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

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Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme

Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat) [S6W-08255] To ask the Scottish Government what processes are in place in the event that Ukrainian refugees and host families in Scotland, who have been matched through the Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme, have also applied through the Scottish Government's Super Sponsor Scheme.

Reply from Neil Gray: We set up the super sponsor scheme to remove the need for displaced people from Ukraine to have to apply for a visa with a named person as sponsor. When applying for their visa, displaced people can only select one sponsor – so they can select the Scottish Government as their sponsor or a specific individual host. Selecting the Scottish Government allows people to apply for their visa straight away, and not wait to be matched with an individual host. It also

ensures that people are accommodated safely when they arrive, before being matched to longer-term accommodation.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-08255>

UK Parliament, Ministerial Statement and Q&A

Foreign National Offender Removal Flights

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Tom Pursglove): Foreign criminals who abuse our hospitality by committing serious and violent crimes such as murder and rape should be in no doubt of this Government's determination to deport them. The British people have shown repeatedly at the ballot box that they want an immigration system that is firm and fair. Our new plan for immigration, underpinned by the Nationality and Borders Act 2022, is the first major reform of the system in decades. With that Act now law, we are getting on with the job and operationalising the plan. ...

Making our streets safer is our priority. ... despite the challenges of covid, we stepped up the removal of criminals who have no right to be here. Since January 2019, over 10,000 foreign national offenders have been removed from the United Kingdom. In the last month alone, flights have left to Albania, Romania, Poland and Lithuania and now, this morning, to Jamaica ...

It was under a Labour Government that the UK Borders Act 2007 was introduced and passed requiring a deportation order to be made where a foreign national has been convicted of an offence in the UK and sentenced to 12 months or more, unless an exception applies. We apply that law ...

Let me set out some facts of the flight that departed this morning ... First, the offences committed by individuals on the flight include rape of a minor, sexual assault against children, firearms offences, dealing and importing controlled drugs, and other violent crimes such as actual bodily harm. Between them, these individuals had a combined total of 58 convictions for 127 offences. These are extremely serious offences, which have a real and lasting impact on victims and communities. They are not minor matters, as some would have people believe.

Secondly, the flight to Jamaica makes up just 1% of total enforced returns in the year ending September 2021. Criminals who have no right to be in the United Kingdom are regularly removed to countries across the world, and we will continue to do this to keep our citizens safe. Public safety is non-negotiable. However, many more criminals could have left the UK today. What we have seen over the last 24 hours is more last-minute claims facilitated by specialist immigration law firms, as well as representations from Opposition MPs to prevent this flight from leaving. ...

Convicted criminals guilty of heinous crimes, including manslaughter, rape, robbery, child sex offences, drug offences and violent crime, and persistent offenders remain in our country; had the [Nationality and Borders Bill] been passed more quickly ... those individuals might have been removed from the UK today. They remain here, and it is a stain on our country that they do. ...

I make no apology for removing criminals who have abused our hospitality, broken our laws, and have no right to be here. I make no apology for doing everything in my power to make our streets safer and stand on the side of actual victims. We stand with the British people. ...

Stephen Kinnock (Labour): ... The first duty of the British Government is to keep the British people safe, and the Home Office has a responsibility to make sure that rules are fairly enforced, but Ministers are failing to do so and they are blaming everyone else for their failings. The Home Office must deport dangerous foreign criminals who have no right to be in our country and who should be returned to the country of their citizenship ... The

Home Office also has a responsibility to get its deportation decisions right. As the Government have themselves admitted, during the Windrush scandal the Home Office made grave errors in both detention and deportation decisions ...

First and foremost, it is deeply troubling that a number of expert reports over recent years have pointed to how Home Office failures have resulted in fewer foreign criminals being deported than should be the case. Indeed, in 2015, the independent chief inspector of borders and immigration stated that one in three failures to deport foreign criminals was a result of Home Office failure. ...

Under the current Prime Minister and Home Secretary, there has been a stark decline in the number of foreign national offenders being returned and deported. In the year ending September 2021, 2,732 foreign national offenders were returned from the UK—20% fewer than the previous year and 47% fewer than in 2019, the year before the pandemic began. Foreign national offender returns had already fallen to 5,128 in 2019. Even more staggering is the fact that, according to a 2019 Public Accounts Committee report, the Home Office had to release six in every 10 migrant detainees whom the Department wanted to deport, and it simply could not explain why this was happening.

The PAC also raised concerns about the need for earlier and better legal advice, which would make it more likely that decisions were accurate and robust, rather than being overturned due to poor decisions later in the process. The Minister will know that the Windrush report identified “low-quality decision-making” and an “irrational...approach to individuals”, and the follow-up report stated that “there are many examples where the department has not made progress...at all” on this matter. ...

The Home Office needs to get this right ... how many foreign offenders have absconded in the last 12 months? What specific steps have been taken to learn the lessons of the Windrush scandal to ensure that this shameful episode is never repeated? Does the Home Office actually have a plan that will address the currently shambolic nature of the deportation system? ...

Reply from Tom Pursglove: ... more than 10,000 foreign national offenders have been removed from our country since 2019. ...

The hon. Member mentioned Windrush. This issue is of course completely unrelated to Windrush. None of those being returned are British citizens or nationals, or members of the Windrush generation. Each person’s return is considered on its individual merits and carefully assessed against a background of relevant case law and in the light of published country information, which covers country-specific issues. The case of each person being returned on a charter to Jamaica is referred to the Windrush taskforce, and it is right and proper that that work is done. ...

Peter Bone (Conservative): My constituents, and I guess most in the United Kingdom, find it unbelievable that convicted murderers, rapists and paedophiles who are foreign national offenders are not returned immediately to their countries. Can the Minister tell us how on earth last-minute appeals can stop people going on flights? Surely we can at least have a cut-off date beyond which no appeals can be made. ...

Reply from Tom Pursglove: I have been on a removal flight to Poland a few months ago, which was a useful experience for me to understand the end-to-end process. ... the Nationality and Borders Act 2022, which introduces the one-stop processes and priority removal notices ... should enable us to break this cycle of endless dither and delay, and constant appeals and claims, so that those individuals are removed from our country more quickly. ...

Stuart C McDonald (SNP): ... Stephen Shaw, the Government-commissioned independent expert, said that the deportation and removal of people brought up here from a young age was “deeply troubling” and entirely “disproportionate”. Yes, of course many deportations are absolutely justified to protect the public, but it is nonsensical to ignore the fact that some are very cruel, particularly when they relate to people who have lived almost

all their lives here and have absolutely no connection to the place they are being deported to.

The Government refuse to acknowledge the fact that these decisions can have profound impacts on the family life of the partners, spouses and children of those being deported, and on others, or that it is legitimate to press the Government on that. So let me try a different argument. If someone has been here since they were in infancy, grew up here, was educated here, commits crime here and is potentially dangerous, why is it fair on the country to which they are deported to have to manage that risk, especially if it is possibly far less equipped to do so, rather than this country, where that person was brought up? The Minister talks about letting people out on to the street, but he is letting people out on the street—just not our streets, but those of another country, with which they have absolutely no connection.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: What we do as a Government is take responsibility for our returns. We live up to our legal obligations in this space, and that is right and proper, and what the British people expect. But we understandably expect other countries around the world to do the same in taking their immigration offenders and those who have committed criminality in this country and are liable to deportation. ...

To read this very lengthy question and answer session in full see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-05-18/debates/DAAB4FDF-6F46-4D50-B97E-634569E8CE25/ForeignNationalOffenderRemovalFlights>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Rwanda Refugee Policy

Rwanda: Asylum

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [395] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, if he will make an assessment of the accuracy of reports that the Government has agreed to pay a set amount of funding to Rwanda to cover case workers, legal advice, translators, accommodation, food and healthcare for the offshoring of asylum seekers; and whether she plans for that funding to come from the 0.5 per cent GNI ODA budget.

Reply from Amanda Milling: Funding for the Migration and Economic Development Partnership has been agreed as part of Home Office settlement with HMT. It is not from the GNI ODA budget.

Under this Partnership all processing costs will be met by the UK, including to support the delivery of asylum operations, accommodation and integration. Individuals' needs will be met by Rwanda. This will involve creating a safe environment for them to start a new life, with education, employment and accommodation. The UK is also investing an initial £120 million into the economic development and growth of Rwanda.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/395>

Asylum: Rwanda

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour) [923] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate her Department has made of the cost of her plan for processing migrants and asylum seekers in Rwanda.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Under the Migration and Economic Development Partnership the UK is investing an initial £120 million into the economic development and growth of Rwanda.

Funding will also be provided to support the delivery of asylum operations, accommodation and integration. Every person's needs are different, but we

anticipate the amount would be comparable to processing costs incurred in the UK. Funding is only provided while a person remains in Rwanda.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-11/923>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Asylum: Rwanda

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [396] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the accuracy of reports that the Government has agreed to pay a set amount of funding to Rwanda to cover case workers, legal advice, translators, accommodation, food and healthcare for the offshoring of asylum seekers; and whether she plans for that funding to come from the 0.5 per cent GNI ODA budget.

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [397] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will confirm the amount of funding that the Government has agreed with the Rwandan Government to cover the cost of case workers, legal advice, translators, accommodation, food and healthcare for the offshoring of asylum seekers in that country.

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [398] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the cost (a) per head and (b) in total for case workers, legal advice, translators, accommodation, food and healthcare in respect of the offshoring of asylum seekers in Rwanda.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Funding for Migration and Economic Development Partnership has been agreed as part of Home Office settlement with HMT. It is not from the GNI ODA budget. Under this partnership the UK is investing an initial £120 million into the economic development and growth of Rwanda. Funding will also be provided to support the delivery of asylum operations, accommodation, and integration. Every person's needs are different, but we anticipate the amount would be comparable to processing costs incurred in the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/396>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/397>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/398>

Asylum: Rwanda

Stephen Kinnock (Labour) [780] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will publish details of the (a) procurement process for awarding the contract to transfer asylum seekers to Rwanda under the UK-Rwanda Migration and Economic Development Partnership and (b) company that has been awarded that contract.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The Migration and Economic Development Partnership intends to deter dangerous journeys and illegal entry to the UK, break the business model of people smugglers and protect the lives of those they endanger. The use of charter flights is a standard part of Immigration Enforcement activity; we work with an independent commercial broker to ensure we get best value for money. Every week the Home Office removes to different countries people who have no right to be in the UK. During the COVID-19 pandemic we have continued to deport foreign national offenders and return other immigration offenders where flight routes have been available to us, both on scheduled and charter flights. The Government's efforts to facilitate entirely legitimate and legal returns of people who have entered the UK illegally are too often frustrated by late challenges submitted hours before the flight. These claims are very often baseless and entirely without merit, but are given full legal consideration which can lead to removal being rescheduled.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-11/780>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Rwanda

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour) [921] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department plans to take to help safeguard the (a) mental and (b) physical wellbeing of asylum seekers and migrants relocated to Rwanda.

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour) [922] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what guarantees her Department has had from her counterparts in the Rwandan Government regarding the fair treatment and suitable conditions for asylum seekers that are sent to Rwanda while their cases are considered.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Under this agreement, Rwanda will process claims in accordance with the UN Refugee Convention, national and international laws, and will ensure individuals protection from inhuman and degrading treatment. Under the Migration and Economic Development Partnership Rwanda has also undertaken to provide support that is adequate to ensure the health, security and wellbeing of each relocated person.

Rwanda is a fundamentally safe and secure country with respect for the rule of law. However, everyone considered for relocation will be screened and have access to legal advice. Decisions will be taken on a case-by-case basis, and nobody will be relocated if it is unsafe or inappropriate for them.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-11/921>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-11/922>

Refugees: Rwanda

Alison Thewliss (SNP) [1200] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to help ensure that people living with HIV who are removed to Rwanda will have (a) access to the same standard of care, including medical treatment, (b) protections against stigma and (c) rights to confidentiality that they would have been entitled to in the UK.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Everyone considered for relocations will be screened and have access to legal advice. Decisions will be taken on a case-by-case basis, and nobody will be removed if it is unsafe or inappropriate for them, including in relation to an individual's specific medical needs.

Under the Memorandum of Understanding governing the Migration and Economic Development Partnership, the Government of Rwanda has committed to ensuring support is provided to ensure the health, security and wellbeing of relocated individuals. Rwanda's constitution includes a broad prohibition on discrimination.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-12/1200>

Refugees: Rwanda

Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [1245] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that LGBTQ+ refugees relocated to Rwanda do not face discrimination and intolerance in that country.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Rwanda is a safe and secure country with respect for the rule of law. Rwanda's constitution includes a broad prohibition on discrimination. We have carried out a robust assessment of the country which demonstrates our commitment to fully evaluating whether Rwanda would be suitable for each potentially eligible person to be relocated. Relocation decisions will be taken on a case by case basis and nobody will be relocated if it is unsafe or inappropriate for them.

We would only ever work with countries that we know are safe and will treat asylum seekers in accordance with relevant international human rights laws.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-12/1245>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Channel Migrants

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Kevan Jones (Labour) [2389] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether there are any plans to extend Operation Isotrope beyond 31 January 2023.

Reply from James Heapey: The plan is for military primacy to end on 31 January 2023, at which point responsibility will revert to the Home Office and Border Force. Any decision on a potential extension to operation ISOTROPE will be taken nearer that time and will take into account the operational requirements and funding arrangements.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-16/2389>

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Kevan Jones (Labour) [2390] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, which existing surface and surveillance capabilities will be enhanced as part of Operation Isotrope.

Reply from James Heapey: Utilising the £50 million made available to deliver military primacy of small boat operations in the English Channel, the Home Office and Defence are seeking to bring online a range of additional surface and surveillance assets. The objective of procuring new capabilities is to ensure that all small boat crossings can be detected and intercepted such that no migrants arrive on UK shores on their own terms. Specific capabilities are subject to ongoing commercial discussions and will be disclosed in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-16/2390>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Afghanistan

Refugees: Afghanistan

Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op) [264] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to her Department's press release entitled, Support for British and non-British nationals in Afghanistan, published on 22 August 2021, how many calls have been made to the support helpline; of those calls, how many were answered; whether that helpline is still open; and what the average waiting time is for calls made to that helpline to be answered.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Afghanistan Support Helpline is open and available to non-British nationals in Afghanistan, or family members of a non-British nationals in Afghanistan, in need of assistance and is open 9am to 5pm UK time, Monday to Friday.

From the 4 January, we have been offered 7326 calls and answered 6964 which is 95% calls answered. Average wait time was 1 minute 38 seconds.

The helpline received a large proportion of calls in the initial 2 weeks of opening which saw longer wait times. This impacted the overall waiting time and number of calls answered.

The department continues to closely monitor and review the volume of calls being made to the helpline, with a significant reduction in the number of calls since opening.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/264>

The press release referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/support-for-british-and-non-british-nationals-in-afghanistan>

Refugees: Afghanistan

Sarah Olney (Liberal Democrat) [1266] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when the Government plans to commence operation of the second pathway for referral under the Afghan citizens resettlement scheme.

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

Regarding Pathway 2, we are working closely with UNHCR and continue to work towards receiving referrals shortly. Those referred by UNHCR will be assessed for resettlement by UNHCR using their established process, and in line with their resettlement submission categories.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-12/1266>

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

Afghanistan: Refugees

David Linden (SNP) [424] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many applications to the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy scheme are awaiting decision.

Reply from James Heapey: As of 13 May 2022, there are 15,177 applicants to the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) Scheme awaiting an initial decision.

Large volumes of applicants continue to be reviewed, many from applicants with no connection to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and thus any realistic chance of being eligible for ARAP. The MOD continues to resource the process for ARAP but the process is slowed by the volume of ineligible applicants.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/414>

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

Afghanistan: Refugees

David Linden (SNP) [415] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many applications to the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy scheme received a decision in each month since August 2020; and what proportion of those decisions were approvals.

Reply from James Heapey: The Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) scheme was launched on 1 April 2021 and has been one of the most generous relocation programmes in the world.

Due to constraints on accessible data, the information requested is only available from October 2021 onwards and can be found in the table below:

Month	Decisions Made
Oct-21	706
Nov-21	1,450
Dec-21	803
Jan-22	477
Feb-22	409
Mar-22	451
Apr-22	799
May 2022 (up to 12 May)	234

Of all the decisions made over this period, 8.4% were approved.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/415>

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 three questions all received the same answer

Refugees: Afghanistan

Dan Jarvis (Labour) [2481] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Afghan nationals relocated to the UK via (a) the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy and (b) Operation Pitting have been granted indefinite leave to remain as of 16 May 2022.

Dan Jarvis (Labour) [2482] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Afghan nationals relocated to the UK through (a) the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy and (b) Operation Pitting are waiting to be granted indefinite leave to remain as of 16 May 2022.

Dan Jarvis (Labour) [2483] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Afghan nationals relocated to the UK via (a) the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy and (b) Operation Pitting with 6 months remain to leave have seen their status expire and are waiting to be granted indefinite leave to remain as of 16 May 2022.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Over 15,000 people were supported to come to the UK directly following the evacuation of Afghanistan, with a further 3,000 having arrived since.

Following the evacuation from Afghanistan over the summer, work is underway to ensure information relating to all the individuals relocated under both schemes are recorded on case working systems. Once this work concludes, statistics on ACRS and ARAP will be included in future editions of the Immigration Statistics.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-16/2481>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-16/2482>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-16/2483>

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

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

The following two questions both received the same answer

Refugees: Afghanistan

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [318] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her Department's target is for resettling Afghan refugees into permanent accommodation out of bridging hotels.

Mick Whitley (Labour) [457] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has established a timeframe for securing permanent accommodation for Afghan refugees who are housed in hotels as of 10 May 2022.

Reply from Kevin Foster: We do not want to keep people in temporary accommodation for any longer than is absolutely necessary. We have moved – or are in the process of moving - over 6,000 Afghan Refugees since June 2021.

There is a huge effort underway to support the families into permanent homes as soon as we can so they can settle and rebuild their lives, alongside ensuring those still temporarily accommodated in hotels are given the best start to their life in the UK.

The length of time that a family will remain in a bridging hotel is dependent on a

number of factors including offers of appropriate housing from local authorities.
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/318>
and
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/457>

Refugees: Afghanistan

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [319] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that (a) the faith needs of Afghan refugees in bridging hotels are met during the month of Ramadan and (b) access to places of worship are facilitated from bridging hotels where there are poor transport links.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office liaised with hotels prior to Ramadan to ensure support was in place for any individuals or families taking part in Ramadan, and normal provisions would continue for those not taking part. Hotels are expected to provide meals compliant with non-fasting times and make additional space available for prayers if needed. They are working alongside Local Authorities and the voluntary sector who are already supporting the needs of the Afghan evacuees.

The Home Office Liaison Offers have also had these conversations with hotel staff/management on the ground along with other strategic partners. They are also visiting hotels slightly later in the day to accommodate peoples' change of daily routine.

Free transport is provided either by the Home Office or Local Authority where hotel locations are remote, to provide access to shops, places of worship and education.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/319>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Ukraine

Refugees: Ukraine

Anne Marie Morris (Independent) [766] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, if he will provide further funding to help local authorities with additional emergency accommodation costs in addition to the funding announced under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme.

Reply from Eddie Hughes: Funding of £10,500 per person is provided to local authorities under the Homes for Ukraine scheme which includes funding for homelessness. Further details are set out in the published guidance for local authorities.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-11/766>

The guidance referred to above, which only applies to England, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-guidance-for-councils>

Scottish Government guidance for local authorities can be read at

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/super-sponsor-scheme-and-homes-for-ukraine-guidance-for-local-authorities/>

Information about the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Refugees: Ukraine

Peter Aldous (Conservative) [726] To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he plans to amend the differences in funding under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, for which local authorities receive £10,500 of integration funding per refugee, and the Ukraine Family Scheme, for which local authorities do not receive that funding.

Allan Dorans (SNP) [2302] To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of equalising the payments being made to families in the UK assisting Ukrainians arriving under the Family Reunion Scheme with the payments being made to those accepting refugees under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme.

Reply from Simon Clarke: This government cares deeply about helping those fleeing the conflict in Ukraine. This is why we have announced two visa schemes which both support the integration of Ukrainian refugees by providing them with full access to social services and welfare in the UK for up to three years.

The Ukraine Family Scheme is similar to existing family visa routes, and provision of public services from this route will be managed in the usual way. The UK-based family member is expected to provide support and accommodation for those coming to join them, who in turn benefit from the wider integration advantages in joining an existing family network.

Homes for Ukraine on the other hand is a unique scheme that has been set up specifically to support those escaping the conflict in Ukraine who are not able to rely on family support. The government is providing additional funding to local authorities which includes resource to enable them to carry out sponsorship-specific functions such as safeguarding checks and property checks, administering payments, as well as providing support such as English language training to help their integration into communities.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-11/726>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-16/2302>

Information about the Ukrainian Family Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-ukraine-family-scheme-visa>

Information about the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>

Council Tax: Homes for Ukraine Scheme

Navendu Mishra (Labour) [999] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, whether single person households will retain the single occupancy charge in respect of council tax in the event that they provide accommodation to a Ukrainian family under the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

Reply from Eddie Hughes: Entitlement to the single person discount will remain unchanged. The Council Tax (Discount Disregards and Exempt Dwellings) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2022 were laid before Parliament on 11 April 2022.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-11/999>

Information about the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>

Visas: Ukraine

Mike Amesbury (Labour) [941] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the number of UK residents who applied to host Ukrainian refugees under the family visa route and the Homes for Ukraine Scheme; and if duplicate visas have been issued.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Applicants are encouraged to apply under the scheme that matches their circumstances. If an application under one scheme is not granted, an application under the alternative scheme may be considered, or a re-application under the same scheme. An application to the Homes For Ukraine scheme cannot be made by an individual who is already in the UK and so a person in the UK cannot switch between the different schemes.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-11/941>

Information about the Ukrainian Family Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-ukraine-family-scheme-visa>

Information about the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>

Refugees: Ukraine

Stephen Kinnock (Labour) [779] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, how many people who have arrived in the UK under (a) the Ukraine Family Scheme and (b) the Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme have had to change accommodation since initially being assigned accommodation upon arrival.

16 May 2022

Reply from Eddie Hughes: This data is not held nationally. The Government is working with local authorities to support a minority of cases where Ukrainians, who have arrived under Homes for Ukraine, need to be re-matched with new sponsors.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-11/779>

Information about the Ukrainian Family Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-ukraine-family-scheme-visa>

Information about the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>

Homes for Ukraine Scheme

Daisy Cooper (Liberal Democrat) [481] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, when he plans to publish guidance to local authorities to enable Ukrainian nationals to be reassigned to new UK sponsors if initial placements break down.

Reply from Eddie Hughes: We plan to enable re-matching through the Homes for Ukraine Scheme shortly, and are working closely with local government on this.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/481>

Information about the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>

Homes for Ukraine Scheme

Adam Afriyie (Conservative) [[681] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, whether his Department is taking steps to prepare for a potential increase in demand for social housing in the event that housing for Ukrainian refugees through the sponsor scheme is unsuitable, or after the initial six month period expires.

Reply from Eddie Hughes: Six months is the minimum period of sponsorship – and the Government will support sponsors including with ‘thank you’ payments for up to 12 months. We are considering how we can best support people beyond the Home For Ukraine scheme.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-11/681>

Information about the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>

Refugees: Ukraine

Dan Poulter (Conservative) [688] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, whether he plans to offer financial assistance to Ukrainian families who travelled to the UK either on the (a) Homes for Ukraine Scheme or (b) Ukraine Family scheme; and what plans he has to lessen potential disparities between the two schemes.

Reply from Eddie Hughes: All Ukrainians arriving under either scheme have the right to work and access to benefits and services including Universal Credit. The Department for Levelling Up's Homes for Ukraine scheme provides additional funding for local authorities. The Ukraine Family Scheme is administered by the Home Office.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-11/688>

Information about the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>

Information about the Ukrainian Family Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-ukraine-family-scheme-visa>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Homes for Ukraine Scheme: Children

Anneliese Dodds (Labour Co-op) [1320] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied under-18s have been granted visas under the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

David Doogan (SNP) [2331] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied 15 to 18-year-olds have applied for visas under the Homes for Ukraine scheme; and how many of those applications are currently pending.

David Doogan (SNP) [2332] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications to the Homes for Ukraine scheme by unaccompanied 15 to 18-year-olds have been successful; and how many applicants have been directly informed by her Department that their application has been unsuccessful.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Unaccompanied minors are only eligible under the Homes for Ukraine scheme if they are reuniting with a parent or legal guardian in the UK – this is outlined in the Immigration Rules.

Data on the number of people issued under Homes for Ukraine can be found on the GOV.UK webpage: [Ukraine Family Scheme and Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme \(Homes for Ukraine\) visa data](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-12/1320>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-16/2331>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-16/2332>

Information about the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>

Refugees: Children

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [401] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what plans he has to provide (a) mental health, (b) language and (c) other support for local schools and communities that host child refugees.

Reply from Eddie Hughes: Government is providing local authorities with funding to provide the wrap around services Ukrainians arriving under Homes for Ukraine need to access, with additional funding for school placements. Details of the funding provided to local authorities has been published online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-guidance-for-councils>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/401>

The guidance referred to above only applies to England.

Scottish Government guidance for local authorities can be read at

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/super-sponsor-scheme-and-homes-for-ukraine-guidance-for-local-authorities/>

Refugees: Ukraine

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [304] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what provision has been made within the (a) Homes for Ukraine scheme and (b) Ukraine Family Visa scheme to access (i) student loan scheme and (ii) home fee status so that Ukrainian refugees can attend higher education.

Reply from Michelle Donelan: We are extending access to Higher Education (HE) student support, home fee status, tuition fee caps, Advanced Learner Loans and FE19+ funding for those who are granted leave under one of the three schemes for Ukrainians introduced recently by the Home Office, the Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship scheme, the Ukraine Family scheme, and the Ukraine Extension scheme. This ensures Ukrainians who have been affected by the war in Ukraine can access support on the same basis as those within other protection-based categories (such as refugees).

In line with those within existing protection-based categories, these persons would not be required to meet a three-year period of ordinary residence for HE support, Advanced Learner Loans or FE19+ funding, but would need only to have been ordinarily resident in the UK since their grant of leave.

I have written to English HE providers asking that they exercise flexibility in their approach to eligibility for home fees and draw upon the £4million of additional funding made available to distribute to students from Ukraine in need of financial assistance.

Access to student support is crucial in enabling students from Ukraine to attend education to improve their skills and enhance the ability of Ukrainians to contribute to the UK, or to the rebuilding of their home country.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/304>

Information about the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>

Information about the Ukrainian Family Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-ukraine-family-scheme-visa>

Information about the Ukraine Extension Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-to-stay-in-the-uk-under-the-ukraine-extension-scheme>

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

The following two questions both received the same answer

Windrush Compensation Scheme

Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [1247] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reason payments to Windrush Compensation Scheme claimants are delayed in the event that a review of a decision under that scheme is requested.

Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [1248] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Windrush Compensation Scheme claimants have requested a review of a decision under that scheme; and how many of those have received a decision from the adjudicator as of 12 May 2022.

Reply from Kevin Foster: In response to UIN: 1247

A Preliminary Payment of £10,000 will be made as soon as a claimant can demonstrate an Impact on Life under the terms of the Scheme. In addition, the Urgent and Exceptional Payments Policy is still available and allows for urgent financial support to be paid in advance of a full compensation payment.

Entitlement to a full award under the Windrush Compensation Scheme arises when the customer provides written confirmation they accept a determination in full. If a

review is requested on part of the award offered, the whole claim must progress to review.

In response to UIN:1248

The Home Office publishes Windrush Compensation Scheme Data monthly, including for Tier one reviews which are completed by a Home Office Senior Reviewer and Tier two reviews which are completed by the Independent Adjudicator's Office. Published data is available to the end of March 2022, [Migration transparency data](#) Windrush Compensation Scheme data: March 2022 refers.

The data covering the period ended 14 April 2022 and 12 May 2022 has not yet been published.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-12/1247>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-12/1248>

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

Refugees

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [291] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to her oral statement of 19 April 2022, Official Report, col 25, what the evidential basis is for the UK having welcomed (a) 185,000 people through safe and legal routes, including from Syria, Hong Kong, Afghanistan and Ukraine and (b) 40,000 people in recent years through refugee family reunion routes.

The Home Office publishes data on immigration in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. As part of that release, data up to December 2021 is available on the following areas:

- Data on those fleeing the Syrian conflict who were resettled under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme are published in table Asy_D02 of the '[asylum and resettlement detailed datasets](#)'.
- Data on BN(O) visas granted (to individuals who hold a BN(O) passport and are, or have recently been, resident in Hong Kong, and their dependants) are published in the chapter '[How many people come to the UK each year \(including visitors\)?](#)'.
- Data on refugee family reunion visas granted are published in table Fam_D01 of the '[asylum and resettlement detailed datasets](#)'.

In addition, data on visas issued under the Ukraine Family Scheme and Ukraine Sponsorship scheme are published weekly on gov.uk: [Ukraine Family Scheme and Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme \(Homes for Ukraine\) Visa Data](#)

In the [Afghanistan resettlement and immigration policy statement](#), the Home Office reported that around 15,000 people had been evacuated from Afghanistan through Operation Pitting. In the six months since Operation Pitting, a further 3,000 have been helped to enter the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/291>

The statement referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-04-19/debates/04A9FDC8-59F6-4CA9-BEBD-3B6F5850D707/GlobalMigrationChallenge>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Finance

Helen Hayes (Labour) [2592] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how long asylum seekers who have been granted section 95 status currently have to wait to receive an Aspen card.

Helen Hayes (Labour) [2593] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department,

what steps she is taking to reduce the waiting time between asylum seekers being granted section 95 status and receiving an Aspen card.

Reply from Kevin Foster: When an asylum seeker in full-board initial accommodation (where there is Migrant Help physical presence) has been granted section 95 status an Aspen card will be issued within 4-6 working days. Where individuals are in other accommodation locations they will be sent Aspen cards by Royal Mail post, once issued.

We have undertaken improvement work to reduce the waiting time by introducing twice weekly reporting and ensuring prompt data sharing with Migrant Help.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-16/2592>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-16/2593>

Asylum: Applications

Rachael Maskell (Labour) [1229] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, in the context of the time taken to process asylum applications, if she will (a) enable asylum seekers to work while their applications are being processed and (b) make an assessment of the potential merits of ending no recourse to public funds (i) from arrival, (ii) after one month and (iii) after three months.

Reply from Kevin Foster: We allow asylum seekers to work 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 (SOL).

Only those who are normally or habitually resident in the UK are entitled to access benefits and social housing, reflecting their strength of connection to the UK. This includes those with indefinite leave to remain, refugees, protected persons and those granted discretionary leave. Asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute can obtain support under section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-12/1229>

Asylum: Employment

Angela Crawley (SNP) [847] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, whether asylum seekers are able to access tailored job search support upon resettlement in the UK.

Reply from David Rutley: Most asylum seekers in the UK do not currently have the right to work and are therefore not eligible to access DWP employment services. Employment support is however available to refugees and those entering the UK as part of a resettlement scheme which is delivered by the Home Office. Local Jobcentre Managers have considerable flexibility and expertise to provide tailored support to meet individual needs as required.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-11/847>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Refugees: Housing

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [320] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make a comparative estimate of the cost of (a) providing a homes for refugees scheme, whereby UK residents are able to open their homes to refugees irrespective of their country of origin, and (b) accommodating a person in a bridging hotel according to costs as of 10 May 2022.

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [321] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has had discussions with Cabinet colleagues on the potential merits of introducing a homes for refugees programme whereby UK residents are able to open their homes to refugees irrespective of their country of origin.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The existing Community Sponsorship Scheme provides the opportunity for friends and neighbours, charities and faith groups to play a direct role in supporting families resettled to the UK as they restart their lives here.

Further details on the Community Sponsorship Scheme can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-full-community-sponsorship>

There are currently no plans to establish a broader Homes for Refugees programme and it is not possible to undertake a cost comparison as suggested.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/320>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/321>

Asylum

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [322] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of integrating asylum applicants in local communities while those people are waiting for their application to be processed.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The UK has a proud history of providing protection to those who need it and this Government is committed to ensuring refugees can take positive steps towards integration as they rebuild their lives in the UK. However, as not all of those who seek asylum are found to need international protection, we are not considering the merits of integrating asylum applicants in local communities whilst they wait for their application to be processed. Rather than invest in integration for those who may not qualify, this Government's priority is to focus our efforts and resources to support those who most need it.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/322>

Asylum: Housing

Rupa Huq (Labour) [371] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers have been waiting for a decision on eligibility for Section 95 support for longer than (a) three months, (b) six months (c) nine months and (d) 12 months; and how many asylum seekers in each of those categories are accommodated in Ealing Central and Acton constituency.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute can apply for free accommodation and cash support to cover their essential living needs whilst their cases are considered. If they have an emergency need for accommodation they can ask to access initial accommodation under Section 98 whilst their support applications are being processed. The vast majority of such requests are processed on the same day. We aim to resolve Section 95 applications received from people in Initial Accommodation within 3 days and other applications from people staying in private accommodation within 10 days.

All cases are considered on their own merits, in some cases decisions can take longer as applicants are asked to provide further information before a decision on eligibility can be reached. The Home Office does not publish a breakdown of statistics which disaggregates the number of asylum seekers waiting on an eligibility decision for Section 95 support. 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/2022-05-10/371>

Asylum: Hotels

Angela Crawley (SNP) [845] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department has taken to ensure that asylum seekers housed in bridging hotels have access to all items outlined in Section 4 of the Home Office Guide to Living in Asylum Accommodation.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Guide to Living in Asylum Accommodation sets out what is available for people being accommodated in asylum accommodation and who are eligible for asylum support. Those accommodated in bridging hotels have been evacuated from Afghanistan and are refugees with leave to remain in the country, they are not asylum seekers and therefore are not eligible for asylum support and so the guide does not apply to them.

In 2021 The UK Government undertook the biggest and fastest emergency evacuation in recent history, helping over 15,000 people to safety from Afghanistan. Due to the scale and pace of the evacuation we were not able to source appropriate accommodation in the normal way, we therefore had to use bridging hotels as a temporary measure. In these hotels we provide 3 meals a day for residents. All arrivals received an Aspen Card with funds equivalent to those on Universal Credit (UC). The families/individuals will then apply for UC and Aspen Cards will be terminated.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-11/845>

The Guide referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/821324/Pack_A_-_English_-_Web.pdf

Asylum: Mental Health Services

Angela Crawley (SNP) [846] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what support his Department is providing for asylum seekers who are experiencing trauma and mental health issues (a) upon their arrival to the UK and (b) in temporary accommodation.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Asylum seekers have access to NHS health service.

All Home Office staff and contractors engaging with asylum seekers are trained to adopt a risk-based approach towards potential indications of vulnerability and to refer relevant cases onto the Safeguarding Hub, a dedicated resource assigned to identifying and safeguarding vulnerable asylum seekers.

The Safeguarding Hub works closely with the statutory agencies to signpost vulnerable customers for support with their health and social care needs.

We are investing an additional £2.3 billion a year into mental health services by 2023/24, the largest increase in mental health funding in NHS history.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-11/846>

Migrant Workers: Football

Chi Onwurah (Labour) [245] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reason her Department's policy considers football academies as places of work for children; and if she will take steps to ensure that children who are talented football players and who have limited Leave to Remain can join football academies and register in academy leagues.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Football academies are established with the aim of participants finding opportunities as a sportsperson, and/ or developing a current or future career as a sportsperson, therefore enrolment in professional or semi-professional sports teams, including all academy and development team age groups, is covered by the relevant immigration rules.

The International Sportsperson route is the single work route for overseas sportspeople in the UK and is underpinned by a governing body endorsement (GBE) process. Each sport's governing body's GBE criteria are set in consultation with the Home Office and involve a skills assessment against which migrants are endorsed for a visa application, ensuring they are elite and internationally established sportspeople.

The restriction on work as a professional sportsperson seeks to protect the integrity

of the GBE process, in turn encouraging investment in resident sportspeople and protecting opportunities for home-grown talent

Individuals in the UK with a form of limited leave, including children, who wish to undertake activities as a sports person, should check the conditions of their leave to ensure they have the necessary permission to do so.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/245>

The following six questions all received the same answer

Asylum: RAF Linton-on-Ouse

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [285] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether facilities will be in place for (a) asylum screening interviews and (b) asylum substantive interviews to be conducted at the proposed new asylum accommodation centre at RAF Linton-on-Ouse.

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [286] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the likely healthcare needs that residents at the proposed asylum accommodation centre at RAF Linton-on-Ouse will have; what healthcare provision will be available on-site; whether residents will be registered with local GPs off-site; what estimate she has made of the number of GP practices in the local area; and what assessment she has made of the (a) capacity of those practices to take on new patients and (b) levels of experience in working with asylum seekers and refugees.

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [287] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department plans to use a person's asylum claim type, including the admissibility or inadmissibility of that claim, to determine whether that person will be accommodated at the proposed new asylum accommodation centre at RAF Linton-on-Ouse.

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [288] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, at what stage in a person's asylum claim will they be accommodated at the proposed new asylum accommodation centre at RAF Linton-on-Ouse.

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [289] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the adequacy of legal support for residents at the proposed new asylum accommodation centre at RAF Linton-on-Ouse.

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [290] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what legal advice provision will be available at the proposed new asylum accommodation centre at RAF Linton-on-Ouse; and whether she has made an (a) estimate of the number of legal firms in the local area and (b) assessment of whether those firms have the (i) capacity and (ii) necessary expertise to take on clients from that site.

Reply from Kevin Foster: 287 - Those accommodated at Linton-on-Ouse will be admissible and have an outstanding asylum claim. Both the design of the Linton-on-Ouse operating model and the proposed site configuration will enable substantive asylum interviews to be undertaken remotely, via video conference.

285 - Asylum Seekers will have their asylum claim considered at Linton-on-Ouse and will reside there until their interview has been completed and case progressed to a decision ready stage. At this point they will be dispersed for their decision to be made and served at Dispersed Accommodation.

290 - Those accommodated at Linton-on-Ouse will have the ability to access the support of legal representation, either face-to-face or remotely. The Home Office continues to liaise with colleagues in the Ministry of Justice and Legal Aid Agency to finalise the details of this provision at Linton-on-Ouse.

286 - Initially, those accommodated at Linton-on-Ouse will be single, adult, males with limited vulnerabilities. To ensure the safety and wellbeing of those allocated accommodation at Linton, an assessment will take place by the Home Office prior to allocation using suitability criteria. The Home office continue to work with

Department of Health colleagues to ensure a minimal impact on local health services.

288 - Asylum seekers will be eligible to be accommodated at Linton-on-Ouse at the early stages of their admissible asylum claim case working, after they have been screened. Initially, we will select those staying at hotels and who have applied for asylum support via the submission of an ASF1 form.

289 - Those accommodated at Linton-on-Ouse will have the ability to access the support of legal representation, either face-to-face or remotely.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/285>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/286>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/287>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/288>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/289>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/290>

The following four questions all received the same answer

Asylum: RAF Linton-on-Ouse

Anne McLaughlin (SNP) [305] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the proposed new asylum accommodation centre at RAF Linton-on-Ouse will be used to accommodate only those asylum seekers who have been deemed eligible to be sent to Rwanda under the UK and Rwanda Migration and Economic Development Partnership agreement.

Anne McLaughlin (SNP) [306] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether flights to Rwanda or other destinations will be operated from the proposed new asylum accommodation centre at RAF Linton-on-Ouse while it is used as asylum accommodation.

Anne McLaughlin (SNP) [307] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what safeguards will be in place at the proposed new asylum accommodation centre at RAF Linton-on-Ouse to protect people with vulnerabilities.

Anne McLaughlin (SNP) [308] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what criteria and process will be used to determine whether a person is suitable to be accommodated at the proposed new asylum accommodation centre at RAF Linton-on-Ouse; and whether those are the same as the criteria and process for Napier Barracks, as set out in her Department's Allocation of Accommodation policy.

Reply from Kevin Foster: 307 - Prior to an individual being allocated accommodation at Linton-on-Ouse, an assessment will take place by the Home Office using a suitability criteria.

Should an individual be allocated accommodation at Linton-on-Ouse and information comes to light meaning they are no longer suitable, their case will be reviewed, and alternative suitable accommodation will be allocated under existing arrangements.

The Service Provider has responsibility to notify the Home Office of any change in circumstances of those allocated accommodation at Linton-on-Ouse. As part of the individual's induction on site, they will be given Migrant Help's number to report any issues or concerns, including the suitability of the accommodation.

306 - Those housed in asylum accommodation at Linton-on-Ouse will not be considered for relocation to Rwanda. There are no plans to use the Air strip for flights.

308 - To ensure the safety and wellbeing of those allocated accommodation at Linton-on-Ouse, an assessment will take place by the Home Office prior to allocation using suitability criteria. The factors which are currently considered when assessing the suitability of individual asylum seekers to particular accommodation is set out in the policy guidance 'Allocation of Accommodation'.

This policy guidance will be reviewed as part of any preparations to open asylum accommodation in Linton-on-Ouse.

305 - Those housed in asylum accommodation at Linton-on-Ouse will not be considered for relocation to Rwanda.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/305>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/306>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/307>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/308>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: RAF Linton-on-Ouse

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [464] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether planning permission is required to convert the site at RAF Linton-on-Ouse into an asylum accommodation centre.

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [465] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the new asylum accommodation centre at RAF Linton-on-Ouse will be operated under an existing Asylum Accommodation and Support Contract.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Planning permission is required for the carrying out of development and/or the making of a material change of use in the land as defined under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 grants planning permission for specific classes of development without the need for an express application and a grant of planning permission from the local authority.

To the extent converting the site into asylum accommodation involves development and/or makes a material change of use in the land, which is expected to be the case, the position will be regularised under the applicable planning laws at the appropriate time

In relation to the AASC contract, the Home Office intends to operate the new asylum accommodation centre at RAF Linton-on-Ouse using an existing contract for Asylum Accommodation and Support Services.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/464>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/465>

Deportation: Jamaica

Caroline Lucas (Green) [173] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will cancel the deportation flight to Jamaica scheduled for 18 May 2022; make it her policy to halt any further mass deportation flights from the UK; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: No.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/173>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Asylum: Afghanistan

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL94] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Afghan citizens have been given settled status in the UK in each of the past five years.

Reply from Lord Harrington of Watford: The Home Office publishes data on the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) in the 'EU Settlement Scheme statistics'.

The latest published information on EUSS applications concluded by outcome type to 31 December 2021, including settled status by non-EEA nationality, can be found in table EUSS_NON_EEA_02 available at: [EU Settlement Scheme quarterly statistics, December 2021](#)

A total of 890 applications from Afghan nationals had been granted settled status from when the EUSS began its first test phase on 28 August 2018 to 31 December 2021, with a further 1,730 granted pre-settled status in the same period.

The Home Office also publishes data on grants of settlement in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release' on GOV.UK:

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

Data on Afghan nationals granted settlement are published in Settlement summary table se_03 and in table Se_D01 of the managed migration detailed datasets.

The latest data are provided in the table below. Corresponding data for 2021 will be published on 25 August 2022.

Nationals of Afghanistan granted settlement, 2016 to 2020

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Afghanistan	1,051	1,228	2,046	1,915	2,496

Please note, a person may appear in both grants under the EUSS and in grants of settlement under another part of the Immigration Rules.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/hl94>

Press Release

Targeted consultation to help finalise new immigration prosecution guidance

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/cps/news/targeted-consultation-help-finalise-new-immigration-prosecution-guidance>

New Publications

Weekly number of migrants detected in small boats - 9 May to 15 May 2022

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/migrants-detected-crossing-the-english-channel-in-small-boats-weekly-data/weekly-number-of-migrants-detected-in-small-boats-9-may-to-15-may-2022>

Migrants detected crossing the English Channel in small boats - daily data

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/migrants-detected-crossing-the-english-channel-in-small-boats>

Open University: Free online resources for Ukrainians settling in the UK and Ireland

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/supporting-ukrainians>

News: Rwanda Refugee Policy

Britain, Rwanda defend asylum-seekers plan at UN agencies

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/ap-rwanda-priti-patel-britain-african-b2083061.html>

There is an urgent moral imperative to send migrants to Rwanda, says Priti Patel

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/05/18/priti-patel-will-tell-un-refugee-agency-stop-rubbishing-rwanda/>

Patel 'pushing ahead' with Rwanda migrant plan as 900 cross Channel in four days

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/priti-patel-home-secretary-rwanda-boris-johnson-home-office-b2082059.html>

'Hundreds' likely to be sent to Rwanda each year – minister

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/dominic-raab-rwanda-priti-patel-prime-minister-home-office-b2083488.html>

Dominic Raab: Hundreds, not thousands, will be sent to Rwanda

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/first-refugee-flight-to-rwanda-delayed-after-legal-challenge-2jh7hwrh6>

Refugees minister refuses to endorse Rwanda policy

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/refugees-minister-refuses-to-endorse-rwanda-policy-l05xwgs29>

Campaigners 'relieved' as Rwanda flights delayed until next month

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/priti-patel-government-unhcr-rwanda-prime-minister-b2082604.html>

First Rwanda flight delayed after legal challenge by migrant charity

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/05/19/first-rwanda-flight-delayed-legal-challenge-migrant-charity/>

Channel migrants earmarked for one-way ticket to Rwanda put in detention ahead of first deportations

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/05/20/channel-migrants-earmarked-one-way-ticket-rwanda-put-detention/>

Glasgow immigration lawyer raises 'serious deficiencies' in UK Rwanda policy for refugees

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/world/glasgow-immigration-lawyer-raises-serious-deficiencies-in-uk-rwanda-policy-for-refugees-3698128>

Rwanda deal: Migrants in Calais say they'll still try to cross to UK

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-61523009>

'I thought the UK was a good country': Sudan massacre refugee faces removal to Rwanda

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2022/may/18/i-thought-the-uk-was-a-good-country-man-faces-removal-to-rwanda>

News: Channel Migrants

Channel crossings exceed 8,000 for the year

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/kent-boris-johnson-english-channel-mps-france-b2079818.html>

Calmer seas bring Channel boat migrant total to 8,000 this year

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/calmer-seas-bring-channel-boat-migrant-total-to-8-000-this-year-fqfvg8v96>

Priti Patel to approve Channel boat crossing prosecutions because of obscure 1800s law

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/channel-boat-crossing-prosecutions-patel-b2082112.html>

Channel crossings continue for a fourth consecutive day

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/richard-harrington-conservative-lord-government-home-office-b2080753.html>

Almost 500 migrants cross Channel this weekend as total this year passes 8,000

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/05/15/almost-500-migrants-cross-channel-weekend-total-year-passes/>

New boats scrambled to pick up Channel migrants as Rwanda one-way ticket fails to stop surge

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/05/17/new-boats-scrambled-pick-channel-migrants-rwanda-one-way-ticket/>

News: Afghanistan

"This is your parliament": Afghan refugees welcomed to Holyrood by MSPs

<https://tfn.scot/news/this-is-your-parliament-afghan-refugees-welcomed-to-holyrood-by-msps>

Plight of Afghan judges in spotlight as court hears UK asylum challenge

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/may/17/afghan-judges-hoping-for-uk-asylum-not-treated-consistently-say-lawyers>

News: Ukraine

More than 50,000 refugees arrive in UK after fleeing war in Ukraine

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/ukraine-homes-government-b2082623.html>

Ukraine-Russia: One in 20 Ukrainian refugees who fled war to UK living in Scotland

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/world/ukraine-russia-one-in-20-ukrainian-refugees-who-fled-war-to-uk-living-in-scotland-3696045>

Ukraine war: Refugees say they receive worrying messages

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-61480024>

Left-behind Ukrainian orphans reunited in Scotland

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-61496660>

Some Ukrainians ‘never made it out’ due to wait for UK visas, MP says

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/ukrainian-refugees-ukraine-richard-harrington-uk-b2082826.html>

Schools welcome 2,000 Ukrainian refugees in a month

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/schools-welcome-2-000-ukrainian-refugees-in-a-month-q0fmv2knf>

New course to help families hosting Ukrainian refugees

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/open-university-english-government-oxford-university-b2079645.html>

‘We’ll make it work’: the Ukrainian families benefiting from UK community-led scheme

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/may/15/communities-for-ukraine-refugees-home-uk>

Ukraine refugees homeless in UK after falling out with hosts, say community groups

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/may/17/homes-for-ukraine-refugees-being-left-homeless-uk>

Ukraine refugees homeless in UK after falling out with hosts, say community groups

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/ukraine-refugees-homeless-host-families-b2081529.html>

Ukrainian women fear childcare issues will affect their ability to work in UK

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/may/22/ukrainian-women-fear-childcare-issues-will-affect-their-ability-to-work-in-uk>

Royal family ‘providing accommodation to Ukrainian refugee families’

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/homes-volodymyr-zelensky-canada-prince-of-wales-express-b2084166.html>

News: Other Immigration and Asylum

Visas for arrivals from outside EU at new high

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/visas-for-arrivals-from-outside-eu-at-new-high-7t00g209g>

Hardship caused by the Home Office’s costly and dilatory visa regime

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2022/may/18/hardship-and-pain-caused-by-the-home-office-costly-and-dilatory-visa-regime>

Home secretary Priti Patel overrode legal advice in asylum cases, adding to record costs

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/priti-patel-immigration-legal-costs-b2078689.html>

Home Office doubles time lone child refugees must wait to join family in UK

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/child-refugees-visas-waiting-time-ukraine-uk-b2077384.html>

Make Ukraine homes scheme permanent, says refugee minister

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/homes-ukraine-government-westminster-prime-minister-b2082918.html>

Migrant workers 'exploited and beaten' on UK fishing boats

<https://www.theguardian.com/global/2022/may/17/migrant-workers-exploited-and-beaten-on-uk-fishing-boats>

Kenmure Street Festival: Community unites in solidarity

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/kenmure-street-festival/>

Charity launches poster project to highlight loneliness of migrants

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/charity-eurostar-pakistani-djibouti-cameroon-b2081774.html>

Migrants sent to Yorkshire village despite residents' anger

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/migrants-sent-to-linton-on-ouse-in-yorkshire-despite-residents-anger-cwrh0thpk>

Home Secretary to visit villagers affected by asylum centre proposal

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-secretary-home-office-priti-patel-north-yorkshire-raf-b2083186.html>

Linton-on-Ouse: MP urges PM to stop village asylum centre plan

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-york-north-yorkshire-61491711>

Tory MP urges Boris Johnson to stop plans for asylum processing centre

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/kevin-hollinrake-conservative-boris-johnson-thirsk-home-office-b2081839.html>

Far-right threat feared at huge base for asylum seekers in North Yorkshire village

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/may/19/counter-terror-experts-assisting-with-far-right-threat-to-asylum-housing>

UK deportation flight to Jamaica takes off with seven onboard

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/may/18/home-office-deportation-flight-jamaica-takes-off>

Deportation flight to Jamaica takes off with only 7 of 112 criminals on board

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/deportation-flight-to-jamaica-takes-off-with-only-7-of-112-criminals-on-board-pqmc5clt6>

TOP

Equality

Press Release

Maternity Disparities Taskforce explores women's health before and during pregnancy

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/maternity-disparities-taskforce-explores-womens-health-before-and-during-pregnancy>

New Publication

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Universal Periodic Review of Great Britain
<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/our-work-human-rights-universal-periodic-review-2022.pdf>

News

'I'm a Rasta, I'm British, I'm an officer and a commando'
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-61496548>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Islamophobia: Scotland

Afzal Khan (Labour) [900011] To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, what recent discussions he has had with the Scottish Government on tackling Islamophobia in Scotland.

Reply from Rachel Maclean: Tackling Islamophobia is a matter of devolved competence in Scotland

The UK Government is committed to eradicating anti-Muslim hatred and all forms of religious prejudice, and I know that the Scottish Government shares that commitment.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/900011>

Youth Custody: Racial Discrimination

Marsha De Cordova (Labour) [1544] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to tackle (a) racism and (b) adultification bias in the police following the Child Q case.

Reply from Rachel Maclean: Nobody should be subject to any use of police powers because of their race or ethnicity and extensive safeguards exist to ensure this does not happen. Her Majesty's inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) inspect police forces' compliance with the legislation and College of Police guidance through their programme of national thematic inspections. In addition, the Home Office fund the Independent Custody Visiting Association who co-ordinate independent custody visitors in making unannounced visits to police custody to check on the rights and wellbeing of detainees.

Any use of strip search should be carried out in accordance with the law and with full regard for the dignity and welfare of the individual being searched – particularly if the individual being searched is a child. If police judge it operationally necessary to strip search a child, they must do so in the presence of the child's appropriate adult (unless both the child and appropriate adult consent to it being done in the absence of the appropriate adult) and in line with safeguarding procedures.

Children and young people are a protected group with specific vulnerabilities. Their treatment in detention is governed not only by domestic legislation but also by the [UN Convention on the Rights of the Child \(UNCRC\)](#) which the UK has signed and ratified. Everyone who works with children has a responsibility for keeping them safe. This means they have a role to play in identifying concerns about a child's

safety and wellbeing, sharing information and taking prompt action when it is needed to protect a child.

It is essential that the police and frontline professionals recognise vulnerability in children and young people, regardless of the circumstances around any interaction. To support this the Home Office have funded the National Police Chiefs' Council's Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice programme, which shares the very best practice across forces. We also fund the College of Policing's Public Protection and Safeguarding Leadership programme which ensures senior leaders in policing have a strong understanding of vulnerability.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-13/1544>

Press Release

Co-founder of right-wing terror group convicted

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/cps/news/co-founder-right-wing-terror-group-convicted>

News

Racist abuse in Scotland worse now than thirty years ago, says broadcaster Afua Hagan

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/racist-abuse-in-scotland-worse-now-than-thirty-years-ago-says-broadcaster-afua-hagan-rmxzrf5wj>

Police struggle to enforce hate crime law on social media

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/police-struggle-to-enforce-hate-crime-law-on-social-media-kq3zfcjsz>

Police chiefs to apologise for 'racism, discrimination and bias' in race plan

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/may/20/police-chiefs-to-apologise-for-racism-discrimination-and-bias-in-race-plan>

Police leaders to commit to being 'institutionally anti-racist'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/npsc-george-floyd-college-of-policing-british-met-police-b2084134.html>

Black students frustrated at lack of action on university racism, MPs told

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2022/may/18/black-students-frustrated-lack-action-university-racism-mps-told>

Children as young as three months old may be racially biased, council claims

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/05/21/children-young-three-months-old-may-racially-biased-council/>

Grammar school headmaster investigated for using N-word

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/05/16/grammar-school-headmaster-investigated-using-n-word-telling/>

Head reported to police for repeating racial slur

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/headteacher-reported-to-police-for-quoting-n-word-when-telling-off-pupil-5ddqcl025>

QC to lead inquiry into antisemitism claims at NUS

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/qc-to-lead-inquiry-into-antisemitism-claims-at-nus-f39mb3w5q>

From Buffalo to Christchurch, how online fascism causes real-world terror

<https://tellmamauk.org/from-buffalo-to-christchurch-how-online-fascism-causes-real-world-terror/>

'Hate is alive and well': Burnley fan arrested for apparent Nazi salute at Spurs

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2022/may/16/burnley-fan-arrested-apparent-nazi-salute-at-spurs-hate-alive-in-football>

Two men arrested at Tottenham vs Burnley following 'discriminatory gestures'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/metropolitan-police-burnley-lancashire-police-twitter-b2079506.html>

Police investigate racist abuse of families of Brentford players at Everton

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2022/may/15/police-investigate-racist-abuse-of-families-of-brentford-players-at-everton>

Don't tell people of colour to be 'the bigger person' when it comes to racism

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/stop-racism-people-of-colour-b2079994.html>

Can white people ever be referred to as 'people of colour'?

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/racism-people-of-colour-black-lives-matter-b2080070.html>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

National Slavery Museum

Stuart McMillan (SNP) [S6W-08418] To ask the Scottish Government when it will announce its preferred location(s) for a national slavery museum as part of action to address historic links to the transatlantic slave trade.

Reply from Neil Gray: The Scottish Government is not at this stage considering options for a national slavery museum. The remit of the independent Empire, Slavery and Scotland's Museums steering group is to explore the most appropriate model and mechanism of delivery of a museum. The group was asked not to explore costings or specific locations of a potential building.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-08418>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Press Release

UK Covid Alert Level: The UK Covid Alert Level has moved from level 4 to level 3

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-covid-alert-level>

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Just one week left to complete your census form!! All forms must be submitted by 31 May 2022

Final days to complete the census

More than 37,500 households have started but not yet submitted their census online according to new figures released by National Records of Scotland today.

Householders who have started their census but not yet submitted are being urged to fulfil their legal responsibility and complete the census before it closes at the end of the month. Over four out of five households across the country have already completed the census; for those who have yet to do so, help and support is available.

Angus Robertson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, External Affairs and Culture said: "If you're among the 37,500 households who have started the census online but have yet to submit it please do it now - we're counting on you. ...

"Census data is at the heart of big decisions on services and infrastructure like schools, hospitals, housing and roads. Filling in the census allows you to have your voice heard and influence decisions that impact your family, your friends and your community."

Paul Lowe, Chief Executive of NRS, said: ... "If you have yet to complete, there is an enormous amount of help and support available for people to fill it in online or on paper.

"We have staff working in communities every day, with 1.4 million address visits undertaken; we've had hundreds of thousands of conversations by phone, email and webchat through our contact centre. We also continue to participate in a range of community events up and down the country to reach as many people as possible. But don't wait for us to come to you: go online or call us if you need help."

The website is [census.gov.scot](https://www.census.gov.scot) and the helpline number is 0800 030 8308.

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/news/2022/final-days-to-complete-the-census>

More than a million visits to households in census completion drive

Census staff have carried out more than 1 million doorstep visits in the drive to support households to complete their census, according to new figures from National Records of Scotland (NRS).

Census staff will also be working with householders to complete their census on the doorstep - online or on paper - as part of a package of support measures to encourage completion.

Census returns must be submitted by the end of May; failure to do so could result in prosecution and a fine of up to £1000.

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/news/2022/more-than-a-million-visits-to-households-in-census-completion-drive>

About Scotland's Census 2022

Scotland's Census 2022

<https://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/taking-part-in-the-2022-census/scotland-s-census-2022/>

Complete Scotland's Census now

<https://www.census.gov.scot/>

MEMO+ Scotland's Census 2022

https://www.scojec.org/memo+/2022/22iii_scotlands_census_2022.pdf

Video: Scotland's Census 2022. Getting the right things out, starts with filling it in

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tC2plmy827c>

Video: Scotland's Census 2022. What am I filling in and why does it matter?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w8AjE_2z2Kg

Video: Scotland's Census 2022. What exactly is Census Day?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ypmk4F3rLhs>

Video: Scotland's Census 2022. What do I need to know about filling it in?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z8e_Kza2XpM

Video: Scotland's Census 2022. Am I legally required to fill it in?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GZm1By8Al2g>

Video: Scotland's Census 2022. Can I get help filling it in?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RsF1UZBeXgY>

Video: How to complete your census online

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4TQA9yKSpfA>

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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>

Stage 2, Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/official-report/what-was-said-in-parliament/SPPAC-12-05-2022?meeting=13749&iob=124764>

UK Parliament

Online Safety Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3137>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

Public Participation at the Scottish Parliament (closing date 30 June 2022)

<https://yourviews.parliament.scot/cppp/participation-2022/>

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Job Opportunities

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

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Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

Faithful Welcome

Closing date: 27 May 2022

Faithful Welcome aims to support Scotland's faith communities to welcome refugees and asylum seekers and enable them to be an integral part of community life, wherever they are coming from and whatever the reason.

Grants of up to £500 are available to local faith groups registered as charities in Scotland for local action around the following themes:

Offering hospitality (eg costs of community meals and social events bringing people together);

Easing integration (eg costs of interpreting services; running language classes);

Enabling participation (eg skill-sharing activities such as gardening, sewing, cooking; providing costs of bus passes for travel).

For information and to apply, see

<https://www.faithincommunity.scot/faithfulwelcomesmallgrants>

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week**

Guidance for people hosting refugees from Ukraine

24 May 2022 (online, 6.00–7.30)

Scottish Refugee Council information session is for anyone who is interested in hosting, or has registered to host people from Ukraine, either privately, or through the Scottish Government's Scottish Government's Ukraine Super Sponsor scheme. For information see

<https://tinyurl.com/2yh6njvf>

**** this week**

The Queen's Speech & Protecting Rights

25 May 2022 (online, 1.15–2.00)

Human Rights Consortium Scotland webinar to provide short, insightful reflections on some of the big UK Government plans to keep an eye on. For information see

<https://tinyurl.com/2p88bmey>

Working with People from Diverse Religious Backgrounds

9 June 2022 (online, 1.00–4.30)

Interfaith Scotland course on improving our confidence in discussing and responding to the religion and belief of those we work with. We learn about the core beliefs and cultural practices of the main faiths, and the individual needs that may arise from a person's faith or belief identity. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/ye2ntnpv> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

**** Human Rights Leadership: Priorities and concerns for Scotland**

15 June 2022 (online, 9.30–12.00)

Human Rights Consortium Scotland event to discuss where Scotland currently stands on human rights, Where it is showing leadership, and where it is hanging back, what it is championing, what it is ignoring, and the position of Scotland within the UK. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2v89sy65>

Refugees: Asylum and Resettlement

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>

Love Without Limits

18 June 2022 (Glasgow, 12.00–5.00)

Faith in Community Scotland gathering to explore and develop the faithful welcome offered to asylum seekers and refugees, including to hear and better understand the diverse needs of those who have been displaced from their own communities and families, and amplify the voice of refugees and asylum seekers in an unjust world and respond to actual rather than perceived need. The gathering will be followed by a ceilidh from 5-7pm. For information about the gathering see <https://tinyurl.com/y4kyftwp> and about the ceilidh see <https://tinyurl.com/2rpv3tux>

Advantage is invisible – understanding unintentional discrimination

6 July 2022 (online, 1.30–3.30)

Interfaith Scotland course exploring why discrimination is common even when our intentions are to work fairly with all staff and service users. The role of the dominant identity in shaping our working culture and practices will be discussed, and we will consider the persistent pattern that advantage tends to be hidden from those that have it. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2d5zwje9> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

Interpreting culture – improving cross-cultural communication

11 August 2022 (online, 11.00–1.00)

Interfaith Scotland course on cultural diversity. Our cultural background has a profound influence on each of us. It shapes our behaviour, values and beliefs. It even affects our thought processes and how we perceive the world. In this course we explore how culture forms a lens through which we interpret each other's behaviour and learn how to improve our inter-cultural communication. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yckbt9hs> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

Our lives are ruled by the stories we tell ourselves – how interpretation shapes interaction

13 September 2022 (online, 10.00–12.00)

Interfaith Scotland course exploring the impact of our inner narratives - our meaning-making - on our interactions and relationships. We will consider ways we can become more aware of our readings as they form, and more cautious about their accuracy. We will also discuss tools for more authentic conversations. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/m63kxvrm> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

Working with Interpreters

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

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

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

Supporting Refugee Integration

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>

Introduction to Working with Religious Diversity

26 October 2022 (online, 10.30–12.30)

Interfaith Scotland course for delegates to improve their confidence in discussing and responding to the religion and belief of those they work with. We explore guiding principles behind working with religion and belief diversity. Then we take a closer look at the core beliefs and cultural practices of Islam, Sikhism and Judaism. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2p88vnps> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

Working with Unaccompanied Refugee Children

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>

Intention versus impact – exploring challenges around group labels and unintended offence

6 December 2022 (online, 1.30–3.30)

Interfaith Scotland short course exploring the language used to describe groups of people, particularly in relation to Protected Characteristics like race, disability, religion and belief, and how we can respond to unintended interpretations by exploring the difference between the speaker's intention and the impact on the listener. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/k9hz52pk> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

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Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Disclosure Scotland <https://www.mygov.scot/disclosure-types>

Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services

<https://www.volunteerscotland.net/for-organisations/disclosure-services/>

BBC News <https://www.bbc.com/news>

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SCoJeC
Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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



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



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

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