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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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The Scottish Parliament is in recess until 29 August 2021.

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

EU Settlement Scheme: Application Deadline

Fleur Anderson (Labour): What estimate has [the Minister] made of the number of people who are eligible for the EU settlement scheme but missed the application deadline of 30 June 2021. (902517)

Kate Osborne (Labour): What estimate has [the Minister] made of the number of people who are eligible for the EU settlement scheme but missed the application deadline of 30 June 2021. (902526)

Reply from the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Priti Patel): As of 30 June, the EU settlement scheme had received more than 6 million applications

and issued more than 5.1 million grants of status. As we have discussed before, the scheme has been a success and we have secured the status of 5.1 million individuals.

Fleur Anderson: I am disappointed not to hear the exact number. In Wandsworth, there are an estimated 41,000 EU citizens, but the gap in applications to the EU settlement scheme is not known. Can the Home Secretary say which resources she is making available to process the 500,000 or so applications that are currently in the system but have not yet been determined, and how long she would envisage allowing late applications to the scheme?

Reply from Priti Patel: As I have said, the scheme has been a phenomenal success. There are many naysayers across the country and in this House who refused to believe that even 3 million people would be registered with the scheme. First and foremost, there is an abundance of support available for applicants, including from the 72 organisations to which the Home Office has granted £22 million of support for vulnerable groups and individuals to apply to the scheme. On top of that, we have invested £8 million in communications, and that involves working with local authorities such as the hon. Lady's to ensure that no one is missed and that all the support is in the place for them.

Kate Osborne: Recent research from the Children's Society showed that less than 40% of looked-after children and care leavers had made applications to the EU settlement scheme, with 156 local authorities positively identifying more than 2,000 looked-after children and care leavers who had yet to apply. May I ask the Secretary of State to tell the House what steps the Home Office has taken to ensure that children in care who are eligible to apply have applied?

Reply from Priti Patel: First, let me re-emphasise a point that Ministers and I have made in this House on repeated occasions. It is absolutely right that we do everything possible to give children in care the support, more often than not via their local authorities, to ensure that they apply for the scheme. We have been doing exactly that, working with councils, social services and local authorities across the country. If the hon. Lady has any particular cases she would like to draw to our attention, we would be very happy to pick them up.

Bambos Charalambous (Labour): As the Home Secretary is aware, acquiring settled status has an impact on a person's right to work and to access accommodation and other services. What steps are the Government taking to ensure that employers and landlords are complying with the right to work and rent guidance, and are not discriminating against EU citizens? Will she also tell me what protections are in place for people to submit late applications to the EU settlement scheme, so that they are not left in limbo, unable to work or at risk of homelessness while they await the outcome of their application?

Reply from Priti Patel: First, the Home Office has been very clear in the support it will provide to people and late applications. The hon. Gentleman has rightly made an important point about the right to work and the role for employers. Let me give him the assurance that we have been working with employers' organisations and groups; this is exactly the vehicle through which, even throughout the pandemic, we have been working to communicate the need for employers to work with us to secure the settled status of many, many individuals. Finally, may I pay tribute to many of the employers who have been working with us on this scheme to guarantee that settled status for individuals?

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-07-12/debates/50A3822B-2A6F-48B4-AEA6-55C4F58733DE/EUSettlementSchemeApplicationDeadline>

Topical Questions: Home Office: Illegal Immigration

Scott Benton (Conservative): I welcome the measures set out in the Nationality and Borders Bill, and the Home Secretary's ongoing commitment to finally getting a grip of our

borders and stemming the flow of illegal immigrants across the channel. Will she confirm that the Bill will include measures for the removal of migrants to offshore centres where they can be housed while their claims and appeals are being processed?

Reply from Priti Patel: My hon. Friend is absolutely right, and we have heard in the House this afternoon from many right hon. and hon. Members the absolute challenge this country faces on illegal migration and illegal entry to the UK. The asylum system is broken and it is being exploited by illegal migration issues and the criminal gangs that are exploiting vulnerable individuals. As he will know, the new Bill, which will be discussed on Second Reading next week, covers many aspects and it is right that the Government explore all options to fix our broken asylum system.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-07-12/debates/69B15A62-44F9-4A9A-8475-9D2CB0788FF0/TopicalQuestions#contribution-0A3BB049-8004-42E6-9A9A-6762443790BB>

Topical Questions: Home Office: Illegal Immigration

Edward Leigh (Conservative): I thank the Home Secretary for fulfilling her pledge on the Floor of the House to meet Aid to the Church in Need and myself tomorrow to discuss the case of Maira Shahbaz, a 14-year-old Christian girl who was abducted, kidnapped, and forced into hiding. I do not want the Home Secretary to comment on that case, but does this not make it even more important that we deal with illegal migration? If we do not do so, we cannot deal better with genuine asylum seekers. Indeed, for every illegal we deport, we should accept a genuine asylum seeker. (902568)

Reply from Priti Patel: My right hon. Friend is absolutely right and I look forward to the discussion that we will have tomorrow. This is a very harrowing case and I have been following the details of it for some time. Although we will discuss the matter tomorrow, my right hon. Friend is speaking to the fact that our asylum system is completely broken. We are seeing too many abuses of the system and vulnerable people being preyed on, and that scuppers our ability to assist those who are fleeing persecution and having the most appalling and abhorrent acts forced on them or taken against them. That is why the Nationality and Borders Bill is so important. I urge all colleagues in the House to work with us and support the Bill as it comes to Second Reading next week.

Stuart C McDonald (SNP): What we have just heard is errant nonsense. If a Uyghur fleeing torture, a Syrian fleeing war crimes, or a Christian convert escaping death threats, arrives in the UK seeking protection but without a visa, under the Home Secretary's outrageous anti-refugee Bill, that would make them guilty of an offence punishable by up to four years in prison. How on earth can she defend criminalising torture victims—victims of war crimes, persecuted Christian converts and other refugees—for seeking our protection?

Reply from Priti Patel: With respect to the hon. Gentleman's question, I am afraid that he has not read the Bill, or the new plan for immigration, or followed the debate and the discussion. I have been absolutely clear that we will support those individuals who, as he says, are fleeing persecution and torture. It is our objective as a Government to support those individuals, but not those who come to our country by paying money to illegal people traffickers and who could have claimed asylum in many of the EU countries through which they have travelled. I am sorry that he fails to realise that flagrant abuses are taking place through the use of people smugglers and people traffickers, and that individuals could claim asylum in other countries, but are simply choosing not to do so.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-07-12/debates/69B15A62-44F9-4A9A-8475-9D2CB0788FF0/TopicalQuestions#contribution-1229D90C-273F-445A-92EF-98763D3B2C5F>

People Smuggling

Edward Leigh (Conservative): What steps [is the Minister's] Department taking to tackle people smuggling. (902523)

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Chris Philp): People smuggling is a despicable crime, often leading to tragic deaths such as the 39 we saw in Purfleet. The Government are determined to crack down on organised immigration crime, which is why we last week we introduced a new Nationality and Borders Bill, which will receive its Second Reading next week. It is also why in 2020 the National Crime Agency and immigration enforcement were involved in 750 arrests in relation to organised immigration crime.

Edward Leigh: Following the ridiculous decision by the Crown Prosecution Service not to prosecute illegal migrants on the grounds that they have “no choice in how they travel”, as if they do not voluntarily pay a people smuggler €10,000 or voluntarily get in a dinghy, or the even more absurd reason that we can rely on “administrative removal channels” when corrupt human rights lawyers string such claims out for years and nobody is ever deported, where does that leave the absolutely good Bill of my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary? She wants to arrest these people in the channel. Does this decision make it even more urgent that we bring in safe havens for these people in a third country?

Reply from Chris Philp: My right hon. Friend is quite right to point out that countries such as France and Germany are obviously safe and that someone genuinely in need of protection or asylum can claim asylum quite properly and easily in such countries rather than attempting dangerous and unnecessary crossings over the English channel. Notwithstanding the CPS's recent announcement, we can, do and will prosecute people who organise and pilot dangerous boat crossings across the English channel for gain or with the intention of avoiding immigration controls. The Bill, which will receive its Second Reading next week, critically contains provisions that will close some of the loopholes that may have led to the CPS's recent decision and will make it clear that any attempt to arrive in the United Kingdom from a safe place, such as France, will be rightly treated as a criminal offence.

Stuart C McDonald (SNP): Each year, about 5,000 or so family members benefit from refugee family reunion rights, 90% of whom are women and children. Depriving refugees of family reunion rights would drive many of those women and children straight into the arms of despicable people smugglers through desperation to be reunited with their loved ones. Why on earth will the Government provide exactly that massive bonus to people smugglers through their nasty anti-refugee Bill?

Reply from Chris Philp: The hon. Gentleman is misinformed and misguided on this point. There is no plan to weaken or undermine the refugee family reunion provisions that have been used by 29,000 people in the last six years. In addition, in the last five or six years we have been operating Europe's largest resettlement programme, which has seen an additional 25,000 people come to the UK directly from places from danger. Because we have these effective and well-used safe and legal routes, it is reasonable—indeed, it is our responsibility—to clamp down on the people smugglers who are exploiting migrants and charging them money to make an unnecessary and dangerous journey, often across the English channel from France, which is patently a safe country. No one needs to leave France to claim asylum. It could be quite easily and properly claimed in France.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-07-12/debates/73D7ABDA-B67F-49C2-BAAB-30428FE1489C/PeopleSmuggling>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer

British Nationality: Assessments

Stephen Farry (Alliance) [28368] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average score is of people taking the Life in the UK test.

Stephen Farry (Alliance) [28369] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what criteria was used to decide questions for the Life in the UK test; and whether any assessment has been made of the performance of UK citizens in that test.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The average score of customers taking the Life in the UK (LitUK) test in the last 12 months is 19 out of a possible score of 24.

The LitUK test questions are based on the content of the LitUK handbook, which is available for all applicants to study as part of their test preparation. PSI Services (UK) Limited who operate the LitUK test centres on behalf of UKVI, created a pool of test questions covering the content of the handbook.

As the LitUK test is only for customers applying for British Citizenship or certain categories of settlement, there is no requirement for UK citizens to take the LitUK test and so there has been no assessment of their performance in the test.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-06/28368>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-06/28369>

Immigration: Hong Kong

Craig Whittaker (Conservative) [28144] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of introducing a means-tested visa fee and immigration health surcharge waiver in response to financial obstacles being put in the way of British Nationals (Overseas) seeking to leave Hong Kong and come to the UK.

Reply from Kevin Foster: There are no plans to introduce a fee waiver or immigration health surcharge waiver on the British Nationals (Overseas) (BN(O)) route.

The cost of the BN(O) visa has been set at a lower level than many other routes to the UK. In setting the fee, we have looked at analogous routes, the principles for determining fees set out in the Immigration Act 2014 and the overall design of the new immigration system.

Like others coming to the UK, applicants to this route should contribute towards the cost of the NHS services they will be relying on when in the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-06/28144>

Immigration: Hong Kong

Sarah Owen (Labour) [28343] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to waive the Immigration Health Surcharge for holders of Hong Kong BNO visas.

Reply from Kevin Foster: There are no plans to introduce a waiver for the Immigration Health Surcharge on the British Nationals (Overseas) (BN(O)) route.

Like others coming to the UK applicants to the route should contribute to the cost of the NHS Services they will be using, rather than these costs fall to UK taxpayers more widely.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-06/28343>

Immigration: Hong Kong

Craig Whittaker (Conservative) [28145] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps he is taking to ensure that British

Nationals (Overseas) who are arriving in the UK are protected from intimidation and hostility from groups in the UK.

Reply from Luke Hall: On 8 April, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government announced a new UK-wide Welcome Programme to support Hong Kong BN(O) status holders with a package worth £43.1 million. The Government's ambition is for Hong Kong BN(O)s to feel welcomed and supported and that is why, as a part of the integration package for Hong Kong BN(O) status holders, we have committed £300,000 to set up a new third party hate crime reporting service.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-06/28145>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/national-welcome-for-hong-kong-arrivals>

Guidance on the Welcome Programme referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/hong-kong-uk-welcome-programme-guidance-for-local-authorities>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Immigration Controls: EU Nationals

Afzal Khan (Labour) [31527] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking in response to reports that people traveling into the UK on an EU Settlement Scheme Family Permit are being refused entry since 1 July 2021.

Afzal Khan (Labour) [31528] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure people travelling on an EU Settlement Scheme Family Permit are able to enter the UK following the expiration of EEA Family Permits on 1 July 2021.

Afzal Khan (Labour) [31529] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people with an EU Settlement Scheme Family Permit have been wrongly detained while travelling into the UK since 1 July 2021.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Individuals who are eligible for an EU Settlement Scheme family permit may continue to apply for such a permit after 1 July 2021.

Where an EU Settlement Scheme family permit is issued, it will be valid for the 'relevant period' (as defined in Annex 1 to Appendix EU (Family Permit)). This will be either:

- a period of 6 months from the date of decision on the application, or
- a period of 4 months from their intended date of arrival in the UK, where the applicant indicates in their application form they intend to arrive in the UK on or after 1 April 2021, and their intended date of arrival in the UK is more than 3 months from the date of decision.

The holder can enter the UK as many times as they wish within this period.

EU Settlement Scheme family permit holders will be subject to identity and security checks on arrival, as well as checks required for health measures purposes relating to the pandemic, just as all other arriving passengers are. The requirements of the Border Health regulations, set by the UK Government and the Devolved Administrations, work in addition to the requirements of the immigration rules, those holding EU Settlement Scheme Permits are not exempt from them.

Any passenger who is required to submit to further examination at port may be temporarily detained whilst such an examination is conducted. An EU Settlement Scheme family permit holder may be refused entry to the UK where their leave falls to be cancelled under Annex 3 to Appendix EU (Family Permit).

The Home Office is not aware of any instances of EU Settlement Scheme family permit holders either being detained for longer than necessary to confirm their ongoing entitlement to their status or compliance with health measures requirements, or in an Immigration Removal Centre since 1 July 2021.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-12/31527>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-12/31528>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-12/31529>

Appendix EU (Family Permit), referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/appendix-eu-family-permit>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Diana Johnson (Labour) [28130] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate her Department has made of the number of children and young people in the care of local authorities who were eligible to apply for the EU Settled Status Scheme.

Diana Johnson (Labour) [28132] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate her Department has made of the number of children and young people in the care of local authorities and who were eligible to apply for the EU Settled Status Scheme who had not applied to that Scheme by the deadline of 30 June 2021.

Diana Johnson (Labour) [28133] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department plans to take to ensure that all children and young people in the care of local authorities, who were eligible to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme and where no application was made, can have their stay regularised.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Starting in 2018 the Home Office recommended Local Authorities (LAs) and, in Northern Ireland, Health and Social Care Trusts (HSCT), with existing statutory duties towards looked after children (LAC) and care leavers, conduct a review of their existing cohort of LAC and care leavers to identify those eligible to apply to the EUSS.

The Home Office have been working closely with LAs and HSCT to monitor their progress in making applications to the EU Settlement Scheme on behalf of their looked after children and care leavers and carried out a survey of local authorities earlier this year.

This survey indicated, as of 23 April 2021, 3660 looked after children and care leavers had been identified as eligible to apply to EUSS. At that stage applications had already been submitted by or for 2,440 (67 per cent) of those. Further information on the survey is available at: [EU Settlement Scheme: looked-after children and care leavers survey 2020](#).

In line with the Citizens' Rights Agreement, there remains scope, indefinitely, for a person eligible for status under the EUSS to make a late application to the scheme where there are reasonable grounds for their failure to meet the deadline applicable to them. We have now published guidance for caseworkers on reasonable grounds for making a late EUSS application.

The guidance, which reflects our engagement with stakeholders on this issue, is not exhaustive and all cases will be considered on a flexible and pragmatic basis in light of their particular circumstances. Examples of reasonable grounds will include, but are not limited to:

- where a parent, guardian or local authority has failed to apply on behalf of a child;
- where a person had a serious medical condition, which meant they were unable to apply by the relevant deadline;
- if someone is a victim of modern slavery or is in an abusive or controlling relationship;
- someone who is isolated, vulnerable or did not have the digital skills to access the application process;

- where a person was unable to apply by the relevant deadline for compelling practical or compassionate reasons, including in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

You can find the guidance at pages 26-44 of the main EUSS caseworker guidance: see 'Making an application: deadline' in 'EU Settlement Scheme: EU, other EEA and Swiss citizens and their family members' at:

[EU Settlement Scheme: EU, other EEA and Swiss citizens and their family members](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-06/28130>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-06/28132>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-06/28133>

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

Diana Johnson (Labour) [31354] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 12 July 2021 to Question 28132 on Immigration: EU Nationals, when her Department will have more up to date figures on how many children and young people there were in the care of local authorities and who were eligible to apply for the EU Settled Status Scheme who had not applied to that Scheme by the deadline of 30 June 2021.

Diana Johnson (Labour) [31355] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department took to support children and young people who were in the care of local authorities and eligible for the EU settlement scheme to apply to that scheme.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office is continuing to work closely with local authorities to ensure applications to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) are made in respect of eligible looked after children and care leavers.

This has included running webinars for local authority staff making or supporting EUSS applications, providing support seven days a week via the EU Settlement Resolution Centre and making available £22 million in grant funding, through to 30 September 2021, for a network of 72 organisations across the UK, including several local authorities and local government associations, to help vulnerable groups apply to the EUSS.

Using the data from the most recent survey, we have also delivered further workshops and targeted engagement with local authorities. We are now considering options for further progress monitoring in relation to this cohort.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-12/31354>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-12/31355>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-06/28132>

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

Diana Johnson (Labour) [31353] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 12 July 2021 to Question 28133 on Immigration: EU Nationals, and with reference to page 31-33 of her Department's guidance entitled EU Settlement Scheme: EU, other EEA and Swiss citizens and their family members, published on 21

May 2021, if she will publish a list of examples of what would not be deemed by her Department to be reasonable grounds for a child or young person who had been in the care of a local authority missing the deadline to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme applicable to them under the EU Settlement Scheme; and what effect not having those reasonable grounds would have on the right to reside of those children or young people.

Reply from Kevin Foster: In line with the Citizens' Rights Agreements, there remains scope, indefinitely, for a person eligible for status under the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) to make a late application to the scheme where there are reasonable grounds for their failure to meet the deadline applicable to them.

We would consider it reasonable grounds for a late application to be made where a local authority failed in its duty to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme on behalf of a child in its care or where a parent or guardian failed to make an application on behalf of someone aged under 18 on deadline day.

The guidance published on 1 April is not exhaustive and we will take a pragmatic and flexible approach to cases in light of the particular circumstances of each application.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-12/31353>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-06/28133>

The caseworker guidance referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/988540/main-euss-guidance-v12.0-gov-uk.pdf

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

Cat Smith (Labour) [29830] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the performance and reliability of the View and Prove service for the EU Settlement Scheme.

Reply from Kevin Foster: We have designed our digital services to be highly resilient, with rigorous testing to build assurance, and deployed them across multiple data centres. This ensures customer data is backed up across those data centres, meaning if one fails another will take over, maintaining continuity of service.

Our digital services and their constituent parts are proactively monitored for failures, which will highlight any potential problems to allow support teams to triage and resolve as quickly as possible.

Our dedicated Resolution Centre is able to assist users who are experiencing technical issues with their online immigration status, and where necessary, enable individuals' status to be verified through alternative means.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-08/29830>

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

Charlotte Nichols (Labour) [29148] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has plans to provide physical documentation incorporating secure QR code technology to EU nationals residing in the UK of their Settled or Pre-Settled immigration status.

Reply from Kevin Foster: We are developing a border and immigration system which is "digital by default", which over time means we will increasingly replace physical and paper-based products and services with accessible, easy to use online

and digital services.

Individuals continue to receive written notice of their immigration status by email or letter, which they can keep for their personal records if they wish and can use when contacting the Home Office.

We continue to welcome feedback on how we can improve our services. Home Office officials have met with the 3million group to discuss the use of a QR code system and are now considering the feasibility of the suggested approach.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-07/29148>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

David Simmonds (Conservative) [29177] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, by what date EU citizens who have made an in-time EU Settlement Scheme application will be able to use the View and Prove service with a certificate of application to generate a shared code instead of requiring an employer or landlord to use the Checking Service.

David Simmonds (Conservative) [29178] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when his Department plans to update the right to work and rent guidance to align that guidance with the EU Settlement Scheme Certificates of Applications which are not time limited to six months.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Applicants who were resident by 31 December 2020 and who made an online application by the deadline now have a digital Certificate of Application. This can be used now to prove their protected rights in the UK pending the final determination of their application, which includes any appeal.

The durations of the statutory excuses provided to employers and landlords are six months and one year respectively. These are the standard durations of statutory excuses when right to work and rent checks are conducted on individuals who have an outstanding, in-time, immigration application.

These processes are not limited to applications under the EUSS and there are no plans to change them. In the event an application is not resolved within these timeframes, follow-up checks should be conducted.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-07/29177>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-07/29178>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

David Simmonds (Conservative) [29174] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what long-term funding is in place to support (a) local authorities and (b) community organisations providing support to late applications for the EU Settlement Scheme over the next 12 months.

David Simmonds (Conservative) [29175] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much funding has been allocated to provide support to those with pre-settled status to secure settled status over the next (a) 12 months, (b) two years, and (c) five years.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office remains committed to ensuring those who are eligible for the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) can apply, including those who are vulnerable or need extra support.

We have provided £4.5 million of grant funding for the period from 1 April to 30 September 2021 so the current network of 72 organisations across the UK can continue to provide a range of support to vulnerable groups in applying to the EUSS. These organisations have helped more than 310,000 vulnerable people to apply to the EUSS already. We are working closely with the grant-funded

organisations and other stakeholders, collating feedback and data, to help establish the needs and scale of support required beyond September 2021.

The Home Office has a dedicated team of more than 1,500 people working on the EUSS, with support available to applicants seven days a week by telephone or email via the Settlement Resolution Centre. We are also continuing to engage extensively with a wide range of stakeholder organisations and other government departments, to provide the materials they need to communicate about the EUSS and encourage those who need to apply to do so.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-07/29174>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-07/29175>

Afghanistan: Immigration

Daisy Cooper (Liberal Democrat) [29915] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many applications have been made to the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy scheme since 1 April 2021; and how many of those applicants have been resettled in the UK.

Reply from Leo Docherty: Through the Ex-Gratia Scheme (EGS) 1,550 former staff members including their families have relocated to the UK. Under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) 96 former staff members including their families have relocated to the UK so far with several thousand more due to arrive over the summer.

Unfortunately for operational security reasons we cannot at this time comment on specific numbers of applications. However, we are significantly accelerating the pace of relocations in parallel with the military withdrawal. Our commitment to those who are eligible under the ARAP, and the process to deliver it, is not time-limited and will endure beyond the military presence in Afghanistan.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-08/29915>

Undocumented Migrants

Damien Moore (Conservative) [28312] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to help prevent illegal immigration into the United Kingdom.

Reply from Chris Philp: To prevent illegal entry into the UK, the Government has introduced the Nationality and Borders Bill, which will:

- Introduce new and tougher criminal offences for those attempting to enter the UK illegally by raising the penalty for illegal entry from six months' to four years imprisonment and introducing life sentences for people smugglers.
- Provide Border Force with additional powers to:
 - Search unaccompanied containers located within ports for the presence of illegal migrants;
 - Seize and dispose of any vessels intercepted and encountered;
 - Stop and divert vessels suspected of carrying illegal migrants to the UK and, subject to agreement with the relevant country such as France, return them to where their sea journey to the UK began.
- Increase the penalty for Foreign National Offenders who return to the UK in breach of a deportation order from six months' to five years' imprisonment.
- Implement an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) scheme to block the entry of those who present a threat to the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-06/28312>

Refugees

Chi Onwurah (Labour) [31396] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department,

with reference to the oral contribution of the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State on 12 July 2021, Official Report, if she will make an assessment of the potential implications for the UK's international obligations towards refugees of the Government's proposals on making entry to the UK from a safe country a criminal offence through the Nationality and Borders Bill.

Reply from Chris Philp: This policy is compatible with our international obligations. Individuals who are recognised as refugees and who have travelled directly to the UK, in line with Article 31 of the Refugee Convention, will benefit from the protection of Article 31 and should therefore not be convicted of the illegal entry or arrival offences. No one will be returned to a country where they may be subjected to persecution.

We remain committed to our international obligations under the UN Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights but individuals should claim asylum in the first safe country they reach.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-12/31396>

The oral contribution referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-07-12/debates/73D7ABDA-B67F-49C2-BAAB-30428FE1489C/PeopleSmuggling#contribution-93BD30F4-BFB0-4813-A1B3-C6468E3773BA>

Refugees: Resettlement

Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat) [902539] What progress [the Minister's] Department has made towards establishing a target for annual refugee resettlement places.

Reply from Chris Philp: The number of refugees we resettle every year depends on a variety of factors including local authorities' capacity and the extent to which Community Sponsorship continues to thrive.

This year the recovery from the pandemic will be a significant factor affecting capacity. We continue to work closely with our partners to assess their capacity for resettlement in the months ahead.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-12/902539>

Refugees: Resettlement

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [29033] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many refugees have come to the UK through the UK Resettlement Scheme in each month since February 2021.

Reply from Chris Philp: The UK Resettlement Scheme commenced in March 2021, immediately following the successful completion of the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme. The UK Resettlement Scheme continues to successfully resettle refugees, as local authority and community sponsor capacity allows, and as we recover from the pandemic.

Statistics under the scheme are published through official statistics at quarterly intervals. The next set of statistics will be published in July and will include the number of people resettled since March. These are available from:

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-07/29033>

Refugees: Resettlement

Marsha De Cordova (Labour) [28323] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to introduce targets for resettling refugees under the new global UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS) that will commence on completion of the Vulnerable Persons and Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Schemes, announced in March 2021.

Reply from Chris Philp: The UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS) commenced in March 2021 following the successful completion of the Vulnerable Persons

Resettlement Scheme through which 20,000 refugees fleeing the conflict in Syria were given sanctuary in the UK. Through the UKRS we continue to welcome vulnerable refugees in need of protection to the UK.

The number of refugees we resettle every year will depend on a variety of factors including local authorities' capacity for supporting those we resettle and the extent to which Community Sponsorship continues to thrive. This year, the recovery across Government from the pandemic will be a significant factor affecting capacity, along with levels of illegal immigration. We are working closely with our partners to assess the capacity for resettlement in the months ahead and will continue to welcome those in need in the years to come.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-06/28323>

Information about the Resettlement Schemes referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-resettlement-schemes-factsheet-march-2021/vulnerable-persons-and-vulnerable-childrens-resettlement-schemes-factsheet-march-2021>

Asylum

Steven Bonnar (SNP) [902542] What steps [is the Minister] taking to meet the UK's international obligations on refugees and asylum seekers.

Reply from Chris Philp: The UK has a proud history of providing protection to those in need. Since 2015, we have resettled more than 25,000 people – more than any other EU country – and we have a new global UK Resettlement Scheme running.

The Nationality and Borders Bill, which was introduced last week, will fix the broken asylum system in the UK and ensure that access to the UK's asylum system is based on need, not on the ability to pay people smugglers

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-12/902542>

Asylum

Marsha De Cordova (Labour) [28327] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to ensure that asylum cases are determined on the basis of need without consideration of the route of arrival to the UK.

Reply from Chris Philp: We are clear that those in genuine need of protection should claim asylum in the first safe country they reach where they have that opportunity, rather than choosing to make further unnecessary and dangerous journeys to the UK. Where appropriate, we will apply the provisions in the Immigration Rules to declare such claims inadmissible for consideration in the UK asylum system. Where an individual is admitted for consideration to our asylum system, and they did not come directly to the UK or claim asylum without delay once here, they are likely to get a new temporary protection status if they have been recognised as requiring protection. This status will afford basic entitlements whilst still meeting our international law obligations.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-06/28327>

Asylum

Jeff Smith (Labour) [902537] What the average length of time is for [the Minister's] Department to process asylum applications.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Calculating an average length of time does not take into account the numerous factors that contribute to the decision-making process. Nor does it consider our prioritisation of children and the most vulnerable.

We are working to improve the speed of decisions and reduce the number of outstanding claims; but there will always be complex cases, and it is right we take time to work through them carefully, not rush to meet an arbitrary deadline.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-12/902537>

Asylum

David Simmonds (Conservative) [29173] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers and their dependents are awaiting an initial decision on their application after six months; and how many of those applicants are over 18 years old.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office publishes data on asylum applications in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on the number of asylum applications that awaiting an initial decision are published in table Asy_D03 of the [asylum and resettlement detailed datasets](#). This can be broken down by applicant type and duration.

Information on how to use dataset Asy_D03 can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data relate to as at 31 March 2021.

Additionally, the Home Office publishes a high-level overview of the data in the 'summary tables'. The 'contents' sheet contains an overview of all available data on asylum and resettlement.

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-07/29173>

The research and statistics calendar referred to above can be read at

<https://tinyurl.com/4pdyc4yc>

Asylum: Children

David Simmonds (Conservative) [902530] What recent progress [the Minister's] Department has made on implementing the new National Transfer Scheme.

Reply from Chris Philp: We are working towards implementing the new, fairer national voluntary rota on 26 July. The package of support we have put in place for local authorities includes £20m of additional funding and expert support on age assessment.

This will encourage more local authorities to step up and play their part in this shared national responsibility of supporting vulnerable unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-12/902530>

Asylum

Helen Hayes (Labour) [28271] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government on support given to local authorities to meet the needs of asylum seekers and refugees.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office engages regularly with the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government, as well as other Government departments, on the provision of support to refugees and asylum seekers in the UK.

For refugees resettled through the UK Resettlement Scheme, local authorities are provided with funding to support the welcome and integration of refugees. Through our New Plan for Immigration we will strengthen this safe and legal route to the UK, including with an enhanced integration package to help refugees thrive in the UK.

Asylum seekers who are destitute in the UK are provided with housing and financial support while their claim is being decided. In addition, all asylum seekers have access to a 24/7 AIRE (Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility) service provided for the Home Office by Migrant Help where they can raise any concerns regarding accommodation or support services, and they can get information about how to obtain further support.

We have recently announced an additional £20m funding for local authorities

supporting unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in the UK as part of the new National Transfer Scheme.

The Home Secretary recently announced the Refugee Transitions Outcomes Fund (RTOF), a £14m cross-Government initiative that aims to increase the self-sufficiency and integration of newly granted refugees, helping them to move into work, learn English, access housing and build links in their local communities. The RTOF has been designed in collaboration with a number of Government departments, including MHCLG.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-06/28271>

The New Plan for Immigration, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/new-plan-for-immigration/new-plan-for-immigration-policy-statement-accessible>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/changes-to-the-national-transfer-scheme>

Asylum: LGBT People

Dawn Butler (Labour) [27044] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to proposals in the 2021 Queen's Speech on reforms to the immigration system, what steps her Department is taking to (a) meet the specific experiences and needs of LGBTQ+ asylum seekers and (b) ensure that LGBTQ+ asylum seekers are not penalised in their asylum applications in the event that they do not reveal their sexual orientation or gender identity immediately upon arrival in the UK.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office has and continues to work closely with a diverse range of organisations specialising in asylum and human rights protection to lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex people (LGBTQ+) communities, not only to facilitate the development of bespoke guidance and training products but also to further our work for LGBTQ+ within our asylum system.

We ensure LGBTQ+ asylum seekers are signposted to relevant NGOs specialising in the support of these individuals. This is done through an information leaflet given to all asylum claimants at the point of claim which includes sections on legal advice, additional help and assistance with links to relevant legal bodies and support organisations. LGBTQ+ asylum seekers can also access support from Rainbow Migration (formerly the UK Lesbian & Gay Immigration Group), who provide both practical and emotional support for LGBTQ+ people including how to help improve their confidence and self-esteem and to reduce isolation.

The Home Office recognises discussing persecution may often be distressing and those seeking asylum are given every opportunity to disclose information relevant to their claim before a decision is taken. Our caseworkers are very mindful many asylum seekers come from cultures which shun any open expression or discussion of sexual orientation or gender identity. We recognise the intimate nature of disclosure set against the individual's cultural background may have made it difficult for some to disclose and discuss their sexuality or gender identity with officials at a port of entry.

Where it appears a claimant has been in the UK for a prolonged period of time before either coming to immigration attention or voluntarily seeking protection, this will be explored with the claimant. Consideration will be given to any explanation offered for not seeking protection at the first available opportunity, or for not disclosing the issue of sexuality or gender identity as a claim basis at the first available opportunity. Adverse inference however will not solely be drawn from someone not having immediately identified their sexual or gender identity as a basis to their claim.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-05/27044>

Asylum: Housing

Marsha De Cordova (Labour) [28324] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to increase the availability of volume of adequate accommodation for people seeking asylum.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The current global pandemic has presented significant challenges when it comes to the provision of asylum accommodation, including sourcing sufficient suitable accommodation to meet demand. The use of hotels and wider government facilities is a short-term measure and we are working with our accommodation providers to move people to longer-term dispersal accommodation as soon as it becomes available.

The Home Office has been working with asylum accommodation providers, Local Authorities and Strategic Migration Partnerships to increase the amount of accommodation available for asylum seekers so we can eliminate the need for the use of contingency accommodation.

We are grateful to those local authorities who participate in the dispersal scheme and will continue to work in partnership with them to procure suitable accommodation.

Sadly, many local authorities do not currently participate in the dispersal scheme, making it harder to procure sufficient dispersal accommodation. I would encourage them to step up and play their part in the UK-wide effort to provide accommodation to those seeking asylum who would otherwise be destitute.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-06/28324>

Asylum: Housing

Helen Hayes (Labour) [28270] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the adequacy of initial accommodation for asylum seekers.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office contracted an independent organisation, Human Applications, to conduct a rapid review of initial accommodation for single adult asylum seekers, including hotels and the former military barracks. This was to provide assurance of compliance with public health guidelines to prevent the transmission of Covid 19.

Human Applications completed their visits, and they have now submitted a report with their findings and recommendations. We have already shared a report summary with our partners, including non-Government Organisations and Strategic Migration Partnerships. We have also held workshops with our accommodation providers to allow them to action specific findings.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-06/28270>

Asylum: Housing

Helen Hayes (Labour) [29103] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to increase the volume of suitable accommodation in which people seeking asylum are housed.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The current global pandemic has presented us with significant challenges when it comes to the provision of asylum accommodation, including sourcing sufficient suitable accommodation to meet demand. The use of hotels and wider government facilities is a short-term measure and we are working with our accommodation providers to move people to longer-term dispersal accommodation as soon as it becomes available.

The Home Office has been working with asylum accommodation providers, Local Authorities and Strategic Migration Partnerships to increase the amount of accommodation available for asylum seekers so we can eliminate the need for the use of contingency accommodation.

We are grateful to those local authorities who participate in the dispersal scheme and will continue to work in partnership with them to procure suitable accommodation.

Many local authorities do not currently participate in the dispersal scheme, making it harder to procure sufficient dispersal accommodation. I would encourage them to step up and play their part in the UK-wide effort to provide accommodation to those seeking asylum who would otherwise be destitute.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-07/29103>

Detention Centres

Kenny MacAskill (Alba) [28339] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, under what legal jurisdiction offshore immigration processing centres would operate.

Reply from Chris Philp: We are committed to the 1951 Convention and act in accordance with our international obligations, and we will continue discussions with our international partners to find solutions to our shared migration challenges.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-06/28339>

Detention Centres: Staff

Kenny MacAskill (Alba) [28340] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of who would staff any offshore immigration processing centre.

Reply from Chris Philp: We are committed to working closely with international partners as we work to fix our broken asylum system. We are talking to a range of partners about how we could work together to find a solution to our shared migration challenges.

We cannot comment on the details of ongoing discussions with our international partners.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-06/28340>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Immigration: EU Nationals

Lord Hay of Ballyore (DUP) [HL1528] To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of migrants to the UK from 2016 to 2020 were from the EU.

Reply from Lord True: The information requested falls under the remit of the UK Statistics Authority. I have, therefore, asked the Authority to respond. ...

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) publishes international migration statistics and estimates from the year ending March 2016 to year ending March 2020 show that 36.1% of total migrants to UK were EU citizens. This estimate is derived from the ONS' survey-based estimates for long-term international migration (LTIM) and taken from Table 1 of '*Provisional long-term international migration estimates*' [1].

[1] <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/datasets/migrationstatisticsquarterlyreportprovisionallongterminternationalmigrationltimestimates>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-29/hl1528>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL1562] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to clear the backlog of settled status applications.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We currently have 1,500 UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) European Casework staff in post working on applications made to the EUSS.

Our aim is to process all applications to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) as quickly as possible. The majority of applications have been concluded within 5 working days, but cases may take longer dependent on the circumstances of the case, for example if the applicant is facing an impending prosecution or has a criminal record.

The following link lists the expected processing times for EU Settlement Scheme applications, based upon current performance:

<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/2021-06-29/hl1562>

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

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL1563] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the date by which settled status applications have to be made; and what steps they are taking to ensure that all applicants are treated fairly.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: EU, EEA and Swiss citizens and their family members who were resident in the UK by the end of the transition period had until 30 June 2021 to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme. Yet 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. We have published non-exhaustive guidance on what may constitute such reasonable grounds, which underpins a flexible and pragmatic approach to considering late applications under the scheme based on the circumstances of each case. All applications are decided fairly based on the Immigration Rules.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-29/hl1563>

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

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

Immigration: EEA Nationals

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL1518] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether European Economic Area nationals who apply late to the EU Settlement Scheme will be permitted to have the right to work and rent while their applications are pending.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: From 1 July, right to work and right to rent checks will change and EEA citizens will be required to demonstrate eligibility through evidence of their immigration status, rather than their nationality. EEA citizens who have an outstanding, late application to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) and do not have any other form of immigration leave will not be permitted to take up new employment or enter into a new tenancy agreement until they have been granted status under the EUSS.

We have designed a process to ensure employers do not have to cease the employment of an individual who has been working for them since before the end of the grace period, who makes a late application.

Likewise, a landlord is not required to evict an existing tenant who no longer has lawful status in the UK, but they must make a report via GOV.UK to the Home Office, to maintain their statutory excuse.

A person granted status under the EU Settlement Scheme on the basis of a late application will have the same rights from the date they are granted status, as a person who applied by the deadline. This includes their right to work and right to rent.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-29/hl1518>

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

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL1520] To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures are in place to ensure that the number of young people in the care of local authorities who still need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme do so before the deadline.

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL1521] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to work with local authorities to ensure all eligible children in care and care leavers are identified before the EU Settlement Scheme deadline.

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL1522] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to publish updated figures of the number of children in care and care leavers identified as eligible to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme.

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL1523] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the update to the EU Settlement Scheme caseworker guidance on late applications and its discussion of children in care and care leavers, whether care leavers who are over 18 at the deadline are included as having reasonable grounds to make out of time applications.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office has continued to engage with local authorities as they undertake their responsibilities to ensure eligible looked after children and care leavers were supported to make an application to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) by the 30 June 2021 deadline for those resident in the UK by the end of the transition period.

This included running webinars for local authority staff making or supporting EUSS applications, providing support seven days a week via the EU Settlement Resolution Centre and making available £22 million in grant funding through to 30 September 2021 for a network of 72 organisations across the UK, including several local authorities and local government associations, to help vulnerable groups apply to the EUSS. We have also provided additional funding, following a new burdens assessment, for local authority work in helping looked after children and care leavers to obtain EUSS status. This work and their relevant statutory responsibilities are reflected in the guidance on the EUSS for local authorities which is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-looked-after-children-and-care-leavers-guidance>

To monitor progress with this important work, the Home Office carried out a further survey of local authorities earlier this year. As of 23 April 2021, applications had been submitted by or for 2,440 (67 per cent) of the 3,660 looked after children and care leavers identified by the survey as eligible to apply. Using the data from the survey, further workshops have been delivered and targeted engagement carried out with local authorities to support further progress.

We are considering options for further progress monitoring in relation to this cohort following the 30 June 2021 deadline. Further information on the survey is available at:

[EU Settlement Scheme: looked-after children and care leavers survey 2020](#)

We will continue to work closely with local authorities following the 30 June 2021 deadline. Consistent with the published non-exhaustive guidance on reasonable grounds for making a late application, we will take a pragmatic and flexible approach to dealing with late applications, including from care leavers who were aged over 18 before the deadline.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-29/hl1520>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-29/hl1521>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-29/hl1522>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-29/hl1523>

The caseworker guidance referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/988540/main-euss-guidance-v12.0-gov-uk.pdf

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

Lord Campbell-Savours (Labour) [HL1628] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether a person (1) born in the EU, (2) with an EU Member State passport, (3) who is married to a UK citizen, and (4) has (a) resided, and (b) been employed, in the UK for over 20 years, including paying taxes or drawing pension payments, is required to apply for revised domiciliary or another form of changed residency status.

Immigration: EEA Nationals

Lord Campbell-Savours (Labour) [HL1629] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether a person (1) born in an (a) European Economic Area, or (b) European Free Trade Area, state other than the UK, (2) who carries a non-UK passport, (3) who is married to a UK citizen, and (4) has (a) resided, and (b) been employed, in the UK for over 20 years including paying taxes or drawing pension payments, is required to apply for revised domiciliary or another form of changed residency status.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: EU, European Economic Area (EEA) and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) nationals now require UK immigration status to live in the UK. Where they do not already hold such status, they may obtain it under the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS), where they were resident in the UK by 31 December 2020 or are a family member joining such a person, or under the points-based immigration system.

EU, EEA and EFTA nationals who acquired a right of permanent residence here under EU law still need to apply for status under the EUSS. Those who already have indefinite leave to enter or remain in the UK do not need to apply for EUSS status, but may do so, free of charge, if they wish, to take advantage of the additional rights available to them under the Citizens' Rights Agreements.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-01/hl1628>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-01/hl1629>

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

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

Migrants: Deportation

Lord Green of Deddington (Crossbench) [HL1461] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the UK still participates in the EU's return and readmission agreements with (1) Albania, (2) Bosnia and Herzegovina, (3) Republic of Northern Macedonia, (4) Georgia, (5) Hong Kong, (6) Macau, (7) Moldova, (8) Montenegro, (9) Pakistan, (10) Russia, (11) Serbia, (12) Sri Lanka, (13) Turkey, and (14) Ukraine.

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: Since 1 January 2021 the UK has not participated in EU Readmission Agreements with third countries. We are no longer party to these agreements. Where appropriate we are looking to transition to new bilateral agreements with third countries.

The following two questions both received the same answer

Undocumented Migrants: Deportation

Lord Green of Deddington (Crossbench) [HL1460] To ask Her Majesty's Government with what countries they have (1) bilateral return and readmission agreements, and (2) agreed Memoranda of Understanding for the return of migrants found to be illegally in the UK.

Lord Green of Deddington (Crossbench) [HL1463] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many return and readmission agreements, or Memoranda of Understanding for the return of migrants found illegally in the UK, they have participated in either (1) bilaterally, and (2) as a member state of the EU, in each of the past five years.

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: Bilaterally outside of the EU, the UK has a range of returns arrangements with receiving countries including bilateral MoU, formal readmission agreements and informal operational arrangements which provide the basis for administrative removal and deportation of own country nationals.

Formal immigration returns arrangements are in place with following countries:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Azerbaijan, China, Djibouti, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Iraq, Kuwait, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Korea, South Sudan, Switzerland, Vietnam.

As an EU Member State, the UK participated in 14 of the 18 EU Readmission Agreements. These were with: Pakistan, Georgia, Serbia, Albania, Turkey, Sri Lanka, Ukraine, Russia, Moldova, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Macedonia, Macao and Hong Kong.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-28/hl1460>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-28/hl1463>

Undocumented Migrants: Deportation

Lord Green of Deddington (Crossbench) [HL1462] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the UK currently has bilateral return and readmission agreements, or Memoranda of Understanding for the return of migrants found to be illegally in the UK, with (1) Albania, (2) Brazil, (3) Bangladesh, (4) Pakistan, and (5) Turkey.

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: We are currently in discussions with a number of third countries regarding the transition of existing EURAs the UK participated in, into bilateral returns agreements, along with creating other new relationships with third countries.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-28/hl1462>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Points of Order

Yvette Cooper (Labour): ... The Select Committee on Home Affairs had been seeking to visit Napier barracks and Tug Haven reception centre for asylum seekers. We approached the Home Office four weeks ago. We had planned to visit today, but we have not received any response from the Home Office, and as a result we are here, not there. Given the importance of this, given the court judgments there have been about Napier barracks, and given our Committee's ongoing inquiry into this matter, the whole Committee is very concerned about the lack of response and our inability to facilitate this visit. Please can you advise me and the Committee on the responsibilities of the Home Office to work with the Committee to facilitate scrutiny and visits such as these, and on what more we should do to try to get such a visit before the summer recess? ...

Tim Loughton (Conservative): ... For the past month, we have been asking to visit

Napier. We have been fobbed off numerous times, and I have to say that this is not an isolated incident: increasingly, it is becoming difficult to get responses from Home Office officials and Ministers, never mind to get them in front of us here in a timely fashion. This particular visit is directly related to some evidence that was given to us by Ministers, which has now turned out to be highly questionable, and which impacts on reviews and reports that we are currently preparing. We wanted very urgently to visit Napier barracks, but that probably cannot now happen before the summer recess. How on earth can we get responses from the Home Office in a timely fashion without Committee members and officials wasting time in constantly chasing them, or having to raise it on the Floor of the House, as the Chair of the Select Committee and others have done on countless occasions?

Mr Speaker: I have repeatedly stressed the importance of Select Committees and the essential scrutiny work that they undertake. I am very happy to do so again. For the Committees' work to be effective, Departments need to be constructive and helpful when Committees make responsible and reasonable requests, whether they are about finding time for Ministers and officials to give evidence or, in this case, facilitating visits. It is simply unacceptable that the Committee has not had a response to the request made four weeks ago about a visit. That is discourteous to the Committee and, therefore, the House. Ministers on the Treasury Bench will have heard this exchange. I hope the matter can now be resolved speedily. This is coming not from one side, but from both sides of the House. Select Committees are important for scrutinising the Government's business. It is important for the Government to recognise that. The sooner this can be fixed, the better; the happier I will be, and so will the House.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-07-13/debates/C7C8C71A-B6D4-41E4-B848-EC62B0DECAC9/PointsOfOrder>

Press Release

Designs revealed for national Windrush Monument

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/designs-revealed-for-national-windrush-monument>

New Publications

Research Briefing: Article 31 of the Refugee Convention

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9281/CBP-9281.pdf>

Welcome Pack for arrivals on the Afghanistan Locally Employed Staf Scheme

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1002311/Afghanistan_LES_Welcome_Pack.pdf

News

The economic impact of our European migration miscalculation is only just becoming apparent

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2021/07/16/economic-impact-european-migration-miscalculation-just-becoming/>

“I risked my life for the British army in Afghanistan, now the UK will not respond to my requests for asylum”

<https://www.independent.co.uk/independentpremium/british-army-afghanistan-asylum-nabi-b1884006.html>

Home Secretary Priti Patel insists UK 'will always be generous to refugees' despite fury over asylum reform

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/19449779.home-secretary-priti-patel-insists-uk-will-always-generous-refugees-despite-fury-asylum-reform/>

UK Nationality and Borders Bill would force ship's captains to turn their backs on drowning asylum-seekers and is helping to foster racism – Tommy Sheppard MP

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/uk-nationality-and-borders-bill-would-force-ships-captains-to-turn-their-backs-on-drowning-asylum-seekers-and-is-helping-to-foster-racism-tommy-sheppard-mp-3308655>

Scots MPs urged to vote against anti-refugee bill

<https://tfn.scot/news/scots-mps-urged-to-vote-against-anti-refugee-bill>

Priti Patel's borders bill is designed to look tough, not solve any real problems

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/jul/14/uk-borders-bill-asylum-priti-patel>

Scottish Refugee Council Letter to Scottish MPs on the Nationality & Borders Bill

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/letter-to-scottish-mps-on-the-nationality-borders-bill/>

Home Office accused of being 'flimsy' after announcing resettlement scheme only for 'skilled' refugees

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/resettlement-refugees-skills-uk-home-office-b1885456.html>

Five-year work visas for war refugees to fill job shortages

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/five-year-work-visas-for-war-refugees-to-fill-job-shortages-gm0wlph2m>

EU border agency 'has failed to protect asylum seekers' rights'

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jul/15/eu-border-agency-has-failed-to-protect-asylum-seekers-rights>

EU border agency 'deleted evidence' showing Frontex guards illegally pushing migrants back out to sea

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world-news/2021/07/15/eu-border-agency-deleted-evidence-showing-frontex-guards-illegally/>

Dunkirk evacuation of trapped migrants

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/dunkirk-evacuation-of-trapped-migrants-dx307v8rs>

How undocumented migrants are blocked from booking Covid vaccinations

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/undocumented-vaccine-covid-nhs-migrants-uk-b1882555.html>

Building a better future

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/building-a-better-future/>

Zimbabwean nationals with British children rounded up for deportation

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/zimbabwe-deportation-charter-detention-home-office-b1884636.html>

Migrant rough sleeper facing eviction from London accommodation

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/jul/12/migrant-rough-sleeper-facing-eviction-from-london-accommodation>

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Unemployment: Ethnic Groups

Feryal Clark (Labour) [29931] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what recent representations has she made to the Chancellor of the Exchequer on reducing the unemployment gap for Black, Asian, and ethnic minority people in (a) Enfield North constituency, (b) Greater London and (c) England.

Reply from Mims Davies: The Government is committed to supporting people from all backgrounds, including those from ethnic minorities, to move into work. It provides a national offer of support ensuring that no matter where they live, all customers receive the help they need, when they need it.

Our Job Centre Plus network offers tailored interventions which allow Work Coaches to adapt their approach to suit each customer's needs. Our Plan for Jobs Programme protects, supports and creates jobs, targeting young people, the long term unemployed, and those in need of new training and skills. It includes the Kickstart scheme, an expanded youth offer, and the expansion of the Work and Health Programme, all offering new support to jobseekers, including those from ethnic minority backgrounds.

We also have a national programme of mentoring circles, involving employers offering specialised support to unemployed, ethnic minority jobseekers.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-08/29931>

Travellers: Caravan Sites

Navendu Mishra (Labour) [28355] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, how many bids have been successful and how much funding has been allocated through the Affordable Homes Programme to support the provision of permanent traveller sites.

Reply from Christopher Pincher: Between 2011 and March 2015, the Homes and Communities Agency spent around £44 million delivering more than 500 new pitches and refurbishing and nearly 400 more refurbished pitches, through the Traveller Pitch Funding programme

In addition, Under the 2015-18 Affordable Homes Programme allocations were agreed for 76 new pitches with £4.9 million funding. A further 2 allocations have been made as part of the 2016-21 Shared Ownership and Affordable Homes Programme, delivering a total of 30 pitches.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-06/28355>

News

Study finds more racial diversity in LGBTQ film characters

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/study-finds-more-racial-diversity-in-lgbtq-film-characters-glaad-hiv-study-new-york-emmy-b1885090.html>

Muslim visibility matters – but misrepresenting us does more harm than good

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/muslim-representation-media-industry-visibility-b1884601.html>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Racist Abuse on Social Media

col 373 **Nick Thomas-Symonds (Labour):** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a statement on the prevalence of racist abuse on social media.

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Victoria Atkins): ... Individuals who commit racist offences should face the full force of law, and we already have robust legislation in place to deal with online hate. ... We are leading the world in tackling online harms through the introduction of the online safety Bill, which will put in place measures to tackle illegal and legal but harmful abuse, including racist abuse. ...

If major platforms do not meet their own standards to keep people safe and address abuse quickly and effectively, they could face enforcement action...

In addition, we have asked the Law Commission to conduct a wide-ranging review into hate crime, including offensive online communications. Let us put that in context: in 2019-20, the police recorded more than 76,000 race hate crimes. Increases in police-recorded hate crime in recent years have been driven by improvements in crime recording and better identification of what constitutes a hate crime. Although statistics can help us track trends, we must always remember that behind the numbers are real people who are often left traumatised and shaken by their experiences. There is nothing so damaging and corrosive as the impact that racism has both on victims and on our communities more widely. ...

col 374 **Nick Thomas-Symonds:** ... the reaction of the Government has lacked urgency and completely failed to understand the scale of the revulsion that exists as a result of the events of recent days. The England men's football players have been a credit to the country on and off the pitch. When they took the knee to stand against racism, that was not gesture politics. They spoke courageously to a desire for change across our country. ...

The racist abuse to which Marcus Rashford, Jadon Sancho and Bukayo Saka have been subjected is disgraceful. Such behaviour has been too common on social media for too long. Social media platforms have had more than long enough to act. ...

Will the Government therefore commit to including criminal sanctions for senior executives in the Bill? In addition, will the Minister tell us exactly when the Government will be acceding to the demand from Opposition Members to extend football banning orders to offences that take place online ...

Reply from Victoria Atkins: ... the Home Secretary ... has been relentless ... in pursuing social media companies to ensure that they take much tougher stances, as we all expect, not just on racism online, but on child sex exploitation, terrorism

and other offences. ...

On the online safety Bill, this is a landmark piece of legislation. The Government have been very careful to ensure that the Bill receives the scrutiny of the House, and that is why we are taking the confident step, I would say, of opening up the draft Bill to pre-legislative scrutiny. ...

col 375 On football banning orders ... It is complex because we know, for example, that some of the trolls who have targeted some members of the team over the weekend are overseas, but we very much want to work with football clubs and others to ensure that these orders have the powers that we all want them to have. As I have said throughout—and this is the golden thread that runs throughout our work on tackling online crimes—what is illegal offline is illegal online ...

Simon Fell (Conservative): ... On Sunday night, the Centre for Countering Digital Hate identified and reported 105 Instagram accounts that racially abused members of the England football team. As of this morning, only six of them have been taken down ...

Reply from Victoria Atkins: ... I read with some dismay and anger a report in the *i* paper today about how Instagram had applied its own rules—community rules—in relation to offensive emojis and indeed highly offensive words that were sent to players, but the social media companies themselves have to explain how exactly their community rules accord with the expectations and indeed the law of our country. ...

Stuart C McDonald: The disgusting online racism faced by England players is unfortunately overshadowing a fantastic tournament and a fantastic performance ...

Content must be taken down faster, and platforms must no longer be allowed to support racist content through shamefully lax rules. ... Does the Minister agree that social media regulation is not a silver bullet, that online racism reflects offline racism, and that the Government need to take tackling racism, including structural and institutional racism, more seriously? ...

col 376 **Reply from Victoria Atkins:** ... he is right to acknowledge that this is a matter for us all to tackle. ... Of course, “hate crimes” is a very broad term: it includes not only racism but hatred towards disabled people, hatred towards transgender people, and so on. That is why we have asked the Law Commission to look at online crimes to ensure that the position is up to date and meets our expectations.

However, there is a wider message on racism more generally. I have been overwhelmed by the public’s response to those trolls over the weekend—by, for example, the way they responded to what happened to the mural in Withington: how angry they were that some individual had defaced it, and how positive their reaction has been. ...

There are many, many people in our society who have to deal with this racism, not just online but, I am afraid, offline. I think that part of our national conversation should be about how each of us can show our complete support for the campaigns to combat racism, and how we can all ensure that we are doing everything we can, both individually and as a country, to tackle racist behaviour. ...

col 377 **Yvette Cooper (Labour):** On the Instagram profiles of England heroes this lunch time, there are still racist posts, including blatantly racist words and emojis, that have been up for more than 24 hours. I have challenged Instagram on this from the Home Affairs Committee repeatedly over the last few days. It told me this morning that using some of those emojis as racist slurs is against its rules, yet inexplicably, they are still up, and it is still taking Instagram days to remove these posts. Speed matters. ...

Reply from Victoria Atkins: ... I do not think these tech companies quite understand the anger and frustration of everyone involved in trying to scrutinise and hold them to account when they come back at us with, “It doesn’t meet our community rules.” Words such as the words I suspect she is thinking about, the

emojis, the language—that is unacceptable in any civilised society, and that includes online fora as well as offline. ...

Felicity Buchan (Conservative): ... many of these online trolls hide behind the cloak of anonymity? Can she confirm that the police can still prosecute anonymous postings, and will she consider whether we should outlaw such online posting? ...

Reply from Victoria Atkins: ... While we know that many, many cowards hide behind anonymous accounts, there are people who use their anonymity legitimately—victims of domestic abuse, for example, and indeed whistleblowers in very restrictive regimes overseas. ... when we come to scrutinise the Bill, [we] will weigh those arguments up very carefully ...

col 378 **Zarah Sultana (Labour):** ... what did she think about the Prime Minister when he was describing black people as “piccaninnies” with “watermelon smiles”, when he used newspaper columns to mock Muslim women as “letterboxes” and “bank robbers”, when he refused to condemn the booing of England players taking the knee, and when his Home Secretary derided that anti-racist message as “gesture politics”? Is it not the case, like England star Tyrone Mings has said, that the Home Secretary and the Prime Minister were stoking the fire of racism and giving the green light to racism ...

Reply from Victoria Atkins: ... I do not genuinely think the hon. Lady is accusing either the Prime Minister of this country or, indeed, the Home Secretary of racism. That would be a truly extraordinary allegation to make. I hope that, at some point, we will be able to work together to tackle racism. ...

col 379 **Jeremy Corbyn (Labour):** ... The Amnesty International report on “Toxic Twitter” pointed out that black women are 84% more likely to experience racist abuse online than anyone else. What real steps will the Minister take, urgently, to ensure that no one—and I mean absolutely no one—is able to post racist abuse online?

Reply from Victoria Atkins: ... I suspect I am not the only person who feels a little astonished that it is this right hon. Member who chose to ask that question about taking immediate action to tackle racism. I remind the House of the findings of the Equalities and Human Rights Commission under his watch—Labour has “unlawfully discriminated against, harassed or victimised people because they are Jewish.” ...

Margaret Hodge (Labour): ... The racist abuse targeted at black footballers has been absolutely abhorrent. The tech giants could have stopped it, but they chose not to because it suits their business model. In October 2020, Mark Zuckerberg decided, literally on a whim, to remove holocaust denial from his Facebook, and he did that. In February 2021, after a public outcry, Instagram made a U-turn, changed its policy and started to regulate some direct messages of racial abuse.

Does the Minister agree that it is not the powers or the capability of the tech giants that is lacking, but the will?

col 380 **Reply from Victoria Atkins:** ... these powers exist already, so one can only conclude that in the cases highlighted in this Chamber and in newspapers, the businesses concerned do not wish to remove those items ...

col 381 **Catherine McKinnell (Labour):** Minister, we live in an era when online abuse is becoming normalised. The disgusting comments directed at our footballers on social media have in many cases been illegal, and the perpetrators must be brought to justice. But in other cases the abuse has been technically legal, yet remains extremely harmful and distressing. Warm words and veiled threats are clearly not enough. ...

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Yes, I am very happy to confirm that of course we are looking at legal but harmful material. ...

col 382 **Andrew Gwynne (Labour):** Racist abuse online is not just abhorrent; it normalises racist views offline and desensitises people to them. ...

col 383 **Florence Eshalomi (Labour Co-op):** ... Racist incidents online do not exist in a vacuum; they exist in a world where, according to the YMCA, 95% of young black British

children have witnessed racism in education. They exist in a world where, according to the Runnymede Trust, racism in the UK is systematic in our health system, in the criminal justice system, in employment and even in politics ...

Social media companies need to take a lot more action, but, until they feel the full weight of the law, they will not understand that. Will the Minister confirm whether the Government will introduce criminal sanctions against social media executives in the Online Harms Bill?

Reply from Victoria Atkins: ... that is something we are looking at in the Bill. ...

col 384 Damien Hinds (Conservative): ... As the Minister said in response to my hon. Friend the Member for Kensington (Felicity Buchan), anonymity is important in some contexts, including, for example, for survivors of domestic abuse, but it does not follow that it is therefore required in all contexts. If someone is communicating online in their own identity, should they not be able to say that they want to hear from and be commented on only by other people who are using their own identity? ...

Reply from Victoria Atkins: That is an extremely interesting point, and I promise I will look into it.

col 386 Aaron Bell (Conservative): I draw the Minister's attention to the paradox identified by Sunder Katwala, the director of British Future: there are far fewer overt racists in Britain today than there were 20 or 30 years ago, which is a very good thing, and there are far fewer racist attitudes in Britain, but because of social media and the fact that everyone is always online, individuals from black and ethnic minority communities experience far more racism on a day-to-day basis than they did then. ...

Reply from Victoria Atkins: We all acknowledge the echo chamber that social media provides, and the fact that being available online across the world perhaps enables just a single person to have far more volume added to their voice than would be the case if they were known, as they usually are, to be sitting in their bedroom rather pathetically tapping away on their laptop or phone. We must build resilience among our young people in schools to prepare them to understand that torrents of abuse like this may represent only a tiny number of people, and very much build on education and the cultural attitudes that we are seeking to address through relationships, health and sex education in schools to ensure that people understand the principles of tolerance and kindness in being able to debate without hatred. There are many ways of tackling racism. ...

To read the full transcript see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-07-14/debates/B4980D5D-E885-4E0E-8A2A-127F2D5D099D/RacistAbuseOnSocialMedia>

Information about the Online Harms Bill, referred to above, can be read at

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

Information about the Law Commission Review referred to above can be read at

<https://www.lawcom.gov.uk/project/hate-crime/>

The Amnesty International report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/research/2018/03/online-violence-against-women-chapter-1/>

Topical Questions: Home Office: Racism in Football

col 16 The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Priti Patel): I know that the whole House will join me in condemning the sickening racist abuse directed last night at our heroic England football team on social media. These young men represented our nation with pride and dignity, and we are proud of them and the fortitude they showed the country last night. Racist abuse is utterly unacceptable and illegal, whether or not it takes place in front of people—online or offline. Individuals who commit racist offences should rightly face the full force of the law. Social media companies in particular have a clear responsibility for the content they host on their platforms, and they can no longer ignore some of the appalling, vile,

racist, violent and hateful content that appears on their platforms. We have been clear that if they do not stamp this out, we will take actions against them in the Online Safety Bill. It will take a determined effort and action by everyone across society, and all institutions, to end the corrosive culture of racism. On that point, the thuggish and violent behaviour we saw last night was utterly disgusting and there is no place in our society for it; these people have no right to be called fans, and they will face serious consequences for their actions. To conclude, let me say that our nation is immensely proud of our three lions, and they showed true grit and determination in their actions last night and their endeavours on the pitch.col 17

Nick Thomas-Symonds (Labour): I congratulate the England team on its fantastic achievements at the European championships. ... They took the knee to stand against racism—a brave stance that led to their being booed by some. That booing was unacceptable and should have been condemned by all. Sadly, overnight Marcus Rashford, Jadon Sancho and Bukayo Saka have been subject to the most appalling racist abuse. The Home Secretary spoke a moment ago about potential action in the future; have not the social media companies had long enough to get this right? What immediate action will she take to deal with this issue?

Reply from Priti Patel: Everyone in the House will absolutely join in not only celebrating our incredible football team and the resilience of all our players but fundamentally calling out the appalling acts and actions that we saw last night. It is absolutely appalling that we have seen this terrible racist abuse. In fairness to the right hon. Gentleman, he is absolutely right that the social media companies have had far too long, whether it is on racism, hatred, violence or antisemitism—the list goes on and on and quite frankly it is utterly unacceptable. I have pointed rightfully to the online harms Bill, because we do need to legislate. The message needs to go out from this House, very strongly, to all the social media companies that they need to take responsibility. This is content that they host on their platforms. We will legislate against them, and that is on top of the fact that we are absolutely on top of them right now. We are pursuing them, as we do in every single case, but they need to wake up and take action themselves.

Nick Thomas-Symonds: But we have had to wait years for the online harms Bill. There has to be a greater urgency to do more now. The awful abuse continues to happen, and it is not contained to football but happens right across society. We still have so far to go. Our footballers have used their platform to help to give voice to the millions of people in this country who are desperate for change, but change is not happening fast enough. The Government and Parliament have to respond. Absolutely all necessary resources must be allocated to tracking down the perpetrators and bringing them to justice. Will the Home Secretary confirm that the online harms Bill will be brought forward immediately and will contain the toughest of sanctions against social media companies for hosting vile material? It must also include criminal sanctions for senior social media executives.

Reply from Priti Patel: The online harms Bill ... will be brought forward and the Government have been very clear about that. There should be no room whatsoever for either complacency, equivocation or absence when it comes to social media companies taking responsibility. This House has been unequivocal in our determination to drive change directly with these organisations.

The right hon. Gentleman is right: we need the toughest possible sanctions. Social media companies are only one component part of the change that we need to see; we also need the criminal justice system to go after the individuals who perpetrate some of these online harms and the hateful content that is put on these platforms. Of course, there is never any room whatsoever for complacency on this issue, which is why the legislation will be absolutely pivotal in terms of not only bringing forward the societal change that is required but holding the executives and these very significant companies to account.

Rob Butler (Conservative): Last night's Euro final showed one united England team— young men of many backgrounds with the single aim of securing victory for their country. In sharing my and the entire House's utter disgust at the racist abuse that was targeted at some of those incredibly talented and dedicated young players, will my right hon. Friend confirm that she has already spoken to the police, and that they will ensure they will do everything that is already in their power to identify and charge the perpetrators of this vile behaviour by people who sicken every decent person in this country? (902566)

Reply from Priti Patel: ... He is absolutely right: both the Minister for Crime and Policing and I have been on a call this morning with police leads for football issues and the policing of football. As we have all said very clearly, there is absolutely no place for racism or violence whatsoever. Quite frankly, there is clear guidance and legislation: there are laws in place that we absolutely should apply and follow—that applies to the police as well—to go after the perpetrators and the individuals. My hon. Friend will of course be well aware of the Public Order Act 1986, but there is also the Football (Offences) Act 1991 and football banning orders, all of which play an important part in terms of the actions that everyone should be taking. ...

Yvette Cooper (Labour): Jadon Sancho, Marcus Rashford and Bukayo Saka are incredible players and part of an incredible team that has made us all proud to be English, but, while they are the best of us, they have endured vile racism from the worst of us. On their Instagram profiles right now, there is still vile racist abuse, which has been up there for 15 or 16 hours or more, visible to everyone, including to children and young people who are there to support their heroes. I have spoken to Instagram this afternoon to urge it to take much stronger action. Has the Home Secretary done so, and, if not, will she do so and now speak to the social media companies to urge them to take this action? Will she also take the opportunity to condemn those who stood up in our stadiums and booed our brave players for taking a stand against racism and call on them to show solidarity instead? (902569)

Reply from Priti Patel: First and foremost, as I have said already, there are no words to describe the appalling acts that have taken place. ...The right hon. Member for Normanton, Pontefract and Castleford (Yvette Cooper) is right to point to Instagram, but all social media platforms, not just Instagram, are culpable. They are all responsible and it is right that we all take action against them. As I have already said, we in the Home Office are absolutely on top of those organisations. Of course, legislation is the way that we will go forward on this, but such acts are simply unacceptable. This matter will take determined effort by everyone. There is no place for booing. Individuals have a right to express themselves in whichever way—we live in a free country, and thank God we do—when it comes to tackling hatred, violence and racism. The fact of the matter right now is that what we saw overnight was completely unacceptable. It is right, both from a policing perspective and when it comes to social media companies, that there is no place to hide and that action is taken.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-07-12/debates/69B15A62-44F9-4A9A-8475-9D2CB0788FF0/TopicalQuestions>

Prime Minister's Questions: Racism in Football

Keir Starmer (Labour): ... Does the Prime Minister think it was wrong to criticise the England team's decision to oppose racism by taking the knee as "gesture politics"?

Reply from the Prime Minister: ... Today we are taking practical steps to ensure that the football banning order regime is changed, so that if a person is guilty of racist online abuse of footballers, they will not be going to the match—no ifs, no buts, no exemptions and no excuses.

Keir Starmer: I am sorry, but that just will not wash. It rings hollow. Let me remind the Prime Minister and the House. On 7 June, his spokesperson said: "On

taking the knee, specifically, the Prime Minister is more focused on action rather than gestures.”

On 14 June, the Home Secretary said: “I just don’t support people participating in that type of gesture politics.”

The hon. Member for Bassetlaw (Brendan Clarke-Smith), a Conservative MP, called it a “ridiculous empty gesture”. There is no point pretending these things were not said.

The England footballer Tyrone Mings said—*[Interruption.]* I heard “a Labour party member” shouted out. Is that really the response? Is that it? Tyrone Mings said, and the House might want to listen: “labelling our anti-racism message as ‘Gesture Politics’”

served to “stoke the fire” of racism and hatred. Those are powerful words from someone who has been subjected to racist abuse. He is right, isn’t he?

Reply from the Prime Minister: I reiterate our total support for our fantastic England team, and I support them in the way they showed solidarity with their friends who faced racism.

When the right hon. and learned Gentleman talks about the Home Secretary, let me remind him that she has faced racism and prejudice all her career of a kind that he can never imagine. She has taken practical steps to get black and minority officers into the police in record numbers, of which I am very proud. ...

Keir Starmer: ... I totally condemn all racism, including that directed at the Home Secretary, but she has got this wrong. The whole country knows it and the Prime Minister’s own MPs know it. In the last few days, everybody has seen that England’s black players have been the target of disgusting racist abuse following Sunday’s match—disgusting. This is really simple, either the Prime Minister is with the England players in their stand against racism or he can defend his own record, and that of his Ministers and some of his MPs, but he cannot have it both ways. Can he tell the House whether he now regrets failing to condemn those who booed England’s players for standing up to racism? Yes or no.

Reply from the Prime Minister: We made it absolutely clear that no one should boo the England team. Following the racist abuse that our players sadly suffered on Sunday night and thereafter, we are now taking practical action. In addition to changing the football banning order regime, last night I met representatives of Facebook, Twitter, TikTok, Snapchat and Instagram and I made it absolutely clear to them that we will legislate to address this problem in the online harms Bill. Unless they get hate and racism off their platforms, they will face fines amounting to 10% of their global revenues. We all know they have the technology to do it.

Keir Starmer: The online harms Bill has been promised for three years. I am not sure a 15-minute chat at a garden party moves things forward that significantly. But I want to take the Prime Minister up on what he said about being absolutely clear, because here I have the headline, “Boris Johnson refuses to condemn fans booing England taking the knee”. That is the story and that is the headline, from 6 June. That is absolutely clear, but it is not quite what the Prime Minister is implying today. The story goes on to quote the Prime Minister’s spokesperson saying that the Prime Minister “fully respects the right of those who choose to...make their feelings known”.

This is about booing; it says that he fully respects their rights. The Home Secretary said that booing was “a choice for them quite frankly.”

So no condemnation there and no absolute clarity there. When senior Government Ministers and Conservative MPs defend the booing of an anti-racist message, who do they think they are defending, Prime Minister? And why are they defending it?

Reply from the Prime Minister: ... Thank you, Mr Speaker. We love and admire the England side and what they did. They represent the best of our country. Nobody defends booing the England side. But what the Home Secretary has been trying to do all her life is not just fight racism, but take practical steps to advance the cause of black and minority ethnic groups, which she has done successfully, notably in the police. ...

Keir Starmer: ... The hon. Member for Plymouth, Moor View (Johnny Mercer), a Conservative MP, has said: “The painful truth is that” Tyrone Mings “is completely right. Very uncomfortable with the position we Conservatives are needlessly forcing ourselves into.”

So, Prime Minister, behind you they don't believe you, and neither do we. We can all see what has happened here. The Government have been trying to stoke a culture war and they have realised that they are on the wrong side and now they hope that nobody has noticed. Why else would a Conservative MP boast that he is not watching his own team? Why else would another Conservative MP say that Marcus Rashford spends too much time “playing politics”, when he is actually trying to feed children that the Government will not? And why will the Prime Minister refuse time and time again, even now, to condemn those who boo our players for standing up against racism? What is it that this England team symbolises that this Conservative party is so afraid of?

Reply from the Prime Minister: ... We stick up for them, and what we are doing is taking practical steps to fight racism, changing the football banning order regime and fining the online companies. ...

To read the question and answer session in full see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-07-14/debates/E0C07F8B-EE53-42B1-AEDE-1AA8CBFEFD4B/Engagements#contribution-ED08EC74-3B46-4AF7-B344-23E7CBFFD8E1>

Prime Minister's Questions: Racism in Football

Ian Blackford (SNP): Let me begin by congratulating the England team on reaching the final, which was an incredible achievement, but the tragedy of the tournament was the undercurrent of racism that was ultimately targeted at three young men: Rashford, Sancho and Saka. Wherever there is racism, it falls on all of us to face it down and to call it out, and it is shameful that it took until last night for the Prime Minister to meet with the main social media companies and finally wake up to the fact that those who publish and promote vile racist online abuse need to be faced down and sanctioned. Can the Prime Minister tell us what sanctions he thinks would be appropriate for someone who publishes racist context—it is shocking even to have to say this out loud—describing Africans as “flag-waving piccaninnies” with “watermelon smiles”?

Reply from the Prime Minister: I have commented many times about the words that I have said in the past, and I think the House understands how we can take things out of context. *[Interruption.]* I do think people understand that. What they also understand is that there is a chance now to hold these internet companies to account and to make sure that they face fines running to 10% of their global income if they fail to take hate and racism off their platforms. ...

Ian Blackford: ... As the England international Tyrone Mings has so powerfully stated, this Government “don't get to stoke the fire...and then pretend to be disgusted” when it happens. They do not get to condemn the racism of others, but deny the racism that they have even provoked. In March, this UK Government's own report on racism, the Sewell report, said that there was no “systemic problem” in the UK. I think the England men's football team would beg to differ.

After the shocking racism on show over the past week, does the Prime Minister still stand by his Government's belief that systemic racism is not a problem that exists in the United Kingdom?

Reply from the Prime Minister: I do think that racism is a problem in the United Kingdom, and I believe that it needs to be tackled and stamped out with some of the means that I have described this morning. ...

To read the question and answer session in full see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-07-14/debates/E0C07F8B-EE53-42B1-AEDE-1AA8CBFEFD4B/Engagements#contribution-9A3759F2-2E2B-427A-A2F2-4A5F9B6212A1>

Hate Crime Legislation: Law Commission Review

Christine Jardine (Liberal Democrat): If [the Minister] will make it her policy to implement the recommendations of the Law Commission's review of hate crime legislation. (902505)

Reply from the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Priti Patel): All forms of hate crime are completely unacceptable and the UK has a robust legislative framework to respond to it. We are absolutely clear that the cowards who commit these hateful acts should feel the full force of the law. We will of course work with the Law Commission on its review of hate crime legislation.

Christine Jardine: ... The dictionary defines misogyny as "dislike or contempt for", or indeed, "prejudice against" women. Every year, tens of thousands of women in this country face emotional and physical violence, often prompted by exactly that sort of prejudice. Making racially and religiously motivated crimes aggravated offences has helped the police to tackle them, but the law does not provide the same protections against gender-based hate crimes, so does the Home Secretary agree that, if the Law Commission recommends improvements in those areas, they should be a matter of priority?

Reply from Priti Patel: First, let me acknowledge the points that the hon. Lady has made. She is absolutely right about hate crimes, misogyny and crimes against women in particular, and some of the most appalling and corrosive attitudes against women that we have seen across our society for too long. On the Law Commission report, we are waiting for its findings. I can give her and the House every assurance that we will work with the Law Commission. Alongside that important point, we will be publishing very soon—in the next few weeks, in fact—our strategy on violence against women and girls. I want to go on the record to emphasise that any form of violence, oppression, sexism or hatred against women and girls is thoroughly unacceptable and this Government are absolutely adamant in dealing with it.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-07-12/debates/FF621C76-1743-4D3B-AE18-710F6B50FDDD/HateCrimeLegislationLawCommissionReview>

Information about the Law Commission review referred to above can be read at <https://www.lawcom.gov.uk/project/hate-crime/>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Hate Crime: Ethnic Groups

Navendu Mishra (Labour) [28353] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether each police force collected information on the race or ethnicity of victims of hate crime prior to the collection of that information under the Government's experimental pilot to disaggregate religious hate crime data under its 2016-2020 Hate Crime Action Plan.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Information on the race or ethnicity of hate crime victims has not previously been collected centrally by the Home Office but will be during 2021/22. Individual police forces will collect a range of data for operational reasons.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-06/28353>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Racism in Sport

Lord Coaker (Labour): To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the recent racist abuse directed towards members of the England football team, what action they are taking to tackle racism in sport.

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (Baroness Barran): My Lords, I take this opportunity to thank the England team, not only for what they achieved during the European Cup, but the manner in which they achieved it. It was a magnificent performance, which raised the spirits of the whole nation. What followed in terms of racist abuse is wholly unacceptable. The Government have been working with the football community to address this problem. My right honourable friend the Secretary of State has held talks with a number of footballers and other sports people to hear first-hand the appalling abuse suffered. The Online Safety Bill will address the racist abuse of footballers online, including anonymous abuse.

Lord Coaker: In praising quite rightly, the brilliant leadership of Gareth Southgate and the inspirational England team, will the Minister join me in calling out those who dismissed taking the knee against racism as gesture politics or those who refused to condemn fans booing the players? As the Minister says, we are all disgusted and condemn the appalling racist abuse of Bukayo Saka, Jadon Sancho and Marcus Rashford. But people are also furious—they are demanding action now from the Government. How are the Government going to force social media companies to act now? Promises have been made before, yet we are still waiting. Why are we not seeing more prosecutions? This activity is illegal offline, so it must be illegal online. We would not stand for it on the street.

Has the Minister had discussions with government colleagues, the police, the CPS and others demanding that these racists—whatever we want to call them—are prosecuted and do not hide behind anonymity? Will the Minister agree with me that the Government urgently need to set out a series of practical steps outlining action before the next England game? Will she join me in saying that that will happen? Action, not words, is the call from the British public.

Reply from Baroness Barran: I thank the noble Lord for the focus on action, because that is exactly where the Government are looking. In response to the various points he raised, my right honourable friend the Secretary of State has already met with the policing Minister to review what further steps can be taken, including any additional protection for the players that the noble Lord referred to. In terms of leadership on this issue, the Prime Minister has been absolutely clear that people should feel free to show their respect and condemn racism in whatever way they choose. In terms of next steps, I have already talked about the Online Safety Bill. We have also recently launched safety by design guidance and made a substantial investment in safetech.

Lord Addington (Liberal Democrat): While thanking the Minister for her assurances, can she tell us now exactly what the duties of the online platforms which carried the abuse will be under the new Bill? What sanctions will they face if they do not fulfil these duties?

Reply from Baroness Barran: The Bill will create a regulatory framework which applies to all platforms whatever their size in relation to illegal online abuse and, particularly for the largest platforms, to harmful but legal content. We fully expect that racism and racist abuse will be a priority category. In terms of sanctions, there are fines of up to 10% of global turnover, blocking of sites and, indeed, potentially criminal sanctions for the leadership of those businesses.

Lord Woolley of Woodford (Crossbench): ... Does the Minister agree with me that not only must the deluge of racist abuse towards black players be condemned and perpetrators brought to justice but it should not be fuelled in the first place by politicians, some of whom, if we are honest, in effect encouraged fans to boo the national team—a brilliant team that took a collective stand in taking the knee against the very racism that the black players were subject to after Sunday's defeat?

Reply from Baroness Barran: I absolutely agree with the noble Lord about the appalling deluge of abuse that the players suffered. I have already, in response to the noble Lord, Lord Coaker, set out exactly what the Prime Minister has said on

this matter. The other thing that is very clear is that there is a yawning gap between what social media companies say they do on their sites and what all our experiences are—including, particularly in this case, the players affected.

Lord Dobbs (Conservative): My Lords, these are not football supporters. They are sick. They are scum. They are cowards because they hide behind the anonymity of social media, which clearly have been incapable of putting their own house in order. I support the Government in their efforts to bring social media to their senses. We have friends in the social media world. Could our colleagues in this House, who know him so well—the Liberal Democrats, for instance—draw to the attention of Nick Clegg the difference between his previous principles and his current position? Surely he should be encouraged to take a lead and do so much more in fighting this sort of racism and bring us back to the position where we can get on with the beauty of the English game.

Reply from Baroness Barran: My noble friend is absolutely right. Social media companies follow every aspect of our lives and I think we are all surprised that they could not have anticipated better some of the events that have occurred in the last 48 hours. The Online Safety Bill will specifically address issues around anonymity.

Lord Faulkner of Worcester (Labour): ... what progress has been made in making football a specific priority in the hate crime unit looking at online discrimination against protected characteristics, as specified under the Equality Act 2010? ...

Reply from Baroness Barran: ... The Investigatory Powers Act allows police to acquire communications data such as an email address and the location of the device from which illegal anonymous abuse is sent, which can be used as evidence in court. We hope that this will act as a clear deterrent in future.

Baroness Uddin (Non-affiliated): ... Given their and our message that there is no place in our sports or institutions for racism and Islamophobia, with hindsight, does the Prime Minister regret his divisive and disrespectful comments? Will the Minister say what additional action the PM and the Government are taking to eradicate institutionalised structural racism and Islamophobia and its devastating impact in all aspects of our conduct and policy? ...

Reply from Baroness Barran: I can only repeat to the noble Baroness that the Government have been absolutely clear that racism is unacceptable online or offline and that we respect people's choice to condemn racism in whichever way they feel is right.

Lord Campbell of Pittenweem (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, may I ask the Government to consider legislation to the express effect that racism in sport should be an aggravated crime, thereby allowing greater powers in sentencing?

Reply from Baroness Barran: The noble Lord will be aware that racism is already an aggravating factor in many crimes. I am happy to take his suggestion back to the department.

Lord Clark of Windermere (Labour): ... The *Times* today suggests in a leader that this is not solely a British problem. Therefore, will Her Majesty's Government raise it at the international forum to see whether we can help solve it? Domestically, when discussing this problem with the football authorities, will they include a relatively new body, Fair Game, which is composed largely of lower league clubs and will offer a different perspective?

Reply from Baroness Barran: The Government are determined to do everything within their power to stamp out the awful racism that we saw. Obviously, it is an extremely long-standing problem and one that extends across the world. We will use every opportunity to address it.

Baroness Jones of Moulsecobm (Green): Surely the Government can see that when senior politicians, such as our Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for the Home Office, make dog-whistle comments and do not slap down racism, the Cabinet and Government themselves have a problem.

Reply from Baroness Barran: I do not accept what the noble Baroness says. I

have quoted twice now what the Prime Minister has said, which has been crystal clear on this subject. The Home Secretary has also been clear that there is no place for racism in this country, and she knows very well from her own experience.

Lord Triesman (Labour): ... I share the view of the noble Lord, Lord Dobbs, that the people displaying their hooliganism and racism are scum; they have nothing to do with England or its football team.

As chairman of the FA I sought legislation that would enable us to ban for life—one strike and they are out—anybody convicted of any of these crimes from every football ground in the United Kingdom: no excuses, no second chances. Would the Government support that?

Reply from Baroness Barran: The Government are well aware that football banning orders can have a great effect on those implicated. This is one thing we are looking at.

Lord Mann (Non-affiliated): I proposed six weeks ago to the Secretary of State that the Football Spectators Act 1989 be amended to include online hatred. Can the Government do that in advance of the online harms Bill? A simple amendment to that Act would give far greater powers for dealing with this problem.

Reply from Baroness Barran: The noble Lord is very familiar with the approach we are taking to address online harms, which we hope will be comprehensive and effective. I will take his suggestion back to the department, but I cannot reassure him today at the Dispatch Box whether we can progress it.

Baroness Blower (Labour): ... does she agree that we must now include specific anti-racist teaching in the curriculum for initial teacher education and in the national curriculum, given that racism in sport reflects racism in society at large?

Reply from Baroness Barran: ... What I will say is that the Government take incredibly seriously the racist behaviour we have seen in this case but also, sadly, in others. I agree that thinking about how children grow up and their expectations is really important.

Lord Mackenzie of Framwellgate (Non-affiliated): My Lords, it is intolerable that the slightest excuse or whim, such as the missing of a penalty, can result in the raining down of racial abuse on social media against young sportsmen representing their country at the highest level. Does the Minister agree that this clearly illustrates the importance of removing anonymity for those who peddle racial and other hate speech on such platforms?

Reply from Baroness Barran: The noble Lord will be aware of some of the issues around anonymity. It is important that platforms—and this will be required in the Bill—have a functionality that does not allow anonymous users, or those using pseudonyms or multiple different names, to perpetrate their hateful abuse online.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-07-13/debates/DD23633D-CBD5-4731-92A3-0842886C266C/RacismInSport>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Mary Kelly Foy (Labour) [311] Racism following the Euro 2020 final – That this house unequivocally condemns the racist abuse aimed at the England Men's Football team after the UEFA European Championship Final on 11 July 2021; notes that 19 year old Arsenal forward Bukayo Saka was forced to take down his Instagram account as a result of racist abuse; further notes that the mural of 23 year old Manchester United forward Marcus Rashford in Withington was defaced following the match; further condemns the abuse suffered by fans outside the stadium and the violence that broke out before and after the game; recognises the work of Show Racism the Red Card in its 25th anniversary year and supports its call for the Government to hold social media companies and individuals to account; and calls on the Government to display leadership on this issue and to match its

rhetoric with action, to tackle the rising threats of online hate crimes, and to acknowledge that some ministerial statements on the booing of taking the knee are incompatible with eradicating racism from all walks of life.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/58762>

Press Releases

Government sets out action to stop online racist abuse in football

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-sets-out-action-to-stop-online-racist-abuse-in-football>

Terror group The Base outlawed in the UK

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/terror-group-the-base-outlawed-in-the-uk>

A prohibition on wearing any visible form of expression of political, philosophical or religious beliefs in the workplace may be justified by the employer's need to present a neutral image towards customers or to prevent social disputes

<https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2021-07/cp210128en.pdf>

New Publications

England Civil Society Submission to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

<https://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/CERD/Runnymede%20CERD%20report%20v3.pdf>

The Month of Hate: Antisemitism & extremism during the Israel-Gaza conflict

https://cst.org.uk/public/data/file/4/a/The_Month_of_Hate.pdf

News: Racism in Sport

Duke of Cambridge 'sickened' by racist abuse of England players and says perpetrators must be held to account

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/royal-family/2021/07/12/duke-cambridge-sickened-racist-abuse-england-players-calls-perpetrators/>

Prince William says he is 'sickened' by racist abuse of England players

<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/royal-family/prince-william-england-racism-euro-2020-b1882472.html>

Euro 2020: Prince William and Boris Johnson condemn racist abuse of England stars

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/euro-2020-prince-william-and-boris-johnson-condemn-racist-abuse-of-england-stars-52x6vvnv6w>

Online racists face football ban of up to 10 years, vows Boris Johnson

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-57837003>

Social media racists will be banned from football matches, says Johnson

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2021/jul/14/keir-starmer-accuses-boris-johnson-of-trying-to-stoke-culture-war-over-taking-a-knee>

Boris Johnson announces football ban for online racists

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/boris-johnson-football-racism-online-ban-b1883888.html>

Social media racists will be banned from football matches, says Boris Johnson

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2021/07/14/social-media-racists-will-banned-football-matches-boris-johnson/>

PM pledges match bans to punish racist trolls

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/pm-pledges-match-bans-to-punish-racist-trolls-0xggm0drd>

Johnson and Patel accused of hypocrisy over racist abuse of England footballers

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/jul/12/tory-mp-sorry-jibe-marcus-rashford-euros-penalty-miss>

Petition for lifetime ban from football matches for racists nears 1m signatures

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jul/14/petition-to-ban-racists-from-football-matches-for-ever-nears-1m-signatures>

Almost 1 million sign petition to permanently ban racists from football

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/07/14/almost-1-million-sign-petition-permanently-ban-racists-football/>

Petition calling for racist football fans to be banned from games attracts more than three-quarters-of-a-million signatures

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/racist-football-fans-banned-petition-b1882707.html>

Boris Johnson to meet with social media firms over racist abuse of England players

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/boris-johnson-racism-euro-social-media-b1883204.html>

Tech chiefs called in to No 10 over racist posts to England players

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jul/13/tech-chiefs-called-in-to-no-10-over-racist-posts-to-black-england-players>

Instagram, Facebook and Twitter commit to work to remove abuse as racism floods platforms

<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/gadgets-and-tech/instagram-facebook-twitter-racism-abuse-euro-final-b1882631.html>

What can social media companies do about football's racist abuse?

<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/gadgets-and-tech/racism-england-euro-2020-social-media-b1882692.html>

Tech giants told to hand over details of football racists

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/tech-giants-told-to-hand-over-details-of-football-racists-8wrsmqbnj>

Britain must shoulder blame for racist trolls, says MI5 chief

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/racism-online-against-england-penalty-takers-is-britains-problem-not-from-russia-kgt0g5c9h>

Men arrested for online racist abuse of English footballers

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/england-footballers-racist-abuse-arrests-b1883723.html>

Four arrested over online racist abuse of England footballers

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/jul/15/four-arrested-over-online-racist-abuse-england-footballers>

Bukayo Saka, Marcus Rashford and Jadon Sancho win backing for legal action on racist abuse

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/bukayo-saka-marcus-rashford-and-jadon-sancho-win-backing-for-legal-action-on-racist-abuse-h339xstr2>

Jadon Sancho: England forward says 'hate will never win' in response to racist abuse

<https://www.bbc.com/sport/football/57840951>

'Hate will never win': England's Jadon Sancho speaks out over racial abuse

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2021/jul/14/england-jadon-sancho-speaks-out-over-racial-abuse>

Jadon Sancho says 'hate will never win' after suffering racist abuse following Euro 2020 final

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/jadon-sancho-instagram-racism-euros-man-utd-b1884145.html>

Marcus Rashford: Hundreds gather at mural for anti-racism demo

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-manchester-57824639>

Ban online racist abusers from football matches - Labour

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-57828402>

What more can be done to stop racist abuse online?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-57820048>

Racist abuse of England players Marcus Rashford, Jadon Sancho & Bukayo Saka 'unforgivable'

<https://www.bbc.com/sport/football/57800431>

Gareth Southgate condemns 'unforgivable' racist abuse of England players

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/england-racism-gareth-southgate-euros-b1882474.html>

'Unforgivable': Gareth Southgate on racist abuse of England players

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2021/jul/12/gareth-southgate-racist-abuse-of-england-players-unforgiveable>

Marcus Rashford says he will 'never apologise for who I am' after racist abuse

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/marcus-rashford-euros-racist-abuse-statement-b1882915.html>

Marcus Rashford: England striker 'won't apologise' for who he is after receiving racist abuse

<https://www.bbc.com/sport/football/57814154>

Marcus Rashford says 'I will never apologise for who I am' after receiving racist abuse
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/07/12/marcus-rashford-says-never-apologise-receiving-racist-abuse/>

England's Tyrone Mings criticises Patel over racism response
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-57778668>

England's Tyrone Mings criticises Priti Patel over racism remarks
<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2021/jul/13/england-tyrone-mings-criticises-priti-patel-over-racism-remarks>

England defender accuses Priti Patel of 'stoking the fire' over racist abuse of players
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/england-racism-tyrone-mings-patel-b1882872.html>

England star accuses Priti Patel of 'stoking fire' of racism
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/07/12/savills-suspends-employee-looks-racist-tweets-euro-final/>

England's Bukayo Saka urges social media platforms to act after racial abuse
<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2021/jul/15/englands-bukayo-saka-urges-social-media-platforms-to-act-after-racial-abuse>

'Love always wins': Bukayo Saka responds to racist abuse after England's Euro 2020 final defeat
<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/bukayo-saka-twitter-racism-england-b1884825.html>

Don't be surprised at the racist abuse of Bukayo Saka – this is England, after all
<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/england-racism-saka-euro-2020-wembley-b1882451.html>

Bukayo Saka attacks social media giants over racist abuse after Euro 2020 final
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/england-star-bukayo-saka-attacks-social-media-giants-over-euro-2020-racist-abuse-p2j5pvgxh>

England fan racially abused and told team lost 'because Marcus Rashford is black'
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/england-football-fan-rashford-racism-b1883257.html>

Portsmouth investigate racist posts allegedly sent by academy players
<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2021/jul/14/portsmouth-investigate-racist-posts-allegedly-sent-by-academy-players-under-18s-england>

Football club launches investigation after players allegedly send racist messages following England defeat
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/portsmouth-fc-racist-group-chat-b1883837.html>

Comedian Andrew Lawrence dropped by agent after racist England football tweet
<https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/comedy/news/andrew-lawrence-racist-joke-agent-b1883079.html>

University withdraws offer from student over racist Snapchat

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/07/15/university-withdraws-offer-student-racist-snapchat/>

Estate agent Savills suspends employee over racist tweet after England defeat

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/england-players-racist-tweets-savills-b1882558.html>

Racism in sport: Mo Farah says abuse towards black athletes is getting worse

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-57857993>

Racism against black athletes 'getting worse', says Mo Farah

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/general/athletics/mo-farah-racism-saka-rashford-sancho-b1885214.html>

Sir Lewis Hamilton says racist 'ignorance' must end after abuse of England trio

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/motor-racing/formula1/sir-lewis-hamilton-says-racist-ignorance-must-end-after-abuse-of-england-trio-b1882797.html>

Lewis Hamilton hopes for diversity legacy

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-57814103>

News: Other Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

'Not a single black MP' initially chosen for racism debate, says MP

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/racism-debate-black-mps-labour-b1883897.html>

Free speech bill gives legal protection to hate speech, says Labour

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2021/jul/12/free-speech-bill-gives-legal-protection-to-hate-speech-says-labour>

Government accused of protecting 'hate speech' at university campuses

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/university-free-speech-mps-vote-b1882566.html>

UK bans fifth neo-Nazi group under terror laws

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-57806800>

SNP MP opens up in Commons speech on 'appalling' online racist abuse she has suffered

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/snp-mp-opens-up-in-commons-speech-on-appalling-online-racist-abuse-she-has-suffered-3309264>

Scotland must bring online racists and sectarian bigots to book

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/scotland-must-bring-online-racists-and-sectarian-bigots-to-book-scotsman-comment-3307752>

SNP MP apologises after tweeting 'murdering babies wasn't on Nazi manifesto'

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/19448262.snp-mp-apologises-tweeting-murdering-babies-wasnt-nazi-manifesto/>

SNP MP criticised for 'abhorrent' tweet claiming 'murdering babies wasn't on Nazi manifesto'

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/snp-mp-criticised-for-abhorrent-tweet-claiming-murdering-babies-wasnt-on-nazi-manifesto-3310739>

BME people in England still facing racial inequality, report says

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jul/14/bme-people-in-england-still-facing-racial-inequality-report-says>

Government breaching human rights commitments under UN racism treaty, report warns

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/human-rights-government-racism-un-b1883403.html>

England is 'systemically racist', think tank tells the UN

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2021/07/14/england-systematically-racist-think-tank-tells-un/>

It is time to end the toxic narrative that Britain is a racist country

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/07/14/time-end-toxic-narrative-britain-racist-country/>

Racism is systemic in England, Runnymede Trust report to United Nations claims

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/racism-is-systemic-in-england-runnymede-trust-report-to-united-nations-claims-q6vrf2scp>

Britain isn't perfect but the racists are losing

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/britain-isnt-perfect-but-the-racists-are-losing-gct0wrlg9>

EU companies can ban employees wearing headscarves, court rules

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jul/15/eu-companies-can-ban-employees-wearing-headscarves-religious-symbols>

The European ruling on headscarves opens the way to rank discrimination

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/jul/15/european-ruling-headscarves-discrimination-humanists-religious-identity>

Women can be sacked for wearing a hijab, highest EU court rules

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world-news/2021/07/15/women-can-sacked-wearing-hijab-customer-facing-roles-highest/>

Muslims could be banned from wearing hijabs at work, EU court says

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/headscarves-banned-work-eu-court-b1884640.html>

EU court rules employers can limit religious symbols

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/eu-court-rules-employers-can-limit-religious-symbols-berlin-luxembourg-islamic-germany-b1884965.html>

Hijab can be banned at work, rules EU court

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/hijab-can-be-banned-at-work-rules-eu-court-g8px0mlms>

The Month of Hate

<https://cst.org.uk/news/blog/2021/07/15/the-month-of-hate>

'Record wave' of antisemitic incidents in Britain during Israel-Gaza conflict

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/antisemitism-uk-israel-gaza-conflict-b1884222.html>

Jewish students and teachers face wave of 'racist hatred' after Gaza conflict

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/07/15/jewish-students-teachers-face-wave-racist-hatred-gaza-conflict/>

Proposals to induce labour earlier in pregnant ethnic minority women are 'racist and discriminatory'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/nice-ethnic-pregnancies-early-labour-b1883225.html>

London casino let rich patrons racially abuse staff, tribunal hears

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/jul/15/london-casino-let-rich-patrons-racially-abuse-staff-tribunal-hears>

Black Muslim woman awarded almost £25k discrimination payout

<https://tellmamauk.org/black-muslim-woman-awarded-almost-25k-discrimination-payout/>

Social networks' anti-racism policies belied by users' experience

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jul/14/social-networks-anti-racism-policies-belied-by-users-experience>

Nadiya Hussain: 'I've wanted to bleach the brown out of me'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-57809147>

Integration network launched by TSI to combat racism

<https://tfn.scot/news/integration-network-launched-by-tsi-to-combat-racism>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Release

UK Ministers must respect devolution

<https://www.gov.scot/news/uk-ministers-must-respect-devolution/>

News

Willie Rennie to stand down as Scottish Lib Dem leader

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-57812252>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer

Workplace Pensions: Islam

Sam Tarry (Labour) [30427] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if she will make it her policy to encourage employers to offer halal-compliant pensions to employees.

Sam Tarry (Labour) [30428] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, whether her Department has issued guidance to employers on the offer of halal-compliant pensions and employers' obligations under the Equality Act 2010.

Reply from Guy Opperman: The Pensions Regulator provides guidance for

employers on matters they should consider when selecting a pension scheme to satisfy their automatic enrolment duties. As part of this guidance employers are invited to consider whether the scheme offers investment options that suit the needs of their staff, such as funds that comply with Sharia law. As with all official guidance, this is kept under review and updated where appropriate.

Since 2019, the Government has required trustees of occupational pension schemes to set out their policy publicly on how they take members' views into account. Many have provided feedback mechanisms; some have created new fund options as a result of member demand.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-08/29947>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-09/30428>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Northern Ireland: Jewish Community

Lord Dodds of Duncairn (DUP): To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to address the concerns expressed by the Jewish community in Northern Ireland about its future as a result of the operation of the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland.

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: My Lords, we recognise the concerns raised on this matter. It is a positive step that it was possible to agree with the EU a sensible extension on chilled meats moving from Great Britain to Northern Ireland until 30 September this year. This extension means that Northern Ireland consumers will continue to be able to buy chilled meat products, including kosher products, from Great Britain, and allows for further discussions to continue on a permanent basis.

Lord Dodds of Duncairn: My Lords, the Jewish community in Belfast and Northern Ireland has made, and continues to make, a very rich and compelling contribution to the life of our country. Indeed, the sixth President of the State of Israel, Chaim Herzog, was born in my former constituency in north Belfast, and his son Isaac is the current President of the State of Israel. Very worryingly, the Chief Rabbi and Jewish leaders in Belfast have expressed great concerns about the operation of the protocol and the continued viability of the Jewish community. The Prime Minister has also expressed concerns. The Minister referred to a grace period, but that runs out in September. Will he give a guarantee that, in all circumstances, he and the Government will take whatever measures are necessary to guarantee the supply of kosher food into Northern Ireland for the Jewish community?

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: The noble Lord makes some very good points: it is vital that we find a way to ensure that goods flow as freely as possible between Great Britain and Northern Ireland, where they are destined for Northern Ireland consumers, while ensuring that goods moving onward into the EU are subject to the appropriate requirements to ensure that EU rules are observed and the single market protected. On the noble Lord's point about the Jewish community, it is a key focus for government to support that community. I take note of the points he raises and, although I cannot give a guarantee, every effort is being made to move forward and find solutions to these problems.

Baroness Chapman of Darlington (Labour): My Lords, it is vital that Jewish people in Northern Ireland can practise all aspects of their religion, including access to kosher food. It is deeply regrettable that the Government have so far failed to deliver a practical, long-term solution in the form of a veterinary agreement. The Governments of Switzerland and New Zealand have managed to secure such an agreement with the EU. What does the Minister intend to do to ensure that freedom of religion for Jewish communities in Northern Ireland is protected through a veterinary agreement?

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: The Jewish community has played an integral role in shaping the journey and identity of this nation, particularly in Northern Ireland. Our society is richer for its diversity and the Jewish community is proud and shining testament to that. In answer to the noble Baroness's question, as I said earlier, every effort is being made. UK and EU officials are engaging multiple times each week to discuss the issues around the implementation of the protocol. We also meet the EU regularly under the formal protocol joint and special committee structure, with the most recent meeting of the joint committee having taken place last month.

Baroness Suttie (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, does the Minister acknowledge that if the Government had carried out a full impact assessment on the Northern Ireland protocol before agreeing to it, many of these culturally sensitive issues would have been highlighted? To push further on the EU-UK veterinary agreement, does he not agree that this is yet another issue that could be resolved by signing up to such an agreement?

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: I do not agree with some of the points that the noble Baroness makes, because the protocol was really a compromise. It was always clear that it was a delicate balance designed, crucially, to support the Good Friday agreement and to maintain Northern Ireland's place in the UK while protecting the EU single market. The question, of course, is how it is applied. I point out to her that under the detail of the protocol, it is not simply about putting a goods and customs border in place between Great Britain and Northern Ireland. For example, Article 6(2) says that the UK and EU "shall use their best endeavours to facilitate the trade between Northern Ireland and other parts of the United Kingdom ... with a view to avoiding controls at the ports and airports of Northern Ireland to the extent possible", so we need to look at that.

Lord Caine (Conservative): My Lords, as my noble friend Lord Dodds made clear, the Jewish community has made a huge contribution to the city of Belfast, including providing a unionist Lord Mayor as far back as 1899. Does my noble friend the Minister agree that it would be both tragic and outrageous if this latest crazy manifestation of the EU's implementation of the protocol now forces that community to leave Northern Ireland altogether? How do supplies of kosher food to a small Jewish population in any way threaten the integrity of the EU single market?

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: I do not disagree with my noble friend's last point. Again, the Jewish community has made an important contribution to society in Northern Ireland. It is essential that that community receives the kosher products that it requires, for eating and for religious purposes. A key focus is to support the community in this respect. As I said to the noble Lord, Lord Dodds, it is vital that we find a way forward to ensure that these goods flow smoothly.

Baroness Ludford (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, why was this important issue not addressed by the Government and their supporters before now? Can the Minister tell us what meetings were held with the Jewish community in Northern Ireland when the protocol was being negotiated by this Government, and what did the Government tell that community about how they would avoid the impeded access to kosher food, which has a serious impact on the legally protected human right of religious practice? If the Government will not solve this through a veterinary agreement, as I and many others are calling for, how will they solve it through negotiating a specific exemption? The Government must pursue one route or the other.

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: I do not have any information to hand as to what meetings took place at the point when the protocol was being negotiated. However, I can tell the noble Baroness that the Secretary of State met the Jewish community last week and impressed upon it that the Government were urgently seeking solutions to the flow of important goods for that group.

Baroness McIntosh of Pickering (Conservative): Although I welcome the extension for

chilled meats between GB and Northern Ireland, we are just kicking the can down the road. Will my noble friend give a commitment that we will negotiate an SPS agreement, such as has been agreed between New Zealand and the EU? Will he further give the House a commitment today that there is no threat to the availability of kosher or other such foods from the protocol or any other legislation currently before the House, such as the Animal Welfare (Sentience) Bill?

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: My noble friend's question takes us slightly beyond the immediate subject. However, on supplies to supermarkets, which I think is the gist of her question, a lot of work has gone on to ensure that supplies continue to fill their shelves in Northern Ireland. We announced in March that arrangements for supermarkets and their suppliers who are trusted traders supplying food will continue until October, meaning that they do not need to complete health certificate paperwork. But as they have made clear to us, notwithstanding the considerable government investment to support these efforts, there are still some real challenges to sort out.

Lord Rogan (UUP): My Lords, the diverse country that Northern Ireland has become over recent decades is a source of great local pride but, as the noble Lords, Lord Dodds and Lord Caine, have said, there is nothing new about the special place that the Jewish community holds in Ulster, which dates back to the mid-18th century. Speaking at a Policy Exchange event last week, the Northern Ireland Secretary, Brandon Lewis, said: "None of us can tolerate or be willing to accept" a threat to the Province's Jewish community because of the protocol. If that is the case, why did the Prime Minister choose to sign up to it?

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: As I said earlier, the protocol was a compromise. We agreed something exceptional, it is fair to say, to control goods moving within our own country in the interest of peace—to apply EU law in our own country without any democratic say beyond a vote, as the House will know, in four years' time. Again, that was in the interest of peace. No other country has agreed to such a thing and if it is to be sustainable, it must operate in a pragmatic and proportionate way—not just like any other external border of the single market.

Lord Polak (Conservative): My Lords, there is a joke that the structure of Jewish holidays can be simply put as: "They tried to kill us; we won; let's eat", so availability of kosher food is important, especially to a small community as in Northern Ireland. The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the right honourable Brandon Lewis, is a true friend of the community, and I am grateful, as has been said, that he found time to meet the Chief Rabbi and the Board of Deputies last week. However, can my noble friend the Minister assure me that the department will do whatever it can to resolve this issue and allow the Jewish community to celebrate, and eat?

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: Perhaps a discussion on the importance of eating is for a separate debate but I take the first point that my noble friend made with the due seriousness it deserves. We are mindful that many communities in Northern Ireland have specialised foods which are deeply important to their culture and spiritual beliefs, and we will always act to ensure that these are adequately supplied. However, I assure my noble friend that, in the supermarkets we have been in touch with, we are pleased to note that there is no disruption at this time, although there were specific issues during Passover which he will know about, and which DAERA and Defra, working together, helped the sector to navigate.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-07-14/debates/853E7176-BBA9-40CE-8A88-049CD7AECCB1/NorthernIrelandJewishCommunity>

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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 Government Press Releases

Level 0 from 19 July

<https://www.gov.scot/news/level-0-from-19-july/>

Major milestone in vaccination programme

<https://www.gov.scot/news/major-milestone-in-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 – 13 July 2021

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-statement-13-july-2021/>

Roll up your sleeve (video)

<https://tinyurl.com/wn5fcezmq>

UK Government Press Releases

Prime Minister confirms move to Step 4

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-confirms-move-to-step-4>

Almost 100% of people have antibodies after second vaccine

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/almost-100-of-people-have-antibodies-after-second-vaccine>

New research into treatment and diagnosis of long COVID

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-research-into-treatment-and-diagnosis-of-long-covid>

UK Parliament and Government Publications

The R value and growth rate

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

Moving to step 4 of the roadmap

[http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2021-0573/Moving to Step 4 of the Roadmap.pdf](http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2021-0573/Moving%20to%20Step%204%20of%20the%20Roadmap.pdf)

PM statement at coronavirus press conference: 12 July 2021

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-at-coronavirus-press-conference-12-july-2021>

Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities: impact of Brexit and Covid-19

<https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/gypsy-roma-and-traveller-communities-impact-of-brexit-and-covid-19/>

Other Organisations

NHS Scotland

Life on the Front Line (video): Paula McMahon (nurse vaccinator) talking about her experience working within the vaccine programme

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=781345682557948>

News

Covid in Scotland: Restrictions to ease but face masks remain

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-57820417>

Scotland Covid: Nicola Sturgeon confirms move to level 0 for Scotland

<https://www.scotsman.com/health/coronavirus/scotland-covid-nicola-sturgeon-confirms-move-to-level-0-for-scotland-3305979>

Nicola Sturgeon has 'moved the goalposts' for businesses with modified level 0 plan

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/19439633.nicola-sturgeon-moved-goalposts-businesses-modified-level-0-plan/>

Boris Johnson confirms England Covid restrictions to end on July 19

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/19437572.boris-johnson-confirms-england-covid-restrictions-end-july-19/>

Covid: One in 90 people in Scotland have virus, experts estimate

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-57865803>

Covid infections are high and rising around the UK

<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-57863343>

Covid: Younger adults still at risk of serious organ damage - study

<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-57840825>

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Other News

Police Scotland would like to wish an Eid Mubarak to the Muslim Community

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/what-s-happening/news/2021/july/eid-ul-adha-19-20-july-2021/>

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

UK Parliament

Asylum Seekers (Accommodation Eviction Procedures) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2995>

Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2918>

Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) (No. 2) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3003>

Asylum Seekers (Return to Safe Countries) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2961>

Barnett Formula (Replacement) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2982>

Housing Standards (Refugees and Asylum Seekers) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3002>

Human Trafficking (Child Protection) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2953>

Human Trafficking (Sentencing) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2963>

Illegal Immigration (Offences) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2986>

Immigration (Health and Social Care Staff) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3005>

Modern Slavery (Amendment) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2892>

**** Nationality and Borders Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3023>

Research Briefing

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9275/CBP-9275.pdf>

Online Safety Bill (Draft)

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

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

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

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament: what matters to you? (closing date 30 July 2021)

<https://engage.parliament.scot/group/10027>

NHS Scotland Maternity Services during Covid-19 Pandemic (closing date 31 July 2021)

<http://viis.abdn.ac.uk/snapwebhost/s.asp?k=162301883557>

This consultation is also available in the following languages:

Arabic

<http://viis.abdn.ac.uk/snapwebhost/s.asp?k=162403538992>

Polish

<http://viis.abdn.ac.uk/snapwebhost/s.asp?k=162403542393>

Punjabi

<http://viis.abdn.ac.uk/snapwebhost/s.asp?k=162448049214>

Urdu

<http://viis.abdn.ac.uk/snapwebhost/s.asp?k=162393431073>

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

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!**

Adapt and Thrive

Closing date 19 July 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>

**** closes this week!**

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>

**** closes this week!**

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/>

Volunteering Support Fund 2021-24

Closing date 27 August 2021

Scottish Government funding to support small to medium third sector organisations recruit volunteers who experience disadvantage or barriers to volunteering. The fund also aims to support organisations to specifically recruit skilled volunteers to enhance the capacity of the organisation as well as the third sector. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/39dyfb27>

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**

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

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>

Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

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>

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

25 August 2021 (online, 13.30–15.30)

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

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

14 September 2021 (online, 10.30–1.30)

Interfaith Scotland session exploring the evidence of unconscious bias, methods for reducing its impact on decisions and behaviour, and describing the steps that we can take to become more aware of potential bias and how to reduce its impact. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/tamy4rv> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

Interpreting Culture – Improving Cross-Cultural Communication

14 October 2021 (online, 10.30-13.00)

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

No Recourse to Public Funds

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>

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

Working With People From Diverse Religion & Belief Identities

14 December 2021 (online, 13.00–16.30)

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

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Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Disclosure Scotland <https://www.mygov.scot/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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