



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

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

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

The Scottish Parliament is in recess until 29 August, and the UK Parliament until 6 September. The next issues of MEMO will be published on 16 August and 6 September.

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Debate

Amnesty for Undocumented Migrants

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-07-19/debates/C87C5848-DF11-4B03-90FE-39FA245CB12D/AmnestyForUndocumentedMigrants>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

The following three questions all received the same answer

Biometric Residence Permits

Peter Kyle (Labour) [33286] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the efficiency of her Department's manufacture and distribution of Biometric Residence Permits.

Peter Kyle (Labour) [33287] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of Biometric Residence Permits are despatched to applicants within seven to 10 days of them receiving a decision letter.

Peter Kyle (Labour) [33288] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department has put in place to ensure Biometric Residence Permits are distributed to applications without any delays.

Reply from Kevin Foster: UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) advises applicants they can expect delivery of their Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) within 10 working days of receiving their decision notification.

BRPs are produced on behalf of UKVI by the Driver and Vehicle Licencing Agency (DVLA). DVLA has a service level agreement to complete 90% of production requests within one working day and the remaining 10% within two working days. For quarter one of financial year 2021/22 they achieved 85.1% (218,527) within 24 hours and 100% (256,730) within 48 hours.

FedEx took over the BRP delivery contract from DX in February 2020, after a bedding in period formal reporting started in July 2020. Between 1 July 2020 and 31 March 2021 FedEx attempted to deliver 99.2% of BRPs within 48 hours of collection from DVLA, against a target to attempt delivery within 48 hours of collection for 99% of BRP packages.

Therefore, first delivery will have been attempted within 10 working days of decision notification for all BRPs successfully produced by DVLA.

Between March and mid-December 2020, as a social distancing measure due to the coronavirus pandemic, UKVI agreed to allow FedEx to post all BRP packages which resulted in higher first time delivery success rates of 92.73% between August and December 2020, but higher volumes of mis-posts and losses. We therefore re-introduced the contractual requirement to knock on every door, check identity, capture the name of the recipient and take a photograph of the front door within FedEx's tracking system. Once all social distancing restrictions have eased, signatures will also be required for every delivery. As a result, between January and May 2021 FedEx achieved 84.34% first time delivery success rate.

Where it is possible to do so FedEx will leave a 'Sorry we missed you' card detailing how the customer can re-arrange delivery. Where UKVI has been able to share customer contact details with FedEx it will also email or SMS message the customer with a delivery failure message explaining how to re-arrange delivery.

UKVI meets with FedEx at least twice a week, to discuss measures to improve first time delivery success rates.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-14/33286>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-14/33287>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-14/33288>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Visas

Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [31485] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people made a visa application using the super priority service in

each month since 2015; and how many of those people received a decision by the end of the next working day in each month since 2015.

Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [31486] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people (a) made a visa application using the priority service and (b) received a decision within five working days on that application in each month since 2015.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Information on numbers of applications made using the priority and super priority service has been routinely published as part of the quarterly Immigration statistics since 2019.

The current data is available and can be found via the link below on tab VC_02.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visas-and-citizenship-data-q1-2021>

Between 2015 and 2019 data was derived from unpublished management information collected for internal Departmental use only and has not been quality assured to National Statistics or Official Statistics publication standard. There are currently no plans to publish this data.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-12/31485>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-12/31486>

Visas: Research

Hilary Benn (Labour) [35507] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many visas have been granted to overseas researchers under the Global Talent Visa in (a) 2020 and (b) 2021 to date, broken down by nationality.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Information on visas granted under the Global Talent scheme is routinely published as part of the quarterly Immigration statistics.

The current data is available and can be found via the link below on tab Vis_D02.

[entry-clearance-visa-outcomes-datasets-mar-2021.xlsx](https://www.gov.uk/government/datasets/entry-clearance-visa-outcomes-datasets-mar-2021)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-19/35507>

Migrant Workers: Coronavirus

Sarah Olney (Liberal Democrat) [32474] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to protect the rights of migrant workers during the covid-19 outbreak.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office has put in place a range of measures to support migrants affected by the Covid-19 outbreak and these provisions have been reviewed regularly. We continue to publish information on Gov.uk at

www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-immigration-and-borders

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-13/32474>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Unity Project

Stephen Timms (Labour) [35479] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans her officials have to meet representatives of the Unity Project to discuss improving the Change of Conditions application process in response to their letters of 11 April and 11 June 2021; and if she will make a statement.

Migrants

Stephen Timms (Labour) [35480] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans her Department has to simplify and shorten the Change of Condition application process; and if she will make a statement.

Stephen Timms (Labour) [35481] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reason the form to apply for change of conditions of leave to allow access to public funds requires applicants to provide a five year address history.

Reply from Chris Philp: A reply to the Unity Project's letter of 11 April was sent on

14 May and Home Office officials met with the Unity Project on 17 June as part of the No Recourse to Public Funds forum. My officials remain happy to meet with them again to discuss any outstanding concerns about the Change of Conditions application process.

We are currently reviewing that process to see how it can be improved. We will update the Unity Project and other stakeholders once this review is complete.

We do require core details of an applicant's background information to ensure an accurate assessment of their application can be made, including recent previous addresses. In most cases this information reduces the need to request further documentary evidence and therefore speeds up the consideration process.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-19/35479>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-19/35480>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-19/35481>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Migrants

Jess Phillips (Labour) [33949] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will publish an update on her Department's review into data-sharing practices between the police and immigration enforcement and measures to establish a firewall.

Migrants: Domestic Abuse

Jess Phillips (Labour) [33950] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to tackle the fear of reporting to the police faced by victims of domestic abuse with insecure immigration status, including through the establishment of a firewall.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office are currently undertaking a review into data sharing arrangements concerning migrant victims and witnesses of crime with insecure immigration status, acting upon the recommendation within HMICFRS's super-complaint report 'Safe to Share?'. The review will consider initiatives that seek to encourage the reporting of crime by migrant victims and witnesses with insecure immigration status, including the further consideration of a mechanism for establishing a firewall between police and immigration enforcement services. The outcome of the review is to establish safe reporting mechanisms for victims and witnesses of crime. The review is being developed in close consultation with migrant victims representative organisations to inform and shape review conclusions. As set out in [legislation](#), the review will be published by no later than 29 December 2021.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-15/33949>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-15/33950>

The report referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/945314/safe-to-share-liberty-southall-black-sisters-super-complaint-policing-immigration-status.pdf

Windrush Lessons Learned Review

Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat) [32341] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the recommendations of the Windrush Lessons Learned Review, what progress her Department has made on implementing a learning programme on UK history from June 2021.

Reply from Priti Patel: In response to Recommendation 6 from the Windrush Lessons Learned Review, the department is launching a learning programme over

the summer, with full implementation from autumn 2021.

To develop the approach and learning content we have conducted a training needs analysis which examined the learning needs of our staff and enabled consultation with key stakeholders. In line with Wendy Williams' requirements set out in the Comprehensive Improvement Plan, we engaged with external stakeholders to shape the learning products.

We plan to launch the first stage of learning activity this month. This will be a series of pages linking to historical Windrush related resources on the Home Office intranet page, available to all Home Office staff members. This follows increased and extended consultation, which was considered necessary ahead of the launch. Consultation, scoping and build is underway to develop the full range of bite-sized, blended learning products with experts from external organisations and academia informing content design and considerations.

Further materials and resources will become available for staff across the summer period to build momentum and boost conversations. These products are designed as a pre-cursor to the full launch from beginning of Quarter 3.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-13/32341>

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

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874022/6.5577_HO_Windrush_Lessons_Learned_Review_WEB_v2.pdf

Windrush Lessons Learned Review

Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat) [32342] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether, with reference to the Answer of 18 May 2021 to Question 263 on the Windrush Lessons Learned Review, what the planned completion date is for publishing an evaluation of the compliant environment policy and associated measures.

Reply from Priti Patel: We are taking a phased approach to the review of the compliant environment so that any evaluation is robust and any data collected is properly analysed and reviewed by experts.

As set out in the Comprehensive Improvement Plan, the initial analysis of data and evidence on the compliant environment will be completed by Autumn 2021.

Wendy Williams will return to review progress in September 2021.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-13/32342>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-11/263>

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

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874022/6.5577_HO_Windrush_Lessons_Learned_Review_WEB_v2.pdf

Windrush Lessons Learned Review

Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat) [32343] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Windrush Lessons Learned Review, when the draft ethical framework for decision making will be published.

Reply from Priti Patel: We are committed to developing and publishing an Ethical Decision-making Model as part of the Windrush Comprehensive Improvement Plan and in response to Recommendation 17 of the Windrush Lessons Learned Review. The purpose of the model is to prompt decision makers to consider the impact of their proposed decision and whether there are any unintended consequences, ensuring that the right decision is made first time.

The model does not replace existing immigration legislation, rules, or guidance, nor does it constitute a separate route for caseworkers to exercise discretion or grant leave.

We are committed to publishing the ethical decision-making model and intend to do so by the autumn.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-13/32343>

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

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874022/6.5577_HO_Windrush_Lessons_Learned_Review_WEB_v2.pdf

Windrush Generation: Compensation

Lyn Brown (Labour) [30325] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to expedite compensation for those people affected by the Windrush scandal.

Reply from Priti Patel: Since April 2019 the Scheme has offered or paid more than £32.4 million in compensation to members of the Windrush generation. On 24 June the Home Office published the latest set of data on the Scheme which covers the period to the end of May 2021. During the month of May, the Home Office paid out £3.9 million in compensation and more than £24.4 million in compensation has been paid across 732 claims.

In December we overhauled the Scheme and the changes have had an immediate effect on the speed and value of offers of compensation. Since the end of December, we have paid more than seven times the total amount paid previously. However, we recognise we still have more to do to speed up the processing of claims and are committed to reducing the time between submission and decision significantly over the coming months. To do this we are, amongst other things, recruiting more case workers, directing resources to where they are needed most to maximise final decision output and refining our processes so cases progress as quickly as possible. We are also improving the evidence gathering process, for instance by revising our data sharing agreements with other government departments.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-09/30325>

Information about the Windrush Compensation Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

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

The data referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/989299/Windrush_Compensation_Scheme_Published_Data_-_April_2021.ods

Immigration: Hong Kong

Sarah Olney (Liberal Democrat) [35831] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what arrangements her Department has put in place for Hong Kongers who are waiting for the processing of their British National Overseas applications to be completed when the Leave outside the Immigration Rules come to an end at the end of July 2021.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Leave Outside the Rules (LOTR) at the border was a temporary concession introduced to enable those eligible for the new Hong Kong BN(O) route who wished to travel to the UK before the route was launched to do so. This provision was in place until 23:59 on 19 July.

The BN(O) route is now open for applications. Those who are eligible for it should apply and await a decision on their application before travelling to the UK. The Home Office aims to make a decision on applications to the BN(O) route within 12 weeks.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-19/35831>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Lucy Powell (Labour) [33932] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the update to the EU Settlement Scheme caseworker guidance on late applications and the section on children in care and care leavers in that guidance, whether care leavers who are aged 18-25 years at the deadline are included in the children in care and care leavers category as having reasonable grounds to make out of time applications.

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 support a care leaver aged 18 to 25 in making an in-time application to the EUSS.

As made clear on many occasions the guidance published on 1 April is not exhaustive. 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/2021-07-15/33932>

The 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

Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [31476] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to expedite outstanding EU Settled Status applications.

Reply from Kevin Foster: We currently have 1,500 UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) European Casework staff in post.

The majority of applications are concluded within 5 working days but may take up to a month. 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>

The rights of those EU citizens and their family members who were lawfully resident at the end of the transition period and who, from 1 July 2021, have a pending application under the EUSS made by the deadline, or an appeal against the refusal of an application submitted by then, will be protected until their application is finally determined.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-12/31476>

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

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

The following three questions all received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [31477] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many EU Settled Status applications submitted after the deadline of 30 June 2021 are being processed by her Department.

Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [31479] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of EU nationals in the UK who have missed the deadline to apply for EU Settled Status.

Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [31480] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many EU Nationals have made late applications to the EU Settlement Scheme.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office publishes data on the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) monthly in the '[EU Settlement Scheme statistics](#)'.

The latest published information shows the total number of applications to the EUSS was 6.02 million up to 30 June 2021, of which 5.45 million had been concluded. Data to 31 July 2021 will be published in early August 2021.

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

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

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

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) published a blog on 2 July 2021, further discussing the differences and their plans for future population estimates:

[Are there really 6m EU citizens living in the UK?](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-12/31477>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-12/31479>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-12/31480>

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

Lyn Brown (Labour) [33190] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Answer of 20 May 2020 to Question 48558 on Immigration: EU Nationals, whether people who have completed the EU Settled Status application process will be able to use written notification of their immigration status as evidence of their status for all legal purposes.

Lyn Brown (Labour) [33191] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Answer of 20 May 2020 to Question 48558 on Immigration: EU Nationals, whether people who have (a) completed the EU Settled Status application process and (b) received written notification of their immigration status will be able to request a replacement copy of that notification in case it is lost or stolen.

Reply from Kevin Foster: EEA citizens who are granted settled or pre-settled status are issued with a document which is formal written notification of their leave. This is in the form of a letter sent by post or a PDF document sent by email, which sets out their immigration status in the UK.

They can retain the letter sent by post or print or electronically store the PDF document and keep it as confirmation of their status for their own personal records and for use when contacting the Home Office about their status.

If necessary, EEA citizens can show external organisations their written confirmation of status and it includes details of the view and prove service so the person checking their status can see there is an online service where they should

check the individual's status.

The written notification is not itself sufficient proof of status for right to work or right to rent checks because it is not a biometric document and could be subject to fraud and abuse. EEA citizens are able to request a replacement written notification if they have lost or deleted their letter and cannot print out a replacement.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-14/33190>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-14/33191>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-05-18/48558>

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

Social Security Benefits: EU Nationals

Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [31481] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many universal credit and legacy benefit claimants who are eligible to apply for EU Settled Status have failed to do so.

Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [31482] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, whether her Department plans to stop benefit payments to people who are eligible but have failed to apply for EU Settled Status.

Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [31483] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what support her Department has provided to people who claim (a) employment and support allowance or (b) the equivalent universal credit component who are eligible to apply for EU Settled Status but have so far failed to do to help them make an application.

Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [31484] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, whether a person who has not yet been granted EU Settled Status but is eligible to do so and is in the process of claiming a disability benefit will still be eligible to claim that benefit.

Reply from Justin Tomlinson: From 1 July 2021, EEA and Swiss Nationals (excluding Irish Nationals) will require immigration status in order to access income related benefits and public services. EEA and Swiss nationals, and their family members, in scope of the Withdrawal Agreement can acquire immigration status through the EU Settlement Scheme. Those currently receiving benefits have not seen their payments stop automatically from 1 July. However, it is important that anyone eligible who hasn't applied to the EUSS does so quickly to ensure that benefit payments are protected.

We are working very closely with the Home Office and HM Revenue and Customs to identify those who have yet to apply. Letters had been issued to encourage existing benefit recipients to apply to the EUSS to protect their existing rights in the UK. The Home Office will shortly be writing to benefit recipients who have still not applied for a status, giving a further 28 days to apply, after which the departments will be notified of those recipients who have still not applied.

Further information can be found here

<https://homeofficemedia.blog.gov.uk/2020/07/02/media-factsheet-eu-settlement-scheme>

For those that require support making an application to the EU Settlement Scheme we are able to signpost individuals to the Settlement Resolution Centre, which can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/contact-ukvi-inside-outside-uk/y/inside-the-uk/eu-settlement-scheme-settled-and-pre-settled-status-or-service-provider-from-switzerland-visa-applications>

A full list of 72 grant funded organisations able to offer help at a local level to vulnerable and at risk EU citizens applying to the EU Settlement Scheme can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-community-support-for-vulnerable-citizens>

Detailed guidance will be issued through our Advice to Decision Makers in due course –

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/advice-for-decision-making-staff-guide>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-12/31481>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-12/31482>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-12/31483>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-12/31484>

Afghanistan: Interpreters

Gregory Campbell (DUP) [32297] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what estimate he has made of the number of Afghan interpreters who have settled in the UK in the last ten years.

Reply from Leo Docherty: As at the 15 July 2021 through our relocation schemes, 1,646 former staff including their families have relocated to the UK so far, with several thousand more due to arrive over the summer. These have arrived through either the Ex Gratia Scheme (EGS), the Intimidation policy or the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP).

The EGS launched on 4 June 2013 with the first relocations occurring in August 2014. To date, under EGS 484 Afghan local staff have relocated to the UK, the majority of which were interpreters.

The ARAP launched on 1 April 2021, under the ARAP, 22 Local Staff have relocated to the UK. We are rapidly accelerating relocations under the ARAP, with thousands more Afghans and their families due to arrive in the UK over the Summer.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-13/32297>

Afghanistan: Home Country Nationals

John Healey (Labour) [35495] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many locally employed staff have been processed under the updated Afghan Relocated and Assisted Policy since 1 June 2021.

Reply from Leo Docherty: We have significantly accelerated the pace of relocations under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) in line with the military drawdown. Since the 1st June 572 people, former Afghan locally employed staff and their families, have been relocated to the UK. The MOD is working with the Home Office and a range of Government departments to ensure their successful resettlement.

This now takes the total number of people from Afghanistan relocated to the UK under the ARAP and the previous Ex-Gratia Policy to nearly 2,000.

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/2021-07-19/35495>

Afghanistan: Immigration

Julian Lewis (Conservative) [35475] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reason the wives of some Afghan former (a) interpreters and (b)

other locally employed civilians who assisted British armed forces and have been granted permission to settle in the UK, are not being allowed to accompany their husbands; and if she will urgently make representations to resolve this issue.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The UK owes a huge debt of gratitude to all locally employed staff (LES) who have supported our troops and embassy in Afghanistan, and we are significantly accelerating the pace of their relocation, with their family members, to the UK ahead of our military withdrawal.

There is a small number of family members who applied to relocate under the ex gratia scheme, but who do not meet the requirements of the Immigration Rules because they were not married or living together in a relationship akin to a marriage or civil partnership for at least two years prior to the date on which the LES relocated to the UK.

We have recently published updated guidance to enable us to consider such cases outside the Rules and will review these cases in line with this guidance.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-19/35475>

Refugees: Resettlement

Catherine West (Labour) [35809] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how number of refugees her Department commits to resettling as part of the Government's refugee resettlement programme each year.

Reply from Chris Philp: Through the UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS) we continue to welcome vulnerable refugees in need of protection to the UK. The number of refugees we resettle every year depends on a variety of factors including local authorities' capacity for supporting refugees and the extent to which Community Sponsorship continues to thrive. This year, the recovery from the pandemic will clearly be a significant factor affecting capacity. 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.

Statistics under the scheme are published through official statistics at quarterly intervals. The next set of statistics will be published in August and will include the number of people resettled in the year to June 2021. These are available from:

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-19/35809>

Asylum: EU Nationals

Patrick Grady (SNP) [35719] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum claims in the UK were (a) made by and (b) granted to EU nationals in each year since 2015.

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 lodged in the UK and the initial decisions on asylum applications are published in tables Asy_D01 and Asy_D02 of the [asylum and resettlement detailed datasets](#), breakdowns by year and nationality are available. Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data relate to Q1 (Jan-Mar) 2021

Additionally, the Home Office publishes further data on asylum and resettlement in the [asylum and resettlement 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/2021-07-19/35719>

Asylum: Finance

Alex Cunningham (Labour) [34481] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of people who were entitled to receive asylum support that did not have a functioning Aspen card in each week since the Aspen card transition.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Our systems do not allow us to provide the data requested. However, we can confirm fully functioning Aspen cards, including translated instructions on how to activate them, were distributed to all service users via first class post prior to the transition date of 24 May. The vast majority of service users who held a previous Sodexo Aspen card on 24th May - the date the new service went live - have now activated their new PFS Aspen card.

Those who have issues or are unsure how they can activate their cards are able to contact the 24/7 Migrant Help helpline. Where service users do not have active cards, Emergency Cash Payments (ECP) are being requested (accommodation providers can facilitate these) to ensure service user's critical needs are met.

Our latest available management information proposes the following approximations for the activation of cards amongst those who previously held a Sodexo card prior to 24 May:

- As of 28/05 – approximately 73% of service users has activated their card
- As of 04/06 – this figure rose to approximately 83%
- As of 22/06 –over 93% of service users had activated their new Aspen card
- As of 09/07 – over 95% had activated their card

[These figures have been taken from a live operational database and have not been quality assured to National Statistics or Official Statistics publication standard].

We continue to work with strategic delivery partners to ensure all cards are successfully received and activated with the appropriate service users being targeted for assistance.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-16/34481>

Asylum: Housing

Catherine West (Labour) [35819] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the adequacy of accommodation for asylum seekers and refugees; and whether her Department has made an assessment of the potential merits of an independent review of conditions in that accommodation.

Reply from Kevin Foster: To monitor compliance with the standards we expect from our providers, the Home Office access providers' systems and apply a robust performance management system to the Asylum Accommodation and Support Services contracts (AASC). This is supplemented by a formal governance process which includes quarterly Strategic Review Management Boards and monthly Contract Management Groups. Service credits and subsequent improvement plans are discussed and monitored as part of this process.

Service Delivery Managers speak daily with providers about performance. In response to the global pandemic, officials also have formal meetings on a weekly basis to ensure individuals are housed safely, services are delivered in line with their contractual obligations and guidance from Public Health England (PHE) is followed.

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

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. The purpose was to check

compliance with public health guidelines to prevent the transmission of Covid 19. We have shared a report summary of findings and recommendations with our partners, including non-Government Organisations and Strategic Migration Partnerships. We also held workshops with our accommodation providers to empower them to action findings.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-19/35819>

The following four questions all received the same answer

Hassockfield Immigration Removal Centre: Staff

Mary Kelly Foy (Labour) [33331] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether it is her policy that at least 60 per cent of staff in direct contact with women detainees will also be women at the new Hassockfield immigration removal centre in line with her Department's acceptance of that recommendation in the HM Inspectorate of Prisons' Yarl's Wood Service Improvement Plan, published on 12 August 2015.

Mary Kelly Foy (Labour) [33332] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the statement in her Department's Detention Services Order 06/2016: Women in the detention estate report, published in June 2016, that women detainees are entitled to ask to be examined by a female nurse or doctor, what her policy is on the proportion of healthcare staff at the new Hassockfield immigration removal centre that will be women.

Kate Osborne (Labour) [33347] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether it is her policy that at least 60 per cent of staff in direct contact with women detainees will also be women at the new Hassockfield immigration removal centre in line with her Department's acceptance of that recommendation in the HM Inspectorate of Prisons' Yarl's Wood Service Improvement Plan, published on 12 August 2015.

Kate Osborne (Labour) [33348] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the statement in her Department's Detention Services Order 06/2016: Women in the detention estate report, published in June 2016, that women detainees are entitled to ask to be examined by a female nurse or doctor, what her policy is on the proportion of healthcare staff at the new Hassockfield immigration removal centre that will be women.

Reply from Chris Philp: The safety, health and welfare of individuals in immigration detention are considered with the upmost importance. The new Hassockfield (to be known as Derwentside) immigration removal centre (IRC) will be operated in line with Detention Centre Rules 2001, published operating standards for IRCs and Detention Services Orders; a framework which ensures the safety and security of those detained in our care.

The workforce requirements for the new Hassockfield IRC will reflect the lessons learned from detaining women at Yarl's Wood IRC and will include a ratio of female to male custodial staff that is appropriate for the specific needs of women in detention. It is our aim that around 60% of uniformed staff will be women.

Healthcare in IRCs in England is commissioned by NHS England, and the healthcare services at Hassockfield IRC will be provided by NHS England & NHS Improvement commissioned service providers and delivered in line with the national service specifications for healthcare services in IRCs. The healthcare provider will ensure that services within the IRC are delivered to meet the healthcare needs of women. As set out in Detention Services Order 06/2016 'Women in the detention estate' women will be offered the option to choose to see a female healthcare professional wherever possible.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-14/33331>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-14/33332>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-14/33347>
and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-14/33348>

The Service Improvement Plan referred to above can be read at

<https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmprisons/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2015/08/2015-08-11-FINAL-AGREED-Service-Improvement-Plan-for-Yarls-Wood-IRC.pdf>

The Detention Services Order referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/531270/DSO_06-2016_women_in_the_detention_estate.pdf

The Detention Centre Rules referred to above can be read at

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2001/238/made/data.pdf>

The Operating Standards for IRCs referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/257352/operatingstandards_manual.pdf

Detention Services Orders, referred to above, are available from

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/detention-service-orders>

Offenders: Deportation

Lee Anderson (Conservative) [31542] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to remove foreign national offenders.

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

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

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

Our New Plan for Immigration will make it easier to deport foreign criminals with no right to be in the UK and keep our citizens safe. Further information can be found in [New Plan for Immigration: policy statement](#).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-12/31542>

Asylum: Deportation

Claire Hanna (SDLP) [35953] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the (a) accuracy and (b) implications for her policy of reports of potentially unlawful and inhumane treatment of asylum seekers on the Esparto 11 flight in August 2020.

Reply from Chris Philp: We take the health and wellbeing of those in our care extremely seriously and proper safety procedures were followed throughout the Esparto 11 charter flight on 12 August 2020.

Published guidance, and the training received by detainee custody officers makes it clear that physical force, and the use of waist restraint belts or handcuffs, should only be used after a thorough assessment of risk, and in consideration of each individual's personal circumstances. These risk factors may justify the application

of restraints to ensure the safety and wellbeing of both the returnee and escorting staff. The Home Office reviews all reports resulting from a use of force to ensure that techniques are used proportionately, that they are justified, and are used for the minimum period required.

On occasion, people with no right to be in the UK go to extreme lengths to prevent their removal by attempting to cause physical harm to officers or themselves. In these instances, force will be used sparingly as a last resort for their own and others protection.

On 2 October 2020, HM Inspectorate of Prisons published a report of their inspection of the flight, which found that much of operation ran smoothly and they saw returnees generally treated with courtesy. The inspectorate raised no overall safety concerns with these procedures, but did make some recommendations for improvements, which are already being implemented.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-19/35953>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Migrants: Children

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL1802] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to their New Plan for Immigration, published on 24 March, when they plan to consult on the proposal to remove support from families who have become Appeals Rights Exhausted (ARE), but have a child that was born prior to becoming ARE.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office plans to consult on the implementation of the support provisions of the Immigration Act 2016 later this year.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-07/hl1802>

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>

Asylum: Children

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL1801] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to their New Plan for Immigration, published on 24 March, whether they intend for the proposal that judges be told to give "minimal weight" to evidence raised by an asylum seeker late in the legal process to apply to unaccompanied children seeking asylum.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The policy intention is that judges must have regard to the principle that minimal weight should be attached to late evidence unless there are good reasons why the evidence was provided late. It will be a matter for judges to make decisions having regard to that principle on a case-by-case basis.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-07/hl1801>

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>

Afghanistan: Immigration

Lord Coaker (Labour) [HL1754] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many applications they have (1) received, and (2) processed, since the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy launched in April.

Reply from Baroness Goldie: 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/2021-07-06/hl1754>

Refugees: Syria

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL1800] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the number of people likely to be resettled this year under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme; and how that figure compares to (1) 2018, and (2) 2019.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: In December 2020, the UK resumed resettlement following a pause due to the pandemic. On 25 February 2021 the Government met its target of resettling 20,000 refugees who have fled the conflict in Syria through the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme. Since then, the Government has continued to welcome refugees through the global UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS).

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 from the pandemic will be a significant factor affecting capacity. 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.

The numbers of refugees resettled 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/hl1800>

UK Parliament Early Day Motions

Chris Law (SNP) [356] European nationals in the UK – That this House recognises the contribution that the hundreds of thousands of European nationals living in the UK have made to the UK; further recognises that one of those European Nationals is Dundee's Irena Jendrycha, one of the UK's last Holocaust survivors, who moved to the UK aged four after her liberation from a German concentration camp; notes that Irena, like the hundreds of thousands of other European Nationals living in the UK, was forced to apply through the EU Settlement Scheme to secure her place in the UK; further notes that Irena, despite applying is still unaware of her status, which has caused her a lot of stress and anguish; and calls on the Government to resolve applications such as Irena's as soon as possible and ensure that the status of those who are still unsure of their status in the UK will be treated with the dignity and respect that they deserve.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/58811>

Navendu Mishra (Labour) [342] Zimbabwe deportation flight – That this House notes the widespread violation of political and human rights in Zimbabwe; further notes the harassment and detention of political opponents and journalists; recognises that the International Trade Union Congress places Zimbabwe in the 10 worst countries for working

people; condemns the ongoing suppression of trade unions; is concerned by reports that the Government plans to deport over 50 Zimbabweans in July; calls on the Government to halt those deportation flights; notes the injustice in the deportation process, particularly given the ongoing pandemic; requests that any assessment that has been made of the political situation in Zimbabwe is made public; and calls on the Government to allow an urgent vote in the House on this subject before the summer recess.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/58796>

Press Releases

Home Secretary opening speech for Nationality & Borders Bill

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/home-secretary-opening-speech-for-nationality-borders-bill>

Immigration Compliance Minister closing speech for Nationality & Borders Bill

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/immigration-compliance-minister-closing-speech-for-nationality-borders-bill>

Home Secretary unveils plans to further support refugees in the UK and around the world

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-unveils-plans-to-further-support-refugees-in-the-uk-and-around-the-world>

UK-France agreement strengthens efforts to tackle illegal immigration

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-france-agreement-strengthens-efforts-to-tackle-illegal-immigration>

Windrush compensation scheme end date removed

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/windrush-compensation-scheme-end-date-removed>

New Publications

Consultation on the New Plan for Immigration: Government Response

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1005042/CCS207_CCS0621755000-001_Consultation_Response_New_Plan_Immigration_Web_Accessible.pdf

Report in relation to legal routes from the EU for protection claimants, including family reunion of unaccompanied children

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1005033/CCS207_CCS0621842724-001_Statement_in_relation_to_legal_routes_from_the_EU_Web_Accessible.pdf

Updated Guidance: EU Settlement Scheme: EU, other EEA and Swiss citizens and their family members

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1004627/main-euss-guidance-v13.0ext.pdf

Windrush Compensation Scheme data: July 2021

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1003645/Windrush_Compensation_Scheme_Background_Data_-_June_2021.ods

An inspection of contingency asylum accommodation: HMIP report on Penally Camp and Napier Barracks

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1005065/An_inspection_of_contingency_asylum_accommodation_HMIP_report_on_Penally_Camp_and_Napier_Barracks.pdf

Government response to an inspection of contingency asylum accommodation

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/response-to-an-inspection-of-contingency-asylum-accommodation/response-to-an-inspection-of-contingency-asylum-accommodation-accessible-version>

Issues raised by people facing return in immigration detention

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/issues-raised-by-people-facing-return-in-immigration-detention/issues-raised-by-people-facing-return-in-immigration-detention>

A housing practitioners' guide to integrating people seeking protection and refugees

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Scottish-Refugee-Council-Housing-Practitions-Guide-2021-1.pdf>

Know your rights guide to help migrants understand their rights and how to assert them

<https://migrantsrights.org.uk/reports/know-your-rights/>

News

Ministers under fire over 69p-a-minute helpline for EU citizens

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2021/jul/19/ministers-under-fire-over-69p-minute-helpline-eu-citizens>

Lib Dems: 'Tory Brexit has penalised elderly EU citizens' in UK Settlement Scheme

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/19465847.lib-dems-tory-brexit-penalised-elderly-eu-citizens-uk-settlement-scheme/>

Home Office plan to imprison asylum seekers arriving by boat would cost £412m a year, analysis shows

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-seekers-imprison-boat-home-office-refugee-council-b1885327.html>

Jailing illegal immigrants won't solve the crisis

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/07/21/jailing-illegal-immigrants-wont-solve-crisis/>

UK and France agree deal to tackle rise in Channel crossings

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-57909188>

Priti Patel defends deal to stop rising numbers crossing Channel

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-57916659>

Patel agrees £54m deal with France to reduce migrants reaching England

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/priti-patel-channel-crossings-migrants-b1887535.html>

UK to pay £55m to French border patrols to fund migrant clampdown

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jul/20/uk-french-border-patrols-migrant-clampdown-priti-patel>

Priti Patel defends paying French £54m more to halt migrants crossing Channel

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/priti-patel-defends-paying-french-54m-more-to-halt-migrants-crossing-channel-tx98hgl3p>

Priti Patel accused of throwing good money after bad over Channel migrants

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/jul/21/priti-patel-accused-of-throwing-good-money-after-bad-over-channel-migrants>

Britain hands France £53m to combat surge in Channel migrants as over 700 reach UK in two days

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/07/20/britain-hands-france-53m-combat-surge-channel-migrants-700-reach/>

Money alone can't solve the Channel migrants crisis – co-operation and technology might

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2021/07/21/money-alone-cant-solve-channel-migrant-crisis-cooperation-technology/>

France not stopping Channel migrants, despite getting £54 million to fight illegal crossings

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/07/21/priti-patel-told-france-making-mockery-uk-refusing-return-channel/>

Channel boat migrants face four years in jail

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/channel-boat-migrants-face-four-years-in-jail-wnl5tmpn0>

Latest wave of Channel migrants to hit 22,000

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/latest-wave-of-channel-migrants-to-hit-22-000-ncvwq588x>

Record 430 migrants cross English Channel in single day

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-57897601>

Record amount of migrants cross English Channel in one day

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/uk-english-channel-illegal-migrants-b1887019.html>

Record number of migrants cross Channel in one day

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/jul/20/record-number-of-migrants-cross-channel-in-one-day>

Record number of migrants cross the Channel in one day

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/07/19/record-number-migrants-cross-channel-one-day/>

430 migrants cross Channel in one day

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/boat-migrants-land-on-kent-beach-and-run-hrz8v8zzf>

Channel migrant crossings into Britain hit new record

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/channel-migrant-crossings-into-britain-hit-new-record-0qqrv8bhc>

French navy dumps boat of migrants on baffled TV crew in English Channel
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/07/20/french-dump-boat-migrants-baffled-tv-crew-english-channel/>

Migrants in Channel: The same number of boats filled with three times the passengers
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/migrants-in-channel-the-same-number-of-boats-filled-with-three-times-the-passengers-8gww8jhn7>

Pregnant migrants risk Channel dash
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/pregnant-migrants-risk-channel-dash-7vtsvr0t5>

People smugglers offering migrants 'money back' guarantees to cross Channel
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/07/22/people-smugglers-offering-migrants-money-back-guarantees-cross/>

Kingpins in Channel smuggling operation 'living and working freely' in the UK
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/jul/24/kingpins-in-channel-smuggling-operations-living-freely-in-the-uk-say-migrants>

Channel crossings migrants: 'We need a safe place'
<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-57899177>

'Which way is Britain?' The migrants stranded in the world's busiest shipping lane
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/lost-in-the-worlds-busiest-shipping-lane-the-migrants-dreaming-of-britain-qvww6vdrw>

Black market awaits Channel migrants who disappear
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/black-market-awaits-channel-migrants-who-disappear-009mq9fxm>

Nigel Farage GB News report from English Channel branded 'revolting'
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/19461093.nigel-farage-gb-news-report-english-channel-branded-revolting/>

There's no 'freedom day' for undocumented migrants too afraid to get vaccinated
<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/freedom-day-immigrants-covid-hostile-environment-b1889238.html>

Scottish Refugee Council statement on the second reading of the Nationality & Borders Bill
<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/our-statement-on-the-second-reading-of-the-nationality-borders-bill/>

'We tried to be joyful enough to deserve our new lives': What it's really like to be a refugee in Britain
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jul/20/new-lives-refugee-britain-afghanistan-asylum-uk-taliban>

Legal bids mean UK deportation flight to Zimbabwe takes off just one-third full
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/jul/22/legal-bids-mean-uk-deportation-flight-to-zimbabwe-takes-off-just-one-third-full>

UK Home Office's mass deportation flight plan criticised as 'grubby'

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/jul/18/uk-home-office-mass-deportation-flight-zimbabwe-plan-criticised-as-grubby>

Gay rugby player wins five-year battle against deportation to Kenya

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/jul/19/gay-rugby-player-wins-battle-deportation-kenya-kenneth-macharia>

TOP

Community Relations

News

Black pupils 'should study works by dead white men'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/07/22/black-pupils-should-study-works-dead-white-men/>

If we want to challenge extremism, banning the hijab is not the answer

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/19453759.uzma-mir-want-challenge-extremism-banning-hijab-not-answer/>

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Ministry of Defence: Ethnic Groups

Ruth Jones (Labour) [35886] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many Black and ethnic minority staff are employed by his Department.

Reply from Leo Docherty: The Armed Forces represent the society they serve and diversity and inclusion is essential to their operational effectiveness. Defence has committed to a Diversity and Inclusion strategy and is working hard to achieve a more diverse workforce. Whilst progress has been made in the representative rates of our people, there is further to go if we are to successfully attract and retain diverse talent, both now and in the future. That is why we have renewed our levels of ambition at the highest levels in Defence as we work to fulfil the key objective in our 2018-2030 Diversity and Inclusion Strategy to eliminate discrimination and improve diversity.

As at 1 April 2021, there were 13,690 Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Regular Service personnel in the UK Armed Forces. This equates to a representation rate of 9.2 per cent, an increase of 0.4 percentage points compared with 1 April 2020. At the same date, there were 2,030 BAME civilian personnel working in MOD (Main). This equates to a representation rate of 6.3 per cent, a rise of 1.8 percentage points compared with 1 April 2017.

Defence publishes biannual statistics on diversity declarations for Armed Forces personnel and MOD civilian staff. The latest editions can be found at the following links:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-armed-forces-biannual-diversity-statistics-index>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/mod-diversity-dashboard-index>

Department for Transport: Ethnic Groups

Ruth Jones (Labour) [35884] To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how many Black and ethnic minority staff are employed by his Department.

Reply from Chris Heaton-Harris: The number of staff employed by the department who have declared themselves to be Black and ethnic minority is 1125 as of the 30th June 2021. The breakdown between the central Department and the Executive Agencies is as follows:

DfTc	665
DVLA	106
DVSA	234
MCA	102
VCA	18
Total	1125

Note that the figures for black and ethnic minority staff do not include members of staff who have chosen either not to interact with the voluntary declaration system, or those who have chosen to interact but have declared that they prefer not to say. The current declaration rate for ethnicity for the department is currently 86.61%.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-19/35884>

Students: Finance

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour) [34011] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, when his Department plans to publish its plans for alternative student finance for students whose religion prohibits them from taking out a student loan payment.

Reply from Michelle Donelan: The government has been considering Alternative Student Finance carefully, alongside its other priorities, as it concludes the Post-18 Review of Education and Funding and responds to the detailed recommendations of the independent panel chaired by Sir Philip Augar.

We will provide an update on this matter when we conclude the Post-18 Review.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-15/34011>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer

Motor Sports: Ethnic Groups

Lord Boateng (Labour) [HL1995] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the (1) findings, and (2) recommendations, of the Royal Academy of Engineering's Hamilton Commission report Accelerating Change: Improving Representation of Black People in UK Motorsport, published on 13 July.

Lord Boateng (Labour) [HL1996] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the British motor sports industry regarding access to training and employment opportunities for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic young people.

Reply from Baroness Barran: The Government is committed to promoting diversity and inclusion in all sport and physical activity, including motor sport. Our strategy 'Sporting Future' sets out a clear ambition to increase diversity among sporting organisations and to help the sport sector be more inclusive and welcoming to its spectators, participants and people in its workforce. However it is ultimately for all individual sports' national governing bodies, to decide on the specific aims and appropriate initiatives in their organisations, and to evaluate progress with these.

We welcome the work of the Royal Academy of Engineering and Sir Lewis Hamilton which is aimed at improving the representation of Black people in UK motor sport. We will continue to work across government and with sector partners to ensure that inequalities people from ethnically diverse backgrounds face in sport, including motorsports, are being tackled effectively.

Sport England, UK Sport and the other home nations' sports councils have also recently published the results of a detailed, independent review into tackling racism and racial inequality in sport. Following the findings each Council is working to develop their own specific action plans to deliver on their initial commitments relating to people; representation; investment; systems and insight. This will involve working closely with relevant groups or communities to tackle racial inequality in sport, and bring about lasting change.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-14/hl1995>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-14/hl1996>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5f29736c8982c82f61df71e0/t/60edd33a6f118478735acbbc/1626198854176/THC+-+Accelerating+Change+-+July+2021.pdf>

The strategy referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/486622/Sporting_Future_ACCESSIBLE.pdf

Press Releases

Scottish Legal Aid Board sign legal agreement to improve approach to equality

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/scottish-legal-aid-board-sign-legal-agreement-improve-approach-equality>

£1 million education programme for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children announced
[England and Wales]

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/1-million-education-programme-for-gypsy-roma-and-traveller-children-announced>

New Publication

Accelerating Change: Improving Representation of Black People in UK Motorsport

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5f29736c8982c82f61df71e0/t/60edd33a6f118478735acbbc/1626198854176/THC+-+Accelerating+Change+-+July+2021.pdf>

News

Halima Aden and Tommy Hilfiger: 'It's not just about diverse catwalks'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-57918698>

Dance and drama classes reflect 'white supremacy', leading conservatoire claims

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/07/24/dance-drama-classes-reflect-white-supremacy-leading-conservatoire/>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Anti-Racism Taskforce Recommendations

Janet Daby (Labour): What recent steps the Church of England has taken to progress implementation of the anti-racism taskforce recommendations. (903214)

Reply from the Second Church Estates Commissioner (Andrew Selous): The Church is hugely appreciative of the work of the archbishops' anti-racism taskforce. It has already committed to implementing 34 of the taskforce's 39 recommendations and is keeping the other five under review.

Janet Daby: The Second Church Estates Commissioner appreciates, as I do, the importance of cultural change in the Church. Clergy from diverse backgrounds must be supported and given equal opportunities, from new ordinands settling in to those moving towards more senior roles. What powers will the new commission led by Lord Boateng have to hold the Church to account as it enters the implementation stage?

Reply from Andrew Selous: As the hon. Lady says, in the autumn a new racial justice commission will start work under the chairmanship of Lord Boateng and with Lord Wei as a member. I am delighted to say that we have the highest number of recommendations for stipendiary ordained ministry training in a generation: almost 600, of which 10.9% are from minority ethnic backgrounds—a 2% increase on the previous year. The Church is making gradual but steady progress to make sure that its clergy look like the nation it serves, and the racial justice commission will certainly hold the Church to account on future progress.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-07-22/debates/7353579D-C06A-4B85-B58D-961E15039B8E/Anti-RacismTaskforceRecommendations>

The recommendations referred to above can be read at

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/FromLamentToAction-report.pdf>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Hate Crime: Sentencing

Rupa Hyq (Labour) [32457] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of increasing the maximum sentence for people convicted of racist hate crime.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The legal framework for hate crimes already ensures there are increased penalties for offenders when compared to non-hate crimes. This includes higher possible sentences for a range of offences such as assault, harassment and criminal damage when they include racial hostility.

We have asked the Law Commission to review hate crime legislation and consider how the law can be made more effective. It will report recommendations this year and we will respond when it is complete.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-13/32457>

Information about the review referred to above can be read at

Internet: Racial Discrimination

Chi Onwurah (Labour) [33224] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what plans his Department has to make all racially discriminatory user-generated content illegal content in the draft Online Harms Bill.

Reply from Caroline Dinenage: To ensure the criminal law is fit for purpose to deal with online harms, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport sponsored the Law Commission to review the criminal law relating to harmful online communications. The Law Commission has consulted on proposed reforms and will publish their final report this summer. We will carefully consider using the online safety legislation to bring the Law Commission's final recommendations into law, where it is necessary and appropriate to do so.

In addition, the Law Commission is undertaking a separate review sponsored by the Home Office, which is considering the adequacy and parity of protection offered by the law relating to hate crime. The Law Commission has consulted on their proposals and aims to publish a final report later this year.

The Online Safety Bill will ensure that racially discriminatory content that is illegal offline, is illegal online. Under the Online Safety Bill, services in scope will need to minimise and remove illegal content. Major platforms will also need to address legal but harmful content for adults. Priority categories of legal but harmful content for adults will be set out in secondary legislation and are likely to include online racist abuse.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-14/33224>

Information about the reviews referred to above can be read at

<https://www.lawcom.gov.uk/project/reform-of-the-communications-offences/>

and

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

Internet: Racial Discrimination

Chris Elmore (Labour) [33294] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, whether racism that falls short of the standard of a racial hatred offence will be covered by the Online Safety Bill as a priority harm.

Reply from Caroline Dinenage: Racism online is completely unacceptable and has no place in an open and tolerant society. All companies whose services are likely to be used by children will have to protect them from racist content that falls short of the criminal threshold. Companies providing high-risk, high-reach services, such as the main social media services will also need to address legal content of this type that is harmful to adults. Racist abuse falls within the definition of harmful content that companies must address.

The government will set out priority harms for both children and adults in secondary legislation following consultation with Ofcom. Racist abuse that does not meet the threshold of a criminal offence will likely be a priority harm.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-14/33294>

Twitter: Racial Discrimination

Michael Fabricant (Conservative) [32282] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will (a) commission an investigation through her Department's agencies into the proportion of the racist tweets directed at three England football players following the UEFA Euro 2020 final that originated in the UK and (b) publish a report following that investigation.

Reply from Kit Malthouse: Racist abuse is utterly unacceptable whether it takes place online or offline. Individuals who commit racist offences should face the full

force of the law and we already have robust legislation in place to deal with online hate crime.

While companies have taken some positive steps, more needs to be done to tackle online harms, including hate crime. The upcoming Online Safety regulatory framework 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. There is no reason for companies to wait until the regime is fully running to take action against this abhorrent abuse, and we will continue to press them to do so.

The police are reviewing offending material and will work with the relevant social media companies to identify account holders and progress their investigations.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-13/32282>

Sports: Racial Discrimination

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [33276] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps he is taking to tackle racism in sports other than football.

Reply from Nigel Huddleston: The Government is clear that racism has no place in sport, or society at large. The sport and physical activity strategy 'Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation' has diversity and inclusion at its heart.

Sport England, UK Sport and the other home nations' sports councils have recently published the results of a detailed, independent review into tackling racism and racial inequality in sport. Each Council is working to develop their own specific action plans to deliver on the initial commitments relating to people, representation, investment, systems and insight. This will involve working closely with relevant groups or communities to tackle racism in sport.

One area which is important in increasing inclusion in sport is the diversity of the sporting workforce and governance structures. The recently reviewed Code for Sport Governance requires all sporting bodies in receipt of substantial public funding from UK Sport and Sport England to have a detailed and ambitious diversity and inclusion action plan, which we hope will foster positive and lasting change.

The Government will continue to work with our arm's length and national governing bodies, as well as sector partners such as Sporting Equals, to effectively tackle racism in sport at all levels. However it is ultimately for all individual sports' national governing bodies, to decide on the specific aims and appropriate initiatives in their organisations, and to evaluate progress with these.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-14/33276>

The Strategy referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/486622/Sporting_Future_ACCESSIBLE.pdf

Sports: Racial Discrimination

Catherine West (Labour) [35818] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, in the context of racist online abuse received by Sir Lewis Hamilton after winning the 2021 British Grand Prix, what steps he is taking with (a) social media companies and (b) sporting bodies and organisations to tackle racist online abuse of sportspeople.

Caroline Dinenge: The racist abuse targeted at Sir Lewis Hamilton and other sportspeople is unacceptable. Under the draft Online Safety Bill, services in scope will need to minimise and remove illegal content. Major platforms will also need to address legal but harmful content for adults. The Bill has been published in draft for pre-legislative scrutiny. The process to formally set up the Joint Committee that will scrutinise the draft Bill has begun.

The Government's sport and physical activity strategy 'Sporting Future' sets out a clear ambition to increase diversity, and tackle racism and inequality in sport. In addition, Sport England, UK Sport and the other home nations' sports councils recently published the results of a detailed, independent review into tackling racism and racial inequality in sport. Each Council is now developing its own action plans to deliver on commitments relating to people; representation; investment; systems and insight.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-19/35818>

The Strategy referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/486622/Sporting_Future_ACCESSIBLE.pdf

The following three questions all received the same answer

Football: Racial Discrimination

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [33273] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps he is taking to prevent racism at local football clubs.

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [33274] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, how much public funding is available to support antiracism education at local football clubs.

Football: Equality

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [33275] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps is he taking to help promote diversity in junior local football clubs.

Reply from Nigel Huddleson: The Government is clear that racism has no place in football, sport, or society at large. Our strategy 'Sporting Future' is committed to promoting diversity and inclusion in sport and physical activity, including football. We are in regular dialogue with the football authorities across a range of matters, including tackling racism and increasing diversity at all levels from grassroots to elite football. Following a DCMS-led summit attended by footballing bodies and relevant sector partners, the football authorities introduced multiple measures to tackle discrimination in the game. This included increasing the minimum sanctions for discriminatory behaviour and improving reporting systems at all levels of the game. We also welcomed the launch of The FA's 'Football Leadership Diversity Code' last year, which is a step in the right direction to ensure English football better represents our modern and diverse society, on and off the pitch. The FA has committed to following this with a version adapted for the National League System and grassroots clubs this year.

Opportunities for participation are crucial too. The Government invests £18m a year into football facilities, through the Football Foundation, to improve access to quality facilities across the country with an additional £75m announced this year as well. Inclusivity forms a part of the assessment criteria for any application for funding from the Foundation, with it being a core value of the organisation.

The Government will continue to liaise closely with the football authorities on their efforts to improve diversity in the sport.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-14/33273>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-14/33274>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-14/33275>

The Strategy referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/486622/Sporting_Future_ACCESSIBLE.pdf

The Diversity Code referred to above can be read at <https://www.thefa.com/-/media/thefacom-new/files/rules-and-regulations/football-leadership-diversity-code/football-leadership-diversity-code-summary-october-2020.ashx>

Higher Education: Antisemitism

Gregory Campbell (DUP) [32299] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what the outcome was of the strategic guidance letter he issued to the Office of Students to identify higher education providers which have yet to adopt an internationally recognised definition of anti-semitism.

Reply from Michelle Donelan: There is no place in our society, including within higher education (HE), for antisemitism. The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition is an important tool in tackling antisemitism. Adopting the widely recognised definition sends a strong signal that HE providers take these issues seriously.

My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Education, wrote to the sector in October 2020, calling upon leaders to adopt the IHRA definition. He repeated this message in May, reinforcing the government's expectation that providers adopt the IHRA definition, stressing the even greater importance of doing so in light of increased number of antisemitic incidents recorded (as a result of the conflict in the Middle East). We are aware of over 100 HE providers which have now adopted the IHRA definition. This includes over 80 universities.

In his February 2021 strategic guidance letter, the Secretary of State also asked the Office for Students (OfS) to undertake a scoping exercise, to identify providers which are reluctant to adopt the definition. He asked them to consider introducing mandatory reporting of antisemitic incident numbers by providers, with the aim of ensuring a robust evidence base, which the OfS can then use to effectively regulate in this area. I meet regularly with the OfS, and they have assured me they are progressing work in response to Secretary of State's request, including in relation to a scoping exercise to identify higher education providers which have yet to adopt the IHRA definition.

The decision on adoption of the definition rests with individual providers, but the government will continue to urge them to adopt the definition and ensure that HE is a genuinely fulfilling and welcoming experience for everyone.

Adoption of the IHRA definition is only a first step, and while the government considers that adoption of the definition is crucial, it is not enough on its own. That is why I will continue to work with the sector to ensure it better understands antisemitism and does more to end it.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-13/32299>

The letters referred to above can be read at

<https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/media/48277145-4cf3-497f-b9b7-b13fdf16f46b/ofs-strategic-guidance-20210208.pdf> (page 7)

and

<https://twitter.com/GavinWilliamson/status/1314506646115278848>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [363] **Rise in antisemitic hate crime** – That this House condemns the appalling rise in antisemitism in the weeks during and after the devastating escalation of violence in Israel and Palestine; notes with concern that the Community Security Trust (CST) recorded 628 antisemitic hate incidents between 8 May and 7 June 2021; regrets that is the highest number of antisemitic hate crimes that the CST has ever recorded in any month-long period; notes with further concern that this represents roughly

four times the normal number expected during that period; believes it is shameful that in the UK, British Jews often suffer when violence flares up in a region thousands of miles away; and resolves to continue to call out all injustices in the Middle East and seek for a peaceful solution to the Israeli Palestinian conflict.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/58818>

Information about the data referred to above can be read at

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

News

Neo-Nazi Andrew Dymock jailed for terror and hate crimes

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-somerset-57920928>

Neo-Nazi Andrew Dymock jailed for fundraising for extreme right-wing group

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/andrew-dymock-jail-srn-nazi-b1888052.html>

Neo-Nazi student who called for rape is jailed

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/neo-nazi-student-called-rape-jailed-lm8lq7ft>

Neo-Nazi student to be sentenced for terrorism and hate offences

<https://tellmamauk.org/neo-nazi-student-to-be-sentenced-for-terrorism-and-hate-offences/>

Tommy Robinson loses Jamal Hijazi libel case

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leeds-57930901>

Tommy Robinson loses libel case brought by Syrian schoolboy

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/tommy-robinson-libel-jamal-hijazi-b1888660.html>

Tommy Robinson ordered to pay £100,000 to Syrian refugee after losing libel case

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/07/22/tommy-robinson-ordered-pay-100000-syrian-refugee-losing-libel/>

Scottish Labour councillor suspended for a second time over anti-semitism row

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/scottish-labour-councillor-suspended-second-24564167>

Endemic misogyny, bullying and anti-Semitism found in Liverpool Labour Party

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/liverpool-labour-party-report-bullying-b1887340.html>

Best detectives should be used to 'root out racist, extremist and corrupt police officers

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/07/21/best-detectives-should-used-root-racist-extremist-corrupt-police/>

NHS diversity hits record high while racism continues to plague staff, new study reveals

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/nhs-diversity-racism-new-study-b1887817.html>

Woman filmed racially abusing train passengers in shocking video

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/c2c-train-racist-woman-video-london-b1888855.html>

Social media that won't play ball over racism are part of the problem

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/social-media-that-wont-play-ball-over-racism-are-part-of-the-problem-zbgjmx6br>

Instagram 'broke race abuse pledge' to footballers

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/instagram-broke-race-abuse-pledge-footballers-saka-marcus-rashford-pgh5d08td>

F1 condemns online racist abuse of Lewis Hamilton after British GP victory

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2021/jul/19/formula-one-condemns-online-racist-abuse-lewis-hamilton-british-grand-prix>

Lewis Hamilton targeted with racist abuse online after winning British Grand Prix

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/motor-racing/formula1/f1-hamilton-racist-abuse-verstappen-b1886338.html>

Horner accused of giving 'racists an excuse to let fly their evil' at Hamilton

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/motor-racing/formula1/christian-horner-peter-hain-max-verstappen-all-party-parliamentary-group-lewis-hamilton-b1887378.html>

Racism after Euro 2020 final showed why those who oppose 'taking the knee' are wrong – Christine Jardine MP

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/racism-after-euro-2020-final-showed-why-those-who-oppose-taking-the-knee-are-wrong-christine-jardine-mp-3311167>

Chelsea keep faith in anti-discrimination projects despite rise in abuse

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/roman-abramovich-bruce-buck-cesar-azpilicueta-antidefamation-league-champions-league-b1887295.html>

Portsmouth launch disciplinary process over abusive posts in academy group chat

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/england-italy-league-one-marcus-rashford-wembley-b1888498.html>

Racism probe as 'bananas thrown at Cardiff City academy players'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-57934499>

TOP

Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Release

Nation-wide search for local community heroes launched

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/newsandmediacentre/117443.aspx>

First Minister's Eid Message

<https://twitter.com/scotgov/status/1417046554037395460>

New Publications

Recorded Crime in Scotland: June 2021

<https://tinyurl.com/5x6ndsrz>

100 Days until COP26

<https://www.gov.scot/news/100-days-until-cop26/>

TOP

Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Livestock: Ritual Slaughter

Lord Pearson of Rannoch (Non-affiliated) [HL1822] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the number of (1) sheep, and (2) cattle, which were slaughtered without prior stunning in the last year for which figures are available, split by (a) Kosher, and (b) Halal slaughter; and what percentage of UK slaughterhouses are licensed to carry out such slaughter.

Reply from Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The most recent assessment was carried out by the Food Standards Agency (FSA), on behalf of Defra and the Welsh Government, over a one-week period in 2018. During that period, the numbers slaughtered without stunning were 60,748 sheep by halal and 222 sheep by Shechita; and 214 cattle by halal and 164 cattle by Shechita.

Religious slaughter can only be carried out in an FSA approved slaughterhouse but there is no separate licensing of slaughterhouses carrying out religious slaughter.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-07/hl1822>

Livestock: Ritual Slaughter

Lord Pearson of Rannoch (Non-affiliated) [HL1823] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the average time it takes for an unstunned (1) sheep, and (2) cow, to die after having their throat cut in a UK slaughterhouse.

Reply from Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: No such assessment has been made.

When an animal is slaughtered without stunning, in accordance with religious rites, it must not be moved in any way until it is unconscious and, in any event, not before the expiry of 20 seconds for sheep and 30 seconds for cattle from the neck cut.

These "standstill" times are to ensure the animal is unconscious and insensible so it can be moved and are not related to the time it may take for the animal to die.

All slaughterhouses in England, including those where religious slaughter takes place, must have CCTV in place in all areas where live animals are present.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-07/hl1823>

Meat: Ritual Slaughter

Lord Pearson of Rannoch (Non-affiliated) [HL1824] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to legislate to ensure that meat from animals which have been slaughtered without prior stunning is clearly labelled as such.

Reply from Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The Government has committed to consult on what can be done through labelling to promote high standards and high welfare across the UK market. First, we will launch a call for evidence this summer to assess the impacts on different types of labelling reforms for animal

welfare, including method of slaughter. This will feed into the Government's wide-ranging review on food labelling to ensure that consumers can have confidence in the food they buy and to facilitate the trade of quality British food at home and abroad.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-07/hl1824>

Press Releases

Tackling violence against women and girls strategy launched

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/tackling-violence-against-women-and-girls-strategy-launched>

100 days until COP26 summit begins in Scotland

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/100-days-until-cop26-summit-begins-in-scotland>

Prime Minister's Eid Message

<https://twitter.com/BorisJohnson/status/1417211113842819085>

New Publications

Tackling violence against women and girls strategy

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1004655/Tackling_Violence_Against_Women_and_Girls_Strategy_-_July_2021.pdf

Annex A: Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls - Progress against previous actions

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1004549/Annex_A_-_Tackling_Violence_Against_Women_and_Girls_Strategy_-_June_2021.pdf

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Annual Report - April 2020 to March 2021

<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/female-genital-mutilation/april-2020-to-march-2021>

TOP

Health Information: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

NHS

Coronavirus helpline

People living in Scotland who don't have any symptoms but are looking for general information can call the coronavirus helpline. If you're a non-English speaker you can still use this service. Phone 0800 028 2816, tell the call handler that you need an interpreter, give the name of your preferred language and you will be connected to a Language Line interpreter. You will not have to pay for this.

NHS Inform (Scotland)

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

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

Protect-Scot contact tracing app

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

Healthcare for refugees and asylum seekers

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

NHS Near Me (Scotland)

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

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

NHS (England and Wales)

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

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Vaccination: Ethnic Groups

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [34570] To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office, pursuant to the Answer of 15 April 2021 to Question 179464, what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the his Department's work to (a) address specific concerns from ethnic minority groups regarding coronavirus vaccines and (b) amplify NHS voices publicising the use of religious sites as vaccination centres to date.

Reply from Julia Lopez: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to PQ 33512 on 21 April 2020, and to PQ 40655 on 11 May 2020.

Since the vaccination programme began, the Cabinet Office has worked closely with communications teams in local authorities to promote vaccine uptake, particularly to communities with lower vaccine take-up. Support has included the commissioning of translated materials, the deployment of upweighted advertising in specific areas, and the use of multi-lingual local community street teams to share information about the available vaccines.

Through the Community Champions scheme councils and voluntary organisations will deliver a wide range of measures to protect those most at risk - building trust, communicating accurate health information and ultimately helping to save lives. MHCLG has allocated over £23 million of funding to 60 councils and voluntary groups across England to expand work to support those most at risk from COVID-19 and boost vaccine uptake.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-16/34570>

The answers referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-12/179464>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-03-23/33512>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-04-27/40655>

Scottish Government Press Release

Self-isolation rules

<https://www.gov.scot/news/self-isolation-rules/>

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 – 20 July 2021

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-statement-20-july-2021/>

UK Government Press Releases

Prime Minister urges caution as England moves to Step 4

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-urges-caution-as-england-moves-to-step-4>

Daily contact testing rolled out to further critical sectors

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/daily-contact-testing-rolled-out-to-further-critical-sectors>

UK Government Publications

The R value and growth rate

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

PM statement at coronavirus press conference: 19 July 2021

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-at-coronavirus-press-conference-19-july-2021>

Minister Nadhim Zahawi: Oral Statement on step 4 of the road map

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/minister-nadhim-zahawi-oral-statement-on-step-4-of-the-road-map>

News

Covid restrictions ease as Scotland moves to level zero

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-57878745>

Covid in Scotland: Critical workers to be exempt from self-isolation

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-57937583>

Covid in Scotland: Thousands turn off tracking app

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-57941343>

Covid in Scotland: Nearly a third of young adults still unvaccinated

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-57875256>

Covid in Scotland: Sturgeon says not to rule out vaccinating younger teens

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-57900768>

Covid in Scotland: Children at higher risk of Covid to be vaccinated

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-57887850>

Vaccine passports could be discriminatory against minority groups, warns SNP's health secretary

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2021/07/21/vaccine-passports-could-discriminatory-against-minority-groups/>

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New Publication

Respond, recover, reset: the voluntary sector and COVID-19

http://cpwop.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2021/07/NTU-Covid-voluntary-sector-report-July-2021_DIGITAL.pdf

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Other News

Muslims in England return to celebrate Eid al-Adha together

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jul/20/muslims-in-england-return-to-celebrating-eid-al-adha-together>

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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>

Second Reading, House of Commons

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-07-19/debates/FC19E458-F75D-480D-A20D-CD1E7ADC937E/NationalityAndBordersBill>

Second Reading, House of Commons (continued)

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-07-20/debates/D6FA6055-BA80-4980-AE15-910876BB1E19/NationalityAndBordersBill>

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

**** closes this week**

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

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

**** closes this week**

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>

**** closes next week**

Social Enterprise Intermediaries Review - Survey of Social Enterprises (closing date 8 August 2021)

<https://response.questback.com/scottishgovernment/wecxhvmfeh>

**** Youth Service Provision for Gypsy, Traveller and Roma young people**

(closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LGCXS28>

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>

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**

**** *this week!***

Windrush Compensation Scheme Engagement Event

28 July 2021 (online, 2.00–3.00)

Home Office event to help people find out more about the Windrush Scheme and Windrush Compensation Scheme. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/72ypxdv4>

**** *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

**** *next week!***

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/tamye4rv> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

Interpreting Culture – Improving Cross-Cultural Communication

14 October 2021 (online, 10.30-13.00)

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

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 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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