



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](mailto:MEMO@scojec.org) and [click here](#) to be added to the mailing list.

## Immigration and Asylum

### Scottish Parliament Motion

**Paul Sweeney (Labour) [S6M-02589] Recognising the Value of Asylum Seekers** – That the Parliament welcomes asylum seekers who wish to call Scotland their home; acknowledges what it sees as the contribution that asylum seekers make to Scotland's cultural diversity; believes that asylum seekers should be allowed to work whilst their application for asylum is being processed; commends charities and organisations working in the third sector, including those in the Glasgow region, that help asylum seekers adjust to life in Scotland, and notes the calls for free bus travel to be provided to asylum seekers, by extending the concessionary travel scheme to include all asylum seekers currently residing in Scotland.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/votes-and-motions-search/S6M-02589>

## UK Parliament Debates

### **Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-01-06/debates/EF3A7605-F42D-407E-A43B-0570ED67C160/AfghanCitizensResettlementScheme>

### **Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-01-06/debates/CD68D344-EA9E-4122-9F14-D63FF9058E7C/AfghanCitizensResettlementScheme>

### **Refugees: Mass Displacement**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-01-06/debates/EE435C56-E534-4C1B-BD21-71E4CBFCF508/RefugeesMassDisplacement>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

### **Nationality and Borders Bill: Compatibility with International Law**

**Gavin Newlands (SNP):** What recent discussions [has the Minister] had with Cabinet colleagues on the compatibility of the Nationality and Borders Bill with international law. (904919)

**Reply from the Attorney General (Suella Braverman):** To be clear, the UK prides itself on its leadership within the international system and the fact that it discharges its international obligations in good faith. The Nationality and Borders Bill brings in vital changes to enable this Government, and our immigration and Border Force operatives, to stop the illegal and dangerous trafficking of illegal migrants. I encourage everybody in this Chamber to get behind this vital Bill and support it.

**Gavin Newlands:** ... The Attorney General may well pride herself on international leadership, but does she therefore agree with the UN Secretary-General António Guterres, who recently corrected the Home Secretary's claim that British citizenship is a privilege, not a right, and pointed out: "Having a nationality is not a privilege—it's a human right" that is protected by UN treaties to which the UK is a party and which the UK is obliged to protect?

**Reply from the Attorney General:** What is clear is that we need to take tangible action to deal with the problem of illegal migrants crossing our channel and dangerous traffickers exploiting some of the most vulnerable people in the world, while we also need to fix our broken asylum system. That is why the Nationality and Borders Bill addresses some of these very important issues through tangible proposals. The Home Office will continue to evaluate and test a range of safe and legal options for stopping small boats, and I support that activity.

**Peter Bone (Conservative):** Does the Minister agree that the Bill helps protect our fight against human trafficking? It will be very interesting to see what the Lords sends back to us, but will the Government continue to commit themselves to ending this evil trade?

**Reply from the Attorney General:** There are no two ways about it, and I am proud to say to my hon. Friend that I really support this Government's attempts to end this evil trade, as he puts it. It is immoral that the criminal people traffickers are taking advantage of people and putting their lives at risk. The people making these crossings do not have the skills or the equipment to traverse some of the busiest shipping lanes in the world safely, and it is of fundamental importance that the Government disrupt this business model and make it untenable.

**Alison Thewliss (SNP):** Over the Christmas holidays, I read "The Lightless Sky", the account by Gulwali Passarlay of his journey as a child refugee from Afghanistan to the UK. After reading that book, I would ask the Minister—and I recommend that she reads it, too—

whether she accepts that human traffickers only exist because of the absence of the safe and legal routes that this Government continue to deny to those who are in desperate need and fleeing for their lives?

**Reply from the Attorney General:** We are subject to international obligations that make it clear that, if people have legitimate claims for asylum, there are safe and legal routes through which they may pursue those. To get on an illegally manned vessel and to try to break through our borders illegitimately is dangerous, immoral and unlawful.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-01-06/debates/8E6555C8-183D-461C-88C6-F685C066FA59/NationalityAndBordersBillCompatibilityWithInternationalLaw>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Afghanistan

### Afghanistan: Asylum

**Barry Sheerman (Labour Co-op)** [92817] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what steps she is taking to help ensure that Afghan Christians and religious minorities are provided with safe and accessible routes to claim asylum in the UK.

**Reply from James Cleverly:** The Government is pressing the Taliban to respect human rights in Afghanistan, including the rights of Christians and religious minorities, and to allow safe passage for Afghans to travel abroad. The Government has also doubled its aid to Afghanistan. Resettlement in the UK can be a solution for only a small minority of Afghanistan's people. During Operation Pitting the Government evacuated more than 15,000 people from Afghanistan to the UK, including some in the groups referred to. The Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) scheme has resettled thousands of at-risk Afghans who have worked with or alongside the UK Government, and their families. The Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) will provide further protection for people at risk identified as in need. ...

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-14/92817>

*Information about the Afghan Relocations Assistance Policy, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy-information-and-guidance>*

*Information about the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>*

### Refugees: Afghanistan

**Shabana Mahmood (Labour)** [90847] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent estimate her Department has made of the number of Afghan relatives of UK nationals who received advice from her Department on settling in the UK.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** The Home Office does not hold the information requested.

Since the end of Operation Pitting, our helpline for non-British nationals in Afghanistan has provided information and support on the UK's evacuation efforts, as well as general information about the relocation schemes, to 5.8 million callers.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-10/90847>

### Afghanistan: Refugees

**Brendan O'Hara (SNP)** [94406] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many and what proportion of applications to the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy made under Category 4 since the scheme was established as of 14 December 2021 have been

(a) considered eligible and (b) considered eligible and called forward to the airport and (c) considered eligible, called forward to the airport and resettled in the UK.

**Reply from James Heapey:** The ARAP Scheme has been one of the most generous in the world, under which over 99,000 applications have been received and circa.1,300 Locally Employed Staff (LES) have been relocated to the UK since April.

Those Afghans who were called forward to the Airport have had both their eligibility for ARAP confirmed and successfully undergone the Home Office visa process. However, there is not a separate Category 4 application process, all applicants must apply through the ARAP Scheme application form and a dedicated caseworker will confirm which category applies to the applicant upon deciding eligibility. As such, the information cannot be provided in the format requested.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-16/94406>

*Information about the Afghan Relocations Assistance Policy, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy-information-and-guidance>

### **Afghanistan: Refugees**

**John Healey (Labour) [93704]** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many individual Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy applicants have been relocated to the UK each month since April 2021.

**Reply from James Heapey:** The Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP) has been one of the most generous in the world, under which circa.1,300 Locally Employed Staff (LES) and others who supported the UK mission in Afghanistan have been relocated to the UK since April 2021, with a large proportion being evacuated on over 100 RAF flights as part of Operation PITTING.

We owe a debt of gratitude to all Afghan nationals who risked their lives working alongside UK forces. For this reason, the ARAP scheme is not time-limited and will endure, facilitating the relocation of eligible Afghans and their families, from third countries if possible.

As at 16 December 2021, the number of ARAP eligible principles relocated by month is shown in the table below:

April	0
May	1
June	24
July	188
August (inc Op PITTING)	981
September	11
October	30
November	70
December	47
Total	1,352

As at 16 December 2021 the overall total of ARAP eligible people (families and dependants) who have been relocated to the UK since April 2021 is:

Prior to Op PITTING	1,978
During Op PITTING	Approximately 5,000
Since Op PITTING	674

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-15/93704>

*Information about the Afghan Relocations Assistance Policy, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy-information-and-guidance>

### **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**Paul Blomfield (Labour)** [93753] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether Afghans relocated to the UK under the ARAP scheme including Locally Employed Staff will count towards the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme allocation of 20,000.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** The Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) is separate from, and in addition to, the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP), which offers any current or former locally employed staff assessed to be under serious threat to life priority relocation to the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-15/93753>

*Information about the Afghan Relocations Assistance Policy, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy-information-and-guidance>*

*Information about the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>*

### **Afghanistan: Refugees**

**John Healey (Labour)** [93702] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, with reference to the Statement of changes to the Immigration Rules published on 14 December 2021, HC 913, if she will make a comparative assessment of roles that meet eligibility requirements for the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy scheme under (a) the criteria of furthering the UK's military and national security objectives and (b) previous ARAP criteria for assistance to locally employed staff.

**Reply from James Heapey:** The amendments to the immigration rules, as laid by the Home Secretary, are intended to ensure greater clarity and consistency for potential applicants, and that ARAP policy is reflected accurately. As such, there has been no substantive change in the ARAP eligibility criteria. Furthermore, the amended immigration rules will not apply retrospectively, and as such only applicants that have not yet undergone eligibility assessments will be assessed under the new rules.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-16/93702>

*The Statement of Changes to Immigration Rules referred to above can be read at [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1040408/E02701506\\_HC\\_913\\_Immigration\\_Rules\\_Web\\_Accessible\\_.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1040408/E02701506_HC_913_Immigration_Rules_Web_Accessible_.pdf)*

*Information about the Afghan Relocations Assistance Policy, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy-information-and-guidance>*

### **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**John Healey (Labour)** [93700] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Statement of Changes to the Immigration Rules, HC 913, published on 14 December 2021, whether changes made to the eligibility under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy scheme will apply retrospectively to Afghans who have been relocated to the UK already under the ARAP scheme.

**Reply from victoria Atkins:** The clarifications to the eligibility criteria for Category 4 of the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) will not apply retrospectively to Afghans who have already been relocated in the UK under the ARAP scheme. They will apply to any ARAP eligibility decisions made on or after 1600 hours on 14 December 2021.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-15/93700>

*Information about the Afghan Relocations Assistance Policy, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy-information-and-guidance>*

*The Statement of Changes to Immigration Rules referred to above can be read at [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1040408/E02701506\\_HC\\_913\\_Immigration\\_Rules\\_Web\\_Accessible\\_.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1040408/E02701506_HC_913_Immigration_Rules_Web_Accessible_.pdf)*

### **Afghanistan: Refugees**

**John Healey (Labour)** [93701] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, with reference to the Statement of Changes to the Immigration Rules, HC 913, published on 14 December 2021, how many successful Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy scheme applicants now in the UK would have been (a) successful and (b) unsuccessful under the new eligibility criteria for the ARAP scheme.

**Reply from James Heapey:** The amendments to the immigration rules, as laid by the Home Secretary, are intended to ensure that the ARAP policy is correctly reflected in those rules and to ensure greater clarity and consistency for potential applicants. The amended eligibility criteria will not apply retrospectively, and as such only applicants that have not yet undergone eligibility assessments will be assessed under the new criteria.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-15/93701>

*Information about the Afghan Relocations Assistance Policy, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy-information-and-guidance>*

*The Statement of Changes to Immigration Rules referred to above can be read at [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1040408/E02701506\\_HC\\_913\\_Immigration\\_Rules\\_Web\\_Accessible\\_.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1040408/E02701506_HC_913_Immigration_Rules_Web_Accessible_.pdf)*

*The following four questions all received the same answer*

### **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**Dan Jarvis (Labour)** [94393] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the correspondence of 14 December 2021 from the Minister for Safe and Legal Migration to the hon. Member for Barnsley Central on Changes to the Immigration Rules for the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy, what assessment her Department has made of the potential impact of changes to the eligibility criteria on the number of Afghans seeking asylum in the UK by illegal and unsafe routes.

**Dan Jarvis (Labour)** [94394] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the correspondence of 14 December 2021 from the Minister for Safe and Legal Migration to the hon. Member for Barnsley Central on Changes to the Immigration Rules for the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy, what assessment her Department has made of the potential impact of changes to the eligibility criteria on Afghan nationals at risk due to the security threat level in Afghanistan.

**Dan Jarvis (Labour)** [94395] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the correspondence of 14 December 2021 from the Minister for Safe and Legal Migration to the hon. Member for Barnsley Central on Changes to the Immigration Rules for the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy, if her Department will publish the evidence for the decision to introduce the new changes to the eligibility criteria; and if she will make a statement.

**Dan Jarvis (Labour)** [94396] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the correspondence of 14 December 2021 from the Minister for Safe and Legal Migration to the hon. Member for Barnsley Central on Changes to the Immigration Rules for the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy, what assessment she has made of the impact those changes will have on the number of places remaining on the first round of the Afghan citizens resettlement scheme as of 16 December 2021.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Government made changes to the Immigration Rules for the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) on 14 December 2021.

The changes made do not reflect substantive changes to the eligibility criteria, but rather provide much needed clarity on who is eligible for relocation under the scheme. The situation in Afghanistan has changed significantly since the original Rules were drafted and it had become necessary to update them to reflect the reality of those seeking to come to the UK and the number of outstanding applications.

We continue to make efforts to get those who remain in Afghanistan back to the UK, as well as encouraging those we might not be aware of the scheme to come forward. We do not anticipate the changes will result in significantly fewer people being granted status under the ARAP, but they will assist decision makers in identifying those applications which fall for refusal and in explaining those refusals.

The changes to the Rules also include removing the requirement for dependents to be an Afghan national. This will make it possible for families to relocate together when the spouse, partner or children are a different nationality to the lead ARAP applicant.

For those who are not eligible, there may be other options such as the forthcoming Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS). This scheme will operate alongside ARAP. The changes to the ARAP Rules will not affect the number of places available on the ACRS and, given the safe and legal routes available, we do not expect them to result in an increase in the number of people attempting to enter the UK by illegal routes.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-16/94393>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-16/94394>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-16/94395>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-16/94396>

*The correspondence referred to above is not available online*

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

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1040408/E02701506\\_HC\\_913\\_Immigration\\_Rules\\_Web\\_Accessible\\_.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1040408/E02701506_HC_913_Immigration_Rules_Web_Accessible_.pdf)

*Information about the Afghan Relocations Assistance Policy, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy-information-and-guidance>

*Information about the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>

### **Afghanistan: Refugees**

**Brendan O'Hara (SNP)** [94404] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many and what proportion of applications to the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy received since that scheme was established had, as at 16 December 2021, received an individual follow up email to indicate that (a) they were eligible, (b) that their case was being further investigated to assess eligibility, (c) that they were not considered eligible to apply, (d) that their application was incomplete or (e) that it was a duplicate application which would not be further considered.

**Reply from James Heappey:** The ARAP Scheme has been one of the most generous in the world, under which circa. 1,300 Locally Employed Staff (LES) have been relocated to the UK since April; and Casework continues seven days a week to process circa. 99,000 applications.

All applications receive an email confirming receipt; and further correspondence, including the issuing of an application reference number is triggered once the team begin initial triaging of an application. Where applications are found to be

incomplete, applicants are contacted by caseworkers; however, this is an ongoing dialogue with applicants for which instances are not tracked. A large number of applications are sifted out at an early stage of the process, for example because they are duplicates or incomplete. Therefore, the Department does not keep records of every application that is ruled out.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-16/94404>

*Information about the Afghan Relocations Assistance Policy, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy-information-and-guidance>*

### **Immigration: Afghanistan**

**Imran Hussain (Labour)** [96904] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people from Afghanistan have been granted Limited Leave to Remain (LLR) since 2001; and how many people with LLR from Afghanistan are in the UK.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Home Office publishes data on grants of limited leave to remain (extensions) in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release' on GOV.UK:

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

Data on Afghan nationals granted an extension (Limited Leave to Remain (LLR)) from 2010 are published in table Exe\_D01 of the [managed migration detailed datasets](#). The published data on extensions exclude cases decided under asylum rules. Earlier extensions data can be found in the [Control of Immigration: Statistics, United Kingdom](#) publications. These were published in the form of a Command Paper until 2006 and as an online bulletin between 2007 and 2009. Please note that prior to 2006, Afghan nationals were included in the 'Remainder of Asia' but not identified separately in the data.

Data on Asylum applications, initial decisions and resettlement are published in [asylum table Asy\\_D01](#) in the Immigration Statistics release.

Information is not available on the number of people with LLR from Afghanistan that are in the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-04/96904>

### **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**Jonny Mercer (Conservative)** [90917] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when each Afghan national who arrived in the UK under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy, Operation Pitting and the Afghan citizens resettlement scheme will be awarded Indefinite Leave to Remain.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** In recognition of the urgency of the evacuation and the need to act quickly, the majority of those who entered the UK during the evacuation phase were granted limited leave to enter, usually for 6 months, with access to public funds and employment. This status is not a bar to them being permanently housed or to starting their life in the UK, including taking employment. The Home Office has now started the process to support all those currently in the UK with 6 months leave to apply for and be granted ILR. We will be providing support for the completion of application forms, which will be required to ensure we obtain up to date personal information and to obtain the necessary biometric resident permit consent. Our aim is to conclude this process before anyone's leave expires.

Communications have been issued advising individuals of next steps to progress permanent residence in the UK. Amongst the information provided, those communications confirm individuals' rights to employment and to access services (e.g. medical treatment, school places). They also provide links to guidance and information on how prospective employers and landlords can contact the Home



Office to confirm individuals' right to take employment and rented accommodation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-10/90917>

*Information about the Afghan Relocations Assistance Policy, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy-information-and-guidance>*

*Information about the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>*

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

### **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**Dan Jarvis (Labour)** [92946] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Afghans relocated to the UK under (a) Operation Pitting and (b) Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (i) have had their Indefinite Leave to Remain immigration status regularised and (ii) are still waiting.

**Dan Jarvis (Labour)** [92947] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure all Afghans relocated to the UK under Operation Pitting have their Indefinite Leave to Remain immigration status regularised within six months.

**Ruth Cadbury (Labour)** [96889] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether people arriving from Afghanistan with temporary leave to remain will have their status updated before their existing leave to remain expires.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins** [questions 92946 and 92947] **and Kevin Foster** [question 96889]: Those who entered were granted limited leave to enter with access to public funds and employment. This status is not a bar to them being permanently housed or to starting their life in the UK, including taking employment.

The Home Office has started the process to support those currently in the UK with 6 months leave to apply for and be granted Indefinite Leave to Remain. Our aim is to conclude this process before individuals' leave to remain expires.

Communications have been issued advising individuals of next steps to progress permanent residence in the UK. They also provide links to guidance and information on how prospective employers and landlords can contact the Home Office to confirm individuals' right to take employment and rented accommodation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-14/92946>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-14/92947>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-04/96889>

*Information about the Afghan Relocations Assistance Policy, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy-information-and-guidance>*

### **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**Ruth Cadbury (Labour)** [96891] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that individuals arriving from Afghanistan with temporary leave to remain can apply for indefinite leave to remain before their status expires.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Home Office has established a dedicated caseworking team, which is working jointly with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and the Ministry of Defence. This team will contact all those who arrived to discuss their leave arrangements and ensure they get the right form of leave.

Those who are here with limited leave under the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy can apply to convert this to indefinite leave to remain at any time before their

limited leave expires. This application is a free application and can be applied for online.

Details of the type of leave to be granted to those arriving from Afghanistan, and how they will be supported in obtaining that leave, can be found in the Afghanistan Resettlement and Immigration policy statement.

The policy statement can be viewed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghanistan-resettlement-and-immigration-policy-statement/afghanistan-resettlement-and-immigration-policy-statement-accessible-version#afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy>

Further information regarding Locally employed staff, can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-locally-engaged-staff>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-04/96891>

### **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**Dan Jarvis (Labour)** [92948] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what advice her Department is issuing to Afghan nationals relocated to the UK under (a) Operation Pitting and (b) Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy when their Indefinite Leave to Remain status is not regularised within six months.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** Following the policy statement, the Government published on 13 September, we will be working through the cases of those who have recently arrived from Afghanistan and are processing them in line with the published policy.

The Home Office is contacting those here in the UK under the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy and those moving onto the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme, in order to assist them to obtain Indefinite Leave to Remain status.

No one will be required to leave the United Kingdom, or be disadvantaged in any way, while we work through their cases.

More information can be found in the Afghanistan Resettlement and Immigration Policy Statement.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghanistan-resettlement-and-immigration-policy-statement/afghanistan-resettlement-and-immigration-policy-statement-accessible-version#afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-14/92948>

*Information about the Afghan Relocations Assistance Policy, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy-information-and-guidance>*

*Information about the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>*

### **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**Jonny Mercer (Conservative)** [90919] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps Afghan nationals who have settled in the UK under the (a) Ex-Gratia Scheme and (b) Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy scheme need to take to apply for relocation of additional family members in response to the security threat faced by those family members in Afghanistan.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** Individuals already settled in the UK under ARAP/EX-Gratia scheme seeking relocation for additional family members are required to apply under the additional family guidance via their original sponsoring department (MOD or FCDO). [Application For Relocation To The United Kingdom Under ARAP](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy-information-and-guidance)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-10/90919>

## Refugees: Afghanistan

**Catherine West (Labour)** [93839] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what plans he is developing to support local authorities to aid the transition to life in the UK for Afghan refugees.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** Councils who support people through the Afghanistan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) or Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) scheme will receive £20,520 per person, over three years, for integration support provision and other local costs, in addition to £4,500 for education per child, £850 for English Language courses per adult, and £2,600 for health provision per person. This funding will support councils to devise their own welcome programmes for new arrivals and the provision of services tailored to this group, which they are experts at and have long experience of - including via the Syrian programme plus welcoming many other migrant groups to live, work and settle in their areas.

We have also piloted a welcome week of learning sessions for residents encompassing life in Modern Britain, our values and laws, and sources of support. We are evaluating feedback from Afghans.

DLUHC has directly supported Afghan arrivals through setting up welcome weeks at bridging hotels and a [Welcome Pack](#). They aim to improve understanding of life in the UK, including on education, employment, health, language, law, safeguarding and cultural norms. Additionally, DLUHC has a team of Local Engagement leads dedicated to working with councils to help find homes and settle Afghan arrivals.

Other departments are providing support including liaison officers in hotels to answer questions; utilising Strategic Migration Partners who are experienced in helping arrivals settle into the UK; and supporting Afghan families onto Universal Credit or into work, finding GPs and schools and of course finding homes

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-15/93839>

*Information about the Afghan Relocations Assistance Policy, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy-information-and-guidance>*

*Information about the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>*

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Other Immigration and Asylum

### Immigration: Standards

**Valerie Vaz (Labour)** 84346] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the current backlog of cases for those seeking Leave to Remain in the UK as at 1 October 2021.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** UKVI are currently facing extremely high pressure globally and this has been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

To tackle this the Home Office is pursuing a programme of transformation and business improvement initiatives which will speed up decision making, reduce the time people spend in the system and reduce the numbers who are awaiting an interview or decision. This includes increasing the number of decision makers and providing improved training and career progression opportunities to aid retention of staff.

We are continuing to develop existing and new technology to help build on recent improvements such as digital interviewing and moving away from a paper-based system. We are streamlining and digitalising the case working process to enable

more effective workflow, appointment booking and decision-making.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-30/84346>

*The following four questions all received the same answer*

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Mark Hendrick (Labour Co-op) [90828]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the long-term impact on eligible EU citizens living in the UK who did not apply for EU settlement scheme from 1 July 2021.

**Mark Hendrick (Labour Co-op) [90829]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what advice is given to local authorities with regards to children in care who are eligible EU citizens who have not applied to the EU settlement scheme for the right to remain in the UK.

**Mark Hendrick (Labour Co-op) [90830]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the potential merits of automatically (a) enrolling in the EU Settlement Scheme or (b) granting citizenship to children under 18 who were born in the UK to parents from European member states.

**Mark Hendrick (Labour Co-op) [90831]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the long-term effects on children who did not apply to the EU settlement scheme before they turned 18.

**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.

The Home Office published non-exhaustive guidance on 1 April 2021 on what may constitute such reasonable grounds, to underpin a flexible and pragmatic approach to considering late applications to the EUSS in light of the circumstances of each case. The guidance refers, as an example of reasonable grounds, to where a parent, guardian or Local Authority has failed to apply on behalf of a child by the relevant deadline. The relevant guidance is now available at pages 32 to 50 here:

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

There are no plans to implement automatic enrolment to the EUSS for children under 18 who were born in the UK to parents from European Union member states. It is important all those eligible for the EUSS obtain the individual status under the scheme and the secure evidence of this which they will need to prove their rights in the UK for years to come, such a provision could also conflict with nationality law as a child born in the UK to an EU citizen will automatically be a British citizen if one of their parents was settled in the UK, for example by holding Settled Status under the EUSS, at the time of their birth.

In addition, a child of an EU citizen has an entitlement to registration as a British citizen if the parent becomes settled after the child's birth. The Home Office also introduced Regulations earlier this year to ensure a specific group of children, born between the end of the grace period on 30 June 2021 and their parent being granted settled status under the EUSS, will automatically be a British citizen. However, the basic position described above is the same for all children born in the UK: we do not intend to create a separate route to British citizenship for the children of EU citizens.

The Home Office continues to work closely with Local Authorities to monitor their progress in making applications to the EUSS on behalf of looked after children and care leavers and to ensure the EUSS remains a high priority in their work with that group. The latest survey indicates that, as of 30 November 2021, for children for whom the Local Authority has parental responsibility, 96% of those identified as eligible for the EUSS had so far had an application to the scheme made for them by the Local Authority. The full survey can be found at:

[EU Settlement Scheme: looked-after children and care leavers survey 2020 to 2021.](#)

To ensure information and assistance gets through to those who are hardest to reach, and no one is left behind, the Home Office has provided £25 million in grant funding through to 31 March 2022 to a network of 72 organisations across the UK, which includes local authorities and local government associations, working to help vulnerable people apply to the EUSS.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-10/90828>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-10/90829>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-10/90830>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-10/90831>

*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*

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

**Margaret Greenwood (Labour)** [94411] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the oral evidence of the Minister for Justice and Tackling Illegal Migration to the Home Affairs Committee on 17 November 2021, HC164, Qq 757, if she will publish the measures on implementing a policy of pushbacks in the channel; and what criteria operational commanders at sea will use to determine the appropriateness of deploying those measures.

**Margaret Greenwood (Labour)** [94412] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has received legal advice on the operation of a push-back policy for boats carrying illegal migrants in the English Channel; and what plans she has to implement a policy of pushing back those boats.

**Margaret Greenwood (Labour)** [94413] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent guidance she has given to the (a) Border Force and (b) maritime tactics team on operationalising tactics for pushing back boats carrying illegal migrants in the English Channel.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** Preventing the illegal entry of people to the UK in small boats is a priority for the Government. The turnaround tactics are one of a selection of tools to decrease the success rate of crossings and make the route less appealing to criminal facilitators, thereby saving lives.

Publishing details of the operational policy, the Border Force guidance and standard operating procedures, and the assessments which operational commanders use to determine when they should deploy the tactics would confer an advantage to organised criminal groups, giving them insight into how to counter or avoid the tactics.

The tactics will only be deployed when it is safe and legal to do so. We have received legal advice from leading counsel on the deployment of the tactics. We can confirm that the tactics are permitted under international and domestic law.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-16/94411>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-16/94412>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-16/94413>

*The transcript of the Home Office evidence session referred to above can be read at*

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/3008/html/>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Refugees: Sudan**

**Claire Hanna (SDLP)** [94564] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will extend the vulnerable persons relocation scheme to Sudanese refugees who are fleeing conflict.

**Claire Hanna (SDLP)** [94565] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will extend the global resettlement scheme to Sudanese refugees fleeing conflict.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) closed in February 2021, having completed our commitment to resettle 20,000 refugees. A total of 20,319 refugees were resettled under this scheme.

Following the completion of VPRS, the UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS) was launched in March 2021. The UKRS is a global scheme with a multi-year commitment to resettle vulnerable refugees in need of protection. Refugees are identified and referred for resettlement by the UN Refugee Agency, UNHCR.

Through the UKRS, we have expanded our geographical focus beyond the Middle East and North Africa to continue to offer safe and legal routes to the UK for some of the most vulnerable refugees around the world. This includes countries hosting Sudanese refugees.

Since 2015 we have resettled over 1,000 Sudanese and South Sudanese refugees across all of our resettlement schemes.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-16/94564>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-16/94565>

*Information about the UK Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1011824/Resettlement\\_Policy\\_Guidance\\_2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1011824/Resettlement_Policy_Guidance_2021.pdf)

### **Refugees: Sudan**

**Claire Hanna (SDLP)** [94566] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will consider prioritising asylum applications submitted by asylum seekers from Sudan who have recently in Northern Ireland to offer protection to those who have challenged the military regime in that country and their families.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** All asylum claims are considered on a case by case basis and in line with published policy. Claims by Sudanese nationals will be considered in the same way as claims from any other nationality.

We do not believe it is appropriate to prioritise claims from one nationality over another as many claimants, irrespective of nationality, are potentially vulnerable and no one is expected to leave the UK while they have a claim outstanding.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-16/94566>

### **Asylum: Detainees**

**Grahame Morris (Labour)** [92883] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, under what rules asylum seekers are detained in the UK.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** Information on our powers to detain are set out in our published Home Office Detention: General Instructions guidance on page 11.

This includes the power to detain for the purposes of initial examination under paragraph 16(1) of Schedule 2 to the 1971 Act and the power to detain for the purpose of removal under paragraph 16(2) of Schedule 2 to the 1971 Act.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-14/92883>

*The guidance referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/992285/detention-general-instructions-v1.0.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/992285/detention-general-instructions-v1.0.pdf)

### Asylum: Hotels

**Claire Hanna (SDLP) [93080]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to expediate her Department's processing of applications of asylum seekers housed in hotels.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** All asylum claims are considered on a case by case basis and in line with published policy.

We are currently concentrating on deciding older claims, cases with acute vulnerability and those in receipt of the greatest level of support, including Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children. Additionally, we are prioritising cases where an individual has already received a decision, but a reconsideration is required.

Alongside this we are investing in a programme of transformation and business improvement initiatives which will speed up decision making, reduce the time people spend in the asylum system and decrease the number of people who are awaiting an interview or decision. We have extensive recruitment and training plans in place, including career progression options that will aid the retention of staff.

We are continuing to develop existing and new technology to help build on recent improvements such as digital interviewing and move away from a paper-based system. We are streamlining and digitising the case working process to enable more effective workflow, appointment booking and decision-making. Additionally, we have introduced specialist Decision Making Units, providing greater ownership and management of cohorts of asylum cases.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-14/93080>

### Asylum: Hotels

**Claire Hanna (SDLP) [93078]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what additional facilities and services are in place to meet the needs of asylum seekers accommodated in hotels in Northern Ireland.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Our accommodation providers in Northern Ireland, Mears, work closely with Local Authorities to ensure asylum seekers are accommodated where shops, hospitals, places of worship and other facilities are within a manageable travelling distance.

The hotel accommodation provided is of a good quality. Asylum seekers receive three meals a day, with staggered mealtimes to cater for social distancing requirements and support meets all the current public health guidelines and our standards. All asylum seekers have access to a 24/7 AIRE (Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility) service provided for the Home Office by Migrant Help. Here asylum seekers can raise any concerns regarding accommodation or support services, and they can get information about how to obtain further support.

The Intercultural Education Service (IES) have developed interim education provision for families in contingency accommodation. They have recruited additional teaching staff, to help with planning and delivering this provision, now named 'The Welcome Club'. These teachers have been provided with additional training from IES to ensure an appropriate level of awareness around the needs of children within hotel accommodation. The Welcome Club will provide an educational provision for all young people living in hotel accommodation, ensuring a trauma informed and nurturing approach to the deliver.

In addition to the welcome club teachers have been delivering educational activities within the hotels since Mid-November. Families with school aged children are triaged for priority dispersal to enable school registration as soon as possible.

Furthermore, the NI New Entrants Service is triaging the contingency asylum population for health screening and GP registration. The NI Department of Health has recently reinforced the asylum population's eligible access to GPs, including

when in contingency accommodation and the NI British Red cross is assisting vulnerable service users in completing the registration process.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-14/93078>

### **Asylum: Hotels**

**Claire Hanna (SDLP)** [93079] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to source additional appropriate accommodation for asylum seekers in Northern Ireland.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The current global pandemic along with high intake presented us with significant challenges when it comes to the provision of asylum accommodation, including sourcing sufficient suitable accommodation to meet demand.

The use of hotels and wider government facilities is a short-term measure and we are working with our accommodation providers to move people to longer-term dispersal accommodation as soon as it becomes available. The Home Office is working closely with our asylum accommodation provider Mears, Local Authorities and Strategic Migration Partnerships to increase the amount of accommodation available for asylum seekers in Northern Ireland so we can eliminate the need for the use of contingency accommodation.

The Northern Ireland Strategic Migration Partnership works with local statutory partners such as the NI Housing Executive to consider procurement referrals within Belfast, taking into consideration any local service pressures, and has additional established a sub group to progress the widening of procurement out with Belfast to support increased, sustainable and supported procurement with the relevant local partners.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-14/93079>

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

### **Brook House Immigration Removal Centre**

**Grahame Morris (Labour)** [92881] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether any recent changes have been made to the reception criteria at Brook House Immigration Removal Centre.

### **Tinsley House Immigration Removal Centre**

**Grahame Morris (Labour)** [92882] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the current capacity is for Tinsley House Immigration Removal Centre.

**Grahame Morris (Labour)** [92884] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what additional capacity has been provided at Tinsley House Immigration Removal Centre in response to changes in the number of asylum seekers.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** The immigration removal estate is kept under ongoing review to ensure that the Home Office has sufficient capacity to detain for the purposes of removal, to protect the public and to provide value for money.

In order to support the management of the arrival of migrants, we have temporarily accommodated people under the provisions of the Short-term Holding Facilities (STHF) Rules 2018, in a small number of immigration removal centres (IRCs) including Tinsley House.

The normal operational capacity for Tinsley House IRC was increased on a temporary basis over the autumn in response to these changes. This temporary increase has now been removed and the centre has reverted to an operating capacity of 162.

Reception criteria at Brook House IRC is managed in line with the published Detention Services Order 03/2016 'Consideration of Detainee Placement in the Detention Estate'.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-14/92881>



and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-14/92882>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-14/92884>

*The Rules referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/721583/STHF-rules-operational-guidance-v1.0-EXT.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/721583/STHF-rules-operational-guidance-v1.0-EXT.pdf)

*The Order referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/523428/DSO\\_Consideration\\_of\\_Detainee\\_Placement.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/523428/DSO_Consideration_of_Detainee_Placement.pdf)

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

### **Pupils: Refugees**

**Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated)** [HL4916] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to reduce (1) school attainment gaps, and (2) exclusion rates, in refugee and asylum-seeking pupils.

**Reply from Baroness Barran:** The government is committed to its mission to provide a world-class education for all children, irrespective of their backgrounds. The pupil premium provides schools with additional money to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils, with £2.5 billion being distributed in the current financial year. The government has also announced an additional £1 billion for a recovery premium over the next two academic years (2022/23 and 2023/24), which will help schools deliver evidence-based approaches to support the most disadvantaged pupils.

There is no right number of suspensions or permanent exclusions. The department supports headteachers in using suspension and permanent exclusions as a sanction where it is warranted. We are clear that permanent exclusion should only be used as a last resort, and this should not mean exclusion from education.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-13/hl4916>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL4730] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to publish the number of individuals and families eligible for the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme.

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL4731] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many individuals have been processed by the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme to date; how many spaces are available for new referrals in 2022; and which organisations can make referrals to the scheme.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We are working across government and with partners such as UNHCR to design and open the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme amidst a complex and changing picture. We are committed to working in step with the international community to get this right, and we will set out more details soon.

The first to be resettled through the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme will be some of those who arrived in the UK under the evacuation programme, which included individuals who were considered to be at particular risk.

Information on the eligibility, prioritisation and referral of people for the ACRS is set out in the policy statement published on gov.uk on 13 September, available at gov.uk.

All figures for operational UK resettlement schemes are published quarterly on gov.uk.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-06/hl4730>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-06/hl4731>

*Information about the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>*

*The statement referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghanistan-resettlement-and-immigration-policy-statement>

*The statistics referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/asylum-and-resettlement-datasets>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**Baroness Northover (Liberal Democrat) [HL4903]** To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made with the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme; and when the scheme will open.

**Baroness Northover (Liberal Democrat) [HL4904]** To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme places have been allocated to those who have already evacuated to EU member states.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We are working across government and with partners such as UNHCR to design the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS), amidst a complex and changing picture. We are committed to working in step with the international community to get this right, and we will set out more details soon.

The first to be resettled through the ACRS will be some of those who arrived in the UK under the evacuation programme, which included individuals who were considered to be at particular risk.

The ACRS will be focused on people affected by events in Afghanistan, who are located in Afghanistan or in the region.

Eligible people will be prioritised and referred for resettlement to the UK as set out in the policy statement published on gov.uk on 13 September.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-13/hl4903>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-13/hl4904>

*The statement referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghanistan-resettlement-and-immigration-policy-statement>

*Information about the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>*

### **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL4721]** To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the implications for Afghan refugees who have been housed in 'bridging' hotels and have voluntarily moved to temporary accommodation as regards their (1) immigration status, and (2) long-term support.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Whether residing in bridging hotels or alternative temporary accommodation, Afghans who were evacuated to the UK will retain the same temporary grant of leave issued to them upon arrival in the UK and, upon fulfilment of caseworking criteria, will receive indefinite leave to remain.

Afghans who were evacuated to the UK during, and post, Operation Pitting will receive integration support appropriate to their individual circumstances.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-06/hl4721>

### **Asylum: Napier Barracks**

**Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour)** [HL4898] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many individuals are currently accommodated in Napier Barracks who indicated in their asylum screening interview or ASF1 form that they are (1) a victim of trafficking, (2) torture, or (3) suffering from mental health problems; and what is the total number of people who have been accommodated in Napier Barracks since April.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** All individuals accommodated at Napier meet the suitability criteria. This is assessed via service user's asylum screening interview, ASF1's and any supporting evidence submitted by the service user or their representative.

Individuals considered vulnerable under the Asylum Seekers (Reception Conditions) Regulations 2005 regulation 4(3) and/or those who have been referred to the National Referral Mechanism as potential victims of trafficking are not suitable to be accommodated at Napier. Further suitability criteria can be found at: Allocation of accommodation policy, on gov.uk. Asylum seekers allocated to the accommodation have full access to the advisory services provided by Migrant Help and are able to raise issues about their suitability to be accommodated at the site. According to local data held by Clearsprings Ready Homes, 1033 service users have been accommodated at Napier Barracks since 9<sup>th</sup> of April 2021.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-13/hl4898>

*The suitability criteria referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/990240/allocation-of-accommodation-v6.0-gov-uk.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/990240/allocation-of-accommodation-v6.0-gov-uk.pdf)

### **Napier Barracks: Coronavirus and Tuberculosis**

**Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour)** [HL4897] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Home Secretary has (1) received, and (2) is complying with, advice from the UK Health Security Agency, regarding (a) the ongoing use of Napier Barracks, (b) the current COVID-19 outbreak in Napier Barracks, and (c) the current cases of active tuberculosis in Napier Barracks.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We have not received any advice from UK Health Security Agency on the ongoing use of Napier however we continue to engage with UK Health Security Agency to ensure that COVID 19 is managed effectively on site.

I am not aware of any known COVID positive people at Napier.

There are no known cases of active tuberculosis at Napier, the one person identified by the NHS with active TB was, on the advice of UK Health Security Agency, moved to alternative accommodation on 14 December 21.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-13/hl4897>

### **Human Trafficking: Organised Crime**

**Lord Berkeley (Labour)** [HL4985] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the European Commission's proposed regulation 2021/0387 on measures against transport operators that facilitate or engage in trafficking in persons or smuggling of migrants, what assessment they have made of the effect the regulations could have on (1) air, (2) sea, (3) road, and (4) rail operators between the UK and the EU, particularly on the island of Ireland.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** There is a high level of cooperation on border security between both the UK and Irish Governments to ensure we are

taking all the necessary measures to protect and secure the Common Travel Area, this includes people travelling from Ireland to the UK.

The Home Office, Ireland's Garda National Immigration Bureau and Border Management Unit, the Police Service of Northern Ireland and other police forces work together to tackle abuse of the CTA by conducting intelligence-led checks and enforcement operations.

We continue to take a whole route approach in pursuing the crime groups who facilitate people smuggling to the UK and who exploit vulnerable migrants, knowingly putting people in life-threatening situations.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-15/hl4985>

*Information about the proposed Regulation referred to above can be read at*

[https://eur-lex.europa.eu/procedure/EN/2021\\_387](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/procedure/EN/2021_387)

## Press Releases

### **Biggest visa boost for social care as Health and Care Visa scheme expanded**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/biggest-visa-boost-for-social-care-as-health-and-care-visa-scheme-expanded>

### **Physical proof of status should be offered to EU citizens**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/physical-proof-of-status-should-be-offered-to-eu-citizens-1/>

### **Immigration health surcharge for EU and Swiss students in the UK**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-health-surcharge-for-eu-students-in-the-uk>

### **Home Office to introduce scientific methods for assessing the age of asylum seekers**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-office-to-introduce-scientific-methods-for-assessing-the-age-of-asylum-seekers>

### **Oral statement on the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/oral-statement-on-the-afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>

### **Afghan citizens resettlement scheme to open in January**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme-to-open-in-january>

### **Afghan citizens resettlement scheme**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>

### **First family resettled under Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/first-family-resettled-under-afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>

### **Operation Warm Welcome: progress update**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/operation-warm-welcome-progress-update>

## New Publications

**Physical proof of status for EU citizens: letter to Minister for Safe and Legal Migration**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/physical-proof-of-status-for-eu-citizens-letter-to-minister-for-safe-and-legal-migration/>

**Updated: Community Sponsorship Guidance for prospective sponsors**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1044335/Community-Sponsorship-Guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1044335/Community-Sponsorship-Guidance.pdf)

**An assessment of Independent Child Trafficking Guardians**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/an-analysis-of-independent-child-trafficking-guardians/an-assessment-of-independent-child-trafficking-guardians-accessible-version>

**Migration: Key Fundamental Rights Concerns 1.7.2021 to 30.9.2021**

[https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2021-12/fra-2021-migration-bulletin-3\\_en.pdf](https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2021-12/fra-2021-migration-bulletin-3_en.pdf)

## News: Channel Migrants

**Channel migrants: Crossing numbers in 2021 triple 2020's figure**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-59861376>

**Three times as many migrants crossed Channel in 2021 than previous year**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/12/31/three-times-many-migrants-crossed-channel-2021-previous-year/>

**Record year sees more than 28,300 people cross English Channel to the UK**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/government-english-channel-people-france-home-office-b1986159.html>

**Nearly 30,000 small boat migrants cross Channel this year**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/nearly-30-000-migrants-cross-channel-in-small-boats-in-2021-wt62c8xqz>

**Group of at least 66 migrants are first to cross English Channel in 2022**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/01/05/group-least-66-migrants-first-cross-english-channel-2022/>

**At least 66 people arrive in Kent after first Channel boat crossings of 2022**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jan/04/at-least-66-people-arrive-in-kent-after-first-channel-boat-crossings-of-2022>

**Group of 66 migrants become first to cross English Channel in 2022**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/english-channel-crossing-migrants-kent-b1987206.html>

**First Channel migrants of 2022 shout 'UK, we love you'**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/first-channel-migrants-of-2022-shout-uk-we-love-you-gtmncrgk2>

**67 people cross English Channel on Christmas Day**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/19809092.67-people-cross-english-channel-christmas-day/>

**Channel migrants tragedy: Terrifying final hours of their fatal journey**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/resources/idt-b7bd2274-88b1-4ef9-a459-be22e180b52c>

**'Good anti-sinking capacity, lifejacket optional': journey of a 'refugee boat'**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/dec/28/good-anti-sinking-capacity-lifejacket-optional-journey-of-a-refugee-boat>

**Channel migrants: Court of Appeal overturns asylum seeker convictions**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-59742349>

**Court of Appeal finds Channel boat crossings by asylum seekers not illegal as convictions quashed**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/channel-boat-crossings-illegal-appeal-b1980109.html>

**Convictions quashed for men who drove dinghies across Channel**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/dec/21/convictions-quashed-for-men-who-drove-dinghies-across-channel>

**Four men jailed for bid to smuggle 69 migrants into UK on converted fishing boat**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/chelmsford-crown-court-sweden-north-sea-belgium-uk-border-force-b1980190.html>

**Home Office triggered unlawful prosecutions by hunting down asylum seekers who steered Channel boats**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/channel-crossings-unlawful-prosecutions-home-office-b1980960.html>

**Channel rescuers accused of manslaughter in migrant deaths**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/paris-britain-english-channel-french-utopia-b1979470.html>

**British and French rescue services may be charged with manslaughter over channel migrant drownings**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world-news/2021/12/20/british-french-rescue-services-may-charged-manslaughter-channel/>

**Brussels accused of 'aiding' people smugglers by opening camp for UK-bound migrants**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world-news/2021/12/31/brussels-accused-aiding-people-smugglers-opening-camp-uk-bound/>

**Cross-Channel asylum seekers could be tagged under Home Office plans**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/dec/23/cross-channel-asylum-seekers-could-be-tagged-under-home-office-plans>

**Channel migrants may get electronic tags as asylum claims are processed**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/channel-migrants-may-get-electronic-tags-as-asylum-claims-are-processed-kgxhq2lhq>

**Archbishop of Canterbury calls for compassion for Channel migrants**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-59787329>

**Archbishop of Canterbury urges compassion for migrants who ‘arrive on the beaches’**  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/justin-welby-archbishop-canterbury-mary-joseph-b1982189.html>

**English Channel: UK needs to be more humane in its attitude towards refugees crossing from France**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/english-channel-uk-needs-to-be-more-humane-in-its-attitude-towards-refugees-crossing-from-france-scotsman-comment-3514918>

**Why we risked death to reach Britain**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/why-we-risked-death-to-reach-britain-9nrsc02ts>

## News: Afghanistan

**New scheme aims to resettle 20,000 Afghans in UK**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-59901798>

**Afghan resettlement scheme to finally open in January**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/19805917.afghan-resettlement-scheme-finally-open-january/>

**Long-awaited Afghan resettlement scheme grants leave to remain to first family**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/long-awaited-afghan-resettlement-scheme-grants-leave-to-remain-to-first-family-3517739>

**Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme – Scottish Refugee Council update**

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme-update/>

**Failure to create safe routes ‘forcing Afghans to make perilous journeys to UK’**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/dec/20/failure-create-safe-routes-forcing-afghans-make-perilous-journeys-uk>

**Home Office ‘failing to prioritise most vulnerable Afghans’ in resettlement scheme**

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2022/jan/06/home-office-failing-to-prioritise-most-vulnerable-afghans-in-resettlement-scheme>

**12,000 Afghan refugees to start new year stuck in UK hotels**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/dec/28/12000-afghan-refugees-to-start-new-year-stuck-in-uk-hotels>

**Thousands of Afghans still living out of hotel rooms five months after the fall of Kabul**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/01/02/thousands-afghans-still-living-hotel-rooms-five-months-fall/>

**Duke of Cambridge: I was frustrated we could not get more refugees out of Afghanistan**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/royal-family/2022/01/03/duke-cambridge-frustrated-could-not-get-refugees-afghanistan/>

**Prince William expresses ‘frustration’ over failure to evacuate more from Afghanistan**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/duke-of-cambridge-expresses-frustration-over-failure-to-evacuate-more-from-afghanistan-rt3np5ppn>

## **The Afghans building a new life in the Hebrides**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-59727414>

## **I'm an Afghan refugee studying in the UK – here are the challenges I face**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/afghanistan-asylum-seeker-university-student-b1985538.html>

## **News: Other Immigration and Asylum**

### **Social care: Immigration rules to be relaxed to recruit staff**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-59785227>

### **Care workers to be added to shortage occupation list**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/care-workers-government-migration-advisory-committee-department-of-health-and-social-care-sajid-javid-b1982080.html>

### **Immigration rules relaxed for care workers amid industry shortage**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/immigration-rules-relaxed-for-care-workers-amid-industry-shortage-gkz92wps2>

### **Helping qualified refugees come in from the cold and find a career**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/helping-qualified-refugees-come-in-from-the-cold-and-find-a-career-6mh63sc5g>

### **'The need is still there': last young refugees arrive in UK as family reunion route closes**

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2021/dec/22/last-young-refugees-arrive-in-uk-as-family-reunion-route-closes>

### **'Absurd situation' as more illegal migrants with fake identities caught, but prosecutions plummet**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/01/04/absurd-situation-illegal-migrants-fake-identities-caught-prosecutions/>

### **Traffickers are sending of child refugees to Britain**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/traffickers-are-sending-of-child-refugees-to-britain-kdb58zqqh>

### **Number of migrants falsely claiming to be children triples in a year**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/12/27/number-migrants-falsely-claiming-children-triples-year/>

### **Home Office looking at scientific methods to determine age of asylum seekers**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-office-priti-patel-xrays-home-secretary-ct-scans-b1987264.html>

### **Priti Patel to employ X-rays to stop asylum seekers posing as children**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/priti-patel-to-employ-x-rays-to-stop-asylum-seekers-posing-as-children-d0j6p95x0>

### **Thousand migrants claim they are children to secure asylum**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/thousand-migrants-claim-they-are-children-to-secure-asylum-dxh5ng2d0>



**Number of refugees granted asylum in Scotland grinds to a halt**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/number-of-refugees-granted-asylum-in-scotland-grinds-to-a-halt-3511840>

**New Fols reveals chronic slowness of the UK's asylum system**

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/new-fois-reveals-chronic-slowness-of-the-uks-asylum-system/>

**Refugees in Scotland: 'We just want to be together again and live as a happy family'**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/refugees-in-scotland-we-just-want-to-be-together-again-and-live-as-a-happy-family-3511613>

**Asylum seekers: The homes where ceilings have fallen in**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/traffickers-are-sending-of-child-refugees-to-britain-kdb58zqqh>

**Cost of supporting asylum seekers doubles in 3 years**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/cost-of-supporting-asylum-seekers-doubles-in-3-years-cb3dt8scc>

**Asylum-seeking children in UK at risk of self-harm and suicide, charities warn**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/dec/23/asylum-seeking-children-in-uk-at-risk-of-self-harm-and-suicide-charities-warn>

**Lord Dubs: 'Someone has to speak up for people who risk their lives coming here'**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/lord-dubs-someone-has-to-speak-up-for-people-who-risk-their-lives-coming-here-pqrf5k9tg>

**Kindertransport Britons urge UK to reopen safe routes for refugees**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/dec/30/kindertransport-britons-urge-uk-to-reopen-safe-routes-for-refugees>

**Calls for safe routes to UK as arrivals by small boat treble in a year**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/jan/04/calls-for-safe-routes-to-uk-as-arrivals-by-small-boat-treble-in-a-year>

**Suicidal asylum seekers subjected to 'dangerous' use of force by guards at detention centre**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/dec/26/suicidal-asylum-seekers-subjected-to-dangerous-use-of-force-by-guards-at-detention-centre>

**Teenage refugee takes own life after 'opportunities lost' to help him, inquest finds**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/alexander-tekle-refugee-teenage-asylum-seeker-uk-b1988942.html>

**Nationality and Borders Bill: Why is it causing protests?**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/newsbeat-59651523>

**Revealed: just 7% of trafficking victims given leave to remain in UK**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/jan/04/trafficking-victims-leave-to-remain-uk-data>

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## Community Relations

### New Publication

#### **Tackling Prejudice and Building Connected Communities Action Plan – Overview of Implementation**

<https://tinyurl.com/562hxrfb>

### News

#### **Why I'm proud to be black and Jewish**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-59748260>

TOP

## Equality

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

#### **Evictions: Ethnic Groups**

**Mark Hendrick (Labour Co-op) [94299]** To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what assessment he has made of the prevalence of potential racial disparities in eviction cases brought by private landlords against Black British people.

**Reply from Eddie Hughes:** It is unlawful for a landlord to seek to end a tenancy based on an individual's ethnicity, or any other protected characteristic.

As private landlords are not required to record when they serve a notice of possession, it is not possible to break down the volume of notices served by ethnicity. Upon the expiry of a possession notice, a landlord can make a claim for possession in the county court if the tenant does not vacate the property. Landlords are not required to record the ethnicity of the tenant(s) against whom they are making a claim.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-16/94299>

### UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

#### **Police: Equality**

**Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL5032]** To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to increase the recruitment of black police officers.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government is clear that the police uplift is a once in a generation opportunity to increase the diversity of police officers in England and Wales. This includes increasing the proportion of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic recruits.

It is encouraging to see that the proportion of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic officers is growing and is at its highest since comparable records began. There are now over 10,000 officers from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic background in forces across England and Wales however there is much more to be done and forces cannot be complacent.

Through the Police Uplift Programme, we are supporting all forces with a variety of attraction and recruitment strategies, whilst delivering a national campaign

designed to reach diverse audiences. Sharing best practice, engagement with police staff associations, upskilling recruitment teams and enhanced data capture are just some of the efforts being made to improve police diversity.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-15/hl5032>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Judges: Ethnic Groups**

**Lord Patten (Conservative)** [HL4973] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made, if any, of the number of lawyers from ethnic minorities who go on to become judges.

**Lord Patten (Conservative)** [HL4974] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many lawyers from ethnic minorities were appointed as judges in each of the years since 2015.

**Reply from Lord Wolfson of Tredegar:** The most recent 2021 Judicial Diversity statistics indicate that while the proportion of Asian and mixed ethnicity individuals in the judiciary has increased since 2014, the proportion of Black judges has stayed the same. On 9 December 2021, the Judicial Appointments Commission (JAC) published an Ad Hoc Analysis of Candidate Progression Through Judicial Selection Tools, which reported that in legal exercises, success rates for Black, Asian and minority ethnic candidates were lower, even when other significant factors were held constant. The JAC is leading further investigation into the types of professional pools from which legally qualified candidates are drawn and how this may be playing a part in the observed disparities.

The table below reports the number of applicants who declared they came from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds that the JAC recommended for judicial appointment in each financial year from 2015/16 onwards (data is not available by calendar year) and as a percentage of the overall recommendations. The figures are for legal judicial appointments and do not include any data on non-legal judicial appointments.

Financial year	Number of recommendations for judicial appointments (per financial year) that declared as coming from a Black, Asian and minority ethnic background	Percentage of all those recommended for judicial appointment who declared as coming from a Black, Asian and minority ethnic background
2015 – 2016	19	9%
2016 – 2017	9	6%
2017 – 2018	44	9%
2018 – 2019	81	11%
2019 – 2020	101	12%
2020 – 2021	46	14%

The total number of recommendations the JAC makes varies each year depending on which exercises are run.

Actual appointments rather than recommendations for appointment have only been reported since 2020. There were 21 new Black, Asian and minority ethnic lawyers appointed as judges in 2019/20 and 42 in 2020/21. There can be a time lag between JAC recommending candidates and the appointment being made. These numbers do not include judges that have moved office or been promoted in year and do not include appointments of non-legal tribunal members.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-14/hl4973>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-14/hl4974>

The Analysis referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/ad-hoc-analysis-of-judicial-diversity-statistics-2021/statistical-analysis-of-candidate-progression-through-judicial-selection-tools-1-april-2015-to-31-march-2021>

### **Prisoners: Ethnic Groups**

**Lord Bradley (Labour)** [HL4938] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people currently in prison self-describe their ethnicity as (1) black, (2) mixed race, (3) Asian, (4) white, and (5) Gypsy, Roma and Traveller, and are aged (a) 15–17, (b) 18–20, (c) 21–24, (d), 25–29, (e) 30–39, (f) 40–49, (g) 50–59, (h) 60–69, and (i) 70 and over.

**Reply from Lord Wolfson of Tredegar:** The attached table shows the numbers of prisoners aged (a) 15–17, (b) 18–20, (c) 21–24, (d), 25–29, (e) 30–39, (f) 40–49, (g) 50–59, (h) 60–69, and (i) 70 and over, broken down by ethnicity as (1) black, (2) mixed race, (3) Asian, and (4) white as of 30 June 2020.

There are no current plans to alter the ethnic groups for the regular quarterly published data on the prison population. The broad categories included in the information released are in line with current guidance from the Race Disparity Unit of the Cabinet Office.

Numbers self-designating as 'Irish Traveller or Gypsy' are published as part of a more detailed data set which is released annually as part of the series Offender Management Statistics Quarterly. The most recent release of this data formed part of the January to March 2021 issue, published in July 2021. Figures were included in Table A1.9ii of the Annual Prison Population: 2021 document. This showed that as of 30 June 2021, 1,365 prisoners self-designated as Irish Traveller or Gypsy. Of these, 1,337 were male and 28 were female.

[Table](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-14/hl4938>

## **New Publications**

**Justice - ethnicity research and data: community engagement summary**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/community-engagement-summary-justice-related-findings/>

**Justice - ethnicity research and data priorities: academic/researchers survey results**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/ethnicity-justice-research-data-priorities-survey-academics-researchers-results/>

**Which differences in ethnic group data are real?**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ethnicity-data-which-differences-in-ethnic-group-data-are-real/which-differences-in-ethnic-group-data-are-real>

## **News**

**SNP accused of failing to tackle race inequality in the workplace**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/snp-accused-of-failing-to-tackle-race-inequality-in-the-workplace-3spfgxr6p>

**More than half of UK's black children live in poverty, analysis shows**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jan/02/more-than-half-of-uks-black-children-live-in-poverty-analysis-shows>

## Poverty rates among black children double over past decade

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/poverty-rates-among-black-children-double-over-past-decade-0p78nx399>

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## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### Scottish Parliament Motion

**Sarah Boyack (Labour) [S6M-02700] Holocaust Memorial Day** – That the Parliament notes Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January; understands that, across Scotland, there will be multiple events organised to pay respect to those who lost their lives in the holocaust and subsequent genocides, and attempt to learn the lessons from humanity's dark past; notes that the Edinburgh Interfaith Association plans to hold a virtual event on 26 January and sends its best wishes to those who are attending, and encourages people across Scotland to consider the message of Holocaust Memorial Day, which includes that genocide does not just take place on its own, but that it is a steady process that can begin if discrimination, racism and hatred are not checked and prevented.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/votes-and-motions-search/S6M-02700>

### UK Parliament Debate

#### **Antisemitism: Bristol University**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-01-06/debates/32C6D7D4-4C53-40A5-A16C-756D55EDF359/AntisemitismBristolUniversity>

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Medical Equipment: Racial Discrimination**

**Mark Hendrick (Labour Co-op) [87593]** To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what estimate he has made of the number of deaths that could be attributed to racial bias in medical equipment during the covid-19 outbreak.

**Mark Hendrick (Labour Co-op) [87594]** To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to tackle racial bias in medical equipment.

**Reply from Edward Argar:** The Department has made no specific estimate. However, a review is being conducted to understand the nature of issues, inaccuracies and risk in existing devices, determine whether actions are necessary and analyse evidence on potential issues in oximeters. This will include an independent review to start next year.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-06/87593>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-06/87594>

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

**Matthew Offord (Conservative) [92144]** To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Communities and Local Government, if he will make an assessment of the potential merits of the Government adopting a definition of Islamophobia.

**Reply from Kemi Badenoch:** This Government remains committed to stamping out anti-Muslim hatred and all forms of religious prejudice. It is unacceptable for anyone to feel unsafe while practicing their religion and we continue to take a zero-tolerance approach to anti-Muslim hatred.

The adoption of a definition of Islamophobia by the Government remains under consideration.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-13/92144>

#### **Racial Discrimination: Islam**

**Anneliese Dodds (Labour)** [94509] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what her Department's policy is for (a) describing and (b) communicating incidences of racism targeting expressions of Muslimness or perceived Muslimness.

**Reply from Kemi Badenoch:** This Government remains committed to stamping out anti-Muslim hatred and all forms of religious prejudice. It is unacceptable for anyone to feel unsafe while practicing their religion and we continue to take a zero-tolerance approach to anti-Muslim hatred. The adoption of a definition of Islamophobia by the Government remains under consideration.

In 2020-21 DLUHC provided £1.8million in funding for the Faith, Race and Hate Crime Grant Scheme which supported established community groups and civil society organisations to run short projects that champion the Government's commitment to building a diverse and tolerant society for all faiths and races.

The Government's new Hate Crime Strategy will be published shortly and will build on the successes of the previous Action Plan in tackling all forms of hate crime.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-16/94509>

#### **Internet: Antisemitism**

**John Howell (Conservative)** [92857] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps her Department is taking to tackle antisemitism online, including on social media.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Services in scope of the draft Online Safety Bill will need to protect users from illegal abuse, including illegal antisemitic abuse. Services in scope which are likely to be accessed by children will need to protect them from harmful or inappropriate content.

Major platforms will also need to address legal but harmful content for adults. These companies will have to set out clearly what legal content is acceptable on their platforms and enforce their terms and conditions consistently and transparently. If platforms fail in their duties under the Bill, they will face tough enforcement action including fines of up to 10% of global annual qualifying turnover.

The draft Bill has been subject to pre-legislative scrutiny by a Joint Committee which reported its recommendations on 14 December. We are considering the Committee's report and will introduce the Bill as soon as possible.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-14/92857>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/jt5802/jtselect/jtonlinesafety/129/129.pdf>

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

### **Hate Crime**

**Baroness Deech (Crossbench)** [HL5039] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with OFCOM regarding guidance for (1) the BBC, and (2) other media organisations, concerning the (a) accuracy, and (b) sensitivity, of reporting of issues relating to hate crime.

**Reply from Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay:** Ofcom has long-standing broadcasting rules through its [Broadcasting Code](#), protecting against hate speech and prohibiting material likely to incite crime or lead to disorder, which apply to all broadcasters, including the BBC. Ofcom rules ensure that news, in whatever form, is reported with due accuracy and presented with due impartiality. Ofcom rules allow broadcasters to include hate speech in their output as long as it is justified by the context. Ofcom guidance also requires that broadcasters take into account sensitivity across the public and/or within communities.

Separate [rules](#) for video-on-demand services prohibit incitement to hatred. In November 2021 Ofcom updated its guidance further to protect users from harmful material. In August 2021, the Government launched a [consultation](#) to level the playing field between traditional broadcasters and video-on-demand streaming services, in order to provide a fair competitive framework and ensure that viewers in the UK receive equivalent standards. We are now considering our response to that consultation and will publish next steps in due course.

Ofcom's Video Sharing Platform [rules](#) require providers to take appropriate measures to protect against harmful material, including incitement to violence or hatred against particular groups of people.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-16/hl5039>

### **Antisemitism**

**Baroness Deech (Crossbench)** [HL5040] To ask Her Majesty's Government, following reports of intimidation of a group of Jewish youths on Oxford Street, London, on 29 November, what assessment they have made of antisemitism in the UK; and what steps they are taking to address this.

**Reply from Lord Greenhalgh:** Antisemitism has absolutely no place in our society, which is why we're taking a strong lead in tackling it in all its forms.

This year we have provided £14 million to the Protective Security Grant to provide safety for Synagogues and other Jewish Institutions. We are bringing forward the Online Safety Bill to address hatred that manifests online and we will be introducing a new Hate Crime Strategy in 2022.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-16/hl5040>

### **Antisemitism**

**Baroness Deech (Crossbench)** [HL5041] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to encourage UK media organisations to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism.

**Reply from Lord Greenhalgh:** Antisemitism has no place in our society and this Government remains absolutely committed to tackling it.

We became the first country to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism in 2016, and we continue to encourage organisations to take this important step in combatting this form of hatred. It is encouraging that, following the Government's encouragement, organisations such as the Premier League, the Football Association, over 80 universities and over three-quarters of councils have adopted the definition – demonstrating their willingness to support the Jewish community.

We will continue to encourage organisations and combat antisemitism in all its forms.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-16/hl5041>

## Press Releases

### **Equality and Human Rights Commission response to Yorkshire County Cricket Club's action plan**

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/our-response-yorkshire-county-cricket-clubs-action-plan>

### **Gay-marriage-cake case declared inadmissible**

<https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/app/conversion/pdf/?library=ECHR&id=003-7221182-9819040&filename=Decision%20%20Lee%20v.%20the%20United%20Kingdom%20-%20Gay-marriage-cake%20case%20declared%20inadmissible.pdf>

## New Publication

### **Excluded on the Frontline: Discrimination, Racism and Islamophobia in the NHS**

<https://muslimdoctors.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Exclusion-On-The-Front-line.pdf>

## News

### **Report highlights racism, discrimination towards Muslim NHS staff**

<https://tellmamauk.org/report-highlights-racism-discrimination-towards-muslim-nhs-staff/>

### **West Hamsptead anti-Semitic assault: Police issue CCTV after man attacked during Hanukkah**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-59776637>

### **Man injured in antisemitic attack in London during Hanukah**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/dec/24/man-injured-in-antisemitic-attack-in-london-during-hannukah>

### **Jewish leaders to confront BBC over 'colossal error' in anti-Semitic attack coverage**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/12/31/jewish-leaders-confront-bbc-colossal-error-anti-semitic-attack/>

### **BBC 'made colossal error' over report of antisemitic abuse on bus**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/bbc-made-colossal-error-report-bus-antisemitic-abuse-10lvszsv>

### **BBC must respond promptly over accusations of 'anti-Semitism', says Nadine Dorries**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/01/07/bbc-must-respond-promptly-accusations-anti-semitism-says-nadine/>

### **'Offensive' Black and White Minstrel Show features in BBC commemoration**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/01/03/offensive-black-white-minstrel-show-features-bbc-commemoration/>

### **BBC rancour over Black and White Minstrels**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/bbc-rancour-black-and-white-minstrels-racism-lenny-henry-5kgs7ndxq>



**Christian nurse forced out of job for 'infection risk' crucifix was unfairly dismissed, tribunal rules**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/01/05/christian-nurse-forced-job-infection-risk-crucifix-unfairly/>

**Nurse 'victimised' for wearing cross at work was unfairly dismissed, tribunal rules**

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2022/jan/05/nurse-victimised-for-wearing-cross-at-work-was-unfairly-dismissed-tribunal-rules>

**Ashers 'gay cake' case: European court rules case inadmissible**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-59882444>

**'Gay cake' row: man loses seven-year battle against Belfast bakery**

<https://www.theguardian.com/law/2022/jan/06/gay-cake-row-man-loses-seven-year-battle-against-belfast-bakery>

**Gay cake row: Discrimination case inadmissible, says European court**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/01/06/gay-cake-row-activist-has-discrimination-case-thrown-christian/>

**'Gay cake' legal challenge thrown out by European Court of Human Rights**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/gay-cake-ashers-bakery-court-ruling-b1987797.html>

**Herbert Berger: Top chef 'told worker to take off Sikh bangle'**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/herbert-berger-top-chef-told-worker-take-off-sikh-bangle-trial-xbh562vpw>

**Morris dancers ditch black face paint to avoid accusations of racism**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/12/27/morris-dancers-ditch-black-face-paint-avoid-accusations-racism/>

**Muslim hikers receive overwhelming support in response to racist comments**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/muslim-facebook-peak-district-coventry-serengeti-b1984068.html>

**Muslim Hikers: 'Racism won't stop us — the outdoors is for all'**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/muslim-hikers-racism-wont-stop-us-the-outdoors-is-for-all-x9rgtjt8>

**Alleged racism at Yorkshire CCC probably unlawful, watchdog finds**

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2021/dec/21/alleged-racism-yorkshire-county-cricket-club-equality-human-rights-commission>

**Man who racially abused footballer Yannick Bolasie online is jailed**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-59897709>

**Man jailed for online racist abuse of footballer Yannick Bolasie**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/yannick-bolasie-kirkcaldy-fife-courts-dr-congo-b1987951.html>

**New UK law means online racist abusers could face 10-year bans from football**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2021/dec/26/new-uk-law-means-online-racist-abusers-could-face-10-year-bans-from-football>

**Government to include online racism in football banning orders**  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/courts-government-people-police-boris-johnson-b1982512.html>

**FA investigates alleged racist abuse during Leeds' home match with Arsenal**  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/leeds-gunners-gabriel-martinelli-mikel-arteta-marcelo-bielsa-b1978939.html>

**Leeds suspend fan suspected of racist abuse towards Arsenal player as investigation continues**  
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/football/2021/12/18/premier-league-launches-investigation-arsenal-players-report/>

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## Other Scottish Parliament and Government

### Press Releases

**First Minister's New Year message**  
<https://twitter.com/scotgov/status/1476885853628600320>

**First Minister's Christmas message**  
<https://twitter.com/scotgov/status/1474334088014315520>

**Deputy First Minister condemns 'irresponsible' attack on human rights**  
<https://www.gov.scot/news/dfm-condemns-irresponsible-attack-on-human-rights/>

### News

**'Serious failings' at watchdog overseeing MSPs conduct**  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-59732189>

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## Other UK Parliament and Government

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

#### Forced Marriage

**Jim Shannon (DUP) [92940]** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps he is taking to (a) tackle and (b) bring forward tougher legislation on predatory marriage.

**Reply from James Cartlidge:** The Government takes the issue of protecting the vulnerable, including the elderly, from being taken advantage of extremely seriously.

The Law Commission is working on two major law reform reviews commissioned by

the Government which are relevant to our developing reform proposals in relation to predatory marriage. One is in relation to the law of weddings the other on the law of wills.

Both projects have been exploring potential proposals to provide improved protection for vulnerable people, and we will review the case for reform when we have received the reports and recommendations from the Law Commission.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-14/92940>

Information about the two reviews referred to above can be read at

<https://www.lawcom.gov.uk/project/weddings/>

and

<https://www.lawcom.gov.uk/project/wills/>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

### Female Genital Mutilation

**Lord Berkeley of Knighton (Crossbench)** [HL4929] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of female genital mutilation in England.

**Reply from Lord Kamall:** NHS Digital's Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Enhanced Dataset collects data on women and girls with FGM being cared for by the National Health Service in England. The latest data shows that in the period April 2020 to March 2021 there were 5,395 individual women and girls with an attendance where FGM was identified.

The total number of individual women and girls with an attendance where FGM was identified has been relatively stable this year but remains reduced in comparison to total attendances and individuals recorded for the previous year.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-14/hl4929>

The dataset referred to above can be read at

<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/female-genital-mutilation>

## Press Releases

**Prime Minister's New Year message**

<https://twitter.com/BorisJohnson/status/1476833180745355265>

**Prime Minister's Christmas message**

<https://twitter.com/BorisJohnson/status/1474288744094183428>

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## Health Information: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

### NHS

#### Coronavirus helpline

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

### **NHS Inform (Scotland)**

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

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

### **Book a flu or coronavirus booster vaccination**

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

### **Get a record of your coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination status**

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/covid-19-vaccine/after-your-vaccine/get-a-record-of-your-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination-status>

### **Protect-Scot contact tracing app**

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

### **Healthcare for refugees and asylum seekers**

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **Scottish Government Press Releases**

### **Vaccination vital as Omicron remains a threat**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/vaccination-vital-as-omicron-remains-a-threat/>

### **COVID vaccine for 12-15 year olds**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/covid-vaccine-for-12-15-year-olds/>

### **Progress for booster programme**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/progress-for-booster-programme/>

### **Omicron restrictions take effect**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/omicron-restrictions-take-effect/>

### **Further measures needed to reduce contacts**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/further-measures-needed-to-reduce-contacts/>

## **Scottish Government Publications**

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

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

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

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

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's statement – 5 January 2022**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-statement-5-january-2022/>

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: First Minister's statement - 29 December 2021**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/first-minister-update/>

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's statement – 21 December 2021**

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

### **Updated Guidance**

#### **Coronavirus (COVID-19): staying safe and protecting others**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-staying-safe-and-protecting-others/>

#### **Coronavirus (COVID-19): Test and Protect**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-test-and-protect/>

#### **Coronavirus (COVID-19): getting tested in Scotland**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested/>

#### **Coronavirus (COVID-19): face coverings and masks**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-public-use-of-face-coverings/>

#### **Book a coronavirus booster vaccination**

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

#### **Coronavirus (COVID-19): safe use of places of worship**

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

## **UK Government Press Releases**

### **Boosters continue to provide high levels of protection against severe disease from Omicron in older adults**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/boosters-continue-to-provide-high-levels-of-protection-against-severe-disease-from-omicron-in-older-adults>

### **All adults in England offered COVID-19 booster vaccine**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-adults-in-england-offered-covid-19-booster-vaccine>

### **More than 90% of people receive first dose of COVID-19 vaccine**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-than-90-of-people-receive-first-dose-of-covid-19-vaccine--2>

### **UK marks 132 million life-saving COVID-19 vaccinations in 2021**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-marks-132-million-life-saving-covid-19-vaccinations-in-2021>

## UK Government Publications

### The R value and growth rate

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

### PM statement to the House of Commons on COVID-19: 5 January 2022

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-to-the-house-of-commons-on-covid-19-5-january-2022>

### PM opening statement at COVID-19 press conference: 4 January 2022

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-opening-statement-at-covid-19-press-conference-4-january-2022>

## News

### Covid in Scotland: Nicola Sturgeon warns case numbers will rise

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-59812661>

### Covid in Scotland: Another record high number of infections

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-59817793>

### Covid: UK incomparably better placed this New Year - PM

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-59834667>

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## Other News

### Halal meat: Up to 99 million animals 'needlessly slaughtered without stunning' every year

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/halal-no-stun-meat-animal-muslim-kosher-b1981575.html>

### The stark reality facing Wales' Jewish community

<https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/stark-reality-facing-wales-jewish-22498201>

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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>

Joint Committee on Human Rights report: Legislative Scrutiny: Nationality and Borders Bill (Part 5)—Modern slavery

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/8328/documents/84688/default/>

Second Reading, House of Lords

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-01-05/debates/5565C246-FDC7-4A38-86E8-52825DE21125/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

**Draft Northern Ireland Refugee Integration Strategy** (closing date 21 February 2022)

<https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/consultations/draft-refugee-integration-strategy>

## **\*\* Review of the operation of the Public Sector Equality Duty in Scotland**

(closing date 7 March 2022)

<https://tinyurl.com/2hpz9wu9>

**Fearless Scotland – National Youth Survey** (closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/fearless-Scotland>

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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

### **Scotland's Winter Festivals 2021/2022 Small Grants Fund**

*closing date: 17 January 2022*

Scottish Government / BEMIS grants of up to £2,000 are available to constituted, charitable and non-profit organisations or community groups to host an event for Burns Night. Scotland's Winter Festivals aim to mobilise the people of Scotland and those with an affinity to Scotland to join in the Burns Night celebrations. Our diverse ethnic and cultural minority communities are key elements of Scotland's past, present and future so BEMIS want to ensure that your story, history, and narrative plays a full part in Scotland's Winter Festivals. For information and to apply, see <https://bemis.org.uk/swf/>

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## **Events, Conferences, and Training**

\*\* new or updated this week

**\*\* this week!**

### **Workshop for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Campaigners**

8 January 2022 (online, 10.00–4.00)

Friends, Families and Travellers workshop for Gypsy, Roma, Traveller, and nomadic people regardless of ethnicity, culture or background who want to build their skills in activism and campaigning. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y2pccu45>

**\*\* this week!**

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

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**

19 January 2022 (online, 10.00–12.30)



9 March 2022 (online, 10.00–12.30)

PAiH course to explore how the asylum system works from the perspective of a claimant and the process involved in making a claim for asylum. The course will also explore the barriers faced by both refugees and asylum seekers building a new life in Scotland and their respective entitlement to services. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/24ba4stk>

### **No Recourse to Public Funds**

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>

### **One Day: National Holocaust Memorial Day, Scotland**

26 January 2022 (online, 6.00–7.00)

Official National Holocaust Memorial Day Event for Scotland to pay respects to those who lost their lives in the Holocaust and subsequent genocides, and attempt to learn the lessons from humanity's dark past. The program will include contributions from Holocaust survivor Henry Wuga, Rwandan genocide survivor Eric Eugene Murangwa, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, and Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government Shona Robison. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2p8fv445>

### **Light the Darkness: UK Holocaust Memorial Day 2022**

27 January 2022 (Glasgow and online, 6.30–8.30)

Households across the UK will be lighting candles and safely putting them in their windows to remember those who were murdered for who they were, and stand against prejudice and hatred today. Join Interfaith Scotland either in person or online for a film screening of the UK-wide commemorative event, candle lighting ceremony, and, for those participating in person, light refreshments. For information about the in-person event see <https://tinyurl.com/3ftrje99> and about the online event see <https://tinyurl.com/mr3whtbf>

### **Refugees: Asylum and Resettlement**

3 and 4 February 2022 (online, 11.30–3.30 both days)

29 and 30 March 2022 (online, 11.30–3.30 both days)

16 and 17 June 2022 (online, 11.30–3.30 both days)

6 and 7 September 2022 (online, 11.30–3.30 both days)

27 and 28 October 2022 (online, 11.30–3.30 both days)

Scottish Refugee Council 2-day course drawing on the experiences of people seeking asylum and people who have been resettled in the UK, to examine why people might need to flee their own country, how they seek asylum in the UK, and what opportunities exist for rebuilding their lives here in the UK. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/jd2tey6w>

### **Supporting Refugee Integration**

15 and 16 February 2022 (online, 1.00–4.30 both days)

28 and 29 April 2022 (online, 1.00–4.30 both days)

11 and 12 October 2022 (online, 1.00–4.30 both days)

15 and 16 December 2022 (online, 1.00–4.30 both days)

Scottish Refugee Council 2-day course to enable participants to understand the principles of a refugee-led integration framework, understand how dependency is created and how to build on people's resilience, and feel confident to facilitate refugee-led integration effectively. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/ukvn5rs5>

### **Working with Interpreters**

15 and 16 March 2022 (online, 1.00–4.30 both days)

27 and 28 September 2022 (online, 1.00–4.30 both days)

24 and 25 November 2022 (online, 1.00–4.30 both days)

Scottish Refugee Council 2-day courses to enable participants to understand the legal context and qualifications governing interpreters in the EU, UK and Scotland, know the different types of interpreting, identify the differences between an interpreter and a bi-lingual support worker, and who to use when, and recognise when it is inappropriate to use a family member, a friend or a community member to interpret. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/puykxxnu>

### **Working with Unaccompanied Refugee Children**

21 and 22 April 2022 (online, 11.30–3.30 both days)

10 and 11 November 2022 (online, 11.30–3.30 both days)

Scottish Refugee Council 2-day course to enable participants to recognise the legal difference between children seeking asylum, children who have been trafficked, refugees and migrants, appreciate the journeys that children have made to be in the UK including being trafficked, understand the Age Assessment process, identify the rights and entitlements of separated children, and become familiar with the statutory responsibilities of the Scottish Guardianship Service. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/3fedr5xn>

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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>

**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>

TOP



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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