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Contents

[Immigration and Asylum](#)

[Equality](#)

[Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination](#)

[Other UK Parliament and Government](#)

[Health Information: Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

[Other News](#)

[Bills in Progress](#)

[Consultations](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

[Funding Opportunities](#)

[Events, Conferences, and Training](#)

[Useful Links](#)

[Back issues](#)

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

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Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Refugees

Dan Jarvis (Labour) [98300] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what financial support she is making available to Afghan nationals to cover living expenses, who have received their UK visa under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy but who are still waiting in a third-country as a result of travel restrictions.

Reply from James Cleverly: If they are not being supported by others, the UK, through its Embassies and High Commissions, is able to provide reasonable real-life support to ARAP-eligible Afghan nationals in a third country awaiting relocation to the UK. Such support could include, for example, safe board and lodging and essential or urgent medical care.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-05/98300>

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>

Asylum: Afghanistan

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [100571] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to expedite outstanding asylum applications from Afghan nationals who are in the UK.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The UK has a proud history of providing protection to those who need it, in accordance with our international obligations.

All asylum claims are considered on a case by case basis and in line with published policy. Claims by Afghan 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/2022-01-10/100571>

The following five questions all received the same answer

Refugees: Afghanistan

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [99037] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when year one of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme started.

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [99038] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the total number of (a) women and girls and (b) individuals from minority groups who have been resettled under the ACRS scheme as of 6 January 2022.

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [99039] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether there is a target for each of the three referral pathways under the Afghan Citizen Resettlement Scheme.

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [99040] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether persons who had made an application to the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy before criteria was changed in December 2021 will have their referrals rolled over to the Afghan citizens resettlement scheme.

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [99041] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of people in the UK who are eligible for resettlement under the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) will provide up to 20,000 women, children and others at risk with a safe and legal route to resettle in the UK over the coming years. The scheme opened on 6th January.

Further details on how the scheme will operate can be found in the policy statement on Afghanistan resettlement and immigration on 13 September and my statement to the House here:

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

As set out in September 2020, those eligible for the scheme include individuals evacuated during Operation Pitting.

The Government has already evacuated thousands of women and girls from Afghanistan - for example female judges, women's rights activists and a girls' football team. As each ACRS pathway opens, those at most risk, including women and children and minorities will continue to be prioritised. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNCHR) will refer refugees most at risk to the ACRS,

including women and girls as per their vulnerability criteria.

The Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) will continue to offer current or former locally employed staff who are assessed to be under serious threat to life priority relocation to the UK. During the first year the Government will offer ACRS places to the most at risk British Council and GardaWorld contractors, and Chevening alumni. These cohorts played a key role in supporting the UK mission in Afghanistan, and it is right that we honour our commitments to them.

In the first year of the ACRS the Government plans to exceed our initial aim to resettle 5,000 people. In addition to those already in the UK, we are working with the UNHCR to receive referrals of vulnerable refugees in need of protection in year 1 of the ACRS, and we will continue to receive referrals to the scheme in coming years. Beyond the first year of the ACRS, we will work with international partners and NGOs to welcome wider groups of Afghans most at risk.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-06/99037>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-06/99038>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-06/99039>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-06/99040>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-06/99041>

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

Dan Jarvis (Labour) [100556] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people evacuated under Operation Pitting will be included in the 5,000 people earmarked for resettlement in the UK in the first year of the Afghan Citizen Resettlement Scheme.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme opened on 6th January, providing up to 20,000 women, children and others at risk with a safe and legal route to resettle in the UK.

Due to the success of our emergency evacuation and the larger than anticipated number of people brought over to the UK, we plan to exceed our initial aim of 5,000 people in the first year of the ACRS.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-10/100556>

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

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [98267] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Afghans (a) have arrived in the UK in total under Operation Warm Welcome, (b) have arrived under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy scheme, (c) were British citizens, and (d) were neither British citizens or did not qualify under the Policy and will be allocated places under the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme since August 2021.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: C.15,000 people were evacuated from Afghanistan during Operation Pitting, with a further c.1,500 brought to the UK from neighbouring

countries since then.

We will not give a running commentary on statistics due to the continuing flow of people being welcomed. We will include this data within published resettlement statistics in 2022.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-05/98267>

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

Dan Jarvis (Labour) [98957] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many (a) applications, (b) requests, (c) referrals and (d) recommendations to the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy are pending as of 6 January 2022.

Reply from James Heapey: We owe a debt of gratitude to all Afghan nationals who risked their lives working alongside UK forces. As such, the ARAP Scheme has been one of the most generous relocation programmes in the world. It is not time-limited and will endure, facilitating the relocation of eligible Afghans and their families, from third countries if possible.

As of 5 January 2022, over 100,000 applications to the ARAP Scheme have been received. Of these, it is estimated that over 9,000 are currently pending a decision.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-06/98957>

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 following two questions both received the same answer

Afghanistan: Refugees

Dan Jarvis (Labour) [98958] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what the average time taken is to reach a decision on an application to the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy scheme.

Dan Jarvis (Labour) [98959] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what the average processing time is of applications to the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy scheme.

James Heapey: Since August 2021 the number of applications received for the ARAP scheme have increased exponentially to around 102,000 as at 10 January 2022. We do not record or hold the metrics for the processing times of applications, and any number of factors can affect how long it takes for an applicant to progress through each stage of the process. For example: their location, access to IT, employment history verification, security checks, or family circumstances. We continue to process applications as swiftly as possible and the Ministry of Defence has devoted significant resource to the task.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-06/98958>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-06/98959>

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) [98886] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many and

what proportion of ARAP applications received by his Department in each month (a) have been processed with a final decision given and (b) await a decision on eligibility, before the new eligibility criteria were introduced on 14 December 2021.

Reply from James Heapey: We owe a debt of gratitude to all Afghan nationals who risked their lives working alongside UK forces. As such, the ARAP Scheme has been one of the most generous relocation programmes in the world. It is not time-limited and will endure, facilitating the relocation of eligible Afghans and their families, from third countries if possible.

Due to constraints on accessible data, the information requested is only available from October onwards and can be found in the table below:

Month	Applications Received	Eligibility Decisions Made
October	5,998	706
November	4,636	1,450
December	2,631	803

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-06/98886>

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

Caroline Lucas (Green) [96840] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the changes to the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy published on 14 December 2021, how (a) Afghan Chevening Scholars and (b) Afghans who worked for or with the Government but not directly on military or security objectives and who are at risk as a result of those activities can apply to be resettled in the UK; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: We have helped over 15,000 people to safety in the largest and fastest emergency evacuation in recent history, and we have continued to bring people to the UK, with around 1,500 people helped to enter since the evacuation.

The Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) will continue to offer current or former locally employed staff who are assessed to be under serious threat to life priority relocation to the UK.

During the first year the Government will offer Afghan Citizen Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) places to the most at risk British Council and GardaWorld contractors, and Chevening alumni as set out in the Oral Statement on 6th January. These cohorts played a key role in supporting the UK mission in Afghanistan, and it is right that we honour our commitments to them. Due to the success of Op Pitting and larger than anticipated number of people brought over to the UK, we plan to exceed our initial aim of 5,000 people in the first year of the ACRS.

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office will be in touch with those eligible to support them through the next steps. Beyond the first year of the ACRS, we will work with international partners and NGOs to welcome wider groups of Afghans most.

Further details on referral for resettlement can be found in the recent statement to Parliament on 6 January:

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-04/96840>

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 two questions both received the same answer

Refugees: Afghanistan

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [98392] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the cost is to the public purse of bridging hotels under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Programme.

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [98393] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the (a) median and (b) longest waiting time in bridging hotels is for Afghans who have entered the UK as part of the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: We are proud to have provided homes for more than 4000 Afghan evacuees so far. We continue to encourage councils that have not yet made offers or those that can perhaps offer more places, to do so.

Although we are working at considerable pace with Local Authorities to source appropriate accommodation for Afghan evacuees in bridging accommodation, the length of time that people spend in bridging accommodation depends upon Local Authorities who have pledged their ongoing support to house the Afghan people and the availability of housing in those areas. The cost of bridging hotel accommodation to the tax-payer is commercially confidential.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-05/98392>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-05/98393>

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

Dan Jarvis (Labour) [101732] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what progress her Department has been made on moving Afghan refugees out of bridging accommodation; and what assessment her Department has made of the impact on Afghans in (a) Afghanistan and (b) third countries by the time taken in being able to relocate them to the UK.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: We do not want to keep people in temporary accommodation for any longer than is absolutely necessary and homes have already been provided for more than 4,000 Afghans who arrived in the UK before, during, and after Operation Pitting. Over 300 local authorities have pledged to resettle families so far, and the government continues to work alongside local authorities and the private rented sector to secure more permanent homes. The pace at which people move out of bridging accommodation is dependent on the number of offers the Government receives from Local Authorities.

We continue to encourage councils that have not yet made offers or those that can offer more housing to do so. Landlords are also being encouraged to submit housing offers via the Government's Housing Portal.

We have already evacuated around 1,500 Afghans from neighbouring countries since the end of Operation Pitting and, from Spring, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) will refer refugees for resettlement under the ACRS, based on assessments of protection need.

The ACRS scheme was formally announced on 6th January 2022, providing up to 20,000 women, children and others at risk with a safe and legal route to resettle in the UK. Further information can be found at the following gov.uk website [Afghan citizens resettlement scheme](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme)

Refugees: Afghanistan

John Healey (Labour) [79276] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, when Afghan refugees in the UK and housed in bridging hotels will be offered the covid-19 vaccine; and what proportion of Afghan refugees have received (a) a single dose and (b) two doses of the vaccine.

Reply from Maggie Throup: We have provided £3 million to the National Health Service to support an enhanced healthcare offer for people and their families arriving through Afghan resettlement schemes. The NHS was asked to ensure individuals were offered COVID-19 vaccination in line with national guidelines. Vaccinations are being offered to individuals in all 72 bridging hotel sites. Information on the proportion of refugees who have received a single and two doses of the vaccine is not available, as general practice data does not record whether individuals have been resettled through the Afghan resettlement scheme.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-22/79276>

Refugees: Afghanistan

Munira Wilson (Liberal Democrat) [97140] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking with (a) the Department for Health and Social Care and (b) other specialist psychological services to provide (i) specialist and (ii) culturally sensitive mental health support for newly-arrived Afghan refugees.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Under Operation Warm Welcome, all those evacuated from Afghanistan to the UK have access to healthcare via the NHS, free of charge. To further support this cohort, the UK government announced £3 million of additional NHS funding to support them to access an initial healthcare assessment - including mental health support and assessment of any trauma and safeguarding concerns - whilst in temporary accommodation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-04/97140>

Refugees: Afghanistan

Chi Onwurah (Labour) [98279] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether refugees under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy and Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme will be provided with mental health support.

Reply from Gillian Keegan: NHS England and NHS Improvement have asked all local health commissioners to provide primary care services for arrivals in bridging accommodation. This includes facilitating general practice registration for all individuals and an enhanced health assessment to identify and manage families' immediate health and care requirements. This should assess trauma and safeguarding concerns, mental health needs, women's and children's health, long-term conditions, areas of public health concern, vaccinations and ensuring pathways to other priority services. Individuals requiring more specialist or extensive mental health support will be referred to the appropriate service.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-05/98279>

Refugees: English Language

Fabian Hamilton (Labour) [98220] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many (a) Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy scheme and (b) Afghan citizens' resettlement scheme participants have been enrolled in English for Speakers of Other Languages courses.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: For both the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) and the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP), beneficiaries over the age of 19 will have immediate access to funding through the Department

for Education's Adult Education budget and be eligible for English For Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses.

The Home Office also provides a tariff per person to Local Authorities in return for providing a package of support to each arrival under the ACRS and ARAP, including an £850 payment for English Language training.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-05/98220>

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

Ruth Cadbury (Labour) [96890] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions she has had with officials in the Department for Education on ensuring that refugees from Afghanistan with limited leave to remain can access schooling.

Reply from Kevin Foster: All children and young people evacuated to the UK under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) and the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) with limited leave, will have access to education.

As of 6 January 2022, all school aged children and young people evacuated during Operation Pitting, are now enrolled into schools. Those children who have joined us since then are either in school, or being placed in schools, as quickly as possible. We are also taking the availability of school places in each local authority into account, as new families arrive and are settled into the country.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-04/96890>

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

The following three questions all received the same answer

Overseas Students

Matt Western (Labour) [94484] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment her Department has made of the impact of the sixth-month limit on how long incoming exchange students can remain in the UK under the visitor immigration route.

Matt Western (Labour) [94486] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the potential economic and cultural benefits of extending the amount of time exchange students can remain in the UK under the visitor immigration route from six months to one year.

Matt Western (Labour) [94487] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department plans to extend the time incoming exchange students can stay in the UK from 6 months to one academic year without having to apply for a Student Visa.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Under the new simplified immigration rules which came into effect on 1 December 2020, study for up to six months at an accredited

institution is permitted under the visitor route.

The visit route is for a person who wants to come to the UK for a temporary period, usually up to 6 months.

Visitors may also learn about and undertake research as part of a course they are studying overseas.

There are no plans to allow visitors to study for more than six months.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-16/94484>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-16/94486>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-16/94487>

Veterans: Immigration

Jim Shannon (DUP) [98291] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether he is taking steps to encourage non-UK military personnel who are leaving the UK Armed Forces and who wish to remain in the UK to apply for residency for their families before their service ends.

Reply from Leo Docherty: Applying to Settle in the UK is a personal choice and some non-UK families will already have Settled status before the Service Person leaves the military. The MOD works closely with our non-UK personnel to make sure that they and their families are aware of how they can attain settlement in the UK, should they wish to do so.

We keep our personnel guidance under regular review and as part of that ongoing process we update non-UK content, from the point of recruitment, including information on recruitment websites, right through Service life. In addition, through the Armed Forces Covenant Trust, a further immigration advisor has also been employed by the Army Families Federation to help deal with their casework.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-05/98291>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Healthy Start Scheme: Migrants

Afzal Khan (Labour) [97059] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, for what reasons there has been a delay in granting Healthy Start vouchers to newly eligible families subject to no recourse to public funds.

Afzal Khan (Labour) [97060] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, when his Department plans to begin issuing Healthy Start vouchers to newly eligible families subject to no recourse to public funds.

Afzal Khan (Labour) [97061] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether his Department plans to back date Healthy Start vouchers for newly eligible families subject to no recourse to public funds in response to delays in issuing those vouchers.

Reply from Maggie Throup: There is no delay in granting and issuing Healthy Start benefits to families with no recourse to public funds with British children under four years old, where they can demonstrate they meet all the eligibility criteria. Over 700 application forms have been sent to families. Of those returned to date, nine families have demonstrated they meet all the criteria. All eligible families have the benefit backdated to their first contact with the Department.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-04/97059>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-04/97060>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-04/97061>

Windrush Compensation Scheme

Patrick Grady (SNP) [96942] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what progress she has made with the Windrush Compensation Scheme; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Kevin Foster: We publish information on the total number of claims submitted, claims paid, and the overall amount paid out by the Windrush Compensation Scheme on a monthly basis. The latest set of data can be found at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/windrush-compensation-scheme-data-october-2021

We are processing claims as quickly as possible, but all claims are different, and the time taken will depend on many factors, including the complexity of the case. Wherever possible, we will make a preliminary payment as soon as someone applying on their own behalf, or on behalf of someone who has sadly passed away, can show any impact on their life under the terms of the Scheme. Individuals do not have to wait for their whole application to be assessed in order to receive a preliminary payment.

We have taken steps to encourage more people to submit a claim and to help those who already have. We have removed the end date of the Scheme to ensure no one is prevented from making a claim if they are eligible. We have also launched a package of support to help those making, or who have already made, claims on behalf of a relative who has passed away to obtain the legal documentation required to process their claims. In addition, we have published a redesigned primary claim form which is easier for people to complete, and refreshed casework guidance which sets out clearly how caseworkers should apply the balance of probabilities and go about gathering evidence, with the aim of reducing the time taken to process claims and improving peoples' experiences of applying to the Scheme.

We are also continuing to work extensively with communities and stakeholders to raise awareness of the Scheme and encourage affected individuals to apply. Since the launch of the Scheme we have attended or hosted approximately 200 outreach and engagement events, and in 2020 we carried out a national communications campaign to make sure those most affected around the UK are aware of the support available to them and how to apply. In addition, the £500,000 Windrush Schemes Community Fund provides for grassroots organisations and community groups to run their own outreach, promotional and support activity.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-04/96942>

Information about the Windrush Compensation Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-windrush-compensation-scheme>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Bambos Charalmbous (Labour) [98377] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she has taken address delays in the processing of applications to the EU Settlement Scheme.

Bambos Charalmbous (Labour) [98378] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to progress applications to the EU Settlement Scheme from applicants who are awaiting a response and who have been unable to take up offers of employment and education as a result of delays in the application process.

Reply from Kevin Foster: We are committed to ensuring our operational teams have the resources they need to run an efficient and effective system, and we actively monitor workflows to ensure sufficient resources are in place to meet demand.

Our aim is to process all applications to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) as

quickly as possible. Each individual case is considered on its own facts, which means some cases will inevitably take longer than others to conclude. Cases may take longer dependent on the circumstances of the case, for example, if the applicant is facing an impending prosecution or has a criminal record.

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

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

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

Anyone awaiting the outcome of their in-time application to the EUSS can evidence their rights to work or study with their Certificate of Application which is issued as soon as possible after a valid application is received.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-05/98377>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-05/98378>

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

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

Immigration: EU Nationals

Kieran Mullan (Conservative) [100742] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to support applicants to the EU Settlement Scheme.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The EU Settlement Scheme opened to the public on 30 March 2019 and the deadline for the scheme for those resident in the UK by the end of the transition period was 30 June 2021. However, there is scope to make a late application based on reasonable grounds for missing the deadline. The scheme also remains open to applications for those wishing to apply as Joining Family Members or who want to apply for settled status after having been granted pre-settled status.

The Home Office remains committed to ensuring those who are eligible for the EU Settlement Scheme can apply, including those who are vulnerable or need extra support. £25 million of funding has been awarded to a network of now 72 charities and local authorities across the UK, to ensure important information and assistance gets through to those who are hardest to reach, and no one is left behind. These organisations have helped more than 405k vulnerable people to apply to the EUSS already.

The Home Office has delivered a comprehensive range of communications activity, at a cost of £8m, to increase awareness of the EUSS, engaging extensively with a wide range of stakeholder organisations and other government departments, to provide the materials they need to communicate about the Settlement Scheme.

This includes toolkits, assets and information translated into 26 EEA languages, and Welsh, for local authorities, community groups, employers, and the Grant Funded Network, who work closely with vulnerable, hard to reach audiences to provide application support.

Guidance on how to apply and details of the support available to applicants (as it has been throughout the pandemic), is available through the EU Settlement Resolution Centre (SRC), which is open seven days a week to provide assistance over the telephone and by email. The SRC also provides a direct line for organisations working with vulnerable groups. In specific cases the SRC has the

capacity to transfer customers to Assisted Digital for more bespoke support.

Further information can also be found at

www.gov.uk/help-eu-settlement-scheme

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-10/100742>

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

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

Refugees: English Language

Fabian Hamilton (Labour) [98218] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Education on the potential merits of standardising the English for Speakers of Other Languages curricula to enable settled refugees to learn necessary materials to integrate successfully into British society.

Reply from Kevin Foster: This Government recognises the ability to speak English is key to helping refugees integrate into life in the UK, as well as to breaking down barriers to work and career progression. The Home Office works very closely with other Government departments to ensure mainstream English language provision meets the needs of refugees.

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) qualifications are available at five levels, funded through the Adult Education Budget and regulated by the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual). Qualifications are aimed at providing learners with the skills they need for life and work in the UK.

Ofqual regulate ESOL qualifications so the outcomes achieved by learners attest to the level of knowledge, understanding and skills set out in the qualification.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-05/98218>

Refugees: English Language

Fabian Hamilton (Labour) [98219] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many digital devices have been provided to settled refugees on UK Resettlement Scheme to assist them with English for Speakers of Other Languages training and job applications.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Local authorities receive a generous funding package for the support they provide for refugees resettled under the UK Resettlement Scheme.

The overall package also includes additional ESOL funding to improve the English language skills of adults and helping support better employability and integration outcomes. This package enables local authorities to support refugees as they rebuild their lives in safe and secure surroundings, among supportive communities in the UK.

The Home Office does not provide any digital devices, so any provision would be separate from Government, as such we do not hold this information.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-05/98219>

Refugees: Employment

Chi Onwurah (Labour) [98278] To ask Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to regularly publish figures on the efficacy of Government programmes which aim to help settled refugees into employment.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Unemployed refugees receive employment support from the Department for Work and Pensions, with direct, personalised support available from experienced work coaches.

Data on the employment outcomes for refugees specifically is not available.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-05/98278>

Asylum: Domestic Violence

Owen Thompson (SNP) [99015] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she had made a recent assessment of the adequacy of protection and support available for migrant victims of domestic abuse in complying with obligations under Articles 4(3) and 59 of the Istanbul Convention.

Reply from Rachel Maclean: The Government is committed to ensuring that all victims of crime are treated first and foremost as victims, regardless of their immigration status. We are committed to looking at options to support all migrant victims of domestic abuse over the longer term.

In April 2021 the Home Office launched the £1.5 million Support for Migrant Victims (SMV) Scheme to support migrant victims of domestic abuse who have no recourse to public funds. The pilot is being run by Southall Black Sisters and their delivery partners for a duration of 12 months and provides accommodation and wrap-around support. We have also appointed an independent evaluator, Behavioural Insights Ltd, to assess the Scheme, with a view to producing a final report in Summer 2022. The Scheme will help the Government secure an accurate picture of the support needs of migrant victims of domestic abuse and will inform subsequent policy decisions.

As set out in the report published on 1 November 2021 under the Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (Ratification of Convention) Act 2017, the compliance position for Article 4(3) of the Istanbul Convention (to the extent that it relates to non-discrimination on the grounds of migrant or refugee status) and Article 59 is under review pending the evaluation and findings from the SMV scheme. This Government remains committed to ratifying the Convention as soon as possible and is working to resolve the outstanding issues. This commitment was reiterated in the Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy, published in July 2021.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-06/99015>

The report referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1030014/E02686085_Istanbul_Conv_Progress_Report_Elay.pdf

The Strategy referred to above can be read at

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

The following four questions all received the same answer

Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre

Kate Osborne (Labour) [98460] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what arrangements, in terms of practice and contractual commitments, are in place at Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre to ensure adherence to rules 34, 35, 40, 42 and 45 of the Detention Centre Rules 2001.

Kate Osborne (Labour) [98461] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what reasonable adjustments have been made in accordance with sections 20 and 29 of the Equality Act 2010, to accommodate incapacitated and mentally ill detainees at Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre who may find it challenging to access legal advice remotely.

Kate Osborne (Labour) [98462] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, from what date the first women were detained at Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre (IRC); how many women are detained at that IRC as of 5 January 2022; and whether any women detained at that IRC have subsequently been released following detention.

Kate Osborne (Labour) [98463] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to help ensure that women released from Derwentside

Immigration Removal Centre (a) are able to access accommodation in the community and (b) can reach that accommodation safely upon release from detention.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Following the formal opening of Derwentside immigration removal centre last year, the first women were detained at the centre on 28 December 2021. Of these women one has been subsequently released. As of 5 January, there were nine women detained at Derwentside.

The Home Office provides accommodation for those who are destitute and have outstanding asylum claims or to individuals who fall within the scope of protection provided to potential victims of modern slavery. Additionally, the Secretary of State may provide accommodation and support for a foreign national offender who is subject to a residency condition and are either considered to pose a high risk or harm to the public or be suffering from a serious physical or mental health problem. As set out in published Detention Services Order (DSO) 07/2013 'welfare provisions in immigration removal centres' staff will provide support with planning travel to accommodation. Any individual released from detention is offered a travel warrant to reach the accommodation to which they are being released unless accommodation is being provided by the Home Office in which case transport is provided.

The published equality impact assessment and DSO 04/2020 'Mental vulnerability and immigration detention: non-clinical guidance', provides information on reasonable adjustments to accommodate incapacitated and mentally ill women at the IRC, including access to legal representation. The published contract and relevant Detention Services Orders set out the arrangements to ensure adherence to rules 34, 35, 40, 42 and 45 of the Detention Centre Rules. The contract is published here: [Hassockfield IRC \(STA\) - Contracts Finder](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-05/98460>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-05/98461>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-05/98462>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-05/98463>

The Detention Centre Rules referred to above can be read at

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2001/238/2010-02-15/data.pdf?view=extent>

The Detention Services Orders referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/286865/2013_11_29_DSO_Welfare_Provision_07_2013.pdf

and

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/907107/DSO_04_2020_Mental_vulnerability_and_immigration_detention_-_non_clinical_guidance.pdf

Immigration: Slavery

Alison Thewliss (SNP) [96935] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she will take to ensure that the existence of two trafficking and slavery decision makers does not result in differences in decision making based on immigration status.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: We are committed to having robust and victim-focused measures in place for addressing modern slavery. The Immigration Enforcement Competent Authority (IECA) was created to streamline decision-making and ensure, wherever possible, that the various factors which may be pertinent to decisions about an individual are taken by those who can consider their circumstances most fully.

Immigration Enforcement's immediate priority is always the welfare of the individual, and to ensure that all vulnerable migrants receive the support and assistance they need regardless of their immigration status. Immigration Enforcement already make decisions on key safeguarding and vulnerability matters such as the Adults at Risk policy and human rights decisions. Both the IECA and the Single Competent Authority (SCA) decision makers receive the same training on National Referral Mechanism (NRM) decision making and consistently apply the statutory guidance for potential victims of modern slavery.

Both competent authorities are held to account through existing quality assurance processes and the Multi-Agency Assurance Panels will continue to quality assure all negative Conclusive Grounds decisions.

The data on decisions taken by the IECA will be set out in the quarterly publication of NRM statistics and a breakdown by competent authority will be published once there is sufficient data to ensure individuals are not identifiable. We will regularly review this data to understand the impact of the change and ensure polices are being applied consistently.

This Government remains committed to identifying victims quickly, enhancing the support they receive and improving the training given to First Responders, who are responsible for referring potential victims into the NRM.

The Home Office has produced e-learning to help First Responders to identify potential victims of modern slavery and make referrals into the NRM when appropriate to do so. The e-learning is available through the Modern Slavery Organised Immigration Crime (MSOIC) website here:

<https://www.policingslavery.co.uk/transforming-our-response/training-delivery/first-responder-training>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-04/96935>

Press Release

United Kingdom Nationality and Borders Bill undermines rights of victims of trafficking and modern slavery, UN experts say

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=28027&LangID=E>

New Publications

Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration: A further inspection of the EU Settlement Scheme

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1046018/A_further_inspection_of_the_EU_Settlement_Scheme_July_2020_to_March_2021.pdf

The Home Office response to the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration's report: 'A further inspection of the EU Settlement Scheme'

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1046090/Formal_response_EU_Settlement_Scheme_3_edits_re_implementation.pdf

Windrush Task Force Data

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1045161/UKVI_VC_WRTF_Q3_2021_Published.ods

Visas and Citizenship data

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1045156/UKVI_VC_Transparency_Q3_2021_Published.ods

News

UK Borders Bill increases risks of discrimination, human rights violations

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/01/1109792>

Migrants will stop Britain's population from falling during next decade

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/01/12/migrants-will-stop-britains-population-falling-next-decade/>

SNP ministers pursue Scottish visa plan in bid to reverse rural depopulation

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/snp-ministers-pursue-scottish-visa-plan-in-bid-to-reverse-rural-depopulation-3523543>

MSPs call for immigration reform to tackle labour shortages

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/uk-government-brexit-kevin-foster-liz-smith-msps-b1991005.html>

Near-freezing temperatures fail to stop 271 people crossing English Channel

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/english-channel-people-dover-strait-border-force-home-office-b1992792.html>

Dozens of migrants rescued after crossing Channel overnight

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/01/13/dozens-migrants-rescued-crossing-channel-overnight/>

Channel migrants: Thirty rescued as man dies off French coast

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-59992918>

More migrants rescued from Channel following crossing death

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/channel-rnli-dover-english-french-b1993723.html>

Man drowns after migrant boat carrying 30 capsizes in the Channel

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world-news/2022/01/14/man-drowns-migrant-boat-carrying-30-capsizes-channel/>

Sudanese man drowns on freezing Channel crossing

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/migrant-drowns-on-channel-crossing-05176vpzq>

New rules to crack down on adult migrants claiming to be children

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/01/13/new-rules-crack-adult-migrants-claiming-children/>

Lone child refugees housed in hotels go missing at rate of one a week

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/child-refugees-missing-hotels-home-office-uk-b1974945.html>

Asylum seekers can work in care homes after Priti Patel rule change

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/01/14/asylum-seekers-can-work-care-homes-priti-patel-rule-change/>

Young asylum seekers unable to access free bus scheme

<https://www.paih.org/young-asylum-seekers-unable-to-access-free-bus-scheme>

Home Office landlord Mears leaves asylum seekers without electricity or hot water for days

<https://www.paih.org/asylum-seekers-left-out-in-the-cold-by-mears>

Home Office tells asylum seeker he can return to Syria safely

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/jan/09/home-office-tells-syrian-asylum-seeker-he-can-return-safely>

Home Office tells Afghan and Yemeni asylum seekers they can return safely

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/jan/13/home-office-tells-afghan-and-yemeni-asylum-seekers-they-can-return-safely>

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Minority Communities: Poverty

Taiwo Owatemi (Labour): Department for Work and Pensions data show that four in five black people have less than £1,500 in the bank. More worrying is that approximately one in four black British, British Bangladeshi and British Pakistani people have no savings at all. Energy bills are going up, food prices are up and taxes are up. The increased cost of living will hit minority communities hardest. What action will the Minister take to ensure that minority communities are not pushed into greater hardship this winter?

Reply from Kemi Badenoch: We have put, on average, £1,000 a year more into the pockets of the lowest earners through changes to universal credit, increasing the minimum wage next April to £9.50 an hour, and helping with the cost of fuel bills. Our multibillion plan for jobs, which was recently expanded by £500 million, will help people across the UK to find work and to boost their wages and prospects, and this will disproportionately benefit people in minority ethnic groups.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk//commons/2022-01-12/debates/F7EDB775-3C6D-4193-9ADC-33D4FB107068/TopicalQuestions#contribution-C13F3E4B-6B87-47D4-9920-7B9F473AE4F9>

BAME Entrepreneurs

Sarah Olney (Liberal Democrat): As co-chair of the all-party parliamentary group for black, Asian and minority ethnic business owners, I have been working closely with special adviser Diana Chrouh to identify and address the barriers to accessing finance that BAME entrepreneurs experience. A significant issue is the lack of data collected by banks and other financial institutions on the ethnicity of business owners. Will the Secretary of State meet me and the APPG to discuss how better collection of business owners' ethnicity data can be driven forward across Government? (905009)

Reply from Kemi Badenoch: I am keen to hear what the APPG thinks the solutions are to this issue. The hon. Lady will know that collecting ethnicity data is a sensitive issue and it is not something that all people want to do, but I am happy to work with her and the APPG to learn about how we can come to some resolution.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk//commons/2022-01-12/debates/F7EDB775-3C6D-4193-9ADC-33D4FB107068/TopicalQuestions#contribution-6EE943AC-21CE-4173-9D58-739FA7D8D281>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Youth Custody: Ethnic Groups

Afzal Khan (Labour) [101820] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what estimate he has made of the number of BAME children in youth custody in the UK.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The youth justice statistics collection is published on GOV.UK. Within these, monthly statistics on children and young people within the secure estate are released, including the ethnic background of children in custody. The latest publication providing data on those present in custody can be found via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/youth-custody-data>

Population data is also published as part of the annual report, with the most recent release covering the year ending March 2020 and the next update due for publication 27 January.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/youth-justice-statistics-2019-to-2020>

Data includes those aged under 18, and 18-year olds. Some 18-year olds remain in the secure estate for children and young people if they only have a short period of their sentence to serve, to avoid disrupting their regimes.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-11/101820>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Racism in Sport

Monica Lennon (Labour) [S6W-05161] To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to tackle racism in sport.

Reply from Maree Todd: The Scottish Government unequivocally condemns any form of racism hatred or prejudice, in sport and wider society. There is no excuse – it is totally unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Scotland is a diverse, multi-cultural society and this diversity strengthens us as a nation. That is why we work with sport scotland and a range of organisations throughout the country to tackle all forms of hatred and prejudice in sport.

Any reports of racism must be investigated swiftly. Most recently after allegations of racism in cricket in Scotland, sport scotland, announced that it is taking immediate steps to appoint a team of independent experts to carry out a full a review of racism within Scottish cricket.

In addition, in June 2021, sport scotland, with the other Home Country Sports Councils responsible for funding sport and physical activity across the UK, published the outcomes of a joint review into Tackling Racism and Racial Inequality in Sport (TRARIIS). sport scotland has begun identifying TRARIIS work for each of its three Equality, Diversity and Inclusion strands (People, System and New Ideas) in order to embed this into the organisation's business planning and use to inform future Equality Impact Assessments. A full [update](#) is available on the sport scotland website.

Ethnically diverse communities are a priority group for sport scotland's [2021-25 Equality Outcomes](#) published earlier this year. We need to eradicate any forms of racism in sport and we will continue to work with partners to achieve this.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-05161>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Hate Crimes

Helen Hayes (Labour): What assessment [the Minister] has made of the implications for her policies of the Law Commission's recommendations on hate crimes. (905016)

Jess Phillips (Labour): What assessment [the Minister] has made of the implications for her policies of the Law Commission's recommendations on hate crimes. (905028)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Rachel Maclean): The Law Commission published its comprehensive review of hate crime laws on 7 December. Recognising the complex issues that the Law Commission has identified, the Government will carefully consider those recommendations and provide a further response as quickly as possible. ...

Rehman Chishti (Conservative): With regard to the wider strategy on tackling hate crime, Home Office statistics show that there are about 124,000 hate crime incidents. Under the category religion, there was a real rise in Islamophobia and antisemitism. What will the Government do in their strategy to address those two real issues concerning our society?

Rachel Maclean: I thank my hon. Friend very much for making representations on the important issue of the persecution of religious faiths in this country. The Government take these issues extremely seriously, and that is why we will publish a refreshed hate crime strategy. We are also investing in a number of measures to keep communities safe, wherever they may worship. Freedom of worship in this country is a vital principle that we all believe in.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-01-12/debates/CFA331D8-3254-4EFE-A0AF-2762229C7219/HateCrimes>

The Law Commission report referred to above can be read at

<https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/lawcom-prod-storage-11jsxou24uy7q/uploads/2021/12/Hate-crime-report-accessible.pdf>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Social Media: Hate Crime

Jim Shannon (DUP) [98299] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps her Department plans to take to tackle hate speech on (a) Twitter and (b) other social media platforms to ensure that comments are removed in addition to users banned.

Reply from Chris Philp: Under the draft Online Safety Bill, services in scope will need to minimise and remove illegal content, including illegal hate speech. Services in scope which are likely to be accessed by children will also need to protect them from harmful or inappropriate content.

Major platforms will also need to address legal but harmful content for adults. These services will have to set out clearly what legal content is acceptable on their platforms and enforce their terms and conditions consistently and transparently. This could include removal of prohibited content, banning repeat offenders and preventing them from creating new accounts. Priority categories of legal but harmful content for adults will be set out in secondary legislation and these are likely to include some forms of abuse, including racist abuse.

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.

The Joint Committee report and recommendations referred to above can be read at <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/jt5802/jtselect/jtonlinesafety/129/129.pdf>

Antisemitism

Ruth Jones (Labour) [99064] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, whether he plans to encourage UK media organisations to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism.

Reply from Kemi Badenoch: Antisemitism has absolutely no place in our society, which is why we are taking a strong lead in tackling it in all its forms. Following encouragement from the Government, at least three quarters of local councils in the UK have adopted the IHRA definition of Antisemitism.

The Government is committed to a free and independent press and does not intervene in what the press can and cannot publish. The Government is also committed to independent self-regulation of the press. Press regulators issue codes of conduct which provide guidelines on a range of areas, including discrimination, accuracy, privacy, and harassment.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-06/99064>

Universities: Antisemitism

Peter Gibson (Conservative) [93902] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps his Department is taking to tackle rising levels of antisemitism on university campuses.

Reply from Michelle Donelan: The government is clear that antisemitism is abhorrent and we expect higher education (HE) providers to be at the forefront of tackling the challenge of it.

We have pushed for several years for greater action from HE providers to address antisemitism. We have encouraged HE providers to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism to give clarity of what constitutes antisemitic behaviour. This will enable providers to better understand and recognise incidences of antisemitism and take action to address them.

In October 2020, the former Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend for South Staffordshire, wrote to all HE providers urging adoption of the IHRA definition, stating that we would consider further action if HE providers did not adopt. The former Secretary of State for Education also sent a follow-up letter in May 2021, reinforcing the government's expectation that providers adopt the IHRA definition, stressing the even greater importance of doing so considering increased numbers of antisemitic incidents recorded as a result of the conflict in the Middle East.

In response to this, on 10 November 2021, the Office for Students published a list of HE providers who have adopted the definition. I am pleased to report good progress in the last year: an increase from around 30 to over 200 providers having adopted. This includes the vast majority of universities. I will continue to urge all HE providers to adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism

Adoption of the IHRA definition is only a first step towards ridding HE of antisemitism. While the government considers that adoption of the definition is crucial, it is not enough on its own. As my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Education, has previously announced publicly, we are leading a summit later this month specifically focused on tackling antisemitism in HE. This event will include key stakeholders from the sector to examine what more can be done to make Jewish students and staff feel safe on campus.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-15/93902>

The Secretary of State's first letter referred to above can be read at

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

He wrote a follow-up letter in February (not May) 2021 which can be read at

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

An updated version of the list of providers who have adopted the definition, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/media/cddac91e-e9a5-49ff-8197-8a5a76c31cde/providers-who-have-adopted-the-ihra-working-definition-of-antisemitism.pdf>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.thejc.com/news/uk/exclusive-minister-orders-summit-to-stamp-out-hate-on-campus-1.522611>

Press Releases

Racist online trolls banned from football stadiums by new law

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/racist-online-trolls-banned-from-football-stadiums-by-new-law>

DPP Max Hill on how the Crown Prosecution Service is taking action against racist and homophobic football chants

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/cps/news/dpp-max-hill-how-were-taking-action-against-racist-and-homophobic-football-chants>

New Publications

What we know so far – Experiences of racial discrimination against missing people and their families

[https://www.missingpeople.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/What we know so far Discrimination Briefing.pdf](https://www.missingpeople.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/What%20we%20know%20so%20far%20Discrimination%20Briefing.pdf)

Racism in cricket

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/8470/documents/85771/default/>

News

Racist abuse has made me scared to do my job, says MP

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/bell-ribeiro-addy-racist-abuse-b1992253.html>

Conservative peer Michelle Mone sued for 'racism'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/conservative-peer-michelle-mone-sued-racism-whatsapp-messages-gvkzrq9h8>

Sarwar calls on Corbyn to apologise to Jewish community for 'pain and anguish'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/jeremy-corbyn-scottish-labour-jewish-labour-party-msps-b1990064.html>

Experiences of racial discrimination against missing people and their families

<https://www.missingpeople.org.uk/experiences-of-racial-discrimination>

Police need to be trained not to discriminate against black families in missing person cases, say experts

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/police-discrimination-investigation-black-families-b1990903.html>

'We were made to feel like outcasts': the psychiatrist who blew the whistle on racism in British medicine

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2022/jan/13/we-were-made-to-feel-like-outcasts-the-psychiatrist-who-blew-the-whistle-on-racism-in-british-medicine>

BBC editors questioned in antisemitism dispute

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/bbc-editors-questioned-in-antisemitism-dispute-ck2p6vfvf8>

Christians win the right to wear a cross

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/christians-win-the-right-to-wear-a-cross-mx9nk8zpg>

Antisemite claim deepens Cambridge academics row

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/antisemite-claim-deepens-cambridge-academics-row-qd8spl8f3>

Yet again, Cambridge's 'anti-racist' professor is guilty of double standards

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/01/14/yet-cambridges-anti-racist-professor-guilty-double-standards/>

Professor's views on racist language are bewildering

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/professors-views-on-racist-language-are-bewildering-wnmsx8f7g>

Sir Geoff Palmer faces calls to quit for 'racist' slur on historian

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/sir-geoff-palmer-faces-calls-to-quit-for-racist-slur-on-historian-0fxqgkt0s>

Gang of racist thugs batter woman wearing Hijab with plank of wood in Glasgow

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/gang-racist-thugs-batter-woman-25915796>

Tahra Ahmed convicted of stirring up racial hatred for antisemitic posts

<https://cst.org.uk/news/blog/2022/01/14/tahra-ahmed-convicted-of-stirring-up-racial-hatred-for-antisemitic-posts>

Football stadium ban for racist online trolls to be considered by Scottish Government

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/19846219.football-stadium-ban-racist-online-trolls-considered-scottish-government/>

Plans to ban racist fans who troll footballers from matches for up to 10 years

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/priti-patel-england-jadon-sancho-bukayo-saka-marcus-rashford-b1992519.html>

Racist football trolls to be banned from matches for up to 10 years, Priti Patel announces

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/01/13/racist-football-trolls-banned-matches-10-years-priti-patel-announces/>

Racism in cricket: Government should limit public funding unless progress is made
<https://www.bbc.com/sport/cricket/59981141>

Cut English cricket's funding over 'deep-seated racism', government urged
<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2022/jan/14/cut-english-cricket-funding-over-deep-seated-racism-government-urged>

DCMS report on racism in cricket is welcome but government must take lead
<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2022/jan/14/dcms-report-racism-cricket-welcome-government-must-take-lead>

English cricket warned it could lose public funding if it fails to tackle racism crisis
<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/cricket/ecb-racism-report-azeem-rafiq-b1992734.html>

Government must withhold ECB funding until it has 'cleaned up its act' after racism scandal, MPs rule
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/cricket/2022/01/14/government-must-withhold-ecb-funding-has-cleaned-act-racism/>

TOP

Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Meat: Ritual Slaughter

Matthew Offord (Conservative) [93746] To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether the Government is taking steps to protect the practice of shechita.

Reply from Jo Churchill: The Government is committed to supporting the rights of Jewish communities to eat meat slaughtered by the shechita method. This is secured in our legislation by the derogation from stunning that applies when animals are slaughtered in accordance with religious rites.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-15/93746>

Press Release

Prime Minister to chair new council with devolved governments

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-to-chair-new-council-with-devolved-governments>

New Publications

The Review of Intergovernmental Relations

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1046083/The_Review_of_Intergovernmental_Relations.pdf

UK Government response document, Protect Duty public consultation

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

New forum for talks between leaders from across UK

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-59981982>

TOP

Health Information: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

NHS

Coronavirus helpline

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

NHS Inform (Scotland)

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

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

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 Parliament Written Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer

Nationality: Covid-19 booster vaccination

Miles Briggs (Conservative) [S6W-05396] To ask the Scottish Government how many people to date have not answered the question regarding nationality when having their COVID-19 booster vaccination.

Miles Briggs (Conservative) [S6W-05398] To ask the Scottish Government how the data on nationality collected during COVID-19 booster vaccinations will be used, and how this data is recorded on medical records.

Reply from Humza Yousaf: Data on nationality is not collected as part of the COVID vaccination programme.

We commenced the collection of ethnicity data as part of the vaccination programme in November 2021. This is to help tackle racialised health inequalities. Once this data becomes available it will help us to better design and tailor services to improve people's health outcomes. This data is collected following a recommendation from the Expert Reference Group on COVID and Ethnicity (ERG).

The ethnicity question is a mandatory field, and so everyone should complete this field, though there is an option for people to select the option 'prefer not to say/don't know'. The ethnicity question used is taken from [Census 2022](#) Question 23.

Full information on what [personal information we process](#), including ethnicity, and [how we use your data](#) as part of the COVID-19 vaccination programme can be found on [NHS Inform](#) under Data, Privacy and Ethics.

Public Health Scotland already publishes information about equality of vaccination uptake. The most recent data can be found at [COVID-19 Statistical Report - 1 December 2021 - COVID-19 statistical report](#)

The report contains information about the data sources used.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-05396>

and

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-05398>

Scottish Government Press Release

Large outdoor events resume from 17 January

<https://www.gov.scot/news/large-outdoor-events-resume-from-17-january/>

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/>

UK Government Publication

The R value and growth rate

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

TOP

Other News

Scottish Fundraising Adjudication Panel launches new brand, website and Fundraising Guarantee logo

<https://goodfundraising.scot/scottish-fundraising-adjudication-panel-launches-new-brand-website-and-fundraising-guarantee-logo/>

TOP

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>

Online Safety Bill (Draft)

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

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

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

TOP

Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** Napier Barracks planning application** (closing date 30 January 2022)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/napier-barracks-planning-application>

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>

TOP

Job Opportunities

[Click here](#) to find out about job opportunities.

[Click here](#) to find out about Graduate, Modern, and Foundation Apprenticeship opportunities.

TOP

Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

**** closes 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/>

TOP

Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

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>

Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals

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>

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 bilingual 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>

[TOP](#)

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

SCoJeC
Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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



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



The **Scottish Government** is committed to promoting equality of opportunity and social justice for all those who live in Scotland. **One Scotland** is the Scottish Government campaign designed to tackle racism. It aims to raise awareness of racist attitudes, highlight its negative impact and recognise the valuable contributions that other cultures have made to our society – and make Scotland no place for racism. <http://www.gov.scot/>

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