to racism, while participating in the sport they love or in other areas of their life; recognises that those players and their manager are role models for the entire country and that their actions have a large impact on wider society; believes taking the knee to be an honourable and important act, worthy of such role models; thanks players, supporters and those in the wider football community and industry who have stood and will continue to stand against all forms of racism; condemns the booing by some fans of those that take the knee for the blatant racism it is and applauds the majority of fans who do not boo; calls on those in football management, media, sponsorship, breweries and pub landlords to stand up as

anti-racists and take a robust approach to that behaviour; wishes Gareth Southgate and the England team every success in the upcoming UEFA Euro 2020 tournament; and calls on the Prime Minister to make a statement in support of anti-racism in football.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/58610>

## Press Release

### **Hate Crime in Scotland, 2020-21**

<https://www.copfs.gov.uk/media-site-news-from-copfs/1957-hate-crime-in-scotland-2020-21>

## New Publications

### **Hate Crime in Scotland, 2020-21**

Report

<https://www.copfs.gov.uk/images/Documents/Statistics/Hate%20Crime%20in%20Scotland%202020-21/Hate%20Crime%20in%20Scotland%202020-21.pdf>

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<https://www.copfs.gov.uk/images/Documents/Statistics/Hate%20Crime%20in%20Scotland%202020-21/Hate%20Crime%20in%20Scotland%202010-11%20to%202020-21%20breakdown%20by%20Procurator%20Fiscal%20Office.xlsx>

## News

### **Hate crime charges in Scotland rise 4% in a year**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/hate-crime-charges-in-scotland-rise-4-in-a-year-3270349>

### **Priti Patel: Two men charged over racist video aimed at home secretary**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-nottinghamshire-57414305>

### **Two men charged over 'racist' video targeted at Priti Patel**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/jake-henderson-fired-priti-patel-video-b1862511.html>

### **Andrew Dymock: Neo-Nazi guilty of terrorism charges**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-somerset-57439480>

### **Neo-Nazi student guilty of terrorism and hate offences**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/jun/11/neo-nazi-student-andrew-dymock-guilty-terror-hate-offences>

### **Neo-Nazi ex-Ukip member found guilty of terrorism offences**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/jun/10/dean-morrice-neo-nazi-ex-ukip-member-found-guilty-of-terrorism-offences>

### **Student who founded neo-Nazi terrorist groups convicted of terror offences**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/andrew-dymock-srn-sonnenkrieg-nazi-b1864321.html>

**Former Ukip member found guilty of neo-Nazi terror offences**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/dean-morrice-ukip-terrorism-court-b1863274.html>

**More than one in 10 terror suspects arrested in Britain is a child**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/terror-arrests-children-britain-nazis-b1863172.html>

**One in eight terror suspects is a child - the highest proportion on record**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/06/10/one-eight-terror-suspects-child-highest-proportion-record2/>

**One in eight terror suspects are children, Home Office figures show**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/one-in-eight-terror-suspects-are-children-home-office-figures-show-tpph7ntbf>

**Tribunal 'deeply concerned' by racism among Home Office contractors**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jun/07/tribunal-deeply-concerned-by-racism-among-home-office-contractors>

**Barbican staff say it is 'institutionally racist' despite action plan**

<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2021/jun/10/barbican-staff-say-it-is-institutionally-racist-despite-action-plan>

**Barbican Centre branded 'institutionally racist' by staff**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/06/10/barbican-centre-branded-institutionally-racist-staff/>

**Julie Burchill says she's been sacked by Telegraph after racist Lilibet tweet**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/julie-burchill-telegraph-lilibet-tweet-b1861989.html>

**Lawyer suspended over racist tweet on names for royal baby Lilibet**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/lawyer-racist-lilibet-suspended-joanna-toch-b1861265.html>

**Actor Riz Ahmed wants to stop Hollywood's 'toxic portrayals' of Muslims**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-57438750>

**Riz Ahmed calls for urgent change in 'toxic portrayals' of Muslims on screen**

<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2021/jun/11/riz-ahmed-muslim-portrayals-screen>

**Ollie Robinson Twitter racism storm obscures ECB's decades of inaction**

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/blog/2021/jun/09/ollie-robinson-twitter-racism-storm-obscures-ecbs-decades-of-inaction>

**'Over the top' to suspend Ollie Robinson over racist and sexist tweets, says culture secretary**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/ollie-robinson-tweets-cricket-racist-b1860899.html>

**Suspension of Ollie Robinson for racist tweets is 'over the top,' say Boris Johnson and Oliver Dowden**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2021/06/07/suspension-ollie-robinson-racist-sexist-tweets-top-says-culture/>

**Ollie Robinson's England suspension is over the top, says culture secretary Oliver Dowden**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/ollie-robinson-suspension-from-england-s-second-test-is-over-the-top-says-culture-secretary-oliver-dowden-09mszxvgn>

**ECB to take 'appropriate action' after more historical offensive tweets emerge**

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2021/jun/08/we-do-feel-anxious-jimmy-anderson-difficult-time-for-england-players>

**ECB investigating second player for posting racially offensive tweet while a teenager**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/cricket/2021/06/07/ecbinvestigating-second-player-posting-racially-offensive-tweets/>

**England to review past player tweets as squad begin discrimination workshops**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/england-to-review-past-player-tweets-as-squad-begin-discrimination-workshops-3pc8xmjhz>

**Racism casts a shadow over English sport once again**

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2021/jun/08/racism-casts-a-shadow-over-english-sport-once-again>

**Why footballers taking the knee is a win against racism**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/why-footballers-taking-the-knee-is-a-win-against-racism-euan-mccolm-3271080>

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## Other Scottish Parliament and Government

### New Petition

**PE1874: Introduce legislation to create artillery and firearms exclusion zones around places of spiritual importance and religious worship**

<https://petitions.parliament.scot/petitions/PE1874>

### News

**Buddhist monastery in Scotland calls for firearms exclusion zone**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/jun/11/samye-ling-buddhist-monastery-in-scotland-calls-for-firearms-exclusion-zone>

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## Other UK Parliament and Government

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

#### Religion: Education

**Luke Pollard (Labour Co-op) [8733]** To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether schools are required to include the teaching of RE in the education recovery plans of pupils



that have lost learning during the covid-19 outbreak; and if he will make a statement.

**Reply from Nick Gibb:** Religious education (RE) is not an optional subject for state funded schools. They must teach RE to all pupils throughout all Key Stages up to age 18. Teaching a broad and balanced curriculum is important to the academic, social, and personal development of young people. These requirements have not changed because of the COVID-19 outbreak.

The Department is working with a broad range of stakeholders to develop a range of short, medium, and long term options to ensure all young people recover their education over the term of this Government.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-27/8733>

### **Schools: Religion**

**Sarah Olney (Liberal Democrat) [7894]** To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether his Department plans to take steps in response to the recommendations of the National Secular Society's report entitled Religiosity inspections: the case against faith-based reviews of state schools, including repeal of section 48 of the Education Act 2005.

**Reply from Nick Gibb:** Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 places a duty on the governing body of maintained schools that are designated as having a religious character, to arrange for the inspection of any denominational education and collective worship. This requirement applies to maintained faith schools and academies (via the funding agreement). In arranging the inspection, the school must consult with the appropriate religious body, specified in regulations. This approach brings a consistency of approach and oversight to the inspections.

The Government greatly values the contribution that faith schools make to the education sector by providing high quality school places and choice for parents. Section 48 inspections provide assurance in relation to the religious education and collective worship provided in these schools. There are no plans to change the current arrangements for the inspection of designated faith schools.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-26/7894>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.secularism.org.uk/uploads/religiosity-inspections-the-case-against-faith-based-inspections-of-state-schools.pdf>

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## **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/>

# Scottish Parliament Written Answers

## COVID-19 Vaccination: Ethnic Groups

**Monica Lennon (Labour)** [S6W-00063] To ask the Scottish Government what steps it is taking to address the reported disparities in COVID-19 vaccination uptake among different ethnic groups.

**Reply from Humza Yousaf:** It is vital for the current Covid-19 vaccination programme to reach everyone and that no one is left behind, both for individual health and our collective community wellbeing.

In order to achieve this, we have embedded inclusion as a key aspect of our national COVID-19 vaccination programme, working alongside Health Boards and other partners to respond to evidence of low uptake in certain communities.

To help support this work we set up a National Inclusive Steering Group with representatives from Health Boards, faith groups, third and community sector. The group advises on issues and identifies solutions and actions for all partners. Organisations represented on the group include BEMIS, the African Council, Scottish Refugee Council and the Ethnic Minority Resilience Network.

We have provided over £100,000 to a range of organisations working with minority ethnic communities to help inform and promote the programme. Activities undertaken include the facilitation of focus groups, provision of translations, hosting awareness-raising events and the development of tailored resources for certain communities.

In April 2021 the national programme team produced inclusive planning and delivery criteria to help address barriers for specific groups within health board populations. This is based on the Health Inequality Impact Assessment, research by Voluntary Health Scotland and health board plans. Scottish Government officials meet regularly with Health Boards to discuss inclusion, local challenges and actions that are being undertaken to reach communities with low uptake of the vaccine.

Work has also been undertaken to respond to the increasing number of COVID-19 cases in certain areas by accelerating the vaccination rollout and through assertive outreach in communities with large ethnic minority populations. For example, in the south of Glasgow, an additional Vaccination Centre was set up rapidly at the Glasgow Central Mosque on 18 May 2021. Mobile clinics continue to be deployed into communities offering drop-in opportunities at venues such as the Glasgow Gurdwara. Discussions are also underway with community leaders of African

descent to ensure we are reaching these groups with appropriately tailored communications and delivery.

The national Roll Up Your Sleeves campaign phase 2 launched on 20 April 2021 and the TV advert cast and creative reflects Scotland's diverse society. Our national communications plan includes the production of translated assets in a range of community languages. The QR code on vaccination appointment letters and COVID-19 vaccination leaflets support people to access the information in a format or language of their choice.

[Scotland's COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment Plan 2021](#) provides further details about our approach to the national COVID-19 programme to date and includes examples of partnership work, local outreach and communications undertaken.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-00063>

### **Covid-19: Religious Events**

**Monica Lennon (Labour)** [S6W-00297] To ask the Scottish Government whether it will define religious events, such as Baptisms and Holy Communions, as "life events" in order for them to take place safely, allowing for celebration in residential and public places.

**Reply from Christina McKelvie:** We acknowledge how challenging these past 15 months have been for everyone in our society, including our faith and belief communities who have not been able to come together to celebrate important occasions as they normally would.

Ceremonies that take place within places of worship to mark religious life events and that form part of a wider service (including baptisms, christenings and coming-of-age ceremonies) have been permitted in accordance with the guidance on the safe use of places of worship since the resumption of congregational worship in March 2021, and are subject to the guidance on calculating physical distance based capacity .

Marriages, civil partnerships, and funeral services are exceptions to the general restrictions on gatherings in public or at private dwellings in the Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions and Requirements) (Local Levels) Regulations 2020 at all the protection levels of the updated Strategic Framework, along with receptions and post-funeral gatherings in public places at protection levels 0 to 3. We have also published guidance on these events, including on the numbers who can attend at the different protection levels. Marriages, civil partnerships and funerals are of particular importance to people and society and they are protected under the European Convention on Human Rights. Additionally, funerals are extremely important events with every funeral celebrating and commemorating a life lived and a loved one no longer with us. There are also very practical reasons why funerals cannot be postponed for any significant length of time.

However at this time, there are no specific exceptions for other religious life events, or any associated receptions and celebrations following them, outwith a place of worship. These remain subject to the general restrictions on gatherings, including in public, for example at a hospitality venue.

While the Scottish Government appreciates these would normally be occasions which are shared with families and loved ones, the Covid situation is still serious, and we need to continue to minimise the spread of the virus, balancing the harms from the virus which are potentially fatal, with the impact on faith and belief communities of the restrictions on places of worship.

We will continue to engage with our faith and belief stakeholders and we keep this under constant review as we cautiously progress out of lockdown.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-00297>

The guidance referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-phase-3-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship/>

and

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-small-marriages-and-civil-partnership-registrations/>

and

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

### **Places of Worship: Social Distancing**

**Alexander Burnett (Conservative)** [S6W-00400] To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has to reduce the social distancing requirement in places of worship from two metres to one metre.

**Reply from Christina McKelvie:** We acknowledge how challenging this past year has been for everyone in our society, including places of worship. We are grateful to all of Scotland's faith and belief communities for all they have done to keep their congregations safe and to support our communities during this unprecedented time.

From 26 April, we moved towards greater easing of the health protection restrictions, with the removal of the 50 person limit in places of worship; instead the numbers of people who can attend are limited according to the building capacity and physical distancing of two metres, along with other measures informed by a risk assessment.

The Scottish Government is reviewing physical distancing including its impact on places of worship and an announcement, which will consider the faster spreading Delta variant, is expected in the near future. Sectoral guidance will be further updated at that time to reflect the outcome of the review, including proposals for as clear a route as possible to the reduction/removal of physical distancing to enable people and organisations to plan effectively for a full reopening. Physical distancing has been an important tool for controlling the virus, but as with all restrictions, we will only have this in place as long as is necessary.

The Scottish Government has to balance the harms from the virus which are potentially fatal, with the impact on faith and belief communities of the restrictions on places of worship. However, please be reassured that the Scottish Government understands the important role of congregational worship in supporting spiritual, mental and social wellbeing and will continue to engage with faith and belief communities regarding the scope for further easing.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-00400>

## **Scottish Parliament Motion**

**Stephen Kerr (Conservative)** [S6M-00314] **Freedom of Religion or Belief as a Basic Human Right** – That the Parliament supports the freedom of religion or belief as a basic human right; upholds Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; considers that congregational worship is central to many faiths in Scotland, and calls on the Scottish Government to remove restrictions to allow congregational worship, with one metre social distancing and the requirement for wearing face coverings for worshippers when either sitting, standing or kneeling in the same place.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/votes-and-motions-search/S6M-00314>

## Scottish Government Press Releases

### Bringing forward second doses

<https://www.gov.scot/news/bringing-forward-second-doses/>

### Expanding the national vaccination programme

<https://www.gov.scot/news/expanding-the-national-vaccination-programme/>

## 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 – 8 June 2021

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-statement-8-june-2021/>

## UK Government Publications

### The R value and growth rate

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

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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>

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

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2883>

Bill as introduced

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/41758/documents/354>

First Reading, House of Lords

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-06-08/debates/D00D0164-64CD-432F-9655-6F03042DEA68/Refugees\(FamilyReunion\)Bill\(HL\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-06-08/debates/D00D0164-64CD-432F-9655-6F03042DEA68/Refugees(FamilyReunion)Bill(HL))

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## Consultations

\*\* new or updated this week

#### 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>

**Immigration Costs for Armed Forces Personnel** (closing date 7 July 2021)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/immigration-fees-public-consultation>

**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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## 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>

**\*\* closes this week!**

### **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 the end of 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://sivr.ac.uk/research-activities/seldom-heard-communities-grants>

### **\*\* Fife Equality Community Grants**

*Closing date 9 July 2021*

Fife Centre for Equalities small grant programme (between £100 and £300) to help community-led groups to build their capacity to engage with wider diverse communities and to improve public's awareness about their activity. For information see <https://bit.ly/FifeEqGrants>

### **Hate Crime Security Fund for Places of Worship**

*Closing date 21 July 2021*

This fund aims to reduce the vulnerability to hate crime that some places of worship across Scotland face. The Scottish Government has made £500,000 available for the provision of capital security measures and improvements. These measures are intended to reduce the risk of hate crimes to places of worship in Scotland and provide reassurance for faith communities who worship at them. ...

Applications are welcomed from individual places of worship of all faiths who can demonstrate their vulnerability to hate crime, whether or not a crime has been committed or reported to the police. ...

Up to 100% grants are available for the installation of up to three security measures and improvements,

You can apply for a maximum of £20,000 to cover all or part of your proposed security measures and improvements. ...

<https://www.impactfundingpartners.com/open-applications/hate-crime-security-fund>

and

<https://tinyurl.com/4ujukfuf>

### **Henry Duncan Grants for mental health and wellbeing**

*Closing date 21 July 2021*

The health, economic and social impacts of the coronavirus pandemic are likely to increase people's need for mental health support. Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities have been among those most impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. This is likely to affect people's mental health, for example through fear and anxiety, experience of illness or loss

of loved ones. Research has shown that Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities are disadvantaged when accessing mental health and well-being services, including the quality of care they receive. This is due to racism, structural and institutional inequalities, fear, stigma and discrimination. For these reasons, Henry Duncan Grants 2021 includes a strand focused on Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities. For information see <https://www.corra.scot/grants/henry-duncan-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!**

### **Refugee Festival Scotland**

14–20 June 2021 (Scotland-wide)

Celebrations will take place across Scotland, from the Borders to the Highlands and Islands. And there's something for everyone, from live music and dance to online art exhibitions, film screenings and family-friendly picnics. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yk322my2>

**\*\* this week!**

### **Making Home**

14–20 June 2021 (online)

Online exhibition bringing together artwork created by Scottish and New Scots families which reflect on the idea of "home". For information see <https://tinyurl.com/j28rsfha>

**\*\* this week!**

### **Travellers**

14–20 June 2021 (online)

'Travellers' is a filmed dance piece with choreography and content inspired by the shared experiences of the performers and Syrian women living in the Highlands of Scotland. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/zpfjy4n>

**\*\* this week!**

### **The Anti Dawn Raid Chorus**

14 June 2021 (online, 12.00–1.30)

University of Glasgow critical and celebratory conversation with Glasgow-based activists and community members who used the arts as advocacy to protest against the conditions in which refugees live. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/rn52p6zb>

**\*\* this week!**

### **Launch: Stories of Hope**

14 June 2021 (online, 1.30)

Poverty Truth Community launch of a graphic booklet created by a group who have been through or are going through the asylum process. The booklet has been created to encourage those arriving in this country, and offers advice and support. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2mkukud4>

**\*\* this week!**

**From Exclusion to Inclusion**

15 June 2021 (online, 11.00)

Scottish Wider Access Programme workshop around participants development of skills and competence assessment to assist with the transition to education or employment. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/m8k6ckph>

**\*\* this week!**

**Monuments for a Multicultural Society**

15 June 2021 (online, 6.00)

In the wake of Black Lives Matter protests, local campaigns and online petitions have asked for the removal of statues and monuments that implicitly celebrate slavery and racism. If these were to be removed, what are the “symbols” that would replace them? Workshop with Glasgow-based curator Francesca to map personal and cultural knowledge of the multiple communities that compose Scotland today. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/c8vjwrta>

**\*\* this week!**

**Right to Work: Right to Freedom**

15 June 2021 (online, 6.00)

Maryhill Integration Network discussion about the impact of not being able to work on people seeking asylum. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/5rmenbe9>

**\*\* this week!**

**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>

**\*\* this week!**

**Covid and Recovery roundtable: experiences of lockdown in Scotland for people in the asylum process and the Third Sector**

16 June 2021 (online, 12.00–1.30)

Roundtable to discuss individual and Third Sector experiences of surviving lockdown, and asking: What does recovery mean for refugees and people seeking asylum and the Third Sector who support them? What does the support and advocacy landscape look like in digital times? What does the New Immigration Plan mean for Third Sector work? What solidarity actions and supports are needed? For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2jzs3jw6>

**\*\* this week!**

**Refugee histories Scotland**

16 June 2021 (online, 4.00–5.30)

Learn some of the stories of refugees in Scotland, from the post-war camp for Polish refugees in Prestwick to present-day experiences of life for refugees in communities around Scotland. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/jn8d2dc5>

**\*\* this week!**

**'We Journey Together' – Film Screening and Discussion**

16 June 2021 (online, 6.00)

Govan Community Project film and resource pack aiming to increase understanding of the asylum system, challenge stigma, and open up conversations. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2nspa72a>

**\*\* this week!**

**Listening, watching, doing: Reflections on researching refugee integration**

17 June 2021 (online, 10.00)

Glasgow University discussion about researching refugee integration initiatives in Scotland. The event will also consider the need to include people from refugee backgrounds in the research process and how this can be innovatively achieved. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/42bm7a8c>

**\*\* this week!**

**Life in the Time**

17 June 2021 (online, 10.00–12.00)

Amina Muslim Women's Resource Centre workshop to share stories of lockdown, and participate in creative workshops. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/b77c9va>

**\*\* this week!**

**Bring a Refugee Family to Safety in Your Local Community (Scotland)**

17 June 2021 (online, 6.00–7.00)

Sponsor Refugees (Citizens UK) and Communities 4 Refugees webinar to get familiar with Community Sponsorship in Scotland and learn how you can start your own Community Sponsorship group so that you can welcome a refugee family. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/3rwrenfs>

**\*\* this week!**

**Books to help children and young people understand the refugee crisis**

19 June 2021 (online, 11.00)

Youth Libraries Group Scotland showcases a variety of current picture books, novels for older children and graphic novels about refugees that encourage empathy and understanding. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2kb5nj2z>

**\*\* this week!**

**Coming Together: Southern European Migrants and Their Intercultural Encounters in Edinburgh**

20 June 2021 (online, 5.00–6.00)

St Andrews University exhibition of photographs from workplaces that capture moments of interaction between Southern European migrants, other migrants and the local people in Edinburgh, and creation of Wikipedia entries on cultural festivals in Edinburgh run by and involving Southern European migrants. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/3tzs7rna>

**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](mailto:jamie@interfaithscotland.org)

### **Advantage Is Invisible – Understanding Unintentional Discrimination**

29 July 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](mailto:jamie@interfaithscotland.org)

### **Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals**

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>

### **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](mailto: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/tamy4rv> or contact Jamie Spurway [jamie@interfaithscotland.org](mailto: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](mailto: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), and the theme for 2021 is Together for Our Planet. Event submissions are now open and can be registered on the [Scottish Interfaith Week website](#). Sign up to the [Scottish Interfaith Week newsletter](#) to receive updates.

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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/disclosure-types>

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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