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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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**Because of the Jewish festival of Shavuot,  
the next issue of MEMO will be published on Wednesday 8 June 2022**

## Immigration and Asylum

### Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

#### Ukrainian Refugees (Settlement)

**Miles Briggs (Conservative)** [S6O-01138] To ask the Scottish Government how its supersponsor scheme takes account of the preferences of Ukrainian refugees regarding settlement locations within Scotland.

**Reply from the Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine (Neil Gray):** The supersponsor scheme is designed to provide a quick and safe route to enable people displaced from Ukraine to come to a place of sanctuary by removing

the need for applicants to be matched to an individual sponsor prior to being given permission to travel to the United Kingdom.

Once people have arrived, a national matching service, delivered by the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, will match those settling here with longer-term accommodation across Scotland. Displaced people from Ukraine are asked to complete a short questionnaire that captures key information and preferences. That information is then used to find suitable longer-term accommodation, which will be offered as a choice.

All 32 of our local authorities are taking part in the programme and hosts have offered up their homes right across the country. The national matching service will ensure that people are offered settlement opportunities across Scotland, recognising that people will have different preferences and that available housing is limited in some authorities.

**Miles Briggs:** There is growing concern that what seems to be an overly bureaucratic system has been put in place. It seems that the Syria and Afghanistan resettlement scheme that was adopted in the 32 local council areas is now being administered to Ukrainian refugees. I understand that 1,000 Ukrainians are currently living in hotels and have had no clarification of the matching process for the scheme. What consideration is being given to a single scheme that can be delivered without councils having to decide? What advice is being given to councils to ensure that the scheme is speeded up?

**Reply from Neil Gray:** I absolutely agree with Miles Briggs's last point. We need a process that moves as quickly as possible. I am working with officials and local authority partners to ensure that people are allocated and matched to longer term accommodation and that the necessary safeguarding checks are carried out as quickly as possible—that applies to both the properties on offer and the individuals offering them, as I am sure that Miles Briggs would expect.

I do not recognise the numbers that Miles Briggs has quoted, but I would be happy to meet him to discuss the matching process to ensure that we are able to offer people sustainable long-term accommodation as quickly as possible. That will relieve the undoubted pressures that exist in places such as Edinburgh, which Miles Briggs represents and which has become a national hub for arrivals, so that the system flows well.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13773&i=124984#ScotParlOR>

### **Ukrainian Refugees (Services)**

**Joe FitzPatrick (SNP) [S6O-01139]** To ask the Scottish Government what services the £10,500 tariff provided by the United Kingdom Government for local authorities to support displaced Ukrainians arriving in Scotland is expected to cover.

**Reply from the Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine (Neil Gray):** The £10,500 tariff is designed to support local authorities to meet all their associated costs, including those for providing education; advice and referrals to specialist public health services, including mental health services and adult social care; support to access employability support and social security; homelessness assistance; and community integration through the provision of translation services, community events and signposting to further support.

The tariff is paid per person but only for those who have settled under the homes for Ukraine scheme, which includes the supersponsor scheme, not for those under the family sponsorship scheme. The £200 emergency payment for guests is also paid from that one payment.

**Joe FitzPatrick:** In addition to the costs that the minister mentioned, there are health costs, which do not appear to be covered. The tariff does not seem enough to cover what services

will be required to spend and it is ridiculous to hear from the minister that no money is made available for people who are settling in Scotland under the family sponsorship scheme. Does he agree that the tariff is not adequate, that the United Kingdom Government should increase it so that local authorities are suitably reimbursed and that it should be for all displaced Ukrainians, no matter what scheme they arrive through?

**Reply from Neil Gray:** I absolutely agree. The tariff is not adequate for the support that our public services will provide as we support displaced people from Ukraine, nor is there specific additional funding for national health service services—a point that I have repeatedly made to UK ministers.

There is no funding at all for people who arrive under the family sponsorship scheme, which is clearly not acceptable. Our local authorities and public services will support people regardless of the route by which they arrive and funding must be provided for them to do that, which is a point that I will raise with UK ministers again, with the support of Welsh colleagues, in trilateral meetings this afternoon.

I have repeatedly called for the UK Government to provide parity of funding, to consider the resources that are needed to fund public services and to provide clarity on how long they will be available for. In the meantime, the Scottish Government has provided local authorities with significant funding support in addition to the UK Government funding to allow them to quickly make accommodation available for people who require longer-term support.

**Siobhian Brown (SNP):** Is the Scottish Government giving specialised support and aid to disabled Ukrainians, similar to that which is being given in Northern Ireland?

**Reply from Neil Gray:** All people arriving from Ukraine will have full access to NHS services and social security on the same basis as people who ordinarily live in Scotland. That means that people fleeing the war in Ukraine will have access to any support that they need in our health service as well as immediate access to social security benefits such as the child and adult disability payments. In addition, a public protection response has been adopted across Scotland to ensure that vulnerable people who are displaced from Ukraine are protected and have access to the same support and safeguards as any other vulnerable person under Scottish jurisdiction.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13773&i=124985#ScotParlOR>

*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>*

### **Ukrainian Refugees (Welcome Hubs)**

**Alexander Stewart (Conservative)** [S6O-01140] To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on the work of Scotland's welcome hubs for Ukrainian refugees.

**Reply from the Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine (Neil Gray):** Welcome hubs have been established at key entry points: Edinburgh airport, Glasgow city and airport and Cairnryan port. They continue to provide support from healthcare to translation services, clothes and food to temporary accommodation, and trauma support. Multi-agency teams at our welcome hubs have triaged more than 1,500 people to date and are assessing people's needs on arrival. They are a single point where we can triage and support people. We are continually working with our national and local partners, including local government and the Scottish Refugee Council, to improve and streamline our approach. I thank everyone

involved in our welcome hubs for the incredible work that they do.

**Alexander Stewart:** Not all arrivals pass through the welcome hubs, which are the point of contact for arrivals and offer them support such as language support, healthcare, food and clothing. What steps are being taken to ensure that new arrivals who do not use the welcome hubs are not neglected and are supported in the way that those who go through the hubs are?

**Reply from Neil Gray:** I thank Alexander Stewart for the important point that he made. It is absolutely the case that the Scottish Government is working with our local authority partners to provide support and services for all arrivals from Ukraine. Multi-agency teams working in the hubs are ready to provide support from healthcare to translation, as I set out. We remain focused on providing a safe and secure place to address any immediate wellbeing and safeguarding needs for displaced persons and will continue to do so.

If there are particular issues from the region that he represents regarding making sure that proper contact is made, I would be happy to ensure that they are taken up with the local authorities.

**Alasdair Allan (SNP):** Staff at Scotland's welcome hubs are becoming more experienced by the day as they assist in triaging displaced people from Ukraine. Will the minister assure the Parliament that those hubs will continue to be supported in that triaging role, allowing a warm Scots welcome to be afforded to all displaced Ukrainians who arrive in Scotland?

**Reply from Neil Gray:** Yes, absolutely, and I thank Alasdair Allan for giving me the opportunity to thank the teams in our welcome hubs. They have moved at pace and have needed to work on an increasing scale in order to meet the needs of those who arrive from Ukraine. That is very much appreciated by the Scottish Government, the people of Scotland and the people who have arrived from Ukraine. It has been fed back to me that having that warm Scottish welcome has been very much appreciated, and we will continue to support that approach so that the people who arrive get the sanctuary and support that they need and deserve.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13773&i=124986#ScotParlOR>

### **Ukrainian Refugees (Risk to Female Refugees)**

**Ruth Maguire (SNP) [S6O-01141]** To ask the Scottish Government what analysis it has carried out of the specific risk to female refugees who are fleeing Ukraine to resettle in Scotland.

**Reply from the Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine (Neil Gray):** Anyone who meets the United Kingdom Government eligibility criteria can apply to sponsor a displaced person through the homes for Ukraine scheme. That means that safeguarding risks are inherent in the system, as I and the Welsh Government have raised on a number of occasions with UK ministers, whom I have urged to replicate the supersponsor schemes of our Governments.

The supersponsor scheme means that disclosure checks are done in advance of guests being placed with hosts. We also have guidance that supports all the operational partners that are involved in safeguarding to identify and respond to the risks to and needs of displaced people from Ukraine.

**Ruth Maguire:** Active safeguarding is extremely important, and I understand that the Trafficking Awareness Raising Alliance and JustRight Scotland have produced a leaflet in Ukrainian and Russian to explain to women the risks of trafficking. In recognition of the fact that vulnerability can increase over time, will the Scottish Government consider including partnerships and services on violence against women and girls in the response at both strategic and operational levels, and commit to carrying out gender-specific risk and safety planning, not just at entry but in the medium and long term?

**Reply from Neil Gray:** I thank Ruth Maguire, particularly in her role as co-convener of the cross-party group on commercial sexual exploitation, for her question, and I will happily consider the suggestions that she has made.

The safeguarding measures that we have put in place are imperative to ensuring that we are able to provide the necessary protection that would be expected. We must ensure that Scotland provides a place of safety and sanctuary.

The guidance that I mentioned has been developed with expert partners and draws on intelligence regarding the vulnerabilities of certain groups, including women and girls, as identified by the United Nations refugee agency, the Scottish Refugee Council and Zero Tolerance.

The biggest risk factor is the fact that there is still a need in some areas for private matching. On-going informal social media private matching presents the biggest risk. The easiest way to stop that is to have in place a statutory matching service such as we have in the Scottish and Welsh supersponsor schemes, and I encourage the UK Government to follow that lead.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13773&i=124987#ScotParlOR>

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

## UK Parliament Debate

### **Asylum Reception Centre: Linton-on-Ouse**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-05-24/debates/8ABDF66A-EBB5-4EF8-B6D2-8389CD4DD5E4/AsylumReceptionCentreLinton-On-Ouse>

## UK Parliament, Ministerial Statement

### **Child Citizenship Registration Fees**

#### **The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Kevin Foster)**

[HCWS65] Today I am laying before the House an amendment to the Immigration and Nationality (Fees) Regulations 2018, which includes changes in respect of applications made by children seeking to register as British citizens.

Since 2018, the Home Office has charged a fee of £1,012 to those under the age of 18 who are seeking to register as British citizens under the provisions of the British Nationality Act 1981 (BNA). This fee has been set in line with Section 68(9) of the Immigration Act 2014, which details the factors the Home Secretary may take into account when setting fees. These include the costs of processing an application, the benefits that are likely to accrue to any person in connection with the application, and the costs of exercising wider immigration and nationality functions.

In keeping with the requirements of this legislative framework, the Department has pursued an approach over the last decade of progressively increasing the role fees play in funding the borders and migration system. This self-funding model serves to ensure those who benefit from the system contribute to its effective operation and maintenance, while reducing reliance on taxpayer funding. This in turn helps to ensure the system is able to support the Home Office's priority outcomes, including enabling the legitimate movement of people and goods to support economic prosperity, and tackling illegal migration, removing those with no right to be here and protecting the vulnerable.

However, as Section 71 of the Immigration Act 2014 makes clear, this does not limit the Secretary of State's duty under Section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act

(BCIA) 2009 to make arrangements to ensure immigration and nationality functions are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the UK. On 18 February 2021, the Court of Appeal, following a case brought by the Project for the Registration of Children as British Citizens (PRCBC), found that the Secretary of State had breached that duty in setting the fee in Regulations in 2017 and 2018. The Home Secretary accepted the court's findings and committed to reviewing the fee in line with her duties under Section 55 of the BCIA 2009.

On 2 February 22 the Supreme Court handed down its judgment on an appeal made by PRCBC in relation to the status of the 2017 and 2018 Regulations that set the fee charged to children to register as British citizens, which held that the regulations were not "ultra vires" and the principles that underpin our fees system had been lawfully applied. Following the Supreme Court's judgment, the Home Secretary was able to conclude her review of the fee and has decided, as a result, to introduce changes in relation to child citizenship fees in order to better facilitate access to citizenship for children who may face difficulties in paying the fee. The changes are the introduction of a fee waiver for child citizenship applications on the basis of affordability, and a fee exception for children who are looked after by a local authority. In parallel, the Home Secretary has also decided to maintain the £1,012 fee at its current level, reflecting the substantial number of applications that the Department does receive under the current fees regime and the critical role income from these applications plays in supporting the sustainable funding of a borders and migration system that is critical to delivery of the Home Office's key objectives.

By introducing the affordability based waiver, our aim is to ensure the fee does not serve as a significant practical barrier to the acquisition of British citizenship for children who are eligible to apply, where the unaffordability of that fee can be demonstrated. This recognises the particular value British citizenship can have for children who have been born in or spent a substantial part of their lives in the UK, particularly those intangible benefits in terms of the sense of identity and belonging which develop during an individual's formative years, and the impact this can have on their wider wellbeing. At the same time, it reflects our belief that a waiver offers the most effective means of facilitating applications from children for whom affordability of the fee does represent a practical barrier, while balancing against the wider financial impact on the Department, relative to other options. In addition, the specific fee exception that is being introduced will serve to relieve an administrative and financial burden from local authorities, while enabling the Department to work more proactively with them to register children who are eligible and where it is in their best interests.

Further details on how to apply for the waiver and exception will be set out in published guidance, with applications open from 16 June. I hope colleagues will join me in welcoming these changes, which I believe represent a positive step in responding to the concerns raised by members of this House as well as other stakeholders in relation to children's access to British citizenship.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-05-26/debates/2205263600023/ChildCitizenshipRegistrationFees>

*The Appeal Court judgement referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWCA/Civ/2021/193.html>

*The Supreme Court judgement referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.supremecourt.uk/cases/docs/uksc-2021-0062-judgment.pdf>

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

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Asylum: Rwanda**

**Marsha De Cordova (Labour)** [4683] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will publish the legal advice her Department has received on its policy to process asylum applicants in Rwanda.

**Marsha De Cordova (Labour)** [4684] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the UK-Rwanda Migration and Economic Development Partnership, what assurances she has received from the Government of Rwanda that migrants from protected groups will not face discrimination.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** It is the Government's long-standing position never to publish confidential and privileged legal advice.

Rwanda's constitution includes a broad prohibition on discrimination. It is a fundamentally safe and secure country with respect for the rule of law. Rwanda will treat each relocated individual in accordance with the Refugee Convention, Rwandan immigration laws and international and Rwandan standards, including under international and Rwandan human rights law.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-18/4683>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-18/4684>

### **Asylum: Rwanda**

**Angela Crawley (SNP)** [5437] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of public opinion towards the Rwanda Asylum Agreement.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** Last year the Government launched an extensive and wide-reaching public consultation with stakeholders, relevant sectors and members of the public, including those with lived experiences, to inform the New Plan for Immigration. The findings from the [consultation](#) were carefully considered and the Government response was published on 22 July 2021.

A [YouGov poll](#) carried out last year found the majority of people (64%) thought the Government's 'New Plan for Immigration' policies are fair and many agree that how someone enters the country should be taken into account in their asylum application.

Our Nationality and Borders Act has received Royal Assent last month and at the heart of this approach is fairness. The Act allows us to put in provisions to deter illegal entry to the UK, remove those with no right to be in the UK, and make the system more effective so that we can better protect and support those in genuine need of asylum.

YouGov conducted an independent poll on 14 April, the day that the Migration and Economic Development Partnership with Rwanda was announced. The question posed was as follows:

*The Government has proposed a deal where some people who have entered Britain and applied for asylum will be flown to Rwanda, in Africa, for their asylum applications to be processed. Do you support or oppose this proposal?*

This snap poll indicated that 35% of the public supported the partnership, 42% opposed it, and a further 23% were unsure.

Source: YouGov poll of 2943 GB adults on 14 April 2022.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-19/5437>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Rwanda: Refugees**

**Angela Crawley (SNP)** [5433] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment she has made of the capacity of the Rwandan Government to successfully integrate refugees into society.

**Angela Crawley (SNP)** [5434] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment she has made of Rwanda's capacity to successfully integrate non-African refugees into society.

**Reply from Vicky Ford:** Rwanda has a strong history of welcoming refugees and protecting their rights. The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), commended Rwanda for their "excellent job integrating refugees" in December 2021. People relocated under the Migration and Economic Development Partnership will have all their needs looked after while their asylum claims are being considered in Rwanda. This includes safe and clean accommodation, food, healthcare and amenities. They will have full access to translators and will be able to access legal support to appeal decisions in Rwanda's courts. 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.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-19/5433>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-19/5434>

### **Asylum: Rwanda**

**Angela Crawley (SNP)** [5436] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what risk assessment her Department plans to undertake of asylum seekers' vulnerabilities including (a) disabilities, (b) sexual orientation, (c) gender reassignment status, (d) mental trauma, (e) mental health and (f) physical health when determining eligibility for relocation to Rwanda.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** The Home Office will continue to ensure that the welfare and dignity of all claimants forms a central platform of our decision-making processes.

An individualised assessment of each eligible person's circumstances will be undertaken prior to any decision to relocate them to Rwanda. We would not relocate someone where it would be unsafe or inappropriate to do so.

Any vulnerabilities will be taken into consideration and every individual who is eligible for removal under this policy will be able to make representations where they are concerned the country in question would not be safe for them.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-19/5436>

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

### **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**Dan Jarvis (Labour)** [3597] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how Afghan nationals can gain access to the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** The Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme commenced on 6 January 2022, providing up to 20,000 women, children and others at risk with a safe and legal route to resettle in the UK.

Eligible individuals can be referred onto the Scheme in one of three ways.

- Under Pathway 1, vulnerable and at-risk individuals who arrived in the UK under the evacuation programme will be the first to be resettled under the ACRS. Those eligible who were called forward during the evacuation but



were unable to board may also be resettled through this pathway.

- Under Pathway 2, we are working closely with UNHCR and continue to work towards receiving referrals shortly. Those referred by UNHCR will be based on an assessment of protection needs.
- In year one, Pathway 3 will resettle individuals who supported the UK and international community efforts in Afghanistan, including those British Council and GardaWorld contractors, and Chevening alumni who are at risk. The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office will be in touch with those eligible to support them through the next steps. Beyond the first year of the ACRS, we will work with international partners and NGOs to welcome wider groups of Afghans at risk.

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-17/3597>

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

### **Afghanistan: Refugees**

**Dan Jarvis (Labour)** [5402] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what steps he is taking to support eligible Afghan nationals under the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy who cannot get (a) passports and (b) Pakistan visas for (i) financial and (ii) security reasons.

**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. It is not time-limited and will endure, facilitating the relocation of eligible Afghans and their families.

Relocating eligible Afghans without passports or other documents continues to be challenging, but we are working with third countries to negotiate routes that can be used for their relocation to the United Kingdom. The security situation in Afghanistan remains dynamic and therefore I am afraid we are not able to share any additional details of our plans for supporting those ARAP personnel in their bid to leave Afghanistan.

To date, 9,200 eligible individuals have already been safely relocated to the UK under the ARAP scheme and we continue to work at pace to support and facilitate the safe evacuation of eligible ARAP personnel and their families through a range of third countries.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-19/5402>

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

### **Afghanistan: Refugees**

**John Healey (Labour)** [1486] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many Afghan refugees are housed in (a) Service Family Accommodation and (b) Service Living Accommodation.

**Reply from Leo Docherty:** The Government's aim is to provide long term, settled accommodation in local communities for Afghan families as they build new lives in the UK. As part of its contribution, the Ministry of Defence is helping to settle Afghans by making available 550 Service Family Accommodation homes to Local Authorities as a temporary measure. As of 18 May, Local Authorities have leased 55 of these homes, and 52 are now occupied by Afghan families. These are in addition to the 1,014 ARAP families, comprising 4,373 Afghans, who have now

settled in permanent accommodation. The ARAP Scheme does not offer Single Living Accommodation for individuals relocated to the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-13/1486>

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

### **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**Mary Glendon (Labour)** [1171] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will provide an estimate of the likely timescales for Afghan people resettled to the UK under the (a) ARAP scheme and (b) ACRS scheme and who are currently living in bridging accommodation to be re-housed.

**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 people into homes 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, and to ensure those still temporarily accommodated in hotels are given the best start to their life in the UK. The length of time a family will remain in bridging hotels is dependent on several factors including sufficient offers of appropriate housing by local authorities. We strive to allocate the right families into the right accommodation to ensure their integration into their new communities in the UK is as smooth as possible. To achieve this, we triage and prioritise families to ensure the settled accommodation provides the best possible match, taking into consideration date of arrival into the UK, family size, vulnerability and integration factors.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-12/1171>

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

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

## **UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Ukraine**

### **Visas: Ukraine**

**James Wild (Conservative)** [1560] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if her Department will make available data on individuals arriving in the UK under the Ukraine Family Visa sponsorship route to local authorities to enable them to provide advice on accessing public services.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Ukraine Family Scheme is for those Ukraine nationals who have family members in the UK and wish to join them here.

Whilst there is an expectation they will be looked after by their family sponsor, there is no requirement in the scheme for the sponsor to accommodate and support their family member once in the UK. Those who are issued visas under the Ukraine Family Scheme are issued with access to public funds and services.

The Home Office does not collect specific data on where Ukraine nationals arriving under this scheme will be living, as this is not part of the requirements for the visa to be issued. Yet we continue to liaise with our colleagues in the Department for Levelling Up Homes and Communities about what information we can supply to local authorities to assist them in their work supporting those who arrive under the Ukraine Family Scheme.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-13/1560>

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>

### Homes for Ukraine Scheme

**David Warburton (Independent)** [902] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to process outstanding visa applications for those planning to enter the UK on the Homes for Ukraine Scheme; and what steps her Department is taking to ensure that their sponsors in the UK are kept regularly informed of the status of their visa applications.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** This is one of the fastest and largest visa programmes in UK history and in as little as two months we have issued over 100,000 visas, helping Ukrainians displaced from their home country to come to the UK to live, work, study and find safety here.

Once an application has been processed and approved, an official permission letter confirming the applicant can travel to the UK is sent to the applicant if they possess a valid Ukrainian passport.

The Home Office is processing applications as quickly as possible with extra caseworkers being brought in to meet demand. We continually making efforts to simplify the application process for Ukrainian refugees, and keeps this under regular review.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-11/902>

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

*The following six questions all received the same answer*

### Homes for Ukraine Scheme

**Catherine West (Labour)** [3694] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, what the average waiting time is between an applicant's visa receiving approval and that applicant receiving their permission to travel document.

**Catherine West (Labour)** [3695] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the target set by Lord Harrington of Watford that all Homes for Ukraine Scheme visas will be processed within 48 hours, how many applications her Department approved within that timeframe during the week commencing 9 to 16 May 2022.

**Catherine West (Labour)** [3696] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of Ukrainians who have received their Homes for Ukraine Scheme visas since the launch of the scheme have arrived in the UK.

**Catherine West (Labour)** [3698] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Ukrainian applications to the Homes for Ukraine Schemes received in April 2022 remain outstanding.

**Catherine West (Labour)** [3699] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what advice is being given to Ukrainian refugees applying for the Homes for Ukraine Scheme in circumstances where they cannot travel to a Visa Application Centre.

**Catherine West (Labour)** [3700] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department uses prioritisation criteria to determine urgency within the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Information on the number of visas granted under the Ukrainian Family Scheme and the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, divided by each local authority can be found in published data on the GOV.UK webpage:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/homes-for-ukraine-sponsorship-scheme-numbers-of-visa-applications>

The Government does not collect constituency-level data on the Ukraine Family Scheme.

In terms of priority, applications are normally processed in date order from when documents were uploaded, or after an appointment at a Visa Application Centre (VAC).

However, as part of the Home Office's commitment to make it easier for applicants to apply to our schemes, Ukrainians with valid passports no longer need to go to a Visa Application Centre to give their biometrics before they come to the UK. This revision to the process can mean applicants who submitted their applications at the same time, but via different biometric routes, may not receive their visas at the same time.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-17/3694>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-17/3695>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-17/3696>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-17/3698>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-17/3699>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-17/3700>

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

### **Refugees: Ukraine**

**Adam Afriyie (Conservative)** [680] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to speed up the process of Ukrainian visa applications in circumstances where visas are issued for all but one member of a family, preventing them all from travelling.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** UK Visas and Immigration have received thousands of applications for the Ukraine Family Scheme and Homes for Ukraine Scheme. UKVI are processing the paperwork as quickly as possible, and additional caseworkers have been brought in to manage this demand. UKVI staff are carrying out vital security checks for each application, and these checks are important to keep people safe in the UK, and protect people making journeys from Ukraine

Applications are normally processed in date order from when documents were uploaded, or after an appointment at a Visa Application Centre (VAC). We are working seven days a week to process applications, and where we have applications from family groups we would look to group these decisions together so families receive decisions wherever possible at the same time.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-11/680>

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

### **Homes for Ukraine Scheme: Families**

**Jack Lopresti (Conservative)** [194] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has plans to enable potential hosts under the Homes for Ukraine scheme to submit family-wide visa applications to house refugee families rather than multiple individual applications for each member of the family being hosted.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Under the Homes For Ukraine scheme, application forms must be completed for each family member, including one application per

child. This is to ensure the appropriate security and safeguarding checks can be undertaken.

The Home Office is continually making efforts to simplify the application process for Ukrainian refugees, and it keeps this under regular review.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/194>

*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*

#### **Homes for Ukraine Scheme**

**Beth Winter (Labour) [2686]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the time limit is on validity for entry into the UK on a visa issued under the Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme.

**Beth Winter (Labour) [2687]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has received representations on amending time limits to validity for entry on a visa issued under the Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The time limit validity for a standard visa is 90 days. However, we are looking at options for those Ukrainian applicants who have been unable to travel during this time period, including the possibility of issuing a replacement visa free of charge. Furthermore, as part of the UK schemes which were launched in response to Russia invasion of Ukraine, we issue permission to travel letters to Ukrainian nationals with a valid passport. These letters are different from a visa in they do not have a time limit for their use.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-16/2686>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-16/2687>

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

#### **Refugees: Ukraine**

**Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [2326]** To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, whether Ukrainian refugees who have arrived in the UK on a route other than the Homes for Ukraine scheme can access the support services and the hosts can access funding for supporting families associated with that scheme.

**Reply from Eddie Hughes:** Only Ukrainians arriving under the Homes for Ukraine scheme have access to that scheme's funding.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-16/2326>

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

#### **Homes for Ukraine Scheme**

**Caroline Lucas (Green Party) [3559]** To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what estimate he has made of the number of Homes for Ukraine sponsorships that will run for (a) six, (b) nine and (c) 12 months; what resources will be provided to councils to assist with supporting Ukrainian refugees following (i) the planned end of a sponsorship and (ii) any instances where a sponsorship ends early; and if he will make a statement.

**Reply from Eddie Hughes:** The Government has set out plans which introduce a mechanism for local authorities to rematch Homes for Ukraine guests with new sponsors in certain circumstances. Councils should use the £10,500 tariff to meet all their associated costs (both for providing council services and for administering payments), including rematching costs.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-17/3559>

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

### **Asylum: Housing**

**Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat)** [146] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, whether he has had discussions with the Association of British Insurers on reducing insurance premiums for households hosting asylum seekers.

**Reply from Eddie Hughes:** Insurers have agreed that homeowners accommodating Ukrainian Nationals in their home under the Homes for Ukraine scheme do not need to contact their insurer on the basis that they are accommodated as non-paying guests. Please refer to the [Association of British Insurers' statement](#) for more details.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/146>

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

### **Pension Credit: Refugees**

**Julie Marson (Conservative)** [4696] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many people who have arrived in the UK from Ukraine under relocation schemes have been awarded Pension Credit.

**Reply from Guy Opperman:** As of the 18 May 2022, we had received 1,374 claims to Pension Credit from people who have arrived in Great Britain from Ukraine under the relocation schemes. Of these, 1,012 have been awarded Pension Credit and the other 362 claims are being processed.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-18/4696>

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

### **Windrush Lessons Learned Review**

**Stephen Timms (Labour)** [4455] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when her Department plans to publish a response to the recommendations made in the report by Wendy Williams entitled Windrush Lessons Learned Review: progress update, published on 31 March 2022.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** In response to Recommendation 2 of the Windrush Lessons Learned Review, Wendy Williams returned to the Department in September 2021 to review our progress in implementing the recommendations of that Review and the commitments we made in the Comprehensive Improvement Plan. Her Progress Update was published in March this year.

Wendy concludes there is no doubt the Department has risen to the challenge she set for us, and she acknowledges there are several areas where very good progress has been made. Wendy also rightly holds us to account where we have not made sufficient progress. We know there is more to do.

The progress update does not include new recommendations and we will continue to drive forward progress on Wendy's original 30 recommendations. Having laid the foundations for radical change in the department and a total transformation of culture, we are committed to delivering long-lasting and meaningful improvements.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-18/4455>

The Lessons Learned Review, referred to above, can be read at [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/876336/6.5577\\_HO\\_Windrush\\_Lessons\\_Learned\\_Review\\_LoResFinal.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876336/6.5577_HO_Windrush_Lessons_Learned_Review_LoResFinal.pdf)

The Progress Update referred to above can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/windrush-lessons-learned-review-progress-update/windrush-lessons-learned-review-progress-update-accessible>

### **Resettlement: Hong Kong**

**Charlotte Nichols (Labour)** [4706] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, whether he plans to renew funding to support the integration of Hong Kong British National (Overseas) visa holders after the 31 April 2022; and if he will make a statement.

**Reply from Kemi Badenoch:** The Government remains committed to providing support to Hong Kong British National (Overseas) [BN(O)] status holders arriving from Hong Kong to settle successfully in the UK.

DLUHC continues to support the implementation of the UK-wide Hong Kong Welcome Programme to help BN(O) status holders and their families settle in the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-18/4706>

Information about the BN(O) Scheme referred to above can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/british-national-overseas-bno-visa>

### **Immigration: Veterans**

**Dan Jarvis (Labour)** [3593] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Answer of 11 March 2022 to Question 134358 on Immigration: Veterans, whether non-UK veterans living outside the UK who were discharged more than two years ago will qualify under the policy; and what support her Department plans to provide to help them regularise their immigration status.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The fee waiver policy applies to non-UK veterans living outside the UK who apply for settlement in the UK more than two years after discharge where the requirements of Part 3, paragraph 11 of Appendix Armed Forces are met.

Non-UK veterans outside of the UK do not have an immigration status to regularise but, if they meet the requirements of Appendix Armed Forces, they should apply online at

<https://visas-immigration.service.gov.uk/apply-visa-type/armed-forces-group>

if they want to settle in the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-17/3593>

The question referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-04/134358>

### **Free School Meals: Asylum**

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op)** [3658] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if he will make it his policy to introduce free school meals for children who have parents or carers seeking asylum in the UK.

**Reply from Will Quince:** Under this government, eligibility for free school meals has been extended several times and to more groups of children than any other government over the past half a century.

Under the benefits-based criteria, 1.7 million of the most disadvantaged pupils are eligible for and claim a free school meal. This includes children of families in receipt of support under Section VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

In addition to this, free school meal eligibility was extended to children from all

families subject to no recourse to public funds on April 19, 2022, building on the temporary extension to some groups that had been in place since 2020. Throughout this entire period, children from a subset of failed asylum seekers supported under Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 have and continue to be eligible for free school meals.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-17/3658>

### **Immigration: Africa**

**Patrick Grady (SNP) [5425]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of exempting people from African commonwealth countries, who are (a) taught in English throughout their education or (b) have English as an official language of their country from English language testing requirements for Home Office applications.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Home Office publishes a list of Majority English Speaking Countries (MESC) for immigration purposes. Immigration applicants who are nationals of those countries meet the English language requirement without having to provide further proof. For a country to be included on the MESC list, the Home Office must have evidence over half the population in that country speak English as a first language.

If a country meets this criterion, it means it is more likely than not any individual applicant from that country can speak English with the level of fluency required to integrate in the UK, complete the course they are coming to study, or undertake the job they are coming to do.

The fact a country's official language is English is not sufficient justification to include it on the MESC list, as this does not necessarily correlate with more than half of the population of the country speaking English as a first language. We do not currently have evidence any African commonwealth country meets the requirement to be included on the MESC list.

We do not have any plans to recognise secondary school-age qualifications taught outside of the UK as proof of English language ability, but there are a variety of methods applicants can use to meet the English language requirement instead. These include:

- having shown they meet the requirement in a previous immigration application
- passing a Secure English Language Test at an approved test centre
- holding a degree-level qualification which was taught in English
- having their chosen university or other Higher Educational Institution self-certify their level of English ability, or

having a GCSE, A-level, Scottish National Qualification at level 4 or 5 or, Scottish Higher or Advanced Higher, in English following education at a UK school begun when they were under-18.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-19/5425>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Asylum**

**Olivia Blake (Labour) [3780]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when her Department will publish the guidance on differentiated treatment of asylum seekers due to come into force on 28 June 2022.

**Olivia Blake (Labour) [3781]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her policy is on people who contacted her Department before 28 June 2022 to claim asylum, but have been unable to complete the application process due to delays in the provision of screening interviews.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The guidance on the differentiation policy will be



published on 28 June 2022.

Those who have contacted the Home Office to claim asylum before 28 June 2022 and are currently awaiting an appointment for screening will be treated as having claimed asylum before the implementation of the Nationality and Borders Act 2022.

These transitional arrangements will be outlined in the aforementioned guidance.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-17/3780>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-17/3781>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Immigration Bail**

**Paul Blomfield (Labour) [3576]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when the guidance on Reporting and Offender Management Version 4.0, published on 6 May 2022, was amended to include the current guidance on Accompanied Reporting.

### **Asylum**

**Paul Blomfield (Labour) [3577]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the impact of not permitting volunteers to accompany refugees and asylum seekers when attending reporting centres except in exceptional cases on (a) immigration compliance and (b) wellbeing of those reporting.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The purpose of reporting is to ensure those without leave to remain in the UK and illegal entrants remain in close contact with the Home Office. A reporting requirement of bail is used to enable case progression, interviews, offers of voluntary departure and travel document applications to be conducted to support removal actions. A person on a reporting regime will be considered for a variety of methods to report including in person within a Centre or a combination of telephone reporting, digital bail or electronic monitoring.

There has been no change to the current guidance on accompanied reporting. It remains at the discretion of the ROM manager and all representations will be considered. This was present in v1 issued 2017 and has not been amended since:

#### *Accompanied reporting*

*The reporting centre manager has discretion as to whether a person reporting may have someone accompany them, such as a legal representative, a support or charity organisation worker, or volunteer. Where the person reporting is vulnerable, or where they are reporting for the first time, are typical examples of when assistance is requested.*

*You should not consider accompanied reporting to be routine, but it can be permitted in exceptional cases where specific requests are made to the reporting centre manager. A person accompanying the reporting person must only be allowed into the waiting area, you must not permit them to intervene on the person's behalf at the counter.*

A change in the new guidance is new asylum applicants will not be required to report until a negative decision is made on their application, unless exceptional circumstances apply, for example the applicant is also a foreign national offender (FNO), a restricted access case or a TCU case, these will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-17/3576>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-17/3577>

*The guidance referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1073781/Reporting\\_and\\_offender\\_management.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1073781/Reporting_and_offender_management.pdf)

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Asylum: Consumer Goods**

**Helen Hayes (Labour)** [2589] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the quantity and quality of the (a) shoes, (b) underwear, (c) toiletries and (d) other essential basics provided to asylum seekers arriving in the UK in the welcome packs issued by initial accommodation providers; and what steps the Government is taking to ensure that basic standards of dignity are met.

**Helen Hayes (Labour)** [2590] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to review the minimum standards of welcome packs provided to asylum seekers.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Home Office provides initial accommodation to asylum seekers to ensure they are not left unsupported if otherwise destitute. They are given free, furnished accommodation with food, toiletries, and other essentials, and a weekly cash allowance to cover other living needs such as clothing. This support is routinely reviewed.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-16/2589>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-16/2590>

### **Asylum: Temporary Accommodation**

**Helen Hayes (Labour)** [2591] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the average length of stay of asylum seekers in initial accommodation; and what steps she is taking to ensure that initial accommodation is being used for short term stays only.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Home Office monitors the length of stay in Initial Accommodation and Contingency Accommodation on a regular basis.

The asylum accommodation system is under enormous pressure because of the significant and sustained increase in asylum intake over the last 12 months and the build-up of the population as a result of Covid-19 related measures. This has resulted in over 25,000 asylum seekers being accommodated in temporary contingency accommodation, such as hotels. This is not acceptable; it is not fair on the taxpayers, and it does not offer the right solution for communities or those seeking asylum; it must change.

That is why I wrote to all Local Authorities on 13 April 2022 to set out plans for Full Dispersal. This will reduce and then eliminate the use of hotels for asylum seekers by moving to a full dispersal model for asylum accommodation. This will mean expanding our existing approach of using private rental sector housing to all local authority areas across England, Scotland and Wales.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-16/2591>

### **Asylum: Linton-on-Ouse**

**Kevin Hollinrake (Conservative)** [2564] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the potential impact of the proposed asylum processing site at Linton-on-Ouse on (a) public services and (b) local residents in the context of that village's population size relative to the number of asylum seekers proposed to be accommodated at that site.

**Reply from Kevin foster:** The Home Office is conducting an Equality Impact Assessment on the use of Linton-On-Ouse as an accommodation centre.

Key local partners and stakeholders have been notified of the plans for Linton-on-Ouse. We are bringing together statutory and other agencies on a regular basis both in the implementation stage and when the site is operational.

We are also engaging with the local community and discussing the site with them through scheduled meetings and forums.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-16/2564>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Dungavel House Immigration Removal Centre**

**Anne McLaughlin (SNP)** [5427] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to Answer of 21 April 2022 to Question 154123, how many times Dungavel IRC has been used to process clandestine arrivals by boat since 14 April 2022.

### **Immigration: Detention Centres**

**Anne McLaughlin (SNP)** [5428] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if capacity has been exceeded in Immigration Removal Centres other than Dungavel IRC since 14 April 2022.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** We operate the immigration removal estate in a flexible manner and in line with the Short Term Holding Facility (STHF) Rules 2018 and the Detention Centre Rules 2001, as appropriate.

In order to support the management of the arrival of migrants by boat, we have temporarily accommodated people under the provisions of the STHF Rules 2018, in a small number of immigration removal centres (IRCs) including Dungavel House. Dungavel IRC is only considered when capacity is exceeded at other facilities, or contingencies are exhausted. Since 14 April 2022 Dungavel IRC has not operated as a STHF to accommodate clandestine migrant arrivals.

There have been no occasions since 14 April 2022 when capacity has been exceeded in any IRC.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-19/5428>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-04-14/154123>

*The Rules referred to above can be read at*

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

*and*

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

### **Asylum: Napier Barracks**

**Anne McLaughlin (SNP)** [309] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what changes have been made to the criteria and process for determining whether a person is suitable to be accommodated at Napier Barracks since the High Court's ruling in June 2021.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The suitability criteria was published in May 2021, and there have been no changes since publication.

The Home's Office's "Allocation of Accommodation" guidance ([Allocation of accommodation policy](#)) sets out a range of factors to be considered when assessing the suitability of individual asylum seekers to particular types of accommodation and includes specific guidance for the Napier site. A number of changes were introduced to the accommodation arrangements and other facilities at the site following the High Court judgment, generally aimed at more effectively managing Covid risks, better safeguarding arrangements, improvements in the living conditions and other facilities and clearer information to the residents on a range of matters, including that they are free to leave the site if they wish.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/309>

*The judgement referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Napier-Barracks-judgment.pdf>

### Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre

**Mary Kelly Foy (Labour)** [6908] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many women detained in Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre have been deported as of 23 May 2022.

The Home Office publishes statistics on immigration detention in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. This includes data on people:

- Entering detention by initial place of detention in table Det\_02a of the '[Detention summary tables](#)'.
- Leaving detention by last place of detention published in table Det\_04c of the '[Detention summary tables](#)' and by reason for leaving detention in table Det\_D03 of the [detention detailed datasets](#).
- In detention by current place of detention in table Det\_03a of the '[Detention summary tables](#)'.

Data on those entering detention, by place of detention, relate to the place of initial detention. An individual who moves from one part of the detention estate to another will not be counted as entering any subsequent place of detention. Last place of detention does not show where an individual spent their time in detention. In some cases, an individual may have spent a period of time detained elsewhere before being moved to their last place of detention.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-23/6908>

### Deportation: Jamaica

**Virendra Sharma (Labour)** [5382] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the value for money of the Jamaica deportation charter flight on 8 May 2022.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** This Government's priority is keeping the people of this country safe, and we make no apology for seeking to remove dangerous foreign criminals. Foreign nationals who abuse our hospitality by committing crimes should be in no doubt of our determination to deport them.

Charter flight operations there are an important means to return disruptive individuals or where they are limited scheduled routes, particularly during the global Coronavirus pandemic. We manage the charter programme flexibly, balancing it with the use of scheduled flights to best respond to operational needs.

The endless merry go round of late legal claims – which are often unfounded or without merit – can result in people being removed from flights at the last minute.

Our New Plan for Immigration will stop the abuse of the system and expedite the removal of those who have no right to be here.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-19/5382>

### Offenders: Deportation

**Peter Bone (Conservative)** [6734] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the oral statement of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department on 18 May 2022, on Foreign National Offender Removal Flights, Official Report, column 687, in respect of each of the 112 individuals originally included on the flight manifest, whether each of those individuals were on the flight when it departed; what criminal convictions each of those individuals had; and for what reasons certain individuals did not depart on that flight.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** This Government's priority is keeping the people of this country safe, and we make no apology for seeking to remove dangerous foreign criminals. Foreign national offenders (FNOs) who abuse our hospitality by committing crimes should be in no doubt of our determination to deport them.

We do not comment on individual cases. However, convicted criminals guilty of heinous crimes, including manslaughter, rape, robbery, child sex offences, drug

offences and violent crime, and persistent offenders, were not deported on 18 May 2022. These are extremely serious offences which have a real and lasting impact on victims and communities.

All those returned are provided with the opportunity to raise claims prior to their removal. But where representations are made at the last minute, despite the offender having ample opportunity to raise these at an earlier stage, and the claim cannot be resolved in time for the flight's departure, it can act as a barrier to removal.

We are doing everything possible to reduce legal challenges and to increase the numbers of FNOs being removed. Our New Plan for Immigration, underpinned by the Nationality and Borders Act, is the first major reform of the system in decades and will end the merry-go-round of last-minute legal challenges that stop us removing those with no right to be in the country.

The Government is committed to removing FNOs with no legal basis to be here and since January 2019 we have returned over 10,000 people from the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-23/6734>

*The statement referred to above can be read at*

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

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers: Rwanda Refugee Policy

### Asylum: Rwanda

**The Marquess of Lothian (Conservative)** [HL82] To ask Her Majesty's Government what empirical evidence they collected prior to the announcement of the UK and Rwanda Migration and Economic Development Partnership on 14 April to support their goal of "breaking the business model of people smuggling gangs"; what evidence they have that human traffickers will be deterred and their illegal activities reduced, not just in the UK context, but globally; and what advice they have sought from other countries who have tried this outsourcing approach to refugees; in particular, the government of Israel.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** 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. It is anticipated that by reducing the likelihood of individuals who have travelled through safe third countries remaining in the UK as a refugee, those inclined to make these journeys are more likely to be deterred and choose instead to remain in the safe country they are in.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/hl82>

*The announcement referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/world-first-partnership-to-tackle-global-migration-crisis>

### Asylum: Rwanda

**The Lord Bishop of Southwark** [101] To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect the removal of asylum seekers to Rwanda will begin under the Migration and Economic Development Partnership with Rwanda.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The first group of people whose claims we believe are inadmissible in the UK, and who may be relocated to Rwanda under the Migration and Economic Development partnership, are receiving notices of intent. Relocations to Rwanda will begin as soon as practical.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/hl101>

### **Asylum: Rwanda**

**The Lord Bishop of Southwark** [103] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many asylum seekers they estimate will be sent to Rwanda as Relocated Individuals under the Migration and Economic Development Partnership with Rwanda, during the first year of its operation.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The number of individuals that will be relocated to Rwanda during the first year of operation of the Migration and Economic Development Partnership is uncapped. The number of individuals relocated is expected to be in the thousands, and there is scope to increase this if required.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/hl103>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Asylum: Rwanda**

**The Lord Bishop of Southwark** [105] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to paragraph 5.1 of the Memorandum of Understanding for the Migration and Economic Development Partnership with Rwanda, what criteria they will apply to the screening of asylum seekers; and which categories of individuals will not be sent to Rwanda at that stage.

**The Lord Bishop of Southwark** [106] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to paragraph 8.1 of the Memorandum of Understanding for the Migration and Economic Development Partnership with Rwanda, what the criteria is for the accommodation of asylum seekers in terms of (1) health, (2) security, and (3) the wellbeing of the Relocated Individuals; and how the quality of such accommodation will be monitored.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Memorandum of Understanding makes provision for an initial screening of asylum seekers before relocation to Rwanda which includes a screening of an individual's identity, security checks, initial asylum screening and processing.

An individualised assessment of each individual's circumstances will be undertaken prior to any decision to relocate them to Rwanda. We would not relocate someone where it would be unsafe or inappropriate to do so.

There will be agreed monitoring arrangements in place by an independent Monitoring Committee, and this will include monitoring of reception conditions and accommodation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/hl105>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/hl106>

*The Memorandum of Understanding referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/memorandum-of-understanding-mou-between-the-uk-and-rwanda/memorandum-of-understanding-between-the-government-of-the-united-kingdom-of-great-britain-and-northern-ireland-and-the-government-of-the-republic-of-r>

### **Asylum: Rwanda**

**The Lord Bishop of Southwark** [104] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the role of UK courts in determining the (1) treatment, and (2) applications of asylum seekers, who make their application in the United Kingdom but are relocated to Rwanda under the Migration and Economic Development Partnership with Rwanda.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Those who are relocated to Rwanda will have had their asylum application declared inadmissible to the UK system and therefore it will not be substantively considered by the UK. Anyone who it is proposed to relocate will have a chance to raise reasons why they should not be removed, seek legal advice and raise a legal challenge in the UK system before

they are relocated.

Once an individual is relocated, Rwanda will process their asylum claim under the Rwandan jurisdiction and will take responsibility for supporting them.

As set out in paragraph 15 of the MoU governing the Migration and Economic Development Partnership, an independent Monitoring Committee will monitor the entire relocation process and compliance with assurances in the MoU, including the processing of asylum claims and provision of support in Rwanda.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/hl104>

*The Memorandum of Understanding referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/memorandum-of-understanding-mou-between-the-uk-and-rwanda/memorandum-of-understanding-between-the-government-of-the-united-kingdom-of-great-britain-and-northern-ireland-and-the-government-of-the-republic-of-r>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Asylum: Rwanda**

**The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury** [HL38] To ask Her Majesty's Government what criteria they will use to determine whether someone arriving in the UK, outside of the authorised channels, is eligible for being relocated to Rwanda.

**The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury** [HL40] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether families will be split up through the new Asylum Partnership Arrangement with Rwanda; and if not, what evidence they have that the policy will not lead to increased trafficking of women and children.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Other than unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, anyone arriving in the UK whose claim is inadmissible and who has undertaken a dangerous journey to the UK on or after 1 January 2022 may be considered for relocation to Rwanda.

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 removed if it is unsafe or inappropriate for them.

We comply fully with the UK's legal obligations, including under Article 8 of the Human Rights Act. For those with family links in the UK, who want to be considered for entry to the UK, they should seek to do so via legal and safe routes. Nobody should put their lives into the hands of criminal people smuggling gangs by making dangerous and irregular journeys.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/hl38>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/hl40>

#### **Asylum: Rwanda**

**The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury** [HL39] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether (1) women, (2) girls, and (3) LGBT+ people, who are relocated to Rwanda will be afforded the same safety as in the UK.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Rwanda is a safe and secure country with respect for the rule of law. We have carried out a robust report that demonstrates our commitment to fully evaluating whether Rwanda would be suitable for each potentially eligible person to be relocated.

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. Furthermore, Rwanda's constitution includes a broad prohibition on discrimination.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/hl39>

*The following four questions all received the same answer*

### **Asylum: Rwanda**

**The Lord Bishop of Southwark [HL230]** To ask Her Majesty's Government, in respect of paragraph 9.1.2 of the Memorandum of Understanding with the government of Rwanda for an asylum partnership arrangement signed in Kigali on 13 April, what equivalent standard applies in Rwanda for the Home Office requirement that interpreters are members of the Institute of Translating and Interpreting, The Chartered Institute of Linguists, or if with a company, then the latter is a member of the Association of Translation Companies.

**The Lord Bishop of Southwark [HL231]** To ask Her Majesty's Government, in respect of paragraph 9.1.2 of the Memorandum of Understanding with the government of Rwanda for an asylum partnership arrangement, what is Rwandan law and practice for the provision of independent legal assistance of asylum seekers; and what assessment they have made of the capacity of the legal profession within Rwanda to take on the additional work relating to the partnership.

**The Lord Bishop of Southwark [HL232]** To ask Her Majesty's Government, in respect of paragraph 9.1.3 of the Memorandum of Understanding with the government of Rwanda for an asylum partnership arrangement, what assessment they have made of the capacity of Rwanda to expand its appeals process.

**The Lord Bishop of Southwark [HL233]** To ask Her Majesty's Government, in respect of paragraph 11 of the Memorandum of Understanding with the government of Rwanda for an asylum partnership arrangement, under what circumstances they could make a request to the government of Rwanda to make a Relocated Individual available for return to the UK.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government of Rwanda will process asylum claims in line with its obligations under the Refugee Convention and Rwandan law, both in terms of the provision of translators where needed and access to legal assistance. While Rwanda will accept responsibility for the relocated individuals and processing them under their asylum process, the UK is providing funding to support asylum processing and wider support costs. This includes safe and clean accommodation, food, healthcare and amenities. They will have full access to translators and will be able to access legal support to appeal decisions in Rwanda's courts. The independent Monitoring Committee will monitor the entire relocation process from the beginning including the initial screening to relocation and settlement in Rwanda.

Should the United Kingdom be legally obliged to facilitate a relocated individual's return, the Memorandum of Understanding provides that Rwanda will take all reasonable steps in accordance with international human rights standards to facilitate this.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-12/hl230>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-12/hl231>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-12/hl232>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-12/hl233>

*The Memorandum of Understanding referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/memorandum-of-understanding-mou-between-the-uk-and-rwanda/memorandum-of-understanding-between-the-government-of-the-united-kingdom-of-great-britain-and-northern-ireland-and-the-government-of-the-republic-of-r>



## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer: Ukraine

### Visas: Ukraine

**Lord Wigley (Plaid Cymru) [HL116]** To ask Her Majesty's Government how many applications for refugee status visas they have received from citizens of Ukraine; how many of these have been granted; and how many applicants have arrived in the UK so far.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Statistical information regarding the number of Ukrainian nationals applying for UK visas is regularly released by UKVI. Information on the number of visas granted under the Ukraine Family Scheme and Homes for Ukraine Scheme which were launched in response to Russia's invasion of can be found in our published data on the GOV.UK webpage, or below.

Total Ukraine Scheme visa applications received: 128,100

Data is as of 17 May 2022 and comprised of:

- Ukraine Family Scheme: 43,700
- Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme: 84,400

Total Ukraine Scheme visas issued to people: 107,400

Data is as of 17 May 2022 and comprised of:

- Ukraine Family Scheme visas: 38,700
- Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme visas: 68,700

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/hl116>

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

### Refugees: Finance

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL93]** To ask Her Majesty's Government how many refugee centres have stopped the £35 weekly allowance to refugees; for what duration; and what were the reasons for this.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Neither the Home Office, nor its accommodation providers, have stopped paying Asylum Support to those who are entitled to it.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/hl93>

### Asylum: Families

**Lord Carlile of Berriew (Crossbench) [HL136]** To ask Her Majesty's Government what (1) advice, and (2) training, they give to public servants dealing with asylum seekers who have family living in the UK.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Public servants, including asylum decision making staff, give careful consideration of the protection needs by assessing all the evidence provided by the claimant.

All case working staff receive extensive training on considering asylum claims through our foundation training programme and must follow published Home Office policy guidance when making decisions. The training and guidance cover topics on dependents applying for asylum, child dependents and family asylum claims including those for family and private life.

In addition, an information leaflet is issued to asylum claimants at the point of claim which outlines the asylum process and the claimant's responsibilities within that process. This information leaflet is periodically reviewed.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-11/hl136>

### Asylum: Detainees

**Lord Carlile of Berriew (Crossbench)** [HL133] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many asylum seekers were detained on (1) 30 April, and (2) the same day in each of the previous three months.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office publishes statistics on people in detention in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release', which can be found on Gov.uk. The number of people in detention at the end of each year is broken down by asylum and non-asylum in table Det\_01, of the '[Detention summary tables](#)', which can also be found attached. The latest data goes up to the end of December 2021. Data for January to March 2022 will be published on the 26 May 2022.

Asylum-related cases refer to those where there has been an asylum claim at some stage prior or during detention. This will include asylum seekers whose asylum claims have been refused, and who have exhausted any rights of appeal, those returned under third country provisions, as well as those granted asylum/protection, but detained for other reasons (such as criminality). Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-11/hl133>

### Asylum: Detainees

**Lord Carlile of Berriew (Crossbench)** [HL134] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that individual asylum seekers are not detained if there is no evidence that the individual presents a reasonable suspicion of danger to national security.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office does not detain anyone in temporary asylum accommodation. Our accommodation providers do not have enforcement powers and those we are accommodating are free to come and go as they please. However, detention is an essential part of effective immigration control and is used to ensure that those with no right to remain in the UK are returned to their home country if they will not leave voluntarily. Migrants, including asylum claimants, may be detained for immigration purposes only in accordance with Home Office policy, as set out in the Detention General Guidance and the Adults at Risk in Immigration Detention policy.

The published detention policy makes it clear that detention must only be used when necessary, and for the shortest possible period. There is a presumption in favour of liberty for any person. We only detain people where removal is a realistic prospect within a reasonable timeframe, or initially to establish their identity or basis of claim. This is set out in both legislation and domestic caselaw and we are held to account on this by the courts, and by a series of safeguards that ensure proper scrutiny of decisions to detain, and on-going detention. Due to the complex range of factors involved, the suitability of detention must be appraised on a case by case basis. Once a person is in detention, regular reviews are undertaken to ensure that their detention remains lawful, appropriate, and proportionate. All asylum claims are considered as quickly as possible and enforcement action is taken once any claims have been considered and refused, and once any appeal rights have been exhausted.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-11/hl134>

*The guidance referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1046288/Detention\\_General\\_instructions.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1046288/Detention_General_instructions.pdf)

and

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1031900/Adults\\_at\\_risk\\_in\\_immigration\\_detention.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1031900/Adults_at_risk_in_immigration_detention.pdf)

### **Asylum: Costs**

**Lord Carlile of Berriew (Crossbench)** [HL135] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the average cost of (1) detaining an asylum seeker in custody, and (2) providing them with social housing in the community.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office does not detain anyone in temporary asylum accommodation. Our accommodation providers do not have enforcement powers and those we are accommodating are free to come and go as they please.

Information on the average cost per night to hold an individual in immigration detention can be found at [Migration transparency data](#). As at Quarter 4 2021, the average cost per night to hold an individual in immigration detention was £101.61. The total expenditure on asylum is published in the Home Office Annual Report and Accounts, available at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/ho-annual-reports-and-accounts>

We do not publish a breakdown of costs of our accommodation & support contracts by location or property type as such detail is considered commercially sensitive.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-11/hl135>

### **Asylum: Napier Barracks**

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL95] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many refugees and others are accommodated at the Napier barracks.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** On 11 May there were 314 residents at Napier Barracks, all of whom are asylum seekers. Napier Barracks does not accommodate refugees. The numbers change daily in line with arrivals and dispersals and the current maximum occupancy is 328.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/hl95>

## **New Publications**

### **Immigration statistics, year ending March 2022**

#### **Overview of the immigration system**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2022/overview-of-the-immigration-system>

#### **Summary of latest statistics**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2022/summary-of-latest-statistics>

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2022/how-many-people-come-to-the-uk-each-year-including-visitors>

#### **Why do people come to the UK? To work**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2022/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-to-work>

#### **Why do people come to the UK? To study**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2022/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-to-study>

**Why do people come to the UK? For family reasons**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2022/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-for-family-reasons>

**How many people do we grant asylum or protection to?**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2022/how-many-people-do-we-grant-asylum-or-protection-to>

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2022/how-many-people-continue-their-stay-in-the-uk-or-apply-to-stay-permanently>

**How many people are detained or returned?**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2022/how-many-people-are-detained-or-returned>

**Visas and Citizenship data: Q1 2022**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1078996/UKVI\\_VC\\_Transparency\\_Q1\\_2022.ods](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1078996/UKVI_VC_Transparency_Q1_2022.ods)

**RASI (Resettlement, Asylum Support and Integration) data: Q1 2022**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1078991/UKVI\\_RASI\\_Q1\\_2022.ods](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1078991/UKVI_RASI_Q1_2022.ods)

**Irregular migration to the UK, year ending March 2022**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/irregular-migration-to-the-uk-year-ending-march-2022/irregular-migration-to-the-uk-year-ending-march-2022>

**Windrush Compensation Scheme data: April 2022**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1077922/WCS\\_Data\\_-\\_Apr\\_22.ods](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1077922/WCS_Data_-_Apr_22.ods)

**Windrush Task Force Data: Q1 2022**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1078998/UKVI\\_VC\\_WRTF\\_Q1\\_2022.ods](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1078998/UKVI_VC_WRTF_Q1_2022.ods)

**EU Settlement Scheme quarterly statistics, March 2022**

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

**Weekly number of migrants detected in small boats - 16 May to 22 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-16-may-to-22-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>

**"Unequal Impacts": How UK immigration law and policy affected migrants' experiences of the Covid-19 pandemic**

<https://www.icwi.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=6b9ce180-ef73-4d33-970f-88fa300feffd>

## News: Rwanda Refugee Policy

**Rise in UK asylum approvals renews fears about Rwanda transfers**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/may/26/rise-in-uk-asylum-approvals-renews-fears-about-rwanda-transfers>

**Home Office detains all asylum seekers it plans to send to Rwanda**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/may/22/home-office-asylum-seekers-detention-centres-rwanda>

**Second legal challenge launched over deal to send asylum seekers to Rwanda**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/rwanda-asylum-seekers-priti-patel-b2086104.html>

**Rwanda plan challenged over alleged failure to identify risks for LGBTQ+ refugees**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/may/24/rwanda-plan-challenged-alleged-failure-identify-risks-lgbtq-refugees>

**'I would rather die than go to Rwanda' - the fears of LGBTQ+ asylum seekers in Scotland**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/world/i-would-rather-die-than-go-to-rwanda-the-fears-of-lgbt-asylum-seekers-in-scotland-dani-garavelli-3713067>

## News: Channel Migrants

**Channel migrant crossings pass 9,000 this year as record levels continue despite Rwanda deal**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/channel-crossings-migrants-record-rwanda-b2085237.html>

**Channel crossings: Average arrivals per boat nearly doubles in 12 months**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-office-channel-france-afghan-b2087870.html>

**Migrant crossings: Afghans are largest national group fleeing to UK**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-61590249>

**Afghans 'largest group' fleeing to the UK by crossing the Channel – figures**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/afghans-channel-people-home-office-taliban-b2088151.html>

**Big increase in Afghans crossing Channel in small boats**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/one-in-four-channel-refugees-are-afghans-39x0z5k0z>

## News: Ukraine

**More than 1,000 Ukrainian arrivals already receiving vital financial boost from Pension Credit**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-than-1-000-ukrainian-arrivals-already-receiving-vital-financial-boost-from-pension-credit>

**Ukrainian refugees are now living in the UK - so how is it going?**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-61548979>

## **Ukrainian refugees turn to food banks as UK hosts struggle with costs**

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2022/may/28/ukrainian-refugees-food-banks-uk-hosts-costs-families-war-charity>

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

### **Are you ready for Refugee Festival Scotland?**

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/are-you-ready-for-refugee-festival-scotland/>

### **UNHCR figures show 100 million people have experienced displacement**

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/unhcr-figures-show-100-million-people-have-experienced-displacement/>

### **Net migration to UK remained steady in first part of pandemic, figures suggest**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/office-for-national-statistics-covid-registration-brexit-settlement-b2088005.html>

### **Million foreigners offered UK visas despite delays**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/brexit-pushes-asylum-seeker-approvals-to-30-year-high-3z9r3j99k>

### **Home Office charging bereaved partners £2,400 for leave to remain in UK**

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2022/may/15/home-office-bereaved-spouses-partners-leave-to-remain>

### **Asylum claims hit near 20-year high as backlog of cases soars**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-office-home-secretary-amnesty-international-uk-refugee-council-government-b2087943.html>

### **Number of people awaiting an asylum decision in UK surges by 300% in four years**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-seekers-waiting-lists-uk-b2087791.html>

### **Refugees being sent to areas of UK with little or no legal aid, study finds**

<https://www.theguardian.com/law/2022/may/26/refugees-being-sent-to-areas-of-uk-with-little-or-no-legal-aid-study-finds>

### **New call to end the use of hotel accommodation for people seeking asylum**

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/new-call-to-end-the-use-of-hotel-accommodation-for-people-seeking-asylum/>

### **From 'go home' vans to Windrush scandal: a timeline of UK's hostile environment**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/may/25/from-go-home-vans-to-windrush-scandal-a-timeline-of-uks-hostile-environment>

### **'We're human beings too': How a decade of the hostile environment has torn lives apart**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/theresa-may-windrush-migrants-hostile-environment-b2086746.html>

### **Non-Ukrainian Swansea refugee refused free train travel**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-61566123>

**TOP**

## Community Relations

### News

#### **Kirk's General Assembly endorses Saint Margaret Declaration**

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2022/articles/kirks-general-assembly-endorses-saint-margaret-declaration>

#### **New glossary important step for Jewish-Christian relations in Scotland**

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2022/articles/new-glossary-important-step-for-jewish-christian-relations-in-scotland>

TOP

## Equality

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

#### **Babies and Mothers: Death**

**Anum Qaisar (SNP)** [4739] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to reduce the number of (a) maternal and (b) perinatal deaths for women and children from migrant and refugee backgrounds.

**Reply from Maria Caulfield:** On 6 September 2021, NHS England published 'Equity and equality: Guidance for local maternity systems', which focuses on actions to reduce disparities in health outcomes for women and babies. Local Maternity Systems have been asked to plan interventions to improve equity for mothers and babies, which will benefit inclusion groups such as migrants and refugees. The guidance asks Local Maternity Systems to ensure equity in access, experience and health outcomes and address the leading causes of perinatal mortality and morbidity for babies from black, Asian and minority ethnic groups and those living in the most deprived areas. NHS England has provided £6.8 million to support Local Maternity Systems to implement these plans.

The Office for Health Improvement and Disparities' guidance 'Language Interpreting and Translation: Migrant Health Guide' gives advice on health needs of migrant patients for healthcare practitioners. The guidance states it is the responsibility of NHS service providers to ensure interpreting and translation services are made available to patients free at the point of delivery. Healthcare employers should advise staff on the arrangements for local interpretation services.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-18/4739>

*The guidance referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/C0734-equity-and-equality-guidance-for-local-maternity-systems.pdf>

and

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/language-interpretation-migrant-health-guide>

#### **Health Services: Sikhs**

**Sarah Owen (Labour)** [3743] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to help tackle anti-Sikh discrimination in healthcare settings.

**Reply from Edward Argar:** All National Health Service providers must comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty, which requires an organisation to have due regard to eliminating discrimination when carrying out its activities. The NHS Standard

Contract also contains requirements on equity of access, equality and non-discrimination.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-17/3743>

The Standard Contract referred to above can be read at  
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/nhs-standard-contract/22-23/>

## New Publications

### Outcomes by ethnicity in schools in England

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1078731/Ethnicity\\_Schools\\_Note.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1078731/Ethnicity_Schools_Note.pdf)

### Broken Ladders: The myth of meritocracy for women of colour in the workplace

<https://www.fawcettsociety.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=72040c36-8cd6-4ae3-93f3-e2ad63a4b4b0>

### Ethnicity and children's social care

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1076919/Ethnicity\\_and\\_childrens\\_social\\_care.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1076919/Ethnicity_and_childrens_social_care.pdf)

## News

### UK's first national Black civil rights organisation launched by influential figures

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/black-equity-organisation-b2085579.html>

### 'I change how I look and talk to fit in at work'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-61514430>

### Black Lives Matter or business as usual?

<https://www.crer.org.uk/blog/black-lives-matter-or-business-as-usual>

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## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

#### Islamophobia

**Sarah Owen (Labour)** [3745] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, with reference to the University of Birmingham's The Dinner Table Prejudice report, published in January 2022, what assessment he has made of the implications for his policies of the rise in Islamophobia cited in that report; and what recent discussions he has had with Cabinet colleagues on tackling Islamophobia.

**Reply from Kemi Badenoch:** We live in an increasingly tolerant society and prejudice towards Muslims is unacceptable. Muslims in our country should be able to practice their faith in freedom. We have some of the strongest legislation in the world to tackle hate crime and, where groups incite racial hatred or are engaged in racially or religiously motivated criminal activity, we would expect them to be



prosecuted. We also have funded Tell MAMA with over £4m between 2017 and 2022 to monitor anti-Muslim hate crimes and support victims.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-17/3745>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/documents/college-artslaw/ptr/90172-univ73-islamophobia-in-the-uk-report-final.pdf>

### **Schools: Bullying**

**Sarah Owen (Labour) 3744]** To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps he is taking to tackle anti-Sikh bullying in schools.

**Reply from Robin Walker:** The government has sent a clear message that bullying should never be tolerated, and the department is committed to supporting schools to tackle it.

The department is providing over £2 million of funding, between 10 August 2021 and 31 March 2023, to five anti-bullying organisations to support schools to tackle bullying. This includes projects targeting bullying of groups who share protected characteristics, including race and faith and belief, such as those who are victims of hate related bullying.

All schools should set clear, reasonable and proportionate expectations of pupil behaviour in line with the department's guidance on behaviour and discipline in schools. It is for individual schools to develop their own best practice for managing behaviour in their school.

We are also making sure that all children in England will learn about respectful relationships, in person and online, as part of mandatory relationships, sex and health education. This includes content on the different types of bullying, the impact it has, the responsibility of bystanders, and how to get help.

The department continues to publish information, guidance and support for teachers and school leaders on how to challenge radical views, including racist and discriminatory beliefs, on Educate Against Hate. We also provide advice for schools, which outlines schools' responsibilities. This advice makes clear that schools should make appropriate provision for a bullied child's social, emotional and mental health needs.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-17/3744>

*Educate Against Hate, referred to above, can be accessed at*

<https://educateagainsthate.com/>

### **Schools: Antisemitism**

**Sarah Owen (Labour) [3740]** To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps his Department is taking to protect Jewish (a) pupils and (b) teachers from anti-Semitic abuse in schools.

**Reply from Robin Walker:** The government is clear that antisemitism, as with all forms of bullying and hatred, is abhorrent and has no place in our schools. All educational institutions should be inclusive and welcoming for students and staff from all backgrounds.

The department is aware of reported increases in such incidents, during an escalation in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in May 2021, which is why the former Secretary of State for Education wrote to schools to remind them of their responsibilities to deal with antisemitic incidents with due seriousness as well as their legal duties regarding political impartiality. The department has also published further guidance on political impartiality in schools to help them to ensure educational initiatives in schools are not politically biased or one-sided.

The government continues to take action to support schools to tackle all forms of

bullying, including antisemitism. Our Preventing and Tackling Bullying guidance sets out that schools should develop a consistent approach to monitoring bullying incidents and evaluating the effectiveness of their approaches. It also directs schools to organisations who can provide support with tackling bullying related to race, religion and nationality, as well as sexual harassment and sexual bullying.

The department is also providing over £2 million of funding, between 10 August 2021 and 31 March 2023, to five anti-bullying organisations to support schools to tackle bullying. This includes projects targeting bullying of groups who share protected characteristics, including race and faith and belief, such as those who are victims of hate related bullying.

The government has also supported Holocaust education for many years and is fully committed to continuing this support. In recognition of its importance, the Holocaust is the only historic event which is compulsory within the national curriculum for history at key stage 3. Effective teaching about the Holocaust can support pupils to learn about the possible consequences of antisemitism and extremism, to understand how society can prevent the repeat of such a catastrophe. The department provides funding for several programmes to support school pupils' and teachers' understanding of the Holocaust.

The department has published guidance for schools on the Equality Act 2010, which sets out the general provisions that apply to schools in their role as employers. The guidance is clear that all of the protected characteristics are covered by these provisions and that harassment or victimisation against potential or existing employees in relation to any of the protected characteristics is unlawful. We encourage schools to consult the Equality and Human Rights Commission's guidance and Codes of Practice for Employers for more detailed information on their obligations to their teachers and other staff.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-17/3740>

*The guidance referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1069688/Preventing\\_and\\_tackling\\_bullying\\_advice.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1069688/Preventing_and_tackling_bullying_advice.pdf)

### **Universities: Antisemitism**

**Sarah Owen (Labour)** [3741] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment he has made of trends in the level of anti-Semitic hate crime directed towards (a) university students and (b) academics in the past 12 months; and if he will make a statement.

**Reply from Michelle Donelan:** As part of our work to tackle the scourge of antisemitism, the government works closely with the Community Security Trust, a charity whose purpose is to provide safety, security, and advice to the Jewish community – and who publish annual data about the number of antisemitic incidents in the UK. Their figures for 2021 show a record number of antisemitic incidents within higher education (HE).

My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Education, and I hosted an antisemitism summit in January this year, with vice chancellors and leading Jewish groups to discuss measures seeking to put an end to antisemitic incidents in HE. At the summit, we set out clear actions, including spotting patterns of incidents, spreading good practice, and adopting training from the Union of Jewish Students, so the sector has the right tools to tackle this issue more effectively. The HE sector is taking forward these commitments as a matter of urgency.

To further this work, an antisemitism taskforce led by Lord Mann, the government's independent advisor on antisemitism, has been set up. The taskforce will look at all aspects of antisemitism on campus and will address the safety of everyone on campus, including students, staff, members, and visitors. Members of the taskforce

will also speak directly with providers where antisemitism has been a recognised problem.

The findings and recommendations of the antisemitism taskforce will be made public once the work reaches its conclusion.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-17/3741>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

### Hate Crime: Criminal Records

**Lord Strathcarron (Conservative)** [HL178] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to delete records for those accused of non-crime hate incidents.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government recognises the concern surrounding the recording of non-crime hate incidents (NCHIs). We also note the Court of Appeal judgment in the Harry Miller v College of Policing case that was handed down on 20 December 2021. The Court found that the recording of NCHIs is lawful provided that there are robust safeguards in place so that the interference with freedom of expression is proportionate.

Accordingly, the Government included provisions in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill - which received Royal Assent on 28 April 2022 - to ensure that the recording of NCHIs is governed by a Code of Practice that is subject to Parliamentary approval.

The content of the Code will be drafted in due course, and will make the processes surrounding the recording of NCHI data more transparent and subject to stronger safeguards, including on retention. In the short term, we have no plans to ask police forces to review or delete existing personal NCHI data that they may have on record. To do so would be a disproportionately costly, time consuming and resource-intensive process that is not warranted at this stage.

The College of Policing is also reflecting on the Court of Appeal's judgment carefully and make any changes that are necessary to its existing guidance which will remain in force in the interim period before the new Code enters into effect.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-11/hl178>

*The judgement referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Miller-v-College-of-Policing-judgment-201221.pdf>

## Press Release

**Member of proscribed group jailed for three years**

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/cps/news/member-proscribed-group-jailed-three-years>

## New Publications

**The Macpherson Report: twenty-two years on: Government Response to the Home Affairs Committee's Third Report of Session 2021–22**

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/22402/documents/165350/default/>

**Systemic Racism, Not Broken Bodies Executive Summary**

[https://www.birtherights.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Birtherights-inquiry-systemic-racism\\_exec-summary\\_May-22-web.pdf](https://www.birtherights.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Birtherights-inquiry-systemic-racism_exec-summary_May-22-web.pdf)

**To receive the full report complete the online form at**  
<https://www.birtherights.org.uk/campaigns-research/racial-injustice/>

## News

**Most women of colour 'hide' their heritage due to UK workplace racism**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/may/25/most-women-of-colour-hide-their-heritage-due-to-uk-workplace-racism>

**As women of colour, workplace discrimination is our constant reality**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/workplace-discrimination-racism-women-of-colour-b2087324.html>

**Black and Asian workers 'more likely to be monitored at work' than white people**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/black-asian-workers-work-surveillance-b2083942.html>

**'I was repeatedly ignored' - report finds maternity racism**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-61497923>

**Racism in UK maternity care risks safety of Black, Asian and mixed ethnicity women**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/may/23/racism-in-uk-maternity-care-risks-safety-of-black-asian-and-mixed-ethnicity-women-study>

**Racism in maternity care endangering black and ethnic women's safety, inquiry finds**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/racism-maternity-black-ethnic-women-b2085580.html>

**'Guilty as charged': top UK officer urges police chiefs to admit institutional racism**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/may/25/neil-basu-uk-officer-calls-on-police-chiefs-admit-institutional-racism>

**Police chiefs apologise for lingering racism**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/police-chiefs-apologise-for-lingering-racism-98jmc7pgl>

**Not up to black officers to solve police racism, says barrister as plan launched**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/may/24/not-up-to-black-officers-to-solve-police-racism-says-barrister-as-plan-launched>

**Anti-racism plan not about being 'woke or politically correct', police insist**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/bianca-williams-college-of-policing-caribbean-metropolitan-police-london-b2085734.html>

**Black history lessons to be compulsory for all police**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/05/24/black-history-lessons-compulsory-police/>

**Police given mandatory black history lessons to combat racism**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/police-given-mandatory-black-history-lessons-to-combat-racism-dbgvtdhzp>

**Black conservative trainee vicar 'blocked' from joining Church of England over 'anti-woke views'**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/05/22/black-conservative-trainee-vicar-blocked-joining-church-england/>

**You don't know what racism is, trainee priest Calvin Robinson told**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/you-dont-know-what-racism-is-trainee-priest-calvin-robinson-told-9snv9br6x>

**'Anti-Semitic' vicar faces Church of England ban**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/05/23/anti-semitic-vicar-faces-church-england-ban/>

**Church of England priest accused of antisemitic conspiracy posts**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/church-of-england-priest-accused-of-antisemitic-conspiracy-posts-lgsn8jh02>

**Graduate jailed for membership of banned terror group National Action**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/national-action-met-police-ns131-government-amber-rudd-b2089072.html>

**British boy, 14, who downloaded bombmaking guides avoids jail**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/may/20/british-boy-14-who-downloaded-bombmaking-guides-sentenced>

**Structural racism and the future for race equality**

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/blogs/structural-racism-and-future-race-equality>

**Anti-racism group Black Equity Organisation offers legal hotline**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/anti-racism-group-black-equity-organisation-offers-legal-hotline-g2x23wmfz>

**EHRC to investigate Pontins over fears of racial discrimination against Gypsies and Travellers**

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/ehrc-investigate-pontins-over-fears-racial-discrimination-against-gypsies-travellers>

**Pontins under investigation over treatment of Travellers**

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2022/may/26/pontins-investigated-by-ehrc-over-concerns-about-treatment-of-travellers>

**Watchdog investigates Pontins over Gypsy and Traveller discrimination concerns**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/ehrc-gypsy-irish-b2087958.html>

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## Other Scottish Parliament and Government

### Press Release

**Updated information: COVID-19 Inquiry**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/covid-19-inquiry/>

## News

### Assessing Nicola Sturgeon's record 2,743 days at the top

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-61564643>

### Nicola Sturgeon becomes Scotland's longest serving First Minister

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/20162267.nicola-sturgeon-becomes-scotlands-longest-serving-first-minister/>

### As Nicola Sturgeon overtakes Alex Salmond as Scotland's longest-serving First Minister, what will be her legacy?

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/as-nicola-sturgeon-overtakes-alex-salmond-as-scotlands-longest-serving-first-minister-what-will-be-her-legacy-3707458>

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## Other UK Parliament and Government

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

#### Alternative Student Finance: Muslim Students

**Stephen Timms (Labour):** What progress his Department has made on developing an alternative student finance product for Muslim students. (900164)

**Reply from the Secretary of State for Education (Nadhim zahawi):** We remain committed to delivering alternative student finance, and we are currently considering if and how it can be delivered as part of the lifelong loan entitlement.

**Stephen Timms:** It is estimated that 4,000 Muslim students a year do not go into higher education because there is no finance available that is compatible with their faith. David Cameron promised to fix this nine years ago. A good deal of work was done, but it seems to have run into the sand in the past few years. I am grateful to the Secretary of State for reaffirming the Government's commitment to delivering on David Cameron's promise, but can he give us an indication of how much longer Muslim students will have to wait?

**Reply from Nadhim Zahawi:** We will provide a further update on alternative student finance as part of our response to the LLE consultation, which closed earlier this month.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-05-23/debates/FBDAD627-03F8-4E66-AD00-64F950F1D0D8/AlternativeStudentFinanceMuslimStudents>

### New Publication

#### Findings of the Second Permanent Secretary's Investigation into alleged gatherings on government premises during Covid restrictions: Final Report

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1078404/2022-05-25\\_FINAL\\_FINDINGS\\_OF\\_SECOND\\_PERMANENT\\_SECRETARY\\_INTO\\_ALLEGED\\_GATHERINGS.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1078404/2022-05-25_FINAL_FINDINGS_OF_SECOND_PERMANENT_SECRETARY_INTO_ALLEGED_GATHERINGS.pdf)

## News

### New MPs' code of conduct to tighten lobbying rules

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-61568430>

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**All census forms must be submitted by tomorrow,  
Tuesday 31 May 2022!!**

## News

**Online census completions hit two million milestone**

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/news/2022/online-census-completions-hit-two-million-milestone>

**25 council areas reach 85% census returns**

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/news/2022/25-council-areas-reach-85-census-returns>

**Scottish census: One in 10 homes still to complete the survey**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-61614733>

## 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](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](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](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=RsF1UZBeXqY>

**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>

### UK Parliament

#### **\*\* Online Safety Bill**

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

Public Bill Committee

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-05-24/debates/d5475541-9388-48a4-b49b-04b6995bf3ae/OnlineSafetyBill\(FirstSitting\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-05-24/debates/d5475541-9388-48a4-b49b-04b6995bf3ae/OnlineSafetyBill(FirstSitting))

and

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-05-24/debates/4ed1dfaf-a049-4a04-962a-0e2defe4330d/OnlineSafetyBill\(SecondSitting\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-05-24/debates/4ed1dfaf-a049-4a04-962a-0e2defe4330d/OnlineSafetyBill(SecondSitting))

and

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-05-26/debates/a8f25ba3-fcfa-460b-8287-055606dcc344/OnlineSafetyBill\(ThirdSitting\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-05-26/debates/a8f25ba3-fcfa-460b-8287-055606dcc344/OnlineSafetyBill(ThirdSitting))

and

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-05-26/debates/f7c914ef-dc5b-43a3-8dbe-9d3b0fa3d0cf/OnlineSafetyBill\(FourthSitting\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-05-26/debates/f7c914ef-dc5b-43a3-8dbe-9d3b0fa3d0cf/OnlineSafetyBill(FourthSitting))

Notice of amendments

[https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-03/0004/amend/online\\_rm\\_pbc\\_0527.pdf](https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-03/0004/amend/online_rm_pbc_0527.pdf)

#### **\*\* Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3164>

Bill as introduced

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/46490/documents/1793>

First Reading, House of Lords

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-05-23/debates/A1F994F3-8B88-4AD4-B5C2-F8489EDC7967/Refugees\(FamilyReunion\)Bill\(HL\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-05-23/debates/A1F994F3-8B88-4AD4-B5C2-F8489EDC7967/Refugees(FamilyReunion)Bill(HL))

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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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### **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](mailto: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>

### **\*\* Refugee Festival Scotland**

17 to 26 June 2022 (Scotland-wide)

The theme of this year's festival is storytelling in all its forms – from music, dance, theatre and film to visual art, cookery and conversation. The diverse programme includes contributions from artists and performers who came to Scotland seeking refugee protection and the communities that have welcomed them. For information and the full programme see <https://www.refugeefestivalscotland.co.uk/whats-on/>

### **\*\* Day of Cultural Stories and Diversity**

17 June 2022 (Glasgow (10.00–12.00)

Scottish Asylum Seekers Resident Association Refugee Festival Scotland celebration of cultural diversity to bring people from different backgrounds together to share stories, music and experiences. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2p9e8d6b>

### **\*\* Community Sponsorship: How to go about it**

17 June 2022 (online, 5.00–6.00)

20 June 2022 (online, 6.00–7.00)

22 June 2022 (online, 7.00–8.00)

24 June 2022 (online, 6.00–7.00)

Faillte Edinburgh Community Sponsorship group Refugee Festival Scotland sessions to find out how you and your friends can sponsor a refugee family to come and live in Scotland. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2p8b3xcc>

### **\*\* Storyplay at the Scottish Refugee Festival**

18 June 2022 (Glasgow, 11.00–12.30)

Play workshop for families with children aged 3-8 (older and younger siblings are very welcome) led by Licketyspit with help from Storyplay Champion families. Storyplay opens

doors to imaginary play worlds, firing your imagination and nurturing lasting friendships. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/3wu73uh5>

### **\*\* Stories from Syria**

18 June 2022 (Edinburgh, 11.00–1.00)

Re-Act event for Refugee Festival Scotland presenting the record of the life journey of elderly Syrian refugees who have made Scotland their new home. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/37cvu5x2>

### **\*\* Where Our Roads Meet**

18 June 2022 (Edinburgh, 11.00–1.00)

Edinburgh Old Town Development Trust music and art workshop for Refugee Festival Scotland, sharing stories from different cultures – a chance for the community to come together and share folk tales from around the world using the universal languages of art and music. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2s3c44ud>

### **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>

### **\*\* Empowering Refugees**

18 June 2022 (Edinburgh, 1.00–5.00)

Renfrewshire Effort to Empower Minorities (REEM) event for Refugee Festival Scotland for members of Renfrewshire's Syrian community to share their stories of coming to Scotland. They will tell us how their journeys began and how they are going in the present day. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2p88yfbd>

### **\*\* My Experience, Your Knowledge**

18 June 2022 (Motherwell, 2.00–6.00)

African Collaboration Group Refugee Festival Scotland storytelling event enabling refugees and the local community to share experiences of their past and present lives. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2uvcd4wz>

### **\*\* Alternative Tracks**

19 June 2022 (Edinburgh, 2.00–5.00)

Edinburgh Printmakers Refugee Festival Scotland exhibition of a large textile artwork created by refugee groups in Edinburgh. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2nvrhskz>

### **\*\* Refugee Write**

20 June 2022 (Aberdeen, 11.00–1.00)

Women-only event

Grampian Regional Equality Council Refugee Festival Scotland creative writing and art workshop for New Scots women. The workshop will be structured around the theme of home and what home means to each individual taking part. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/35w6d62v>

**\*\* Our Stoiries: A Women's Writing Workshop**

22 June 2022 (Glasgow, 11.00–2.00)

Women-only event

Interfaith Glasgow Weekend Club Refugee Festival Scotland workshop to explore refugee women's stories and work together to create our own short pieces of writing. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/8er6xcrz>

**\*\* New Scots meet a new generation**

22 June 2022 (Stepps, 12.30–2.30)

Ubuntu Scotland Refugee Festival Scotland family-friendly event led by young people from different backgrounds, including a fun-filled afternoon of games and storytelling. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/7snb7zrd>

**\*\* Garnethill Refugee Trail**

22 June 2022 (Glasgow, 2.00–4.00)

Scottish Jewish Heritage Centre guided walk for Refugee Festival Scotland revealing places that are connected with Jewish refugees who came to Glasgow from Europe around the Second World War, including where children from the Kindertransport stayed, and the house on Sauchiehall street where refugees were able to meet and mix with local people. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yms8ajah>

**\*\* Evocations: Art and Storytelling Workshop**

22 June 2022 (Edinburgh, 7.30–9.30)

Edinburgh Old Town Development Trust Refugee Festival Scotland storytelling workshop for adults bringing New Scots and life-long Edinburgh locals together to celebrate both differences and the things we have in common. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/46pne8cs>

**\*\* New Scots Storytelling on the Isle of Bute**

23 June 2022 (Bute, 9.00–5.00)

SAWA Refugee Programme Refugee Festival Scotland film featuring New Scots who have settled in Rothseay and surrounding towns and villages on the island. Each person will share traditional stories from their countries of origin. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/4me8crxz>

**\*\* Worlds Apart and Worlds Together**

25 June 2022 (Edinburgh, 12.30–3.30)

The Welcoming Association Refugee Festival Scotland cross-cultural storytelling event to bring together members of local refugee communities. The family-friendly afternoon will be led by a professional storyteller, with live music, arts and crafts and buffet-style food and drink. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/34jwda78>

**\*\* Refugee Success Stories**

25 June 2022 (Glasgow, 1.00–3.00)

Safety Awareness Glasgow Refugee Festival Scotland event to show children and young people from refugee backgrounds that they can build successful lives for themselves in Scotland. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2p9y6j49>

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 bi-lingual support worker, and who to use when, and recognise when it is inappropriate to use a family member, a friend or a community member to interpret. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/puykxxnu>

### **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 short course where delegates will 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](mailto: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. We also consider how we can respond to unintended interpretations, confusion or offence 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](mailto: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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*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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