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Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Displaced Ukrainians (Supersponsor Scheme)

Kaukab Stewart (SNP) [S6F-01203] To ask the First Minister whether she will provide an update on the Scottish Government's supersponsor scheme for displaced Ukrainians.

Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon): As of today, there have been 12,861 applications for a visa with a Scottish sponsor, more than 11,500 visas have been issued, and around 4,200 displaced Ukrainians with a Scottish sponsor have now arrived in the United Kingdom. Some 2,035 of those have an individual sponsor, and 2,236 have the Scottish Government as supersponsor.

In partnership with local government and third sector partners, we have established a network of welcome hubs with access to meals, accommodation and support for anyone who arrives here. They have now triaged more than 2,100 people. A

national matching service that is being delivered by the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities is working hard to find longer-term accommodation, using all options, including the generous offers of accommodation that have been made by the public. A national response has been developed and delivered at pace. We will, of course, continue to ensure that all those who are arriving are treated with compassion and care.

Kaukab Stewart: It continues to be the case that local authorities that welcome displaced people through the Ukraine family scheme receive no funding at all from the UK Government, and even the £10,500 per person under the homes for Ukraine scheme is not much, considering all the provisions that need to be put in place to support those who are seeking refuge. Will the First Minister urge the UK Government to urgently put in place appropriate financial support for all local authorities, no matter what scheme people have arrived through, to ensure that those who are settling here can have all their needs met?

Reply from the First Minister: Yes, that is an important and serious issue, and there have been acknowledgements from UK Government ministers—principally Michael Gove—that those are serious issues. Neil Gray and I have repeatedly raised the issue, and we will continue to do so in the strongest terms.

The £10,500 per person tariff does not provide adequate funding for local authorities and public services. That tariff is not even provided to local authorities for people who arrive through the family visa route, and I do not think that that is acceptable.

Our local authorities and public services are supporting people, regardless of their visa route. There is a clear need to provide appropriate funding that reflects the unique impact of the implementation of the various UK Government schemes on public services and local communities.

The matter is reserved, of course, but we take our responsibility seriously, and the Scottish Government wants to do as much as it can. The Scottish Government has therefore committed £11.2 million to local authorities to support resettlement and integration and the refurbishment of properties.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13809&i=125220#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Ukraine: Refugees

Sharon Dowey (Conservative) [S6W-08642] To ask the Scottish Government how many Ukrainian refugees have arrived in Scotland to date, broken down by local authority area.

Reply from Neil Gray: The UK Government regularly publishes data relating to visas and arrivals under the Homes for Ukraine scheme:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ukraine-family-scheme-application-data/ukraine-family-scheme-and-ukraine-sponsorship-scheme-homes-for-ukraine-visa-data--2>.

Publications include information broken down by devolved administration and local authority area:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ukraine-sponsorship-scheme-visa-data-by-country-upper-and-lower-tier-local-authority>.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-08642>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Ukraine: Super Sponsor Scheme

Sharon Dowey (Conservative) [S6W-08633] To ask the Scottish Government whether

people arriving from Ukraine under its Super Sponsor scheme, who have expressed a preference for a particular area of Scotland, are being actively matched with households in that area who have offered to host.

Sharon Dowey (Conservative) [S6W-08634] To ask the Scottish Government what procedures are in place to determine where people arriving in Scotland from Ukraine, under its Super Sponsor scheme, are located.

Reply from Neil Gray: The Super Sponsor scheme is designed to provide a quick and safe route for displaced people 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 UK.

Once people have arrived, a national matching service, delivered by COSLA, 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. This 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 this 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 available housing is limited in some local authorities

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-08633>

and

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-08634>

Ukrainians: Study

Paul Sweeney (Labour) [S6W-08842] To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update regarding the proposals to allow Ukrainian refugees settling in Scotland access to study at Scottish universities free of charge, with access to living cost support.

Reply from Jamie Hepburn: Ukrainians who arrive in Scotland and wish to undertake a course of study in Further or Higher Education will be entitled to home tuition fee status, free tuition and living cost support for the duration of their studies. This entitlement has been enshrined in the new student support regulations which were laid before the Scottish Parliament on 6 May 2022 and come into force on 1 August, being the start of the 2022- 23 Academic Year.

In addition, the Scottish Government also announced on 14 April, the creation of a new £1 million International Students' Emergency Fund for international students who were facing financial hardship as a result of a significant change of circumstances.

Ukrainian students who have previously chosen to study at a college or university in Scotland and are facing financial hardship as a result of the Russian invasion will be eligible to apply to their college or university for support.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-08842>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Afghanistan

The following two questions both received the same answer

Refugees: Afghanistan

Brendan O'Hara (SNP) [9892] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of people that will be resettled in the UK under

the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme UNHCR pathway in 2022.

Brendan O'Hara (SNP) [9894] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people, including principals and relatives, have been supported through Community Sponsorship under the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme as of 26 May 2022.

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

We helped over 15,000 people to safety in the biggest and fastest emergency evacuation in recent history, and we have continued to bring people to the UK, with over 3,000 people helped to enter since the evacuation.

In light of the success of our evacuation efforts, we expect to exceed our initial aim of resettling 5,000 through the Scheme in the first year.

Community Sponsorship provides the opportunity for friends and neighbours, charities and faith groups to play a direct role in supporting families resettled to the UK as they restart their lives here. Sponsors are able to welcome and support families through the ACRS.

The number resettled through the ACRS and Community Sponsorship will be published soon in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-26/9892>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-26/9894>

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

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

Refugees: Afghanistan

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [9052] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the potential merits of introducing a scheme similar to the Homes for Ukraine scheme for Afghan refugees.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Each safe and legal route is tailored to the unique situation arising in each crisis.

The 'Homes for Ukraine' sponsorship scheme has been developed to meet the immediate needs of those fleeing the Russian invasion of Ukraine and there are no plans to establish a similar scheme for Afghanistan.

In response to the Afghanistan crisis, this Government helped over 15,000 people to safety in the largest and fastest emergency evacuation in recent history. We have also continued to bring people to the UK, with over 3,000 people helped to enter since the evacuation.

The Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) commenced on 6 January, providing up to 20,000 women, children and others at risk with a safe and legal route to resettle in the UK.

More widely, community Sponsorship provides the opportunity for friends and neighbours, charities and faith groups to play a direct role in supporting families resettled to the UK as they restart their lives here. Sponsors are able to welcome and support families through the ACRS. Further details on the Community Sponsorship Scheme can be found at:

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-25/9052>

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

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

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

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

Immigration: Afghanistan

Chi Onwurah (Labour) [6761] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to support family reunion for people fleeing Afghanistan whose relatives escaped to other countries.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Government provides a safe and legal route to bring families together through its family reunion policy. This allows a partner or spouse and children under 18 of those granted protection in the UK to join them here, if they formed part of the family unit before the sponsor fled their country. Additionally, our policy makes clear that there is discretion to grant visas outside the Immigration Rules, which caters for extended family members of those granted protection in the UK, in exceptional circumstances.

The Home Office responded rapidly to the challenging events in Afghanistan by creating the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme, in addition to the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy which was established in 2013.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-23/6761>

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

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

Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat) [13085] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Afghans evacuated under Operation Pitting are in bridging hotels as of 6 June 2022; and how many of those are children.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The UK Government undertook the biggest and fastest emergency evacuation in recent history. Over 15,000 people were supported to come to the UK directly following the evacuation of Afghanistan, and a further 3,000 have since arrived.

Due to the scale and pace of the evacuation we have had to use hotels as a temporary measure. There are currently over 12,000 individuals from Afghanistan in bridging hotels around half of whom are children. This cohort is made up of British and Afghan Nationals who may be eligible for Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) or Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS).

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.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-06/13085>

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

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

The following two questions both received the same answer

Refugees: Afghanistan

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [9050] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department plans (a) to move Afghan refugees between bridging hotels and (b) resettle those refugees in communities in the UK.

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [9051] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to provide Afghans residing in bridging hotels with mental health support; and when she expects for all Afghans held in those hotels to be resettled.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Due to the scale and pace of the evacuation in Afghanistan we have had to use hotels as a temporary accommodation measure. 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 permanent 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. Whilst families are in bridging hotels, we want to give them the best start to their life in the UK, whilst recognising from time to time we do need to move people between bridging hotels.

Schools and colleges have access to a range of government support programmes to help children and young people with their mental health and we are also rolling out Mental Health Support Teams that work with groups of schools and colleges, identifying specialist needs of pupils in their areas.

All refugees in bridging accommodation have now registered with a GP or are being helped to do so. A full range of vaccinations is being offered, alongside mental health support and other services, and the NHS has provided an additional £3m of funding to CCGs to support the specific needs of the evacuees.

We have been working to support Afghan families into homes of their own, so they can settle into their local communities, feel safe and independent and rebuild their lives in the UK. We are also looking at ways to make more suitable homes available in the private rented sector, and to provide alternatives to hotels for families who may have to remain in bridging accommodation for long periods: for example, by making available Service Family Accommodation (SFA) units on the MoD estate where appropriate.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-25/9051>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-25/9050>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Refugees: Afghanistan

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [11721] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the (a) target timescale and (b) average wait time is for offering move on accommodation to people evacuated from Afghanistan under Operation Pitting who are housed in hotel accommodation as of 1 June 2022.

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [11722] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the process is for her Department to respond to requests for a person to be offered move on accommodation in a specific geographical area, where that person is an Afghan evacuee from Operation Pitting (a) who is (i) eligible for move on accommodation and (ii) in hotel accommodation and (b) there is compelling evidence to demonstrate that being housed in a specific area is necessary to the wellbeing of that person.

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

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

best start to their life in the UK.

The length of time that a family will remain in a bridging hotel is dependent on a number of factors including the availability of appropriate housing. We strive to allocate the right families into the right accommodation to ensure their integration into their new communities is as smooth as possible. To achieve this, we triage and prioritise families to ensure the settled accommodation provides the best possible match, taking in to consideration date of arrival into the UK, family size, vulnerability and integration factors.

Where Local Authorities or employers are able to offer accommodation in greater volume and more quickly, this overall timescale will reduce.

Whilst we will consider requests, and any compelling evidence, to be housed in specific geographical areas, the reality of housing pressures means this may not be possible especially in relation to London and the South East.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-01/11721>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-01/11722>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Ukraine

Seasonal Workers: Ukraine

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [7967] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department plans to extend visas for Ukrainian nationals entering the UK on seasonal workers visas after 18 March 2022.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Ukrainian nationals in this position will be provided with a biometric residency permit which will display details of their extended right to be in the UK under this scheme.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-24/7967>

Visas: Ukraine

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [9026] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what (a) arrangements and (b) support is in place to enable seasonal workers who have switched onto the Ukraine Extension Scheme visa to secure accommodation in order to act as sponsors under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Ukraine Extension Scheme ensures these individuals are granted the same rights and entitlements as those coming via the other two schemes, namely, three years' leave as well as full access to work, study and public funds. It went live on 3 May.

If they want to bring family members to the UK they do not need to show accommodation under the Family Scheme and once here the family will have the same access to benefits allowing them to rent an appropriate property. If they want to act as a sponsor to other Ukrainians under the Homes for Ukraine scheme they will need to show that their property is suitable to accommodate them and will receive the same thank you payment as other sponsors.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-25/9026>

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

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>

Seasonal Workers: Ukraine

Stephen Farry (Alliance) [11913] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the adequacy of access to (a) healthcare and (b) prescription medication for Ukrainian nationals who have seasonal workers' visas and no access to public funds.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Access to healthcare is not considered as a public fund. For this reason, the ability of a migrant to access healthcare is not dependent on whether they are subject to a No Recourse to Public Funds condition.

Following the changes to the National Health Service (Charges to Overseas) Visitors Regulations made in March 2022, Ukrainian nationals with lawful status in the UK are exempt from being charged for NHS treatment received on or after 24 February 2022, except where statutory charges may apply i.e. NHS prescriptions, NHS dental care, NHS sight tests and optical vouchers. A person can qualify for exemption from charges if they meet one of the relevant exemption criteria.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-01/11913>

Refugees: Ukraine

Caroline Lucas (Green) [1155] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to ensure (a) the placement of large posters in all ports of entry with essential information on safeguarding in Ukrainian and Russian, including (i) phone numbers of the police, (ii) any other relevant national helplines, (iii) what to do if someone is worried about the sponsor or their placement breaks down, (iv) other key safeguarding information, (b) that the same information is available in leaflet format for Ukrainian refugees entering the UK to pick up and take away with them, (c) that her Department has an official on every train coming in from Europe who walks the carriages to ensure this information is given to all Ukrainians coming to the UK via Eurostar and (d) air staff hand out this information to every Ukrainian arriving by air; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Thousands of Ukrainians have travelled to the UK as the Government continues its support for Ukraine in their fight against the Russian invasion.

The generous Ukraine Family and Homes for Ukraine Scheme provides an immediate pathway for people from Ukraine with family already in the UK to come here and those in the UK to extend their leave and remain here.

The Government is working closely with Border Force, transport operators and local partners to ensure appropriate information and support is made available to Ukrainian refugees arriving in the UK.

For example, Border Force have produced and distribute a support leaflet which is available at ports in Ukrainian and Russian languages. Eurostar has electronic signage in multiple languages at stations and additional staff deployed to provide support and contact details. In addition, as a primary port of entry, Camden Council has established a welcome point in St Pancras station to provide an initial welcome and any immediate support as required.

The online Ukraine Welcome Pack is available in Russian and Ukrainian and contains information on safeguarding, how to access UK public services and the UK emergency services.

For those arriving in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland, Devolved Administrations are also working to ensure appropriate information is available upon arrival.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-12/1155>

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

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

The Welcome Pack referred to above can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/welcome-a-guide-for-ukrainians-arriving-in-the-uk>

The Scottish Government information referred to above can be read at <https://www.gov.scot/news/a-warm-scots-welcome/>

and

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/getting-to-scotland/>

and

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/supporting-displaced-people-from-ukraine/>

Housing and Visas: Ukraine

Charlotte Nichols (Labour) [513] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to help ensure that the number of visas issued to Ukrainian refugees is matched by the accommodation offered by UK nationals to those refugees.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Homes for Ukraine has set up recognised providers who can help to match sponsors and people from Ukraine. Details of recognised providers are on the [Gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) website. We are unable to issue visas without a named sponsor.

Currently there is no shortage of people willing to act as sponsors under the scheme.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/513>

Homes for Ukraine Scheme: Insurance

Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat) [9865] 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 non-Ukrainian asylum seekers.

Reply from Eddie Hughes: Asylum seekers are housed by the Home Office during the processing of their asylum claim.

In response to the Ukraine crisis, The Association of British Insurers has adopted a position to reflect support regardless of nationality: [Association of British Insurers - Humanitarian response](#). As a result, policy holders will not experience any increase in the cost of their insurance premium when hosting a guest in their home for the first 12 months.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-26/9865>

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

Refugees: Ukraine

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [11851] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what funding the Government has made available for (a) short, (b) medium and (c) long-term specialist mental health services for people fleeing from Ukraine.

Reply from Gillian Keegan: While no specific funding has been made available, we have developed guidance for Ukrainian arrivals on accessing health services, including mental health support, in addition to guidance for health care professionals. Arrivals on Ukraine Family and Homes for Ukraine visa schemes are entitled to free health care, including mental health services.

If Ukrainian arrivals experience symptoms of poor mental health, evidence-based treatment is available via their general practitioner or local Improving Access to Psychological Therapies services.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-27/11851>

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

The following two questions both received the same answer

British Overseas Territories: British Nationality

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [6705] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress has been made on the Government's consultation on the British Nationality Act 1981 in respect to discriminatory citizenship rules for people from the British Overseas Territories.

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [6706] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people who (a) are the children of unmarried parents from the British Overseas Territories and (b) have sought to claim citizenship through their mother have had their application for British Overseas Territories citizenship rejected in each of the last three years.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Nationality and Borders Act 2022 has created registration routes for the children of British Overseas Territory citizen mothers, and those who would have become British Overseas Territories citizens had their parents been married. Those affected by historical discrimination will be able to acquire both British Overseas Territories citizenship and British citizenship, giving them the statuses they would otherwise have received automatically.

Applications for British Overseas Territories citizenship under existing routes are decided in the territories by Governors. There is currently no specific route for the children of British Overseas Territories citizen mothers, or unmarried fathers, to claim citizenship. The new routes we are introducing will allow them to apply.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-23/6705>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-23/6706>

Immigration: Applications

Justin Madders (Labour) [1195] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to table VC_02, Percentage of applications, for each route, processed within service standards, published as part of the Visas and Citizenship data: Q3 2021, what assessment she has made of the adequacy of the proportion of applications for leave to remain meeting the eight week service standard in quarters one and two of 2021.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Despite the unprecedented challenges brought by the Covid 19 pandemic, 8-week service standard routes within Visas and Citizenship remained well above 90%, with the exception of Visitor and Spouse Partner where steps were taken at the time to increase output to bring these routes back within service standard.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-12/1195>

The data referred to above can be read at

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

Visas: Applications

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour) [8112] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent estimate her Department has made of the average waiting time between someone from overseas submitting an application for a visitor visa and receiving a decision.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office is currently prioritising Ukraine Visa Schemes applications in response to the humanitarian crisis caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. We are communicating directly with customers that

applications for study, visits, work and family visas are taking longer to process at this time. Staff are being redeployed to these visa routes and we continue to onboard and train more staff, as we approach the expected summer surge in visa applications.

Standard visitor visa applications are currently taking on average 6 weeks to process.

Information on how UKVI is performing against service standards can be found in the migration transparency data published on the GOV.UK webpage [Migration transparency data](#).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-24/8112>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Visas: Married People

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [11726] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she made of the potential impact of changes to the service standard for spouse visas from 12 to 24 weeks without notice on peoples' plans.

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [11727] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure the 12-week service standard for spouse visas is met.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office is currently prioritising Ukraine Visa Schemes applications in response to the humanitarian crisis caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Staff from other government departments, including DWP and HMRC, are being surged into the department to help with Ukraine work and enable normal visa routes to return to normal service levels in due course. Applicants were informed of the change to a 24-week service standard on 11 May 2022 and the department is currently operating within this.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-01/11726>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-01/11727>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Visas: Overseas Students

Marsha De Cordova (Labour) [11859] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what criteria were used to determine the universities at which attendance makes a person eligible for the High Potential Individual Visa scheme; and for what reason (a) there is not a university that has its main base in Africa on that list and (b) she did not take steps to ensure an equitable distribution of universities across continents.

Overseas Students: Africa

Marsha De Cordova (Labour) [11861] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that high potential students who have studied at top institutions in Africa are able to apply to work in the UK under the High Potential Individual Visa scheme.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The High Potential Individual route provides a short-term opportunity for talented international graduates to work or look for work in the UK as they start their careers.

By concentrating on graduates from select international universities, we will ensure the calibre of applicants remains high. Research has shown graduates from universities ranked in the top 50 of established international rankings are more likely to occupy higher paid roles and to find work easily. Individuals who have graduated from other international institutions, and those who have no formal qualifications but have job offers in eligible occupations, continue to be able to come to the UK to work through other routes such as the Skilled Worker route.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-01/11859>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-01/11861>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Migrant Workers: Research

Matt Western (Labour) [9107] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the impact of the cost of visa applications on (a) recruiting and (b) retaining researchers in the UK.

Matt Western (Labour) [9108] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the impact of the immigration surcharge on (a) recruiting and (b) retaining researchers in the UK.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Attracting international research talent is a key component of our global points-based immigration system. We have a very generous immigration offer, which enables talented researchers to come to the UK through several different routes, including Global Talent, Skilled Worker, and Authorised Exchange (GAE) routes.

Visa fees are set taking account of the charging powers provided by Section 68(9) of the Immigration Act 2014, which include the ability to set fees based on: the cost of processing the application, the benefits provided by a successful application and the wider cost of the Migration and Borders system. Full details are available via the following link

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/22/section/68>

Turning to the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS), this is payable by individuals coming to the UK to work, study or join family for a period exceeding six-month in length. An impact assessment was published alongside the Immigration (Health Charge) (Amendment) Order 2020 on 16 July 2020 which included assessments of the impact of the IHS on work routes, of which researchers would be in scope. The impact assessment can be viewed through this link

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2020/1086/impacts>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-25/9107>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-25/9108>

Asylum: Rwanda

Stella Creasy (Labour Co-op) [6750] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, which national human rights institutions will be able to inspect the provision of services for those refugees whose applications for asylum will be covered by the joint new migration and economic development partnership with Rwanda.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: As set out in paragraph 15 of the Memorandum of Understanding (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. More details on this, including membership, will be set out in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-23/6750>

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: Young People

Anne McLaughlin (SNP) [11734] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department,

with reference to the (a) oral evidence from the Home Secretary to the Justice and Home Affairs Select Committee of 27 October 2021 on the proportion of people arriving illegally in the UK via small boats in the previous 12 months who were economic migrants and (b) immigration statistics published on 26 May 2022 relating to the proportion of positive asylum claims among young men aged 18 to 29, if she will clarify the proportion of single men aged 18 to 29 who arrived illegally in the UK via small boats in the 12 months to 31 March 2022 who were (i) granted (A) refugee status and (B) humanitarian protection and (ii) identified as economic migrants.

Reply from Kevin Foster: People should claim asylum in the first safe country they reach rather than making dangerous and illegal crossings. For those with specific protection needs which mean they can no longer stay in a host country, the UK works with the UNHCR to offer a safe and legal route to resettlement in the UK. Our New Plan for Immigration will break the business model of international criminal gangs by making the UK a less attractive destination for illegal migrants. It will furthermore differentiate between those who arrive here through safe and legal routes and those who seek to circumvent this system. It will also speed up the asylum claims system so that we can separate the genuine asylum seekers from economic migrants quickly.

The overall grant rate can vary for several reasons, including the protection needs of those who claim asylum in the UK, along with operational resourcing and policy decisions. Grant rates vary considerably by nationality as the protection needs of specific groups or individuals differ, usually depending on the situation in their home country.

The Home Office are unable to state the proportion of single men aged 18 to 29 who arrived illegally in the UK by small boats in the 12 months to 31 March 2022 who were granted refugee status and humanitarian protection and identified as economic migrants as this information is not published or held in a reportable format.

The latest data on illegal migration can be found at: [Irregular migration to the UK, year ending March 2022](#)

The latest data on asylum applications, initial decisions and resettlement can be found at: [List of tables](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-01/11734>

The evidence referred to above can be read at

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/2914/html/>

The statistics referred to above can be read at

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

Asylum: Iraq

Patrick Grady (SNP) [11719] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people from Iraq have (a) applied for and (b) been granted asylum in the UK in each of the last five years.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office publishes data on asylum in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on asylum applications and outcomes at initial decision by nationality are published in tables Asy_D01 and Asy_D02 of the '[asylum and resettlement detailed datasets](#)'. Information on how to use the datasets can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data relates to the end of March 2022.

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-01/11719>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Applications

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [11745] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications from people seeking asylum are awaiting a decision as of 1 June 2022.

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [11746] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications from people seeking asylum (a) are awaiting an initial decision, (b) have been waiting six months or less for a decision, (c) have been waiting over six months for a decision and (d) are pending further investigation as of 1 June 2022.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office publishes data on asylum and resettlement in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on the number of asylum applications awaiting an initial decision or further review are published in table Asy_D03 of the [asylum and resettlement detailed datasets](#). Information on how to use the datasets can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data relates to 31 March 2022. Data as at 30 June 2022 is set to be published on the 25 August 2022.

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-01/11745>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-01/11746>

Refugees: Hotels and Rented Housing

John McNally (SNP) [9037] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has made a comparative assessment of the cost of housing refugees in (a) hotels and (b) rented accommodation; and whether she has made an assessment of the potential merits of housing more refugees in rented accommodation.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office has not made a comparative assessment of the cost of housing asylum seekers in either hotels or in rented accommodation on the basis that hotel accommodation is and always has been contingency accommodation where we are unable to procure sufficient Dispersed Accommodation to meet our statutory obligation. Whilst we are working to reduce our use of hotels, we must continue to ensure there is sufficient capacity in the system to meet our obligations.

That is why we 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.

We will achieve this through three key interventions:

1. To reduce and 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.
2. We are committed to working with local authorities to move to a fairer distribution of asylum seekers and have launched an informal consultation with local government to inform how this model will work across England, Scotland and Wales and within regions and nations. The consultation will explore how asylum dispersal can better take account of the impact of other protection based immigration on local authorities, including resettlement and the care of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.
3. Providing specific funding to recognise the existing contribution of local authorities and for new dispersed accommodation. We will continue to work with local government to capture and evaluate data to understand the impact of asylum dispersal on local authorities going forward.

Refugees: Public Buildings

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [9054] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the viability of using public estate buildings to house refugees, including disused care homes in York.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Private and public options for the housing of refugees are being pursued by the Home Office in partnership with local authorities. The Home Office welcomes alternative accommodation options proposed by councils and others. A proposition from City of York Council or other organisations in the City of York area would be given due consideration.

On 13 April we announced all local authority areas in England, Scotland and Wales will be expected to participate in a new system of full dispersal. Under full dispersal, the Home Office's accommodation providers will approach all local authorities in England, Scotland and Wales with proposals for procuring specific accommodation within their boundaries. This move is hoped to end the use of contingency accommodation, be less expensive and more sustainable with local authorities sharing the responsibility to accommodate asylum seekers across the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-25/9054>

Refugees: Housing

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [9053] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of permitting UK families to host refugees whose applications for asylum are being processed.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute can obtain support under section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. The support package provided to these individuals usually consists of free, furnished accommodation and a weekly cash allowance to meet other essential living needs such as food and clothes.

Asylum seekers may also obtain accommodation with friends or relatives.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-25/9053>

Asylum: Hotels

Stephen Kinnock (Labour) [11696] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much of the £20 per asylum seeker per day budget given by the Government to contractors for providing food for asylum seekers in hotels is spent on the purchase of food; and what guidelines are issued to contractors to ensure they provide nutritious food to asylum seekers in hotels.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Costs are subject to change depending on numbers being accommodated within the asylum system. Accommodation costs are considered to be commercially confidential, therefore the Home Office does not publish this information. However, 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>

The recent inspection by the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration found accommodation providers were providing services broadly in line with their requirements. When visiting accommodation sites, ICIBI inspectors noted menus on display at the sites appeared to be well balanced and showed that food options were rotated to create variety. They also found that all the properties were required to supply meals provided the required number.

All providers work to ensure all meals meet the NHS Eat-Well standards of nutrition ([The Eatwell Guide - NHS](#))

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-01/11696>

The report referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1074799/An_inspection_of_contingency_asylum_accommodation.pdf

Asylum

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [292] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to her oral contribution of 19 April 2022, Official Report, column 41, what the evidential basis is for the Nationality and Borders Act 2022 putting safe and legal routes into statute; and to which clauses of that Bill she was referring.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Nationality and Borders Act 2022 is part of our New Plan for Immigration, delivering the most comprehensive reform of the asylum system in decades. This Act strengthens the Government-backed routes available to those in need, so they do not have to put their lives in the hands of people smugglers.

As part of the New Plan for Immigration, we are continuing to provide safe and legal routes through the UK Resettlement Scheme, the Community Sponsorship Scheme, the Mandate Resettlement Scheme, the Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme, the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy and an Immigration Route for British National (Overseas) status holders from Hong Kong.

This Government is committed to continue welcoming refugees and others in need of protection from around the globe through resettlement as capacity allows in the years to come.

It is through the New Plan for Immigration we have been able to support the brave people of Ukraine, with over 100,000 visas being issued allowing them to come to the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/292>

The oral contribution referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk//commons/2022-04-19/debates/04A9FDC8-59F6-4CA9-BEBD-3B6F5850D707/GlobalMigrationChallenge#contribution-3989CF61-9DD2-433A-AB24-AAA45EEAA4CC>

The New Plan for Immigration, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/new-plan-for-immigration/new-plan-for-immigration-policy-statement-accessible>

Asylum: Employment

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [9056] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the potential merits of allowing people who are waiting for their asylum applications to be decided to work in the local economy.

Reply from Kevin Foster: We allow asylum seekers to work if their claim has been outstanding for 12 months or more, through no fault of their own. Those permitted to work are restricted to jobs on the Shortage Occupation List (SOL).

A review of the policy has concluded and there will be no changes made at this time.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-25/9056>

Asylum: Employment

Angela Crawley (SNP) [5430] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 18 May 2022 to Question 847, on Asylum: Employment, how many asylum seekers have (a) applied for and (b) been accepted for permission to work or volunteer in (i) 2020, (ii) 2021 and (iii) 2022; and what steps her Department is taking to promote vacancies on the shortage occupations list to asylum seekers.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office are unable to report how many asylum seekers have applied for and been accepted for permission to work in 2020, 2021 and 2022 as this information is not held in a reportable format or forms part of published data.

The Home Office do not track how many asylum seekers have applied to volunteer as they are able give their time for free to charitable or public sector organisations without any contractual obligation or entitlement. They are not employees or workers as defined by various statutory provisions. Further information can be found at: [Permission to work and volunteering for asylum seekers](#)

Information on the shortage occupation list (SOL) is readily available in the public domain as part of the immigration rules: [Immigration Rules - Guidance](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-19/5430>

The answer referred to above can be read at

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

Asylum: RAF Linton-on-Ouse

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [9055] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to plans announced in April 2022 to create suitable accommodation for asylum seekers at the site of RAF Linton-on-Ouse, if she will take steps to help enable residents in that accommodation to integrate with the community in York should they wish.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Asylum seekers accommodated at Linton-on-Ouse are not detained and are therefore able to travel on and off site. As part of the service provision asylum seekers will be able to get to and from York. The Home Office, and our provider, are working with the Voluntary Community Sector and exploring what is available for those being accommodated to join and participate in, as part of community integration.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-25/9055>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Deportation: Iraq

Patrick Grady (SNP) [11717] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the impact of her Department's advice on avoiding all but essential travel to Iraq, including the Kurdistan region, on her policies on the deportation of asylum seekers to that country.

Patrick Grady (SNP) [11718] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if her Department will make an assessment of the potential merits of suspending all deportation flights to Iraq until it reviews its advice on avoiding all but essential travel to Iraq, including the Kurdistan region.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: All asylum and human rights claims are carefully considered on their individual merits in accordance with our international obligations. Each individual assessment is made against the background of any relevant caselaw and the latest available country information. Our position on Iraq is set out in the relevant country policy and information note on the gov.uk website. Where someone establishes a well-founded fear of persecution or serious harm in their country, they are normally granted protection and are not expected to return there. The Home Office only seeks to return those whose asylum claim have been unsuccessful. By definition, they do not need protection and not at risk on return. The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's travel advice to British nationals is not the correct legal test for determining whether or not a person qualifies for international protection or whether to remove a foreign national with no right to remain in UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-01/11717>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-01/11718>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Ukrainian Asylum Seekers and Refugees

Lord Dubs (Labour): To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Ukrainian asylum seekers and refugees have arrived in the United Kingdom since the invasion of Ukraine by Russia.

Reply from the Minister of State, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Home Office (Lord Harrington of Watford): ... As of 29 May, 65,700 people have successfully come to the UK from Ukraine. That includes 23,100 on the Ukraine family scheme and 42,600 under our Homes for Ukraine sponsorship scheme. We are now operating at about 5,000-plus applications per week. The visas take between two and three days, if there are no problems attached to them; I said 48 hours at my first outing at the Dispatch Box in this House. The number of applications awaiting conclusion is about 19,000, which includes applications at various stages of the caseworking process and with different levels of complexity.

If I may, I will briefly mention to the noble Lord, Lord Dubs, unaccompanied children—the second part of his Question. As he is aware—we have discussed this many times—our policy has been not to accept children on their own, in keeping with the Ukrainian Government's policy, unless of course they are reuniting with a parent or legal guardian here. As a result of his questions, many discussions with MPs, noble Lords, officials, the Ukrainian Government, local authorities and—oh, sorry.

Lord Dubs: My Lords, the Minister is confirming that we are not taking any unaccompanied children from Ukraine—a clear statement of government policy—even if the host family has been fully vetted, despite the fact that when they applied it was okay for them to apply for a visa as unaccompanied children. The Government have banned it subsequently. The Home Office said on May 6: "Where we are made aware of an individual being provided with incorrect advice, we will of course take action".

How can the Government justify leaving vulnerable, unaccompanied children frightened in a war zone? We cannot do that.

Reply from Lord Harrington of Watford: I was about to explain to noble Lords our policy on children who have parental consent or that of a legal guardian as accepted by the Ukrainian Government. I hope to announce a policy change in the days to come. Regarding the children the noble Lord is referring to, it is very much government policy to help the agencies helping children on the ground in Poland, Moldova—where I have been—and Romania.

The Earl of Kinnoull (Crossbench): My Lords, one possible result of the Ukraine family scheme is the delivery of a physical biometric residence permit to the successful applicant in the post. This is a free process and I thoroughly applaud it. What plans do the Government have to extend that to the EU settlement scheme?

Reply from Lord Harrington of Watford: I am not aware of any plans the Government have to extend that to the EU settlement scheme.

Lord Paddick (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, at a Home Affairs Select Committee meeting on 11 May, a senior Home Office official said that undocumented people who travel from Ukraine to the UK could be considered for removal to Rwanda and the Minister refused to say whether Ukrainians who arrive in the UK across the channel by boat could also be sent to the central African country. If, out of desperation because of the significant delays the Minister has just told the House about—19,000 applicants are still awaiting an

outcome—these people arrive in the UK without a visa, could they be sent to Rwanda?

Reply from Lord Harrington of Watford: I can assure the noble Lord that there are two very good legal channels for refugees from Ukraine to come to this country. There is therefore no reason at all for them to be sent to Rwanda or anywhere else other than, I hope, back to Ukraine when the political and military situation allows.

Baroness Chakrabarti (Labour): My Lords, with respect, the Minister did not quite answer the question asked by the noble Lord, Lord Paddick. If such a person arrived from Ukraine without a visa, might they be considered for being shipped off to Rwanda?

Reply from Lord Harrington of Watford: I can assure the noble Baroness that there is no reason at all why they should come here without a visa. It takes 48 hours to get a visa and there are very good legal routes for them to come here.

Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench): My Lords, does the Minister recall that I drew to his attention the procedure I saw in Vilnius for arriving Ukrainian refugees? Every single arrival was asked individually about what they may have witnessed or seen on the ground in places such as Bucha, Mariupol or some of the other places subjected to war crimes and atrocities. Has the noble Lord been able to put similar procedures in place in the United Kingdom? Does he not accept the importance of collecting evidence while it is fresh in people's minds, especially as there are now court cases taking place in Ukraine and the International Criminal Court is also considering proceedings?

Reply from Lord Harrington of Watford: The noble Lord makes an excellent point and, I must say, one that I had not considered within my remit. I think it is something the Government should be doing, however, and I assure him that I will make inquiries about it. Perhaps I could write to the noble Lord in the next few days.

The Lord Bishop of Chichester: My Lords, what assessment have the Government made of the number of Ukrainians currently here on economic or student visas who may soon be at risk of overstaying their visa and may be unable to return home, and of the sort of support that they might require and be given?

Reply from Lord Harrington of Watford: Again, that is an excellent question. We do not know the number of visas that are running out but I know that we have measures in place to make sure that when those visas—student visas, work visas and other types—run out they will be extended in this country and there will be no need for those people to return to Ukraine should they not want to do so.

Lord Soley (Labour): The Government are rightly focusing on Ukrainians, but can the Minister tell me whether the Government have any policy towards the several hundred thousand Russians who have fled Putin's Russia and will be very important for a post-Putin Russia? They are scattered all over Europe and surrounding areas. What attention do the Government give to those people and the enormous asset they can be to the West generally in its battle against Putin?

Reply from Lord Harrington of Watford: I fully accept that those people could be a major asset to this or any other country. I am not aware of a separate policy for them. Of course, they could claim asylum as refugees and there are all the other routes to come into this country, but I will look into it.

Lord Kirkhope of Harrogate (Conservative): My noble friend will no doubt remember the United Nations scheme for Bosnian refugees. I was the Minister responsible for that in the 1990s. Can my noble friend confirm whether the categories relating to Ukrainians coming here could have the support of the United Nations behind them, so that we have a scheme specifically put aside and the treatment of those people coming from Ukraine avoids some of the tougher things said recently by Ministers?

Reply from Lord Harrington of Watford: I reiterate what I have said before to my noble friend: we have a system for Ukrainian refugees to come to this country legitimately. It is my duty and honour to make sure that scheme works and that as many Ukrainians as possible fleeing the misery and all the terrible things happening there come here.

Lord Campbell of Pittenweem (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, may I refer the Minister back to an answer he gave a little while ago? Can we accept from what he said that there are certain circumstances in which those fleeing war zones may be sent to Rwanda—yes or no?

Reply from Lord Harrington of Watford: I reiterate that refugees from Ukraine are perfectly welcome to come here and there is absolutely no reason why they should be sent to Rwanda. They are welcome here, we have accommodation for them, local authorities are paid to look after them and we have already welcomed nearly 70,000.

Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede (Labour): My Lords, in the case of children accompanied by a parent or a legal guardian, should the children always be treated the same way? The reason I ask is that a case has been brought to my attention in which the parents and the elder child received visas in the normal way but the family had to travel a substantial distance to get a visa for the younger child. What possible explanation could there be for this? Surely this is just a source of delay for the family travelling to safety in this country.

Reply from Lord Harrington of Watford: The noble Lord makes an excellent point. There is a source of delay where there has been an identification problem with the youngest child. I hope the new system we have in place now means that that is not necessary. If they have to go to a visa centre—I have observed this happening in Warsaw and elsewhere—it is only because there is no way we could identify that very young child with the parent. We look for the lightest possible method of identification. In fact, I have seen a letter from the doctor who delivered a baby being considered acceptable. We have to satisfy ourselves that young children are indeed who the mother or relative says they are. I accept that it has led to hardship where there has been a big delay and I hope that will not happen again.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-06-07/debates/F37226D4-8794-4FCC-900A-34DD50C63AE5/UkrainianAsylumSeekersAndRefugees>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Asylum: Rwanda

Lord Green of Deddington (Crossbench) [HL419] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to section 16 of the Memorandum of Understanding between the UK and the government of Rwanda for the provision of an asylum partnership arrangement, how many refugees from Rwanda will be resettled in the UK; and over what time period they will be resettled.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: A small number of the most vulnerable refugees in Rwanda will be resettled in the UK as part of the Migration and Economic Development Partnership.

More details on the resettlement of vulnerable refugees will be set out in due course.

The partnership between the UK and Rwanda is now underway and is expected to last for at least five years.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-23/hl419>

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, Joint Committee on Human Rights

The UK-Rwanda Migration and Economic Development Partnership and Human Rights
<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/10366/html/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Margaret Ferrier (Independent) [136] Dr Sabir Zazai FRSE, Scottish Refugee Council
– That this House congratulates Dr Sabir Zazai FRSE, Chief Executive of the Scottish Refugee Council, on his award of the Order of the British Empire; commends his tireless dedication to advocating for refugees, who have often been through very traumatic and difficult experiences; recognises the importance of this work, particularly the leadership he has shown both in the Scottish Refugee Council and the sector more broadly; further recognises the valuable work of his colleagues at the Scottish Refugee Council, particularly over the past year, which has seen the withdrawal from Afghanistan and the outbreak of war in Ukraine, which has hugely increased demand for their services; and wishes Sabir and his colleagues the very best in their future endeavours.
<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/59838>

Press Release

Candidacy rights for foreign nationals
<https://www.gov.scot/news/candidacy-rights-for-foreign-nationals/>

New Publication

EU Settlement Scheme statistics, May 2022
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/eu-settlement-scheme-statistics-may-2022/eu-settlement-scheme-statistics-may-2022>

News: Rwanda Refugee Policy

Rwanda asylum plan: Campaigners' challenge to be heard on Monday
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-61769300>

Rwanda asylum plan: UK court allows removal flight planned for Tuesday
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-61763818>

Campaigners lose High Court bid to halt migrants being sent to Rwanda
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/20203031.campaigners-lose-high-court-bid-halt-migrants-sent-rwanda/>

UK deportation flight to Rwanda can go ahead, high court judge rules
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/jun/10/uk-deportation-flight-rwanda-can-go-ahead-high-court-judge-rules>

Home Office Rwanda deportation flight given go-ahead in High Court ruling
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-rwanda-migrants-deportation-b2098224.html>

Legal challenge to Rwanda migrant plan rejected

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/un-joins-battle-to-stop-rwanda-migrant-flight-d65tjm6nt>

Rwanda plan 'is in the public interest', Home Office told court

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/unhcr-priti-patel-rwanda-home-office-high-court-b2098563.html>

Rwanda asylum plan: UN warned UK deal was unlawful, court told

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-61758828>

Home Office misled refugees about UN involvement in Rwanda plans, court told

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/jun/10/home-office-misled-refugees-about-un-involvement-in-rwanda-plans-court-told>

Rwanda scheme was not cleared by UNHCR, lawyers tell High court

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-rwanda-migrants-deportation-b2098317.html>

Rwanda-bound migrants could be released on tags if first flight delayed

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/rwanda-emma-thompson-lawyers-home-office-jesse-norman-b2097627.html>

Concerns Afghans fleeing Taliban could be on first Rwanda flight

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/afghans-taliban-rwanda-government-east-african-b2097445.html>

Home Office cancels Rwanda deportation for three migrants

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-rwanda-migrants-deportation-b2098150.html>

Home Office offers asylum seekers choice between war zones they fled and Rwanda

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/jun/06/home-office-offers-asylum-seekers-choice-between-war-zones-they-fled-and-rwanda>

Prince Charles Rwanda: 'Government's migrant policy appalling'

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/20203395.prince-charles-rwanda-governments-migrant-policy-appalling/>

Prince Charles criticises 'appalling' Rwanda migrant scheme

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/jun/10/prince-charles-criticises-appalling-rwanda-scheme-reports>

Prince Charles 'appalled' by Rwanda migrants plan

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/06/10/priti-patel-wins-legal-battle-rwanda-migrants-plan/>

Charles 'described Government's Rwanda migrant policy as appalling'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/rwanda-priti-patel-charles-public-and-commercial-services-union-government-b2098790.html>

Prince Charles: Flying migrants to Rwanda is 'appalling'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/prince-charles-flying-migrants-to-rwanda-is-appalling-l6jzklfhm>

Primus condemns deportations as Synod opens

<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/primus-condemns-deportations-as-synod-opens/>

Scottish Episcopal Church leader condemns Rwanda deportations during meeting in Edinburgh

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/scottish-episcopal-church-leader-condemns-rwanda-deportations-during-meeting-in-edinburgh-3726482>

People at risk of suicide facing deportation to Rwanda told to try sudoku

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/jun/08/people-at-risk-of-suicide-facing-deportation-to-rwanda-told-to-do-a-sudoku>

Rwanda migrants could be released into society if Government loses legal fight

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/06/10/rwanda-migrants-could-released-society-government-loses-legal/>

Rwanda asylum: Iranian policeman who defied orders says he fears for his life

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-61748033>

Priti Patel accused of trying to deport former Iranian police officer to Rwanda

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2022/jun/07/priti-patel-accused-of-trying-to-deport-former-iranian-policer-officer-to-rwanda>

I came here to save my life. By sending me to Rwanda, the UK threatens it again

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/jun/05/rwanda-uk-asylum-seeker-offshored>

My 98-year-old friend fled Nuremberg on the Kindertransport. Today would he be sent to Rwanda?

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/jun/08/my-98-year-old-friend-fled-nuremberg-on-the-kindertransport-today-would-he-be-sent-to-rwanda>

I came to Britain to escape dangers in Rwanda – I'm shocked Priti Patel wants to send vulnerable people there

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/priti-patel-rwanda-scheme-asylum-seekers-b2098259.html>

News: Ukraine

UK minister warns SNP's sponsor scheme leaving Ukrainian refugees 'stuck in hotels'

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/20203971.uk-minister-warns-snps-sponsor-scheme-leaving-ukrainian-refugees-stuck-hotels/>

13-year-old refugee girl 'sent back to Ukraine after Home Office refused visa'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/independentpremium/uk-news/ukraine-refugee-girl-home-office-b2096860.html>

Small Somerset village hosts more than 30 Ukrainian refugees

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-somerset-61761497>

UK takes in fewer Ukrainians per capita than most of Europe

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/jun/03/uk-takes-in-fewer-ukrainians-per-capita-than-most-of-europe>

News: Other Immigration and Asylum

Children can now apply for a waiver of citizenship fees

<https://freemovement.org.uk/children-can-now-apply-for-a-waiver-of-citizenship-fees/>

Children with toys carried to safety as migrant crossings hit 10,000

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/children-dover-channel-kent-government-b2095661.html>

UK agrees to launch full inquiry into drowning of 27 people in Channel

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/jun/01/uk-agrees-launch-full-inquiry-drowning-27-people-channel>

Smugglers responsible for hiding migrants in vans brought to justice

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/smugglers-responsible-for-hiding-migrants-in-vans-brought-to-justice>

Migrant women charged up to £14,000 for NHS maternity services in England

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2022/jun/09/migrant-women-charged-up-to-14000-for-nhs-maternity-services-in-england>

TOP

Community Relations

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Mary Kelly Foy (Labour) [135] Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller History Month 2022 – That this House notes that during the month of June 2022 it is Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month; further notes that a key theme in 2022 is What Makes a Home?; recognises that what makes a home can mean different things to different peoples and cultures, with homes to be found on the roads and waterways, in fairgrounds, and within communities; believes that the rich culture and history of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities is something that must be both celebrated and protected; and encourages everyone to positively engage with the communities.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/59837>

TOP

Equality

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Teaching Profession (Diversity)

Kaukab Stewart (SNP) [S6O-01206] To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to the diversity in the teaching profession Scotland annual data report, published in May, which states that there is a continued chronic and disproportionate lack of minority ethnic teachers in Scotland's schools.

Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills (Shirley-Anne Somerville): The Scottish Government is clear that the continued underrepresentation of minority ethnic teachers at all levels in Scotland is unacceptable and requires urgent attention.

Work is already under way. The diversity in the teaching profession and education workforce sub-group, which is part of the wider race equality and anti-racism in education programme, is taking forward a number of actions, including working with the Scottish Council of Deans of Education to develop a robust framework for initial teacher education providers to identify and address the barriers that impede minority ethnic student teachers. That will result in them being better supported throughout their journey into permanent posts.

We are also working with the newly appointed General Teaching Council for Scotland senior education officer—a post that is supported by Scottish Government funding—to establish effective leadership at all levels within local authorities, regional improvement collaboratives and schools in order to facilitate improved racial diversity within the teaching profession.

Kaukab Stewart: I welcome the cabinet secretary's response. The statistics are stark. In 2017, only 1.2 per cent of primary teachers and 2.1 per cent of secondary teachers were from black, Asian and minority ethnic communities. By 2021, those figures had risen to only 1.4 per cent and 2.7 per cent respectively. The figures for promoted posts—primary principal teachers, deputies and head teachers—are even more concerning. In 2017, only 0.4 per cent of such posts in primary schools and 0.8 per cent of such posts in secondary schools were from BAME communities, and in 2021, those numbers rose by only 0.2 per cent to 0.6 per cent and by 0.1 per cent to 0.9 per cent respectively.

Will the cabinet secretary join me in calling on local authorities as employers to actively explore positive action measures, as allowed under the Equality Act 2010, to address underrepresentation, particularly at senior levels? Measures could include initiatives such as the current pilot project by Glasgow City Council to support five acting PT roles for BAME teachers.

Reply from Shirley-Anne Somerville: The positive action that Glasgow City Council has taken in this area is absolutely to be commended. The diversity in the teaching profession and education workforce sub-group is considering the ways in which to capture and measure such actions, so that it can support other local authorities to be similarly ambitious.

I concur absolutely with Kaukab Stewart's sentiments that those figures are unacceptable. The Scottish Government is determined and it will continue to work with all local authorities to ensure that we can, and will, do better.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13809&i=125201#ScotParIOR>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/diversity-teaching-profession-education-workforce-annual-data-report-2022/>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Ethnicity Pay Gap Reporting

Janet Daby (Labour) [900376] If [the Minister] will make an assessment of the potential merits of mandatory ethnicity pay gap reporting.

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (Paul Scully): In “Inclusive Britain”, our response to the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities report, we accepted the recommendation to publish guidance for employers to support a voluntary approach to ethnicity pay reporting. Work on this is already under way.

Janet Daby: According to the Resolution Foundation, in 2018 the ethnicity pay gap cost black workers over £3.2 billion in the loss of wages. Following the pandemic, the gap is getting wider. As the Minister will know, the Women and Equalities Committee said in

February that businesses “are ready for Ministers to follow through” on the Government’s manifesto commitment to bring in ethnicity pay gap reporting. Can the Minister therefore explain what the hold-up is, and when the Government will do that?

Reply from Paul Scully: We remain committed to supporting businesses with pay reporting. There are significant technical challenges to it, and it may not be the most effective intervention for some employers in some areas, but we are working on guidance to make sure it can be as effective as possible.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-06-08/debates/6EEC8F84-9FF0-4614-B188-B0B952E713FF/EthnicityPayGapReporting>

The CRED report, referred to above can be read at

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/974507/20210331 - CRED Report - FINAL - Web Accessible.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/974507/20210331_-_CRED_Report_-_FINAL_-_Web_Accessible.pdf)

The Government response to the report, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inclusive-britain-action-plan-government-response-to-the-commission-on-race-and-ethnic-disparities/inclusive-britain-government-response-to-the-commission-on-race-and-ethnic-disparities>

The Women and Equalities Committee report referred to above can be read at

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/8779/documents/88923/default/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Equal Pay: Ethnic Groups

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL555] To ask Her Majesty’s Government what plans they have to require companies with more than 50 employees to publish their ethnicity pay gap data.

Reply from Lord Callanan: The Government has no plans to require companies with more than 50 employees to publish their ethnicity pay gap data. In Inclusive Britain, the Government’s response to the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities, we committed to publish guidance for employers on voluntary ethnicity pay reporting.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-25/hl555>

Maternity Services: Ethnic Groups

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL458] To ask Her Majesty’s Government what plans they have to improve maternity (1) curriculums, and (2) guidance, in order to better assess women and babies from (a) black, and (b) ethnic minority, communities.

Reply from Lord Kamall: Health Education England (HEE) is working with NHS England to review and update the existing ‘Cultural Competence’ e-learning resources to support clinicians to understand culture and health and how it may influence healthcare outcomes. HEE is hosting a meeting on maternity education and training in July 2022, which will focus on the education and training implications of the Ockenden report. This will include course content and curriculum, career development and transition to work.

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) considers the need to reduce health inequalities in developing its evidence-based guideline recommendations. Where there is evidence of differences in symptoms, diagnosis, or treatment for different population groups, NICE seeks to ensure that this is addressed in its guidelines.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-23/hl458>

The e-learning resources referred to above can be read at

<https://portal.e-lfh.org.uk/Component/Details/438885>

Health Services: Travellers

Baroness Whitaker (Labour) [HL113] To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made in implementing the recommendations of the report by Leeds GATE, the University of Dundee and the University of York Enhancing Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Peoples' Trust: using maternity and early years' health services and dental health services as exemplars of mainstream provision, published on 14 September 2018.

Reply from Lord Kamall: This report informed inclusion health guidance, which includes Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities. However, its recommendations were not intended for implementation. The report was funded through the National Institute for Health and Care Research's Policy Research Programme in June 2015 to support national policy development in health, care and public health systems. Subsequent policy development in this area includes the Office of Health Improvement and Disparities' Inclusion Health: applying All Our Health online resource. This provides guidance for health and care professionals to prevent ill-health and promote wellbeing for people in inclusion health groups in everyday practice, including Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people. The guidance reiterates many of the recommendations in the Leeds GATE report, such as providing flexible services, supporting registration with a general practitioner and increasing collaborative working. It also includes ensuring individuals can access services through outreach activities in the community.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-10/hl113>

The report referred to above can be read at

[https://discovery.dundee.ac.uk/files/29156227/McFadden et al GRT Trust and Engagement Final report 140918.pdf](https://discovery.dundee.ac.uk/files/29156227/McFadden%20et%20al%20GRT%20Trust%20and%20Engagement%20Final%20report%20140918.pdf)

The resource referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inclusion-health-applying-all-our-health/inclusion-health-applying-all-our-health>

New Publications

Experiences from health and social care: the treatment of lower-paid ethnic minority workers

<https://equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/inquiry-experiences-and-treatment-of-lower-paid-ethnic-minority-workers-in-health-and-social-care-report.pdf>

Scotland Policy Briefing

<https://equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/inquiry-experiences-and-treatment-of-lower-paid-ethnic-minority-workers-in-health-and-social-care-scotland-briefing.docx>

England Policy Briefing

<https://equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/inquiry-experiences-and-treatment-of-lower-paid-ethnic-minority-workers-in-health-and-social-care-england-briefing.docx>

Wales Policy Briefing

<https://equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/inquiry-experiences-and-treatment-of-lower-paid-ethnic-minority-workers-in-health-and-social-care-wales-briefing.docx>

Employment Survey Report 2021: Workforce diversity and employment experiences

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/-/media/Royal-College-Of-Nursing/Documents/Publications/2022/June/010-216.pdf>

News

Majority of British Muslims say their lives have improved

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/majority-of-british-muslims-say-their-lives-have-improved-wzxp3mjhv>

Muslim women stop waiting for change and fashion their own UK

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/muslim-women-stop-waiting-for-change-and-fashion-their-own-uk-rslxfr06t>

Report finds evidence of inequality in treatment of ethnic minority ‘Covid heroes’ working in health and social care

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/report-finds-evidence-inequality-treatment-ethnic-minority-covid-heroes-working-health-social-care>

Jeffrey Boakye’s experiences in a ‘default white’ school system: ‘Education can’t be blind to race’

<https://inews.co.uk/culture/books/jeffrey-boakyees-experiences-default-white-school-system-1674130>

Diversity drives repel minority groups because they ‘don’t want to be hired on identity grounds’

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/06/09/diversity-drives-repel-minority-groups-dont-want-hired-identity/>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021

Paul O’Kane (Labour) [S6W-08613] To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on the timescale for the implementation of the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021.

Reply from Christina McKelvie: The Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021 must be implemented effectively so that, once in force, it offers robust protections to victims. The Scottish Government is working closely with justice partners to agree a suitable commencement date for the Act. To complement the implementation of the Act, we are developing a new hate crime strategy for publication later this year, which will help to guide how we successfully tackle hatred and prejudice in Scotland.

To support this, I chaired the inaugural meeting of the Hate Crime Strategic Partnership Group on 28 April. This group will provide a collaborative, multi-agency approach to the Strategy’s development.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-08613>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

The following three questions all received the same answer

National Union of Students: Elections

Matt Western (Labour) [9101] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, under what provision the Minister of State for Universities contacted Civica Election Services to challenge the election of the incoming president of the National Union of Students.

National Union of Students: Finance

Matt Western (Labour) [9102] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether he has made a recent assessment of the financial implications for the National Union of Students of his decision to freeze funding until the conclusion of the independent investigations into anti-Semitism.

National Union of Students

Matt Western (Labour) [9103] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps he is taking to help ensure that students are represented within Government in the context of his Department's decision to disassociate with the National Union of Students.

Reply from Michelle Donelan: I have been deeply concerned to hear the allegations of antisemitism linked to the National Union of Students (NUS) and believe that strong action is needed, especially as NUS has been the subject of similar allegations on at least another two occasions in recent years. This is why I announced on 13 May 2022 that the government would be disengaging with them, until we are satisfied that they have taken effective steps to address the allegations. The financial impact of this decision is a matter for the NUS, not for the government. But we are working to ensure that students are not disadvantaged by our disengagement with the NUS. We will continue to talk with students' groups such as the Office for Students' panel and directly with students' unions throughout the period of disengagement.

I have also contacted Civica Election Services to ask whether they are satisfied with the integrity of the elections for the incoming NUS president, given the publicity around antisemitic statements she is alleged to have made.

Jewish students need to have confidence that the NUS is a body that represents them, as well as other students. The government will re-engage with them once we and the Union of Jewish Students and Community Security Trust (in relation to the broader Jewish community) are satisfied that it does so.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-25/9101>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-25/9102>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-25/9103>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-suspends-engagement-with-the-nus-over-antisemitism>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

David Linden (SNP) [141] **Findings of Birthrights report** – That this House highlights the findings of Birthrights report, Systemic racism, not broken bodies; emphasises the importance of the findings of the report, which confirm that black, Asian, and mixed ethnicity women are more likely to experience baby loss and illness, become seriously ill themselves and have a worse experience of care during pregnancy and throughout childbirth; advocates for the conclusions of the report, particularly a commitment to anti-

racism by all maternity and neo-natal services alongside a commitment to ensure that more Black and Brown women and birthing people decision-makers in their care and the wider maternity system; and calls for the safe and inclusive maternity and birthing experience for all parents.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/59844>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.birthrights.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Birthrights-inquiry-systemic-racism-May-22-web-1.pdf>

News

National Action: Swansea Nazi Alex Davies jailed

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-61716651>

Founder of violent UK neo-Nazi group jailed for more than eight years

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/jun/07/founder-of-violent-neo-nazi-group-jailed-for-more-than-eight-years>

Founder of National Action neo-Nazi group whose members plotted to kill MPs jailed

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/fascist-far-right-national-action-jailed-b2095673.html>

Neo-Nazi co-founder of National Action jailed

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/neo-nazi-co-founder-of-national-action-jailed-755zprp3j>

There's a new breed of young, violent, far-right activist in Britain: 'white jihadists'

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/jun/11/far-right-activists-britain-white-jihadists-neo-nazi-national-action-jailed>

Lammy says racist Twitter post raises 'serious questions' for Tories

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/david-lammy-racist-death-threat-conservative-candidate-b2097817.html>

No leave for holy days 'discriminates against Muslim teachers'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/no-leave-for-holy-days-discriminates-against-muslim-teachers-8sh0djn6g>

Black and Asian frontline staff faced racial harassment during Covid-19 pandemic, watchdog finds

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/black-asian-frontline-pandemic-racism-b2097279.html>

Black and Asian nurses overlooked for promotion due to structural racism, RCN research reveals

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/news/uk-black-and-asian-nurses-overlooked-for-promotion-due-to-structural-racism-rcn-research-080622>

White NHS nurses twice as likely as black and Asian colleagues to be promoted – study

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2022/jun/08/white-nhs-nurses-twice-as-likely-as-black-and-asian-colleagues-to-be-promoted-study>

Duty of all NHS staff in England to fight discrimination, review says

<https://www.theguardian.com/inequality/2022/jun/08/nhs-staff-england-discrimination-diversity-review-sajid-javid>

Racism in English education should be seen as safeguarding issue, says author

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2022/jun/05/racism-england-schools-education-safeguarding-issue-jeffrey-boakye>

Racism, misogyny, homophobia, corruption: we want to fix the crisis in policing

https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/jun/08/racism-misogyny-homophobia-corruption-crisis-policing?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other

Lancashire University suspended Black students who blew whistle on racism

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/racism-university-lancashire-student-b2097946.html>

Probe after student pictured with swastika and 'I hate n**s' scrawled on chest**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/lancashire-uni-student-swastika-picture-b2096613.html>

Top drama school apologises to Paapa Essiedu and Michaela Coel for 'appalling' racism

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jun/10/top-drama-school-apologises-paapa-essiedu-michaela-coel-appalling-racism-guildhall>

Drama school Guildhall apologises to Paapa Essiedu and Michaela Coel for 'appalling' racism

<https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/news/paapa-essiedu-guildhall-racism-b2098444.html>

The anti-racism policies that will embed a worrying ideology in our universities

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/20192314.stuart-waiton-anti-racism-policies-will-embed-worrying-ideology-universities/>

Southgate says Euros final racism adds 'layer of difficulty' to shootout plans

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2022/jun/06/gareth-southgate-euros-final-racism-adds-layer-of-difficulty-to-england-penalty-shootout-plans>

Racist abuse has made penalties even harder, says England manager Gareth Southgate

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/racist-abuse-has-made-penalties-even-harder-says-england-manager-gareth-southgate-7xh7gr9tk>

Gareth Southgate: 'Fear of social media backlash a factor in choice of penalty takers'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/football/2022/06/06/gareth-southgate-fear-social-media-backlash-factor-choice-penalty/>

Referees assessor Michael Ewen banned for 16 weeks for using racist language

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/michael-ewen-referee-assessor-racism-ban-b2097207.html>

TOP

Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Release

Scotland's Census ready to move to next stage

<https://www.gov.scot/news/scotlands-census-ready-to-move-to-next-stage/>

TOP

Other UK Parliament and Government

New Publications

Female Genital Mutilation, January 2022 - March 2022

<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/female-genital-mutilation/jan-2022---march-2022>

The Lady of Heaven Protests: Letter from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to Imam Qari Asim

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1081996/DLUHC_to_Imam_Qari_Asim_-_11062022.pdf

TOP

Other News

OSCR Online is changing

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/news/oscr-online-is-changing/>

Qari Asim: Imam removed as government adviser over film protests

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-leeds-61771695>

See also the letter from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to Imam Qari Asim that is included in the "Other UK Parliament and Government" section above.

Sajid Javid attacks 'cancel culture' as UK cinemas pull 'blasphemous' film

<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2022/jun/08/sajid-javid-voices-cancel-culture-concerns-as-blasphemous-film-pulled-from-uk-cinemas>

Cineworld cancels The Lady of Heaven film screenings after protests

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-61729392>

Cineworld pulls Lady of Heaven film over 'blasphemy' controversy

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/06/08/cineworld-pulls-lady-of-heaven-protest-blasphemous-film-controversy/>

The Lady of Heaven review — Islamic epic in protest row is not blessed with quality

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/the-lady-of-heaven-review-islamic-epic-protest-row-ph28bn3d3>

Religious mobs are a threat to British democracy

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/06/09/religious-mobs-threat-british-democracy/>

Ministers must defend the right to criticise religion

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/ministers-must-defend-the-right-to-criticise-religion-9n7r9js08>

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Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

**** Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill**

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/gender-recognition-reform-scotland-bill>

Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee, Stage 1 evidence sessions

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/official-report/what-was-said-in-parliament/EHRCJ-31-05-2022?meeting=13796&iob=125069>

and

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/official-report/what-was-said-in-parliament/EHRCJ-07-06-2022?meeting=13806&iob=125166>

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

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

Stage 3 debate

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13809&i=125241#ScotParlOR>

Bill passed

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13809&i=125242&c=2411750#ScotParlOR>

Press release

<https://www.gov.scot/news/candidacy-rights-for-foreign-nationals/>

UK Parliament

**** Online Safety Bill**

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

Public Bill Committee

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-06-07/debates/45bb6ec7-7b51-4e34-b839-d814a00c0cdf/OnlineSafetyBill\(FifthSitting\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-06-07/debates/45bb6ec7-7b51-4e34-b839-d814a00c0cdf/OnlineSafetyBill(FifthSitting))

and

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-06-07/debates/90e5ab5b-a47b-4750-9c47-3f0ac7cd46eb/OnlineSafetyBill\(SixthSitting\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-06-07/debates/90e5ab5b-a47b-4750-9c47-3f0ac7cd46eb/OnlineSafetyBill(SixthSitting))

Evidence session, Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee Sub-committee on Online Harms and Disinformation

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/10358/html/>

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

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

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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/>

** **The Scottish Governance Code for the Third Sector** (closing date 30 June 2022)

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/news/opinions-invited-on-third-sector-governance-code/>

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Job Opportunities

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

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Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

Investing in Communities Fund

Closing date for applications: 28 June 2022

Scottish Government funding of up to £350,000 over a three-year period to support organisations based in the places they serve that tackle poverty and inequality, develop and sustain place-based approaches, are involved in community-led regeneration, and are working to ensure a just transition to net zero. Awards will prioritise disadvantaged, rural, and fragile communities across Scotland. For information and to apply see

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/investing-in-communities-fund-round-two-draft-guidance-note>

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

** *this week!*

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>

** *this week!*

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/id2tey6w>

**** this week!**

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/>

**** this week!**

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>

**** this week!**

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>

**** this week!**

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>

**** this week!**

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>

**** this week!**

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>

**** this week!**

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>

**** this week!**

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>

**** this week!**

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>

**** this week!**

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 (Steps, 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

Interpreting culture – improving cross-cultural communication

11 August 2022 (online, 11.00–1.00)

Interfaith Scotland course on cultural diversity. Our cultural background has a profound influence on each of us. It shapes our behaviour, values and beliefs. It even affects our thought processes and how we perceive the world. In this course we explore how culture forms a lens through which we interpret each other's behaviour and learn how to improve

our inter-cultural communication. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yckbt9hs> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

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

13 September 2022 (online, 10.00–12.00)

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

Working with Interpreters

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

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

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

Supporting Refugee Integration

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

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

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

Introduction to Working with Religious Diversity

26 October 2022 (online, 10.30–12.30)

Interfaith Scotland 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

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 Protected Characteristics like race, disability, religion and belief. The course

will 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

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Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services

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

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

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SCoJeC
Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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

BEMIS

Empowering Scotland's Ethnic and
Cultural Minority Communities

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



gov.scot

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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