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Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Debate

Nationality and Borders Bill

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13590&i=123350#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Asylum: Devolution

Collette Stevenson (SNP) [S6W-05330] To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on its discussions with the UK Government regarding the devolution of aspects of asylum support.

Reply from Shona Robison: The Smith Commission recommended that the Scottish and UK Governments should ‘explore the possibility of different powers being in place in Scotland for asylum seekers to access accommodation and financial support and advice.’ Discussions on this recommendation took place over a period of around two years, but concluded without making progress.

The Scottish Government continues to raise issues which impact people seeking asylum living in Scotland and has consistently pressed the UK Government to ensure that people have access to the support and services they need. This includes raising concerns about use of hotels as contingency initial asylum accommodation in correspondence published in January 2022: [Use of hotels to accommodate asylum seekers: correspondence with UK government](#).

I have also requested that the Home Office re-establish regular four nation meetings on asylum to support continued discussions on asylum policy and operations.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-05330>

Scottish Parliament Motions

Neil Gray (SNP) S6M-03270 Nationality and Borders Bill (UK Legislation) – That the Parliament notes that the UK Government’s Nationality and Borders Bill proposes significant changes to UK asylum and immigration legislation, which will damage people living in communities across Scotland and the UK, now and in the future; recognises that the Bill contains two provisions that trigger the requirement for legislative consent and that a legislative consent memorandum recommending that the Parliament withholds its consent to those clauses was lodged on 1 February 2022; notes that the Welsh Parliament has refused consent; is concerned by the creation of a National Age Assessment Board with powers to scrutinise age assessments using “scientific techniques”, which Scottish Government guidance advises against on child welfare and unreliability grounds; notes that these provisions will impose time limits and damaging measures affecting assessment of credibility in human trafficking applications; condemns these provisions, as well as proposals in the Bill for differential treatment of refugees based on how they arrived rather than their protection needs, measures that criminalise vulnerable people seeking protection, “push-back” provisions that will put lives at sea at risk and open the door for offshore asylum accommodation, and powers to revoke citizenship without notice, and agrees that the Bill will not achieve its aims or the change that is needed to ensure that the UK’s asylum and immigration systems are effective, efficient and deliver for people in need of humanitarian protection, according to international human rights obligations.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/votes-and-motions-search/S6M-03270>

Donald Cameron (Conservative) S6M-03270.1 Nationality and Borders Bill (UK Legislation) – As an amendment to motion S6M-03270 in the name of Neil Gray (Nationality and Borders Bill (UK Legislation)), leave out from “notes that the UK Government’s” to end and insert “agrees that the relevant provisions of the Nationality and Borders Bill, relating to age assessments and modern slavery, do not fall within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament, and recognises that the UK Government’s Nationality and Borders Bill will strengthen existing UK asylum and immigration legislation.”

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/votes-and-motions-search/S6M-03270-1>

UK Parliament Debate

Immigration and Nationality (Fees) (Amendment) Order 2022

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-02-23/debates/BCE63476-7CA0-4ECC-BA81-2638D20E2B17/ImmigrationAndNationality\(Fees\)\(Amendment\)Order2022](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-02-23/debates/BCE63476-7CA0-4ECC-BA81-2638D20E2B17/ImmigrationAndNationality(Fees)(Amendment)Order2022)

UK Parliament, Ministerial Statements

Tier 1 (Investor) Route

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Priti Patel) [HCWS614] On Thursday 17 February 2022, I laid before the House a statement of changes in the Immigration Rules, which closed the Tier 1 (Investor) route to new applications with immediate effect. The Government have taken this step because it is no longer clear the Tier 1 (Investor) route offers the best means of encouraging investment-related migration to the United Kingdom, and it is considered that reforms to the existing innovator route offer a better means of making more targeted provision for investment-related migration and reducing the risk of exposure of the immigration system to illicit finance and hostile state actors. The closure of the Tier 1 (Investor) route had immediate effect for operational reasons and to preserve the integrity of the immigration system. It is our assessment that were the route not closed with immediate effect, closure of the route would prompt a large number of applications, with a risk that closure would particularly attract applications from those most motivated to exploit the current arrangements before they end, whether they are those who may not comply with the requirements of the immigration rules or those who may pose national security risks.

The statement of changes does not affect the position of those who have already obtained a permission under the route, and who may wish to seek an extension of stay or apply for settlement under the current arrangements.

The Tier 1 (Investor) route has provided a route of entry and stay for overseas nationals with access to a minimum level of funds and an intention to invest those funds in the United Kingdom, without testing the economic benefit to the United Kingdom of that investment or the track record of the individual as an investor. The overall conclusion of the Migration Advisory Committee's assessment of the route was that it primarily benefits the investors rather than the UK.

The operation of the route has facilitated the presence of persons relying on funds that have been obtained illicitly or who represent a wider security risk. In addition, the route has been compromised by organised abuse of its requirements through bogus investments schemes.

These concerns have been highlighted, for example, in the findings of the Intelligence and Security Committee's Russia report in relation to the scheme, as well as the recent Chatham House report on money laundering.

In response to these concerns, the Government have previously committed to publishing a review of historical issuance of visas under this route. That review is being finalised and it is our aim to publish it in the near future.

The Government have concluded that arrangements for attracting investment in the migration system warrant a substantively different approach to what has gone before. It is therefore our intention that new provision for investment-related migration should be delivered through reforms to the existing Innovator route, which we expect to deliver in the autumn of this year. This reformed offer will make provision for overseas nationals who can show they are skilled and experienced professional business angel investors, with a track record of founding and investing in innovative businesses overseas, along with access to a minimum level of funds and credible plans to engage in similar activity in the UK.

The proposed future scheme will no longer focus exclusively on having cash in the bank and making passive investments. It will instead be focused on attracting the brightest and best through a rigorous assessment of an applicant's business background, skills and investment plans. This will ensure those given a visa are appropriate individuals who will genuinely bring tangible benefits to the UK economy. Settlement will be conditional on applicants achieving genuine and tangible economic impacts, such as job creation, directly through their economic activity in the UK. They will ensure the British public can have confidence that those who obtain this significant privilege have genuinely earned it, rather than having bought it.

It will be for the reformed Innovator route's endorsing bodies to make an assessment of whether these criteria are met. The Government have already indicated that the selection of new endorsing bodies to support the operation of the Innovator route will be delivered through a commercial exercise. We are taking steps to inform the market that this expansion of the scope and purpose of the Innovator route will form part of the commercial requirement as we go to tender in the near future.

To be clear, these future arrangements will remain subject to Home Office security checks, alongside requiring appropriate checks by both the financial institutions handling applicants' funds and by the endorsing body, ensuring three levels of scrutiny of each application.

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-02-21/debates/22022170000013/Tier1\(Investor\)Route](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-02-21/debates/22022170000013/Tier1(Investor)Route)

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/1055812/E02722027 - Immigration Rules changes - CP 632 Web Accessible .pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1055812/E02722027_-_Immigration_Rules_changes_-_CP_632_Web_Accessible_.pdf)

British National Overseas Immigration: Hong Kong

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Kevin Foster) [HCWS635] The Government are today announcing changes to the British National (Overseas) immigration route.

On 31 January 2021, the UK launched a bespoke immigration route for British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) status holders and their family members. The route reflects the UK's historic and moral commitment to those people of Hong Kong who chose to retain their ties to the UK by taking up BN(O) status before Hong Kong's handover to China in 1997, and followed China's passing of the national security law which significantly impacts the rights and freedoms of the people of Hong Kong.

The route has already been a great success and as of 31 December 2021, there have been 103,900 applications since the route launched.

The current rules enable adult children of a BN(O) status holder to apply as a dependant if they apply at the same time as their BN(O) parent, are part of their parent's household in Hong Kong, the UK or the Crown dependencies and were born on or after 1 July 1997. However, some of this cohort cannot currently access the BN(O) route because their BN(O) parent does not wish to apply, because they are not part of their parent's household, or they are unable to apply at the same time.

It was right to think about the family unit of the BN(O), but this is creating unfair outcomes for the families of BN(O) status holders with some children able to access the route independently as they were old enough to be registered for BN(O) status, while their younger siblings aged between 18 and 24 are unable to access the route. It is right and important to address this so the Government have made the decision to enable individuals aged 18 or over who were born on or after 1 July 1997 and who have at least one BN(O) parent to apply to the route independently of their BN(O) parent.

This cohort will still be required to meet all of the other suitability and eligibility requirements for the route, including six months maintenance funds and the requirement for the applicant

to be ordinarily resident in Hong Kong, the UK, or the Crown dependencies. Applicants will also need to pay the existing application fees for the route (£180 if applying for 30 months leave or £250 if applying for five years leave) as well as the immigration health surcharge. They will be able to be joined in the UK by their partner and children under the age of 18. After five years in the UK those on the BN(O) route will be able to apply for settlement, followed by citizenship after a further 12 months.

We intend to lay the changes to the immigration rules in September with the changes expected to go live in October.

This Government are committed to ensuring those planning to make the UK their home feel fully supported and welcomed when starting their lives here. As with those who have already come to the UK on the BN(O) route, this additional cohort will have access to the provisions available through the UK-wide Welcome programme led by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, which consists of a package of support with up to £43.1 million made available so far.

We look forward to welcoming applications from those individuals who wish to make the UK their home.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-02-24/debates/22022455000014/BritishNationalOverseasImmigrationHongKong>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Tackling Illegal Migration

James Grundy (Conservative): What steps [the Minister's] Department is taking to support the Home Office to tackle illegal migration. (905586)

Reply from the Minister for the Armed Forces (James Heapey): Defence primacy in the English channel, under Operation Isotrope, will seek to prevent the arrival of small boats on their own terms in the UK, while ensuring the safety of life at sea. We are working closely with the Home Office and others to deliver that outcome. ...

Kevan Jones (Labour): On the radio last week, the Minister said that to undertake Operation Isotrope the Ministry of Defence will have to acquire new boats. ...

Reply from James Heapey: The right hon. Gentleman refers to an interview in which I mentioned that they may be leased, rather than procured. As I went on to explain in that interview, there are a number of different platform types that will have different degrees of relevance and utility in the channel, all of which are under consideration to ensure that the right balance of platforms is available for what will be a very tricky task.

Peter Bone (Conservative): Would that not all be unnecessary if the French just controlled their own border? Our forces could then be redeployed, not protecting things in the channel. Are the French not at fault?

Reply from James Heapey: In the interests of bonhomie I will refrain from using such forthright language, but my hon. Friend certainly has a point.

Stephanie Peacock (Labour): In the last two years, the number of migrants making dangerous channel crossings has tripled, with the Home Secretary failing to tackle people smugglers. Now the Navy has been called in. Will the Minister clearly outline the Navy's role and explain why the Ministry of Defence is being sidelined in discussions with our French counterparts?

Reply from James Heapey: The role of the Royal Navy, as we said in the urgent question a few weeks' ago, is principally in the control and co-ordination of a wide range of Government assets that we would argue are, at the moment, not brought to bear in the most coherent way towards the task at hand. The Royal Navy is looking at that and augmenting it with some Royal Navy platforms, both ships and

surveillance and reconnaissance platforms. It is important to note, however, that most Royal Navy platforms do not have the outboard height required to be meaningfully part of any interdiction operations in the channel, so principally it is a command and control co-ordination exercise. If there are extra assets we can bring, we will.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-02-21/debates/1800D9FB-4678-456F-9778-2173F19CE14B/TacklingIllegalMigration>

Small Boat Channel Crossings

Ellie Reeves (Labour): What role the Royal Navy has in tackling migrants crossing the channel in small boats. (905594) ...

The Government have spent more than £200 million on deals with the French authorities and £780,000 on two Navy vessels, and have not intercepted a single boat. Now they are insisting on push-back tactics, which the Navy has rightly said it will not use. The human cost is harrowing. In November, 27 people, including children, died when their boat sank. Instead of wasting more taxpayers' money on unworkable initiatives, will the Minister finally back the solutions that will fix this crisis—opening safe routes of passage, meaningfully engaging with the French authorities, and implementing a proper plan to tackle people smuggling?

Reply from James Heapey: I am not sure that those elements are mutually exclusive. I absolutely agree with what the hon. Lady said at the end of her question—her suggestions for a solution—but I think that the measures she advocates must sit alongside a robust and resilient effort in the channel to ensure that even when they are in place, we are still able to protect our borders and stop people landing here on their own terms.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-02-21/debates/5B657B77-AA80-42B5-A9BF-5EA2F47E5E8E/SmallBoatChannelCrossings>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Refugees

Sarah Green (Liberal Democrat) [116106] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 17 January 2022 to Question 102809, on Afghanistan: Refugees, what her Department's timeframe is for contacting Afghan citizens eligible for the third referral pathway of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme who are not British Council or GardaWorld contractors or Chevening Alumni.

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

The capacity of the UK to resettle people is not unlimited. In Year 1, resettlement through the third pathway will be limited to those British Council and GardaWorld contractors and Chevening alumni who are most at risk. 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 at risk under the third referral pathway.

Information on how the ACRS will operate including the referral pathways are set in the oral statement of 6 January.

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-01/116106>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-12/102809>

Afghanistan: Refugees

Dan Jarvis (Labour) [126644] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, whether all Afghan nationals called forward during Op Pitting but remain in Afghanistan have been contacted by her Department.

James Cleverly: The UK has supported over 3700 individuals to leave Afghanistan since the end of Op Pitting. This includes vulnerable Afghans and British nationals and their dependents. We continue to work across Government, via FCDO, Ministry of Defence and Home Office to contact those eligible, still in Afghanistan and who wish to leave, including those called forward during the operation, to depart the country safely. This includes holding the Taliban to their commitment to ensure safe passage.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-21/126644>

Afghanistan: Refugees

Johnny Mercer (Conservative) [125314] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether applications to the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy scheme are decided strictly in the order in which they were submitted.

Reply from James Heapey: As at 22nd February over 110,000 applications have been received to the Afghan Relocation & Assistance Policy (ARAP) scheme and a dedicated team of caseworkers are working 7 days a week to process these applications. Routinely, applications are progressed in the order they have been received. In some cases, further information has to be requested from the applicant, and subject to that being received (and when) this may have implications for when decisions on the application are made. In exceptional circumstances, HMG may expedite ARAP applications. This will generally (but not exclusively) be where ARAP caseworkers become aware that there is credible evidence one or more of the following applies: there is an unusually high and imminent threat to life; the applicant requires immediate life-saving medical treatment for a medical condition unavailable in their current location; there are implications for diplomatic and international relations; or there are implications for national security.

We continue to devote significant resources to this task; and, to date our efforts have resulted in the relocation to the UK of over 8,000 ARAP principals and their dependants.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-18/125314>

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

Johnny Mercer (Conservative) [125313] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, in which month were the applications to the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy scheme being processed as of 18 February 2022 submitted.

Johnny Mercer (Conservative) [125315] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what his most recent estimate is for when applications to the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy scheme as of 18 February 2022 will have been processed.

Reply from James Heapey: As of 18 February 2022, over 110,000 applications have been received; many of which are found to be incomplete or duplications. We do not record 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 devote significant resources to this task; a dedicated team of caseworkers work seven days a week to process pending applications. To date, their efforts have resulted in the relocation to the UK of over 8,000 eligible applicants and dependants.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-18/125313>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-18/125315>

Afghanistan: Refugees

Johnny Mercer (Conservative) [125312] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what work has been undertaken on an application to the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy for that application to be categorised as (a) pending, (b) in progress, (c) processed and (d) complete.

Reply from James Heapey: Applications that have been received but are pending a decision on eligibility are regarded as 'pending'.

Applications assessed as eligible and undergoing the casework processes necessary to facilitate relocation to the UK are regarded as 'in progress'.

Applications that have concluded the casework process are cleared for relocation but are awaiting relocation are regarded as 'processed'.

Applications where the principal applicant and any dependants have arrived in the UK and been passed into the care of the Home Office are regarded as 'complete'.

As at 22 February the Afghan Relocation & Assistance Policy (ARAP) scheme has received in excess of 110,000 applications. To meet this unprecedented challenge a dedicated team of caseworkers are working 7 days a week to process these applications.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-18/125312>

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: English Language

Neil Coyle (Labour) [122684] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 11 January 2022 to Question 98220 on English language support for refugees, whether the Operation Warm Welcome programme for Afghan arrivals in the UK following the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan still covers the costs of English language classes.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: For those coming through both the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) and the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP), once granted Indefinite Leave to Remain, beneficiaries over the age of 19 have immediate access to funding through the Department for Education's Adult Education budget including English For Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses.

As part of Operation Warm Welcome, the funding package offered to Local Authorities, who have pledged support to the ARAP and ACRS cohort, is additional funding of £850 per adult over the age of 19 which will be made available to assist with English Language training.

This funding is available for the first year in country.

Resources from the BBC can be found here [BBC Learning English - Beginners English](#). The Open University has curated a series of short courses especially English provision and other resources for refugees. It is free to all and available at <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/society-politics-law/resources-refugees>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-10/122684>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<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>

Immigration: Afghanistan

Debbie Abrahams (Labour) [120763] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to (a) support Afghan nationals after their six months leave to remain in the UK ends and (b) provide information, advice and support for those people prior to the end of their leave to remain.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office has written to Afghan families advising them of the next steps to progress permanent residence in the UK.

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 those here in the UK under the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy and those moving onto the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme, to assist them to obtain Indefinite Leave to Remain status. While families are being accommodated in Bridging Hotel accommodation, we remain committed to ensuring that their essential living needs are being met.

We also have Home Office Liaison Officers (HOLO's) allocated to Bridging Hotel Accommodation.

The role of the HOLO is to provide both face to face support and remote support when not physically present. They are reactive to the needs of those accommodated in hotels and can provide signposting to other government departments and Local Authorities and ensure safeguarding concerns are appropriately acted upon.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-08/120763>

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>

Immigration: Afghanistan

Afzal Khan (Labour) [119804] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to support Afghan nationals after the end of their six 6 months leave to remain in the UK; and what steps her Department is taking to provide information, advice and support to those people before the end of that six month period.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Home Office has written to Afghan families advising them of the next steps to progress permanent residence in the UK.

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 is contacting those here in the UK under the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy and those moving onto the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme, to assist them to obtain Indefinite Leave to Remain status. While families are being accommodated in Bridging Hotel accommodation, their essential living needs are being met. We have already put in place numerous

mechanisms to support families, this includes a contact centre, a DWP and Home Office Liaison officer (HOLO) presence to support Universal Credit enrolment, lead job surgeries and reassure families and a funding package of £28 per person per day for provision of Local Authority Wrap-around support services. We are providing full food and board to all guests alongside 24/7 security presence on site. The role of the HOLO is to provide both face to face support and remote support when not physically present. They are reactive to the needs of those accommodated in hotels and can provide signposting to other government departments and Local Authorities and ensure safeguarding concerns are appropriately acted upon.

The provisions provided by the LA funding package include welcome services, needs identification, translation, healthcare in the hotels, GP registration, safeguarding and community cohesion support.

We initiated a 'Jobs First Pilot in 3 hotels on 31st January 2022. This is being led by DWP and aims to support guests within the hotels to find employment and begin their journey to financial independence.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-07/119804>

Refugees: Afghanistan

Stephen Kinnock (Labour) [119612] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will publish the month by month figures of Afghan refugees residing in bridging hotels, from 1 August 2021.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: We evacuated over 15,000 people in Operation Pitting and a further 1,500 since then. There are currently over 12,000 individuals from Afghanistan in bridging hotels.

This cohort is made up of British and Afghan Nationals who may be eligible for Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) or Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS).

To date we have successfully moved over 4,000 people into permanent accommodation and are working at pace with our Local Authority partners to secure permanent accommodation for those still in temporary accommodation. We urge all Hon Members to speak to their LA and offer any further accommodation for resettlement of Afghans.

The Home Office regularly monitors the number of individuals in this accommodation however at present there are no plans to publish month by month figures while we continue to evacuate from the region.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-07/119612>

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

Tim Loughton (Conservative) [114608] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to (a) urgently move families evacuated from Afghanistan in August 2021 out of hotel accommodation and (b) enable families to retain reasonable proximity and connection with each other.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: We are working at pace across government and with local authorities (LAs) to source appropriate accommodation for Afghan families who were evacuated to the UK.

Once properties are identified and referred to the Home Office, a matching exercise

is undertaken which enables us to offer the property to a suitable family. Where possible, we will match families from local bridging hotels allowing them to remain in the area where they may have started to form connections and settle.

The Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities have set up an online housing portal [Afghanistan housing portal - offers of support](#) to allow people to submit offers of housing support for people who have arrived from Afghanistan. We are also engaging with landlords, letting agencies and industry bodies to promote the portal and encourage participation in the resettlement programme.

This includes a partnership with Rightmove to identify potential properties available in the private rented sector, providing councils with additional information to source appropriate properties.

We give families seven days' notice of their move to long-term accommodation. This allows families time to prepare and discuss any concerns with their Home Office Liaison Officer. We also make them aware of their LA contacts.

Once families move, LAs will support them to settle and integrate, into their new community including help accessing local services such as a GP, schools and employment.

To assist with the successful integration of families to life in the UK we are piloting a 'Jobs First Pilot' in partnership with the Department of Work and Pensions. This pilot went live on 31 January. Participants will receive a range of support from Work Coaches to move into work. Importantly, participants will also receive support from a specialist cross government case working team to tackle non-employment barriers. LAs and charities are also actively supporting the pilot. The focus on both employment and non-employment barriers that prevent the take up of job offers will, it is hoped, increase the likelihood of a person moving into work, either in their current geographical area or in another part of the country.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-31/114608>

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

Immigration

Dan Carden (Labour) [125436] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps his Department is taking to widen access to justice for people applying for settlement under the Immigration Rules.

Reply from James Cartlidge: Legal aid has been and will continue to be available for asylum cases, for victims of domestic abuse and modern slavery, for separated migrant children and for immigration cases where someone is challenging a detention decision.

Where an issue falls outside the scope of legal aid, funding may still be available through the Exceptional Case Funding (ECF) Scheme.

We are expanding legal aid provision through the Nationality and Borders Bill, facilitating access to justice for individuals applying under the Immigration Rules.

We are providing up to seven hours of legal advice without the need for financial eligibility testing for individuals at risk of priority removal from the country, alongside legal advice for potential victims of modern slavery, to ensure that potential victims can be properly identified and supported throughout the process.

We are reviewing responses received to our call for evidence on immigration legal aid fees and the online tribunal procedure. We will publish a consultation on new immigration legal aid fees in this year.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-18/125436>

Immigration: Applications

Abena Oppong-Asare (Labour) [126868] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many in-country (a) leave to remain and (b) indefinite leave to remain applications remain outstanding beyond their six month service standard as of 21 February 2022.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Our aim is to process all applications for leave to remain and indefinite leave to remain within our service level agreement (SLA). Each individual case is considered on its own merit, 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.

If an application is deemed complex and expected to take longer than the published SLA, UKVI will write to the customer within the SLA and explain what will happen next.

Not all application routes have a six month SLA and certain routes do not have an SLA, this is due to the complexities of the applications submitted to us.

Information on our immigration routes with service standards and whether they have been processed against these standards is available as part of our transparency data, at: [Migration transparency data](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-21/126868>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration

Mary Kelly Foy (Labour) [121930] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of outstanding applications for (a) UK citizenship and (b) indefinite leave to remain.

Mary Kelly Foy (Labour) [121931] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to process outstanding applications for (a) UK citizenship and (b) indefinite leave to remain in a timely manner.

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 for UK citizenship and indefinite leave to remain within our service level agreement (SLA) of six months. Each individual case is considered on its own facts, so 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.

If an application is deemed complex and expected to take longer than the published SLA, UKVI will write to the customer within the SLA and explain what will happen next.

Information on our immigration routes with service standards and whether they have been processed against these standards is available as part of our transparency data, at: [Migration transparency data](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-09/121930>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-09/121931>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Ed Davey (Liberal Democrat) [120616] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to implement an exemption to the residency requirement for UK citizenship in regards to EU nationals who have been in the UK since

infancy and have had a period overseas for study or work in the five years preceding their application.

Ed Davey (Liberal Democrat) [120617] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many EU nationals who have been in the UK since infancy had their applications for UK citizenship turned down due to having a period overseas for study or work in the preceding five years in the time periods of (a) 2018, (b) 2019, (c) 2020 and (d) 2021.

Reply from Kevin Foster: There are no plans to exempt EU nationals from the statutory residence requirements for British citizenship, which apply to all applicants regardless of nationality. It is fair all applicants, irrespective of nationality, meet these same requirements to ensure citizenship is granted on a consistent basis.

A person should not normally be absent from the UK for more than 450 days during a 5 year residential period, and no more than 90 days in the final year. There is some discretion available to caseworkers over excess absences and this is normally exercised where the applicant has established their home, employment, family and finances in the UK, and the absence is as a result of compelling or compassionate reasons beyond the applicant's control. Details of how discretion may be exercised is published in nationality guidance.

There are no figures available through our normal reporting mechanisms for the specific scenario requested. Transparency data on overall approval/refusal numbers for citizenship applications can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visas-and-citizenship-data-q3-2021>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-08/120616>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-08/120617>

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Sarah Olney (Liberal Democrat) [122771] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the evidential basis is for her assessment that 70 per cent of those crossing the channel in small boats are economic migrants.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: As set out in our New Plan for Immigration policy statement, 74% of people arriving in the UK on small boats in 2020 were aged between 18 – 39 and 87% of all small boats arrivals were male.

Those seeking protection should claim asylum in the first safe country, and given the fact there is no need for migrants to cross the Channel using small boats in order to gain protection, it is not unreasonable to assume that a proportion of these arrivals are economically motivated.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-10/122771>

Asylum

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [125219] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make changes to the Immigration Rules to permit certain persons to apply for a visa to come to the UK for the purpose of making an asylum claim; and whether a person can already seek a visa for such purposes.

Reply from Kevin Foster: We sympathise with the many millions of people facing difficult situations around the world, yet there is no provision in the Immigration Rules for someone to be allowed to travel to the UK to claim asylum as it would simply not be practical or sensible to offer a visa to the UK for everyone who might be in this situation.

It is more effective to focus opportunities for resettlement in the UK on the most vulnerable people in need of protection through our resettlement schemes. These schemes have provided safe and legal routes for tens of thousands of people to start new lives in the UK, alongside the many who may also arrive via our family or

skilled work routes where they are eligible for them.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-18/125219>

The following five questions all received the same answer

Asylum: Mental Health Services

Neil Coyle (Labour) [122687] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department plans to take steps in response to the finding in the 2022 report by the British Red Cross and the VOICES Network, entitled We want to be strong, but we don't have the chance, that the UK's asylum system is not sensitive to gender or trauma needs.

Asylum: Interviews

Neil Coyle (Labour) [122688] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department plans to take steps in response to finding in the 2022 report by the British Red Cross and VOICES Network, entitled We want to be strong but we don't have the chance, that her Department is not offering women the option to be interviewed by another woman for their asylum interviews.

Asylum: Females

Neil Coyle (Labour) [122689] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential impact of the Nationality and Borders Bill on women and girls seeking asylum in the UK.

Neil Coyle (Labour) [122690] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the implications for its policies of responses to the consultation on the New Plan for Immigration that expressed concerns about the impact that plan could have on women and girls seeking asylum in the UK.

Neil Coyle (Labour) [122691] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to involve more women who have first-hand experience of seeking asylum in future reforms to the UK's asylum system.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The UK has a proud history of providing protection to the most vulnerable people in genuine need, including women, and this will not change. This government remains committed to delivering a gender-sensitive asylum system ensuring that all those who seek asylum are treated with dignity and respect.

The Nationality and Borders Bill will deliver the Government's New Plan for Immigration – the most comprehensive reform in decades, to fix the broken asylum system. The reformed asylum system will continue to strive to provide a system which is sensitive to gender and trauma-related needs, for example continuing to provide the opportunity for all those claiming asylum to be interviewed by an individual of the same gender and a trauma informed approach to actively avoid the re-traumatisation whilst an individual is in the asylum system.

We are taking into account the recently received report 'We want to be strong', commissioned research, experiences of those seeking asylum and welcome engagement through our stakeholder networks. Engagement, including on the New Plan for Immigration, is already underway, as we build a system that is fair, but firm; that safeguards those who may be vulnerable; and protects against any unintended consequences.

We will continue to support conversations on improving the health of refugees and asylum seekers via the Refugee Council chaired Mental Health Forum. This forum is informed by representatives from across the NGO sector, Home Office, Department of Health and Social Care, Public Health England and NHS England and NHS Improvement bringing those with customer informed insight together to consider approaches to mental health support.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-10/122687>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-10/122688>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-10/122689>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-10/122690>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-10/122691>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.redcross.org.uk/-/media/documents/about-us/research-publications/refugee-support/we-want-to-be-strong-womens-experiences-of-seeking-asylum-in-the-uk.pdf>

Asylum

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [120794] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average duration of the asylum procedure at first instance is in the UK.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office is unable to report what the average duration of the asylum procedure at the first instance is in the UK as this information is not recorded and held in a reportable format.

However, the Home Office does publish data on the number asylum applications awaiting an initial decision by duration. This data can be found at This data can be found at Asy_04 of the published Immigration Statistics:

[List of tables](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-08/120794>

Asylum: Interviews

Justin Madders (Labour) [125269] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many specialist decision-making units are operational in her Department; how many decisions they have made since their introduction; and what their turnaround rate is in comparison to the normal decision making route.

Reply from Kit Malthouse: The Home Office currently have several specialist decision-making units, including but not limited to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and older claims.

We are unable to report how many decisions the specialist decision making units have made since their introduction as this information is not recorded and held in a reportable format, however we can provide the number of asylum decisions, broken down by nationality, and can be found at, Asy_D02 of the published immigration statistics:

[List of tables](#)

The decision-making route remains the same for all asylum applications however we have created additional hubs to provide a greater ownership, improved consistency, and management of the cohorts to ensure quick decisions can be made.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-18/125269>

Asylum

Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat) [120730] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum decisions her Department made without substantive asylum interviews in the past 12 months.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office are unable to state how many asylum decisions have been made without substantive asylum interviews in the past 12 months as this information is not held in a reportable format and could only be obtained at disproportionate costs.

The Home Office carefully considers all asylum claims on a case by case basis,

irrespective of their nationality or group, based on their individual merits, against a background of relevant case law and up to date country information.

In most asylum cases we will ask the claimant to complete a Preliminary Information Questionnaire (PIQ). The information contained in the PIQ (or Statement of Evidence Form for children) will be used alongside all of the other evidence already held about the claim to help determine whether or not it is appropriate to omit an asylum interview.

The criteria for when a substantive asylum interview can be omitted are contained in Paragraph 339NA of the Immigration Rules and include cases where we are able to take a positive decision on the basis of evidence available, or if the claimant is unfit or unable to be interviewed owing to enduring circumstances beyond their control. It would be inappropriate to adopt a blanket approach to certain nationalities or groups because of the differing circumstances of each claim.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-08/120730>

Asylum: Children

Debbie Abrahams (Labour) [120765] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department keeps official records (a) the average number of days it takes to process claims for unaccompanied children seeking asylum in the UK and (b) trends in the number of days it takes her Department to reach a decision on children seeking asylum claims in (i) 2021, (ii) 2020 and (iii) 2019; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office are unable to state the average number of days it takes to process claims for unaccompanied children seeking asylum in the UK or provide trends in the number of days it takes to reach a decision in 2021, 2020 and 2019 as this information is not held in a reportable format and could only be obtained at disproportionate costs.

However, the Home Office does publish data on the number asylum applications awaiting an initial decision by duration. This data can be found at Asy_D03, (broken down by nationality and applicant type) in the asylum and resettlement detailed datasets:

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

The Home Office have established two dedicated case working Hubs for deciding children's asylum claims which are now fully operational. The hubs have established improved focus on and greater control of children's cases to build expertise, identify efficiencies and provide a consistency of decision making (and quicker outcomes) for our customers.

We continue to work collaboratively with Local Authorities nationally on the remote interview process for Accompanied and Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children and young people utilising digital interviewing video capabilities to complement in person interviews.

Since May 2021 we have increased Local Authority opt in for digital interviewing to 108 Local Authorities helping to speed up processes, reduce delays and the numbers of children and young people who have an outstanding claim.

We are continuing to recruit additional decision-makers who will be trained to process children's asylum claims.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-08/120765>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Children

Debbie Abrahams (Labour) [120766] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has received representations from Greater Manchester child and migrant rights organisation on concerns that children seeking asylum in the UK are at a

higher risk of criminal exploitation, self-harm and dying by suicide; and what steps she is taking to resolve backlog of children seeking asylum.

Afzal Khan (Labour) [120904] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has received representations from Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit on their concerns that children seeking asylum in the UK are at a higher risk of criminal exploitation, self-harm and dying by suicide; and what steps she is taking to tackle the backlog of children seeking asylum.

Reply from Kevin Foster: ... The Home Office have established two dedicated case working Hubs for deciding children's asylum claims which are now fully operational. The hubs have established improved focus on and greater control of children's cases to build expertise, identify efficiencies and provide a consistency of decision making (and quicker outcomes) for our customers.

We continue to work collaboratively with Local Authorities nationally on the remote interview process for Accompanied and Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children and young people utilising digital interviewing video capabilities to complement in person interviews.

Since May 2021 we have increased Local Authority opt in for digital interviewing to 108 Local Authorities helping to speed up processes, reduce delays and the numbers of children and young people who have an outstanding claim.

We are continuing to recruit additional decision-makers who will be trained to process children's asylum claims to further reduce the number outstanding.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-08/120766>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-08/120904>

Asylum: Families

Neil Coyle (Labour) [122686] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many individuals and families did not receive Section 95 support but were granted refugee status in 2021.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The latest published Immigration Statistics detail the number of asylum seekers on Asylum Support. These statistics can be found at:

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

The Home Office does not publish a breakdown of these statistics which shows families who did *not* receive section 95 support and have been granted refugee status in 2021. These figures are not available in a reportable format and to provide the information could only be done at disproportionate cost.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-10/122686>

Asylum: Housing

Steve McCabe (Labour) [122587] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the adequacy of living conditions of asylum seekers waiting for a decision on their asylum claim.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office sets clear standards for our accommodation providers, who are contractually obliged to provide adequate accommodation and to conduct regular quality assurance checks across the asylum estate.

Robust compliance and governance protocols exist to ensure daily engagement is undertaken with our service providers by Home Office officials to ensure and assure the providers' operational delivery and overall performance consistently meet the required standards. If any issues are identified providers are required to take immediate action to address and recover accordingly.

In response to the global pandemic, officials also have formal weekly meetings to

ensure individuals are housed safely, services are delivered in line with their contractual obligations and with adherence to guidance from UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and where appropriate Department for Health & Social Care (DHSC) is followed.

Asylum seekers can also raise specific issues or concerns about their accommodation through the 24/7 Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility (AIRE) service operated via Migrant Help.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-10/122587>

Refugees: Hotels

Charlotte Nichols (Labour) [122862] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the food provided by Serco at hotels accommodating refugees caters for people who require halal.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Where full board accommodation is provided by the provider for asylum seeking service users, food provisions are required to meet the dietary, cultural and religious needs of those accommodated.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-10/122862>

Asylum: Employment

Debbie Abrahams (Labour) [120767] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has plans to give people seeking asylum the right to work in the UK.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office already allows asylum seekers the right to work in the UK if their claim has been outstanding for 12 months or more, through no fault of their own.

Those permitted to work are restricted to jobs on the Shortage Occupation List, which is based on expert advice from the independent Migration Advisory Committee. We have no plans to change this approach.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-08/120767>

Asylum: Detention Centres

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [120791] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum applicants were in immigration detention at the end of 2021.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The Home Office publishes statistics on people in detention on the last day of each quarter in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on people in detention broken down by asylum and non-asylum related detainees are published in table Det_01 of the '[Detention summary tables](#)'. The 'contents' sheet contains an overview of all available data on detention.

Asylum-related detainees relate to detainees who have claimed asylum at some point. This includes failed asylum seekers as well as those with open claims.

Figures on people in detention at the end of December 2021 will be published on 24 February 2022.

Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the '[Research and statistics calendar](#)'.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-08/120791>

Immigration: Detention Centres

Anne McLaughlin (SNP) [121812] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people applied for UK asylum while in immigration detention in 2021.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office publishes statistics on people entering, leaving and in detention in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'.

This data is broken down by asylum and non-asylum related detainees and are published in table Det_01 of the [‘Detention summary tables’](#).

“Asylum-related detainees” relates to detainees who have claimed asylum at some point, not just while in detention and also includes failed asylum seekers as well as those with open claims. The data therefore is not a direct count of people who applied for asylum while in detention.

Data on people leaving detention while their asylum claim is considered are included in the ‘Bailed (Secretary of State or SoS)’ category and are published in table Det_04a of the [‘Detention summary tables’](#) with the latest data being for the year ending September 2021. However, this does not specify when the asylum claim was raised.

The ‘contents’ sheet contains an overview of all available data on detention.

Figures to the end of December 2021, will be published on 24 February 2022.

Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the [‘Research and statistics calendar’](#).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-09/121812>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Prisoners: Foreign Nationals

Ellie Reeves (Labour) [121891] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many inmates across the prison estate have been detained at the end of their sentence awaiting a Home Office decision on an authority to detain notification (IS91) in each year since 2010.

Ellie Reeves (Labour) [121892] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much compensation has been paid out to detainees across the prison estate for having to wait for a Home Office decision on an authority to detain notification (IS91) once they have already served their sentence in each year since 2010.

Prisoners: Undocumented Migrants

Ellie Reeves (Labour) [121893] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how long on average detainees have had to stay in prison after their sentence has been served whilst awaiting on an authority to detain notification (IS91) decision in each year since 2010.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The Government is committed to a fair and humane immigration policy that welcomes those here legally, but tackles abuse and protects the public.

We make every effort to ensure that a foreign national offender’s (FNO) removal by deportation coincides, as far as possible, with their release from prison on completion of sentence. Detention plays a crucial role in enabling the removal of FNOs and those who are here illegally.

Published Home Office policy, [Detention General instructions](#), is clear that immigration detention must be used sparingly and for the shortest period necessary. Where the Home Office intends to detain a time-served FNO under immigration powers at the end of their custodial sentence, detention notices are served in advance of this date, subject to certain exceptions. A timely risk assessment is also carried, out in line with [published guidance](#), which reviews the suitability of the FNOs transfer to the immigration removal estate.

Foreign national offenders held in detention have the option to apply to an independent immigration judge for bail at any point. Once a person is in detention, regular reviews are undertaken to ensure that their detention remains lawful, appropriate and proportionate. We do not detain people indefinitely.

The Home Office publishes data on people in immigration detention in the [‘Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release’](#). The number of people in detention on the last day of each quarter are published in table Det_D02 of the [Detention](#)

[detailed datasets](#). The data include those detained under immigration powers in HM prisons from July 2017 and can be broken down by place of detention. The latest data relate to the number of people in detention at the end of September 2021.
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-09/121891>
and
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-09/121892>
and
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-09/121893>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Immigration: Migrant Workers

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL6080] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to assess their Points-Based System for skilled and qualified migrant workers, so as to give extra points to those having close relatives already lawfully resident in the UK.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We regularly review the Points-Based System to ensure it continues to meet the UK's interests and to attract the best and brightest from around the world but will not be making the change suggested. Adding points for having close relatives in the UK would undermine the intentions of this route as one focussed on employment and providing labour needed in the economy.

There are separate migration routes which those seeking to join family members in the UK can consider.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-08/hl6080>

Refugees: Afghanistan

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL6046] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many refugees they have deported from Afghanistan due to failed UK asylum applications.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Enforced returns to Afghanistan, including deportations, remain paused at this time.

The Home Office publishes data on the number of returns from the UK in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly release](#)'. The latest data on asylum-related returns from the UK for the top 10 nationalities, which are broken down by return type including enforced returns (of which 'deportations' is a subset) can be found in table Ret_04 of the [returns summary tables](#).

The data are for the top 10 nationalities of the returnee as opposed to destination of the return. The published data therefore relate to all returns of Afghan nationals, including returns to other safe countries. Data by destination are not currently available. The latest data relate to the year ending June 2021 with Afghanistan in the top 10 nationalities.

Asylum-related returns relate to cases where there has been an asylum claim at some stage prior to the return. This will include asylum seekers whose asylum claims have been refused, and who have exhausted any rights of appeal, those returned under third country provisions, as well as those granted asylum/protection, but removed for other reasons (such as criminality).

The term 'deportations' refers to a legally defined subset of returns, which are enforced either following a criminal conviction, or when it is judged that a person's removal from the UK is conducive to the public good. The published statistics refer to enforced returns which include deportations, as well as cases where a person has breached UK immigration laws and those removed under other administrative

and illegal entry powers that have declined to leave voluntarily. Figures on deportations, which are a subset of enforced returns, are not separately available. The Home Office seeks to return people who do not have any legal right to stay in the UK, which includes people who:

- enter, or attempt to enter, the UK illegally (including people entering clandestinely and by means of deception on entry);
- overstay their period of legal right to remain in the UK;
- breach their conditions of leave;
- are subject to deportation action; for example, due to a serious criminal conviction and;
- have been refused asylum.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-07/hl6046>

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Baroness Neville-Rolfe (Conservative) [HL6134] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Lord Sharpe of Epsom on 8 February (HL Deb cols 1553-1554), why the figures on the number of migrants crossing the English Channel will in future be published on a quarterly, rather than daily basis.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office are currently considering advice from the independent UK Statistics Authority to make sure statistics on small boats crossing are published in an orderly way, which provides a clear picture of the small boats issue to the public. The Home Office has recently announced its intention to publish a quarterly statistics release on irregular migration to the UK, including the number of people arriving across the Channel in small boats. The first release will be on 24 February 2022. This will ensure regular statistics are released in an orderly, transparent way that is accessible to everyone, meeting the principles set out in the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#).

No final decisions have been made in relation to the release of small boat numbers, beyond the quarterly publication, and further details will be confirmed in due course. In the meantime, the Home Office continues to provide these to journalists on days where we see arrivals.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-09/hl6134>

The remarks referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-02-08/debates/1AB52848-6E2A-49BE-9D95-9221298E14C3/NationalityAndBordersBill#contribution-BF4EA4C5-6D3F-4641-B5B3-2BA818976190>

Press Releases

Home Secretary announces visa concessions for Ukrainians

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-announces-visa-concessions-for-ukrainians>

Visa fees scrapped for Non-UK Service Personnel

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/visa-fees-scrapped-for-non-uk-service-personnel>

New Publications

Immigration statistics, year ending December 2021

Overview of the immigration system

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-december-2021/overview-of-the-immigration-system>

Summary of latest statistics

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-december-2021/summary-of-latest-statistics>

How many people come to the UK each year (including visitors)?

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-december-2021/how-many-people-come-to-the-uk-each-year-including-visitors>

Why do people come to the UK? To work

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-december-2021/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-to-work>

Why do people come to the UK? To study

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-december-2021/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-to-study>

Why do people come to the UK? For family reasons

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-december-2021/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-for-family-reasons>

How many people do we grant asylum or protection to?

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-december-2021/how-many-people-do-we-grant-asylum-or-protection-to>

How many people continue their stay in the UK or apply to stay permanently?

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-december-2021/how-many-people-continue-their-stay-in-the-uk-or-apply-to-stay-permanently>

How many people are detained or returned?

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-december-2021/how-many-people-are-detained-or-returned>

Visas and Citizenship data: Q4 2021

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1057068/UKVI_VC_Transparency_Q4_2021_Published.ods

Windrush Compensation Scheme data: January 2022

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1056303/WCS_Data_-_Jan_2022.ods

Windrush Task Force Data: Q4 2021

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1056378/UKVI_VC_WRTF_Q4_2021_Published.ods

EU Settlement Scheme statistics, January 2022

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/eu-settlement-scheme-statistics-january-2022/eu-settlement-scheme-statistics-january-2022>

EU Settlement Scheme quarterly statistics, December 2021

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/eu-settlement-scheme-quarterly-statistics-december-2021/eu-settlement-scheme-quarterly-statistics-december-2021>

Irregular migration to the UK, year ending December 2021

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/irregular-migration-to-the-uk-year-ending-december-2021/irregular-migration-to-the-uk-year-ending-december-2021>

Nationality and Borders Bill: Electronic Travel Authorisation factsheet

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nationality-and-borders-bill-electronic-travel-authorisation-factsheet/nationality-and-borders-bill-electronic-travel-authorisation-factsheet>

Nationality and Borders Bill: children factsheet

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nationality-and-borders-bill-children-factsheet/nationality-and-borders-bill-children-factsheet>

Nationality and Borders Bill: safeguarding through age assessment

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nationality-and-borders-bill-safeguarding-through-age-assessment/nationality-and-borders-bill-safeguarding-through-age-assessment>

Nationality and Borders Bill: inadmissibility for those travelling through or with a connection to safe third countries

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nationality-and-borders-bill-inadmissibility-third-country-connections/nationality-and-borders-bill-inadmissibility-for-those-travelling-through-or-with-a-connection-to-safe-third-countries>

Nationality and Borders Bill: overseas asylum processing

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nationality-and-borders-bill-overseas-asylum-processing/nationality-and-borders-bill-overseas-asylum-processing>

Nationality and Borders Bill: abuse of modern slavery protections factsheet

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nationality-and-borders-bill-abuse-of-modern-slavery-protections-factsheet/nationality-and-borders-bill-abuse-of-modern-slavery-protections-factsheet>

Government Response: Immigration Fees Public Consultation

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1056625/Government_response_to_Immigration_Fees_Public_Consultation.odt

The points-based immigration system: the Graduate immigration route

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-graduate-route-information-for-international-students/the-points-based-immigration-system-the-graduate-immigration-route-accessible-version>

An evaluation of the Scottish Guardianship Service: The work of Guardians within asylum determination and National Referral Mechanism processes

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/An-evaluation-of-the-Scottish-Guardianship-Service-2022.pdf>

Open for the childless skilled only: the poverty risks of migrant workers with children under the UK points-based immigration system

<https://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/tpp/jpsj/2022/00000030/00000001/art00002;jsessionid=3pbcud6nmegrw.x-ic-live-02>

News

Scottish Parliament votes against the Borders Bill

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/scottish-parliament-votes-against-the-borders-bill/>

Migrants should stop 'queue-jumping' to reach 'nice' countries, says new UK immigration adviser

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/02/23/migrants-should-stop-queue-jumping-reach-nice-countries-says/>

Home Office probes immigration contractor Mitie over racist text claims

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-60455935>

Home Office probes claims of racist messages sent by Mitie immigration contractors

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/19938761.home-office-probes-claims-racist-messages-sent-mitie-immigration-contractors/>

Home Office launches investigation into 'racist' messages sent by immigration contractors

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/02/20/home-office-launches-investigation-racist-messages-sent-immigration/>

CEO of Home Office contractor apologises for racist messages by staff

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2022/feb/25/ceo-of-home-office-contractor-mitie-apologises-for-racist-tweets-by-staff>

Home Office probes claims of racist WhatsApp messages sent by immigration contractors

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/home-office-racist-whatsapp-messages-mitie-b2019336.html>

Edinburgh to offer first permanent homes to Afghan refugees

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/19938951.edinburgh-offer-first-permanent-homes-afghan-refugees/>

Afghan families in Edinburgh still waiting on permanent housing

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/afghan-edinburgh-families-scottish-priti-patel-b2019622.html>

Waive visa rules for Ukrainians seeking refuge in Scotland, says Angus Robertson

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/waive-visa-rules-ukrainians-refugees-scotland-angus-robertson-vfs0s2322>

Home Secretary announces visa concessions for Ukrainians

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-announces-visa-concessions-for-ukrainians>

Ukraine conflict: Scotland stands ready to offer refuge

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-60537514>

UK 'must throw open its doors' to Ukraine refugees as thousands flee warzone
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/02/26/uk-must-throw-open-doors-ukraine-refugees-thousands-flee-warzone/>

Ukraine invasion: Charities urge UK to welcome thousands of refugees
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-60518801>

Charities urge UK to welcome refugees fleeing Ukraine conflict
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/feb/25/charities-urge-uk-to-welcome-refugees-fleeing-ukraine-conflict>

Tory MP suggests Ukrainians fleeing Russian invasion should apply for seasonal work visas
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/ukraine-russia-crisis-kyiv-tory-mp-b2024163.html>

Britain fails to set up refugee route as thousands flee Ukraine
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/ukraine-war-refugees-uk-visas-b2022567.html>

Ukraine war: Two thirds of Brits want government to set up refugee resettlement scheme, poll shows
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/ukraine-war-refugees-uk-resettlement-b2023549.html>

Channel migrants now more than three-quarters of those illegally entering UK
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/02/24/channel-migrants-now-three-quarters-illegally-entering-uk/>

Almost all Channel migrants arrive without passports after being told to shred ID
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/02/24/almost-channel-migrants-arrive-without-passports-told-shred/>

Channel crossings topped 28,500 in 2021, official figures reveal
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-office-english-channel-kevin-foster-government-university-of-oxford-b2022231.html>

90% of migrants who crossed Channel were male, Home Office reveals
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/90-of-migrants-who-crossed-channel-were-male-home-office-reveals-jkrvdqxxl>

Glowing report for Scottish Guardianship Service
<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/glowing-report-for-scottish-guardianship-service/>

Giving unaccompanied children a voice
<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/giving-unaccompanied-children-a-voice/>

Deportations from UK at record low as asylum applications soar
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/feb/24/deportations-from-uk-at-record-low-as-asylum-applications-soar>

Only 1% of asylum seekers Home Office wants to deport to EU deported after Brexit
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-seekers-home-office-claim-b2022216.html>

TOP

Community Relations

UK Parliament Debate

Muslim Community in Wales

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-02-23/debates/06D8987B-4B0D-4790-A06A-E38A689D124C/MuslimCommunityInWales>

News

Campaigners' prayers answered as Glasgow's St Mungo museum is thrown a lifeline

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/19940939.campaigners-prayers-answered-glasgows-st-mungo-museum-thrown-lifeline/>

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Further Education: BAME

Toby Perkins (Labour) [905713] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, if she will make an assessment of the implications for her policies of trends in the level of BAME Further Education (a) students and (b) college leaders.

Reply from Alex Burghart: Government is clear that all learners from all backgrounds must benefit from our education and training policies. Our latest FE trends participation data (August 2011 to July 2019) shows that whilst the total number of people in further education in England fell, during the same period, the percentage of people in further education from Asian, Black, Mixed, and Other ethnic groups increased from 19.3% to 22.6%.

We have exceeded our target to increase the proportion of apprentices from ethnic minority backgrounds starting apprenticeships. 14.3% of starts in 2020/21 were by people of Black Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds, compared to 13.3% in 2019/20. We continue to raise awareness in schools through our ASK programme to support young people into apprenticeships and The Apprenticeship Diversity Champions Network promotes diversity in apprenticeships including encouraging more from ethnic minorities into key sectors with historic under-representation.

We are supporting the largest-ever expansion of traineeships as part of the government's Plan for Jobs to ensure that more young people have access to high-quality training. Since their introduction in the 2013/14 academic year (AY), the diversity record on traineeships has shown steady improvement, with around one third of starts being from ethnic minority backgrounds in 2020/21.

We also provide extra funding for colleges to support the most disadvantaged students with low prior attainment or living in deprived areas and provide learner

support for disadvantaged students to help them overcome barriers to learning. We have been working with a number of representative bodies in the Further Education sector to strengthen leadership and governance, including through greater diversity. We recognise the importance of having a diverse and representative workforce, and have funded the Education and Training Foundation to deliver a range of programmes designed to increase the diversity of leaders and managers. We have also committed to a new mandatory annual data collection in FE, which will uncover a large range of characteristics of the workforce, including ethnicity, which will provide a robust picture of the ethnic makeup of the workforce.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-23/905713>

The data referred to above can be read at

<https://www.ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk/education-skills-and-training/a-levels-apprenticeships-further-education/further-education-participation/latest>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Universities: Staff

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL6102] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to encourage universities to increase the numbers of black staff to reflect the diversity of students.

Reply from Baroness Barran: Higher education (HE) providers are independent and autonomous institutions. The government does not compel participation in equality charters.

However, it is essential that HE providers address disparities in pay or opportunity, where they may be based on race, disability, gender, or other protected characteristics. We want HE providers to address inequality with confidence, using their own judgement to address the real issues which restrict opportunity.

The department expects HE providers, like all employers, to comply with their obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and give due consideration to the way their employment practices affect different people from different communities and at different stages of their careers.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-08/hl6102>

History: Education

Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench) [HL6110] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to adopt the Council of Europe's recommendation to "include the history of Roma and Travellers in school curricula and teaching materials", published in their list of recommendations on 1 July 2020; and what plans they have to make the teaching mandatory and educate those unaware of the genocide of the Roma population in the Holocaust.

Reply from Baroness Barran: The history curriculum gives teachers and schools the freedom to use specific examples from history to teach pupils about the history of Britain and the wider world.

Gypsy, Roma and Travellers' history can already be taught as part of schools offering a broad and balanced curriculum. Resources are available from experts in the communities themselves and bodies such as the Historical Association.

As part of Holocaust education, which is the only compulsory topic in the history curriculum at key stage 3, a wide array of resources are available to help teachers explain the persecution by the Nazis of different groups of people. The Holocaust Educational Trust's Lessons from Auschwitz programme and the knowledge and training provided by University College London's Centre for Holocaust Education include information and resources to support an understanding of the Holocaust

and the Nazis' persecution of other non-Jewish groups, including the genocide of the Roma.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-09/hl6110>

The recommendations referred to above can be read at

https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectId=09000016809ee48c

Press Releases

Scottish Parliament marks minority ethnic 'emerging leaders' success

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/newsandmediacentre/117597.aspx>

New taskforce to level-up maternity care and tackle disparities

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-taskforce-to-level-up-maternity-care-and-tackle-disparities>

News

NHS to tackle 'unfair' maternity outcomes

<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-60485536>

Troy Deeney calls for mandatory teaching of black, Asian and minority ethnic history

<https://www.bbc.com/sport/football/60486426>

Troy Deeney calls for more diversity in English schools' curriculum

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2022/feb/22/troy-deeney-calls-for-more-diversity-in-english-schools-curriculum>

Troy Deeney: Schools are failing Black students, says footballer

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/troy-deeney-black-students-schools-curriculum-b2021286.html>

Troy Deeney is right: our teachers don't know how to teach Black history

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/feb/26/troy-deeney-teachers-black-history-britain>

Ozwald Boateng: 'I used to run away from racist skinheads, now I'm championing black British talent'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/fashion/people/ozwald-boateng-used-run-racist-skinheads-now-championing-black/>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Motion

David Torrance (SNP) [S6M-03204] Reaffirming Support for Roma and Gypsy/Traveller Communities – That the Parliament condemns the recent comments made by Jimmy Carr in a Netflix special about the genocide of Roma and Gypsy people

during the Holocaust; acknowledges what it sees as the distressing impact that such comments have had on the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community; understands that over half a million Roma and Sinti people were tortured, starved and subjected to forced labour and medical experimentation under the Nazi regime; believes that such comments perpetuate the racism and prejudice that, it considers, is experienced by Roma and Gypsy/Traveller communities in all aspects of daily life; understands that 44% of respondents surveyed by the Equality and Human Rights Commission in 2018 reportedly expressed openly negative attitudes towards Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, which, it understands, was the highest percentage of any protected characteristic group; values what it sees as the contribution that Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities have made, and continue to make, to Scottish life, and reaffirms what it sees as its commitment to actively challenge any form of racism or prejudice.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/votes-and-motions-search/S6M-03204>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Antisemitism

Catherine West (Labour) [122768] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what steps he is taking to tackle the rise in anti-semitic crimes and incidents.

Reply from Kemi Badenoch: The number of antisemitic incidents and the rise in the last year is unacceptable. The Government takes hate crime very seriously and are clear that victims should be supported and the individuals who carry out these heinous attacks must be brought to justice.

We are providing £14 million this year, and have provided £65 million to date, for the Protective Security Grant to protect Jewish schools and community buildings. Alongside this, the Government's Independent Advisor on Antisemitism, Lord Mann, continues to provide advice on the most effective methods to tackle antisemitism. We were also the first country to adopt the IHRA definition of Antisemitism and continue to encourage organisations and councils to adopt the definition – demonstrating their willingness to support the Jewish community.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-10/122768>

Antisemitism

Wera Hobhouse (Liberal Democrat) [122773] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what assessment he has made of the implications for his policies of the findings from the Community Security Trust that anti-Jewish hate incidents have increased 34 per cent from 2020.

Reply from Kemi Badenoch: Any amount of antisemitism is too much and the Government will continue tackling it in all its forms. We are providing £14 million this year, and provided over £65 million to date, for the Protective Security Grant to protect Jewish schools and community buildings. We also were the first country to adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism and will continue to encourage organisations and councils to take this important step to combat antisemitism in their communities.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-10/122773>

Social Rented Housing: Racial Discrimination

Apsana Begum (Labour) [122852] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, if the Regulator of Social Housing will introduce specific standards for dealing with complaints of racism in social housing.

Reply from Stuart Andrew: All people living in social housing must be treated with fairness and respect, and their complaints – including those of racism - must be handled effectively by registered providers.

The Regulator of Social Housing has four consumer standards governing landlord services, which landlords are required to meet. The Tenant Involvement and Empowerment Standard requires providers to treat all tenants with fairness and respect, have an approach to complaints that is clear, simple and accessible, and ensure that complaints are resolved promptly, politely and fairly.

Following the commitments made in the Charter for Social Housing Residents, we are working with the Regulator of Social Housing to create a strong, proactive consumer regulatory regime. We will give the Regulator the powers to proactively monitor and drive compliance with the consumer standards, with new tenant satisfaction measures on issues including complaints handling. The Regulator will also revise the standards to ensure they are fit for purpose.

We will introduce legislation as soon as is practicable to bring forward the new consumer regime.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-10/122852>

The Charter referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-charter-for-social-housing-residents-social-housing-white-paper/the-charter-for-social-housing-residents-social-housing-white-paper>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Football: Ethnic Groups

Catherine West (Labour) [125374] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps she is taking to increase the participation of BAME young people in grassroots football.

Football: Racial Discrimination

Catherine West (Labour) [125375] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what assessment she has made of trends in the level of racism aimed at BAME people in grassroots football; and what steps she is taking to tackle racism in grassroots football.

Reply from Nigel Huddleston: The government is clear that racism has no place in football, sport, or society at large. Our strategy 'Sporting Future' is committed to promoting diversity and inclusion in sport and physical activity, including football. We are in regular dialogue with the football authorities across a range of matters, including tackling racism and increasing racial diversity in grassroots football.

In October 2021 the FA launched their new equality, diversity and inclusion strategy (2021-24) 'A Game for All'. We also welcomed the launch of the County FA's Code of Governance in May 2020 and the FA's 'Football Leadership Diversity Code' in October 2020, which is a step in the right direction to ensure English football better represents our modern and diverse society, on and off the pitch. The FA has committed to following this with a version adapted, in 2021, for the National League System and grassroots clubs.

Opportunities for participation are crucial too. The government invests £18m a year into football facilities, through the Football Foundation, to improve access to quality facilities across the country with an additional £75m announced in 2021 as well. Inclusivity forms a part of the assessment criteria for any application for funding from the Foundation, with it being a core value of the organisation.

The government will continue to liaise closely with the football authorities on their efforts to improve diversity in the sport and will be addressing it in the upcoming revised Sport Strategy.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-18/125374>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-18/125375>

The strategies referred to above can be read at

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

and

https://www.thefa.com/-/media/thefacom-new/files/about-the-fa/2021/fa_a-game-for-all-strategy.ashx?la=en

The Code of Governance referred to above can be read at

<https://www.thefa.com/-/media/thefacom-new/files/about-the-fa/2020/county-fa-code-of-governance.ashx?la=en>

The Diversity Code referred to above can be read at

<https://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/inclusion-and-anti-discrimination/football-leadership-diversity-code/football-leadership-diversity-code-pro>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Travellers: Hate Crime

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Conservative) [HL6180] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the case for specific legislation to protect Gypsies, Roma and Travellers from hate crimes.

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: We have one of the strongest legislative frameworks in the world to protect communities from hostility, violence and bigotry, and to deal with the perpetrators of hate crime. Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities are currently protected under these existing laws.

We asked the Law Commission to conduct a review into the coverage and approach of current hate crime legislation. We are grateful to the Law Commission for the detailed consideration it has given to its review of hate crime laws and we will consider its proposals carefully and respond to the recommendations in due course. We are also bringing forward legislation on our plans to tackle online harms – through the Online Safety Bill – which will set clear responsibilities for tech companies to keep UK citizens safe.

The Government will publish a new hate crime strategy in due course, which will include tackling racial hate crime, to help stamp out the abhorrent crimes that harm victims and their communities. We have sought views from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community representatives in the development of this new strategy.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-10/hl6180>

News

The horror of Zoombombing and how it's pushing Jewish life underground

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/02/23/horror-zoombombing-pushing-jewish-life-underground/>

Why don't you go back to Hungary, QC asked Gypsy

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/why-dont-you-go-back-to-hungary-qc-asked-gypsy-7c7735c96>

Thugs hurled racist insult at boy chased and stabbed 'like prey'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/thugs-hurled-racist-insult-at-boy-chased-and-stabbed-like-prey-p79r8w8mk>

TOP

Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answer

Student loans: interest

Stephen Timms (Labour): It is estimated that 4,000 Muslim young people every year choose with a heavy heart not to enter higher education because of the Islamic ban on interest. Nine years ago, David Cameron promised a system of alternative student finance to overcome that problem. We were told there would be a decision on that in this statement today. Does the Secretary of State plan to honour the promise made by the leader of his party to Muslim young people?

Reply from Nadhim Zahawi: I am grateful for that important question. It is only sensible that we align the future delivery of alternative student finance with these major reforms to ensure fair treatment for all students.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-02-24/debates/FEE57748-A62E-4903-BB1F-6C3F2E50FA38/HigherEducationReform#contribution-627BD840-C951-4C9C-A159-A54DA521B846>

New Publication

Overview of the UK population: 2020

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/articles/overviewoftheukpopulation/2020/pdf>

News

Bill to raise marriage age in England and Wales to 18 clears Commons

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/02/25/bill-raise-legal-marriage-age-england-wales-18-clears-commons/>

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 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/>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer

Coronavirus: Vaccination

Vicky Foxcroft (Labour) [115978] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what recent data his Department holds on third covid-19 vaccine dose take-up by ethnicity.

Vicky Foxcroft (Labour) [115979] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what recent data his Department holds on covid-19 booster vaccine take-up by ethnicity.

Reply from Maggie Throup: NHS England and NHS Improvement publish monthly data on vaccination rates, including booster and third doses by ethnicity, which is available at the following link:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-vaccinations/>

Local authority Directors of Public Health receive daily updates on vaccine uptake in their areas, by Middle Layer Super Output Area and ethnicity to allow them to tailor their vaccination programme to the communities they serve. In December 2021, we announced £22 million for the Community Vaccine Champions Scheme to support 60 local authorities with the lowest COVID-19 vaccination rates. Community Champions are working with local councils to address barriers to accurate vaccine information and encourage community members to get vaccinated. All vaccination rates are monitored and reported and NHS England and NHS Improvement hold regular discussions with providers in areas of low uptake.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-01/115978>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-01/115979>

Migrants: Coronavirus

Martyn Day (SNP) [121855] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what assessment he has made of covid-19 vaccine take-up rates among migrants living in the UK, including people without formal immigration status.

Reply from Maggie Throup: No specific assessment has been made. A National Health Service or National Insurance number is not required to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. If an individual is not registered with a general practitioner, NHS regional teams and local systems will contact these individuals to ensure they are offered the vaccine. The 'COVID-19: migrant health guide' provides advice for healthcare practitioners on the health needs of migrant patients during the pandemic, which is available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-migrant-health-guide>

We have worked with NHS England to provide guidance to migrants to support them to make an informed decision on receiving the vaccine and to encourage uptake. Additionally, over £23 million has been provided to 60 councils and voluntary groups in areas of low vaccine uptake in England.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-09/121855>

Scottish Government Press Releases

Living safely with Covid

<https://www.gov.scot/news/living-safely-with-covid/>

Vaccinations for all five to 11 year olds

<https://www.gov.scot/news/vaccinations-for-all-five-to-11-year-olds/>

Second boosters for at-risk groups

<https://www.gov.scot/news/second-boosters-for-at-risk-groups/>

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 speech - Tuesday 22 February 2022

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-speech-tuesday-22-february-2022/>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Scotland's Strategic Framework Update - February 2022

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-scotlands-strategic-framework-update-february-2022/>

Evidence paper to accompany: Scotland's Strategic Framework Update

<https://tinyurl.com/2p8pdm4w>

UK Government Press Releases

Public reminded to stay safe as COVID-19 England restrictions lift

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/public-reminded-to-stay-safe-as-covid-19-england-restrictions-lift>

Prime Minister sets out plan for living with COVID

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-sets-out-plan-for-living-with-covid>

Health Secretary statement on spring COVID-19 booster vaccinations

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/health-secretary-statement-on-spring-covid-19-booster-vaccinations>

UK Government Publications

The R value and growth rate

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

PM statement at Covid press conference: 21 February 2022

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-at-covid-press-conference-21-february-2022>

Guidance: COVID-19 Response: Living with COVID-19

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-living-with-covid-19/covid-19-response-living-with-covid-19>

Other Organisation

Volunteer Scotland

The Road to Recovery: Lessons learned from Scotland's volunteering response to Covid-19

https://www.volunteerscotland.net/media/1771556/road_to_recovery_-_full_report.pdf

News

Covid in Scotland: All legal restrictions to end on 21 March

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-60482303>

Covid: PM sets out end of legal restrictions in England

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-60467183>

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Scottish Local Government Elections (Candidacy Rights of Foreign Nationals) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/scottish-local-government-elections-candidacy-rights-of-foreign-nationals-bill>

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>

Bill as introduced

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-02/0081/210081.pdf>

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>

Notice of amendments

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/45385/documents/1471>

and

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/45416/documents/1482>

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

Review of the operation of the Public Sector Equality Duty in Scotland

(closing date 7 March 2022)

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

How to measure the inclusion of migrants in Wales (closing date 25 March 2022)

<https://gov.wales/consultation-how-measure-inclusion-migrants-wales-html>

COVID 19: The Impact on Children & Young People (closing date not stated)

<https://engage.parliament.scot/group/12474>

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

Refugee Festival Scotland Small Grants Fund

Closing date for applications: 6 March 2022

Groups and organisations can apply for up to £500 to help cover the cost of running an event as part of this year's Refugee Festival Scotland.

Refugee Festival Scotland takes place every summer in the lead up to World Refugee Day on 20 June. Events are held across the country to share the art, culture, language and ideas that people bring with them when they settle in Scotland.

This year, the festival takes place from 17-26 June and the theme is storytelling. Our stories reflect the journeys our lives have taken and the places we want to go. They reveal who

we are and shape how others see us.

For information and to apply see

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/refugee-festival-funding/>

Workplace Equality Fund

Closing date for applications: 11 April 2022

Scottish Government funding to support employers in identifying, addressing, and diminishing longstanding barriers facing particular priority groups in entering and progressing within the labour market. The central goal of the fund is to incentivise and support collaborative projects that aspire to reduce employment inequalities and cultivate positive, fair, and inclusive workplace practices, with the intention of improving employment opportunities and progression policies within Scottish workplaces; particularly for the identified priority groups, improving knowledge, skills, and practices with respect to addressing employment inequalities; thereby engendering significant improvement for priority groups, and create and maintain an inclusive working environment through employees and employers working in partnership. For information and to apply see

<https://equalityadvice.scot/>

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

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>

Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

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>

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>

Refugees: Asylum and Resettlement

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>

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>

Supporting Refugee Integration

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>

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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>

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SCoJeC
Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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

BEMIS
Empowering Scotland's Ethnic and
Cultural Minority Communities

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



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

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