



MEMO is produced by the [Scottish Council of Jewish Communities \(SCoJeC\)](#) in partnership with [BEMIS – empowering Scotland's ethnic and cultural minority communities](#). It provides an overview of information of interest to minority ethnic communities in Scotland, including parliamentary activity at Holyrood and Westminster, new publications, consultations, forthcoming conferences, and news reports.

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

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The Scottish Parliament is in recess until 5 September 2022.

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Debates

Immigration and Nationality (Fees) (Amendment) Regulations 2022

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-07-06/debates/96F32F44-5B43-4400-AA50-37252FF4838D/ImmigrationAndNationality\(Fees\)\(Amendment\)Regulations2022](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-07-06/debates/96F32F44-5B43-4400-AA50-37252FF4838D/ImmigrationAndNationality(Fees)(Amendment)Regulations2022)

Ukraine Refugees: Mothers and Dependent Children Arriving in the UK

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-07-07/debates/A98AE100-F508-4A06-9539-1CE60363F00D/UkraineRefugeesMothersAndDependentChildrenArrivingInTheUK>

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

Asylum: Rwanda

Sarah Olney (Liberal Democrat) [26831] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the value for money of the Migration and Economic Development partnership with Rwanda.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: On 13 April 2022 the Permanent Secretary and Accounting Officer of the Home Office, Matthew Rycroft, provided an assessment of the Migration and Economic Development Partnership between the UK and Rwanda to the Home Secretary.

Regarding value for money, the Accounting Officer recognised that ‘there are potentially significant savings to be realised from deterring people entering the UK illegally’ but concluded there was not currently sufficient evidence to be certain about the assumed deterrent effect. As such, the Home Secretary issued a Ministerial Direction to enable the policy to proceed.

This does not mean that the partnership will not have the appropriate deterrent effect; just as a new and untested policy there was not sufficient evidence at that point for him to conclude that it will.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-28/26831>

Asylum: Rwanda

Abena Oppong-Asare (Labour) [28508] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reason the UK-Rwanda Migration and Economic Development Partnership was designed to operate through a Memorandum of Understanding rather than an agreement that is binding in international law.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The UK has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Rwanda for the provision of an asylum partnership arrangement and to address the shared challenge of illegal migration. An MoU is a common mechanism for establishing an arrangement or partnership between countries.

The MoU was negotiated with close care and attention to ensure that assurances were in place to ensure the partnership operated appropriately, with a strong regard to the welfare of those it concerns, and in line with both parties’ international obligations. While not legally binding in international law, the terms of the MoU – including the monitoring arrangements – give the assurances we need that the arrangement will be operated in line with our international obligations and in a manner which ensures the safety of those relocated.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-30/28508>

The Memorandum of Understanding referred to above can be read at

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

Asylum: Rwanda

Abena Oppong-Asare (Labour) [28507] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to help ensure that asylum seekers transferred to Rwanda are (a) subject to a (i) fair and (ii) efficient asylum process and (b) protected from refoulement.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Section 9.1.1 of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the UK and Rwanda, for the provision of a Migration and Economic Development Partnership, states that Rwanda will process asylum claims in

accordance with the Refugee Convention, Rwandan immigration laws and international and Rwandan standards, including under international and Rwandan human rights law. Individuals will be provided with access to interpreters and legal assistance as required.

The MoU also states that relocated individuals will be protected from refoulement. In addition, a Monitoring Committee is being established to ensure that the provisions of the MoU are being implemented as expected.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-30/28507>

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: Children

Emma Lewell-Buck (Labour) [27626] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to reports from the charities Love146 UK and Care4Calais that some children seeking asylum without identification have been classified as adults and are at risk of transfer to Rwanda, how many asylum seekers claiming to be children have been determined to be adults following age assessments since 1 January 2022.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Immigration officers operating at the border perform a difficult but vital function in preventing abuse of the immigration system and protecting genuine children from the safeguarding risks associated with allowing adults to access safe spaces which are properly reserved for children.

The UK Supreme Court recently considered and fully endorsed the lawfulness of the 'significantly over 18' policy for initial age assessments conducted at the border by immigration officers in the case of *BF Eritrea UKSC 2019/0147*.

Furthermore, the initial age assessment process represents only the first stage of a broader age assessment procedure. It has been designed to allow those who wish to maintain their claim to be a child to seek assessment by a local authority. It is long established Home Office policy to give significant weight to a local authority age assessment.

The Home Office publishes data on asylum in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on the number of age disputes and outcomes are published in table Asy_D05 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 covers up to March 2022.

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

The published statistics for age disputes indicate there were 428 disputes raised on the basis of physical appearance and demeanour in the first quarter of 2022. Of the 255 disputes resolved in the same period, 126 cases were resolved with an outcome the person was an adult and 129 concluded the person was a child.

The statistics do not distinguish between those who have been assessed to be significantly over 18 and others who have been age disputed but referred directly to a local authority for further assessment. Detail of the volume of age dispute cases for the following quarter will be made available in future planned statistical publications.

Anyone who is the subject of an age dispute will be excluded from inadmissibility procedures as a matter of policy, where either the individual is undergoing assessment by a local authority, where there are ongoing legal proceedings on the subject of age or where the Home Office accepts a subsequent assessment by a local authority that the individual is a child.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-29/27626>

The reports referred to above can be read at
<https://www.love146.org.uk/blog/open-letter-warning-of-risks-to-young-people-from-incorrect-age-assessments/>

and

<https://care4calais.org/news/rwanda-deportees-are-increasing-desperate/>

The judgement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.supremecourt.uk/cases/docs/uksc-2019-0147-judgment.pdf>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Ukraine

Visas: Ukraine

Dave Doogan (SNP) [27730] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what contractual obligations will apply to people who have made a successful application under the Ukraine Extension Scheme and who were previously in the UK on the seasonal worker visa in relation to any contract previously negotiated by a labour provider.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Customers granted leave under the Ukraine Extension Scheme are normally granted for a period of 36 months and are able to access work, study and public funds. They are not restricted in the work they can undertake from an immigration point of view.

Employment contracts between an employee and employer are not something the Home Office would be involved in under the Ukraine Extension Scheme.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-29/27730>

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>

Refugees: Ukraine

Gareth Thomas (Labour Co-op) [24536] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to allow Ukrainian refugees who travelled to the UK through the Ukraine Family Scheme following the Russian invasion to transfer to the Homes for Ukraine scheme so they can access a wider range of support from local authorities; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Ukraine Family Scheme was set up to ensure family members were able to reunite with family fleeing Ukraine ahead of the development of the Homes for Ukraine scheme. It is based on family visa routes which existed before the Ukraine conflict, where public services are funded out of council budgets and the same principle is applied here. The UK-based family member is expected to provide support and accommodation for those coming to join them, who in turn benefit from the wider integration advantages in joining an existing family network. Ukrainian nationals coming to the UK under the Ukraine Family Scheme are given access to work, benefits and public services as laid down in Appendix Ukraine to the Immigration Rules, details of which can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-ukraine-scheme>

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

We continue to keep the UK Government's support under review and will adapt and

develop the visa routes in place to ensure they keep pace with the situation in Ukraine and the needs of those who have sought sanctuary here.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-24/24536>

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 following two questions both received the same answer

Homes for Ukraine Scheme: Children

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [25949] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Housing and Communities, whether the changes announced on 22 June to the Homes for Ukraine scheme will preclude children with no connection to the UK.

Homes for Ukraine Scheme

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [25950] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, with reference to his Written Statement of 22 June 2022 on Homes for Ukraine: Update, Official Report, HCWS123, how his Department defines personally known to the parents; and whether a sponsor who has spoken extensively with the parents over a previous sponsorship application for another member of the family would qualify.

Reply from Eddie Hughes: It is expected that the sponsors of unaccompanied eligible minors should personally know the parent(s) or legal guardian of the child and that relationship should date from before the start of the conflict on 24 February 2022, except in exceptional circumstances. Further guidance will be published in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-27/25949>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-27/25950>

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

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

The statement referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2022-06-22/hcws123>

Overseas Students: Ukraine

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [22473] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps he is taking to help support Ukrainian refugees who started a university course in Ukraine to complete their studies in the UK.

Reply from Michelle Donelan: The department is continuing to work closely with the education sector and across government to ensure that students are supported and have a range of options available to them during this difficult time.

We know that universities in Ukraine are striving to maintain the education of their students under extremely challenging conditions. We are therefore encouraging them to contact their education provider in Ukraine, to understand what support is available to them to study remotely. This may be particularly beneficial to students nearing the end of their course.

Students may also wish to explore their options with higher education (HE) providers in England. The department encourages them to engage in conversations with their preferred provider to understand the full range of options available specifically to them. I have urged institutions in England to consider students' circumstances sensitively and to show as much flexibility as possible when considering students' applications.

To support those who are granted leave under the Homes for Ukraine scheme, the

Ukraine Family Scheme or the Ukraine Extension Scheme, introduced by the Home Office, we have extended access to HE student support, home fee status, tuition fee caps, advanced learner loans and 19+ funding allocations. This ensures Ukrainians who have been affected by the war in Ukraine can access support on the same basis as those within other protection-based categories, such as refugees.

The Student Loans Company will also treat students who were living in England before leaving to study in Ukraine, and who join a course on return to the UK, as being temporary absent when assessing the requirement for three years' ordinary residence in the UK or Crown Dependencies prior to study. Students should contact Student Finance England, or other relevant funding bodies if individuals lived in one of the devolved administrations prior to study in Ukraine, for further details.

Additionally, the department is working closely with the Ukrainian Government and UK HE Sector to help facilitate Ukrainian HE entrance exams this summer for students from Ukraine.

The Office for Students has been delivering up to £4million of additional support to students from Ukraine whose financial means have been impacted by events in Ukraine.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-21/22473>

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/>

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

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

Refugees: Afghanistan

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [25889] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what his policy is on funding any potential shortfall in rent in the event that Afghans resettled under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy and Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme are placed in properties where the rent is higher than the Local Housing Allowance rate.

Reply from Eddie Hughes: A £25.5 million Housing Costs Fund is available to local authorities to help meet the costs of housing for larger families being resettled through the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP), and for those who arrived in the UK before 31 August 2021 via the evacuation from Afghanistan and are being resettled through the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS), or are British Nationals being provided with resettlement support. The additional housing support is being provided to enable local authorities to come forward with offers of accommodation to larger families as soon as possible. For example, it can be used to provide a top-up payment, where it is needed to meet the gap between market rent and the Local Housing Allowance, or to help meet shortfalls which impact on a family's ability to cover their rent.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-27/25889>

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

Asylum

Anne McLaughlin (SNP) [24609] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion asylum seekers have been allocated an initial screening appointment as of 24 June 2022.

Asylum: Interviews

Anne McLaughlin (SNP) [24610] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average time it takes is between an asylum seeker applying for an initial screening interview and them receiving one.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Nationality and Borders Act (NABA) became law on 28 April 2022. This new, ground-breaking legislation replaces a decades old system. It will deter illegal entry into the UK, breaking the business model of people-smuggling networks, and speed up the removal of those with no right to be in the UK. This will free up the asylum system so we can better support those in genuine need of asylum through safe and legal routes.

At the same time, we are investing in a programme of transformation and business improvement initiatives to speed up decision making, reduce the time people spend in the asylum system and decrease the number of people who are awaiting an interview or decision.

On the 24 June 2022, 466 had asylum screening appointments scheduled, which was 11.5% of those awaiting an appointment. Since 28 June 2022, the National Asylum Intake Unit will schedule 65% of appointments within 10 days of registering an asylum claim.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-24/24609>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-24/24610>

Asylum: Temporary Accommodation

Stephen Farry (Alliance) [24718] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to address asylum seekers' complaints on food provided in contingency accommodation across the UK.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office requires clear standards from our accommodation providers, who are expected to conduct regular checks across the asylum estate.

Asylum seekers who are (a) children, (b) seriously unwell and (c) disabled are priorities for moves to dispersal accommodation, but it is a contractual requirement all service users are accommodated in accommodation appropriate to their needs. Service Delivery Managers speak daily with providers about operational delivery and performance. In response to the global pandemic, officials also have formal weekly meetings to ensure individuals are housed safely, services are delivered in line with their contractual obligations and with adherence to guidance from UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and where appropriate Department for Health & Social Care (DHSC) is followed.

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

In addition to the provision of Advice and Guidance services described in the contracts, Migrant Help's role includes acting as the main contact point for all Service User complaints, reports of issues and requests for assistance. Service Users are able to contact Migrant Help 24/7 by telephone, webchat or email, and

there are strict service level agreements in place to resolving contacts, dependent on issue type. With regards to complaints specifically, providers are contractually obligated to respond to Service User complaints within 5 working days of receipt. In the rare event that this timeframe is not honoured, or where a Service User is dissatisfied with the response received, the complaint is escalated to the Authority for comprehensive review and response. Where a complaint is upheld, the information is shared with the departments Service Delivery Managers for discussion at CMG with the providers to influence continuous improvement to the service provided. The complaints data is regularly monitored and analysed to identify trends in issues and feedback which can further enhance these conversations and maintain standards.

To further understand Service Users experience of the service, the department offers a series of customer surveys in collaboration with the ASC and AIRE providers. The surveys are 100% anonymous, available 24/7, and provide coverage of both Dispersal Accommodation and Initial Accommodation estates nationally, including all forms of contingency. The feedback is collated on a quarterly basis and used to inform improvement activity, with regular review of associated activity recorded and reviewed at the monthly CMG forums. The Department and our providers have been actively promoting the surveys across our service users to ensure awareness and drive response rates, and for Quarter 3 (March – May 2022) in excess of 8,000 responses were received for the ASC providers alone.

Within contingency accommodation, Service Users are provided with three culturally and nutritionally appropriate meals a day on a menu rotation, which typically includes a continental breakfast, lunch and evening meals, with a choice of a minimum of one hot and one cold selection, as well as a vegetarian option. Fresh fruit and other snacks are also made available to all throughout the day. Babies and small children are also provided with appropriate foodstuffs and additional provisions on demand. Appropriate options will be provided for any Service Users with special dietary, cultural or religious requirements and availability of these specialist provisions are covered within the contract requirements.

Northern Ireland does not form part of the asylum dispersal system currently, however my officials are working with the Northern Ireland Executive to identify how they can contribute to this UK wide challenge in terms of procuring sufficient accommodation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-24/24718>

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

Asylum: Rwanda

Baroness Armstrong of Hill Top (Labour) [HL1134] To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of how long the policy of removing asylum seekers to Rwanda will take to reduce significantly the illegal activity of people traffickers; and whether they will publish the risk assessment for this policy.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: This Migration and Economic Development Partnership with Rwanda is part of a suite of measures aimed at breaking the business model of evil people smuggling gangs and as with all policies, its impact will be kept under review.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-21/hl1134>

Asylum: Rwanda

Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat) [HL1248] To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of people seeking asylum in the UK must be sent to Rwanda for them to consider the policy a successful deterrent against small boat crossings of the English Channel.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The number of people who can be relocated to Rwanda under the Migration and Economic Development Partnership is uncapped. This is part of a suite of measures aimed at breaking the business model of people smuggling gangs, and as with all policies its impact will be kept under review.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-23/hl1248>

Refugees: Rwanda

Lord Jones of Cheltenham (Liberal Democrat) [HL1152] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there is any limit on the number of refugees currently in Rwanda who will be resettled in the UK under the provisions of the UK and Rwanda Migration and Economic Development Partnership.

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.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-21/hl1152>

Asylum: Rwanda

The Marquess of Lothian (Conservative) [HL1084] To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the full cost of chartering the flight to transport asylum claimants from the UK to Rwanda under the terms of the UK–Rwanda Migration and Economic Development Partnership, which had been due to depart on Tuesday 14 June; what was the expected cost per asylum-seeker on the flight; and whether they are liable to pay the full cost, or any cost, of chartering the flight, even in the event that it did not leave the UK for any reason.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The costs of our broken asylum system are at a 20 year record high, currently costing the UK taxpayer over £1.5bn a year, with £4.7 million a day being spent on hotels alone. This cannot continue – and the partnership with Rwanda is a key part of our plans to reform the system and put an end to unsustainable costs which impact the taxpayer.

The Government's efforts to facilitate entirely legitimate and legal returns of people who have entered the UK illegally are too often frustrated by late challenges submitted hours before the flight. These claims are very often baseless and entirely without merit but are given full legal consideration which can lead to removal being rescheduled.

Costs for individual flights and legal services will vary based on a number of different factors and are regularly reviewed to ensure that best value for money is balanced against the need to remove those individuals with no right to remain in the UK.

We do not routinely disclose commercial or operational information relating to individual charter flights.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-20/hl1084>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers: Afghanistan

The following three questions all received the same answer

Refugees: Afghanistan

The Lord Bishop of St Albans [HL1198] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Afghan citizens have arrived in the UK under the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme in each month since 1 January.

The Lord Bishop of St Albans [HL1199] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Afghan citizens who arrived under the Afghans Citizens Resettlement Scheme since 1 January are still in temporary accommodation.

The Lord Bishop of St Albans [HL1200] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Afghan citizens who arrived under the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme since 1 January have been permitted to seek employment.

Reply from Lord Harrington of Watford: Following the evacuation from Afghanistan, work is underway to ensure information relating to all the individuals relocated is recorded on case working systems. Once this work concludes, statistics on the ACRS and ARAP will be included in future editions of the Immigration Statistics.

All those brought to the UK under the Afghanistan Citizen Resettlement Scheme and the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy have the right to work, access to education and healthcare and be able to apply for public funds.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-22/hl1198>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-22/hl1199>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-22/hl1200>

Information about the Afghan Relocations Assistance Policy, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy-information-and-guidance>

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

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

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers: Ukraine

Visas: Ukraine

Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat) [HL1204] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many visa applications from the (1) Ukraine Family Scheme, and (2) Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme, are yet to have a decision issued.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Information on the number of visas received and granted under the Ukraine Family Scheme and the Homes for Ukraine Scheme can be found in our published data on the GOV.UK webpage: Ukraine Family Scheme and Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme (Homes for Ukraine) visa data
Total Ukraine Scheme visa applications received: 168,600

Data is as of 28 June 2022 and comprised of:

Ukraine Family Scheme: 50,800

Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme: 117,800

Total Ukraine Scheme visas issued to people: 142,500

Data is as of 28 June 2022 and comprised of: Ukraine Family Scheme visas: 44,100

Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme visas: 98,400

Total arrivals of Ukraine Scheme visa-holders in the UK: 86,600

Data is as of 27 June 2022 and comprised of:

arrivals via Ukraine Family Scheme: 27,800

arrivals via Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme: 58,800

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-22/hl1204>

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 data referred to above can be read at

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

Refugees: Ukraine

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL1109] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that some Ukrainian refugee families have not been accommodated successfully on arrival in England; and what steps they are taking in response.

Reply from Lord Harrington of Watford: We always anticipated that there would be some cases where accommodation is not found to be suitable, and in those relatively rare cases, government and local authorities provide alternative options or accommodation. Further guidance can be accessed here:

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

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

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/recognised-providers-organisations-who-can-help-guests-from-ukraine-find-sponsors-in-the-uk>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-20/hl1109>

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

Refugees: Resettlement

The Marquess of Lothian (Conservative) [HL1238] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many refugees have been resettled under the UK Resettlement Scheme which was announced by the Home Secretary in June 2019; and how many refugees they expect to be resettled in the UK under its provisions (1) this year, and (2) for each of the next five years.

Reply from Lord Harrington of Watford: The Home Office publishes data on asylum and resettlement in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release'. Data on the number of refugees resettled through the UKRS is published in table Res_D01 of the asylum and resettlement detailed datas.

In the first quarter of this year, the Government has resettled 345 individuals through the UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS). The scheme began in January 2021 and as of April 2022, a total of 1,470 refugees have been resettled through the UKRS.

There is no stated target for the new global UKRS. The number of individuals resettled in a particular period will depend on a range of factors, including the flow of referrals from UNHCR in the field and local authorities' ability to provide suitable accommodation and care packages in the UK.

[Table – Res_D01–Asylum and Resettlement Data](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-23/hl1238>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Military Bases

Lord Newby (Liberal Democrat) [HL1091] To ask Her Majesty's Government what criteria they will use to assess whether an asylum seeker will be appropriate to accommodate in (1) the proposed reception centre at RAF Linton, and (2) any other large-scale reception centre.

Lord Newby (Liberal Democrat) [HL1092] To ask Her Majesty's Government how asylum seekers will be screened to assess for any vulnerabilities which may make it inappropriate for them to be accommodated in large-scale reception centres.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: To ensure the safety and wellbeing of those being considered for accommodation at the proposed site in Linton-on-Ouse or other reception centre, an assessment would take place by the Home Office prior to allocation using suitability criteria. The factors that are currently considered when assessing the suitability of individual asylum seekers for particular accommodation is set out in the policy guidance 'Allocation of Accommodation'. This policy guidance will be reviewed as part of any preparations to open the proposed asylum accommodation site in Linton-on-Ouse.

The welfare of all asylum seekers in our care is of the utmost importance. Were Linton-On-Ouse to be used to accommodate asylum seekers, we would employ a robust screening process which would involve an evidence-based assessment of suitability for entry to Linton-on-Ouse. Individual suitability would continue to be assessed at regular intervals.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-20/hl1091>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-20/hl1092>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Military Bases

Lord Newby (Liberal Democrat) [HL1093] To ask Her Majesty's Government what healthcare facilities will be provided at (1) RAF Linton, and (2) other large-scale reception centres for asylum seekers; and whether the centres will be reliant on local healthcare services.

Lord Newby (Liberal Democrat) [HL1094] To ask Her Majesty's Government what provision they will make for asylum seekers at (1) RAF Linton, and (2) other large-scale reception centres, to access legal advice; and what consideration has been given to shortages of legal aid and advice.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Healthcare

We continue to work closely with NHS England and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) in respect of the provision of health services at Linton-on-Ouse and the definition of health service provision and capacity is being led by the CCG. Experience and lessons learnt from Napier Barracks are being used by the CCG to identify health service provision requirements at the proposed development.

Healthcare at future reception centres will be developed using a similar approach.

Legal Advice

The site at Linton-on-Ouse is being designed to facilitate and support interaction between service users and their chosen legal advisors, whereby asylum seekers accommodated at Linton-on-Ouse will have the ability to access the support of legal representation, either face-to-face or remotely. Those with no legal representation will be sign-posted in seeking appropriate representation. The Home Office continues to liaise with colleagues in the Ministry of Justice and the Legal Aid

Agency to finalise the details of this provision at Linton-on-Ouse.

Access to legal advisors at future reception centres will be developed using a similar approach.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-20/hl1093>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-20/hl1094>

Asylum: Military Bases

Lord Newby (Liberal Democrat) [HL1095] To ask Her Majesty's Government what forms of contract they propose for the providers of services at (1) the RAF Linton reception centre for asylum seekers, and (2) other large scale reception centres.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The proposed accommodation site in Linton-on-Ouse would be a contract change notice under the pre-established Asylum Accommodation Support Contract (AASC) for the North West region with Serco, to run for a period of two years, after which we intend to run a competitive commercial procurement process for a service supplier on that site.

For further accommodation centres, the Home Office would use a competitive and fair commercial procurement process for the provision of design, build or renovation and operation of national accommodation centres, including the subsequent service provision including management, maintenance and related works and services.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-20/hl1095>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre

Baroness Armstrong of Hill Top (Labour) [HL1133] To ask Her Majesty's Government why those who have been approved as official visitors to Hassockfield Immigration Removal Centre in County Durham are required to sign the Official Secrets Act, and how should any concerns be raised and people be held accountable if visitors are unable to report anything publicly.

Baroness Armstrong of Hill Top (Labour) [HL1135] To ask Her Majesty's Government what access the residents of Hassockfield Immigration Removal Centre have to trauma-informed counselling.

Baroness Armstrong of Hill Top (Labour) [HL1136] To ask Her Majesty's Government what language support is available to those women in Hassockfield Immigration Removal Centre who do not have English as a first language.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Detention Centre Rules 2001 regulate how immigration removal centres are operated, with the overall purpose of the rules being to ensure a secure and humane environment. The safety, security and welfare of staff and detained individuals are of vital importance in the operation of the immigration removal estate, and this includes the strict regulation of those entering and working in immigration removal centres, under Rule 53 of the Detention Centre Rules.

Members of Independent Monitoring Boards, who are appointed by the Home Secretary under section 152 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, are required to sign the Official Secrets Act as part of the Home Office clearance process. The published Detention Services Order (DSO) 'Whistleblowing – The Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 (c.23)' sets out guidance for Home Office staff, our suppliers and visitors on whistleblowing procedures.

All those detained in immigration removal centres (IRCs), including Derwentside IRC, have access to independent interpreting services. As set out in DSO 06/2013 "Reception, Induction and Discharge", professional interpreting facilities must be used whenever language barriers are identified on reception, induction, or

discharge. New operational guidance, Detention Services Order 'Interpretation Services and use of Translation Devices' will be published shortly. This guidance will set out the provisions, including interpretation services and translation devices, available for individuals held in immigration detention and the circumstances in which these should be used.

All IRCs have dedicated health facilities run by doctors and nurses which are managed by the NHS, or appropriate providers, and deliver trauma informed mental health services, where appropriate. A range of trauma informed services are provided at Derwentside IRC, including trauma stabilisation, trauma informed cognitive behavioural therapy and services for sexual abuse crisis. The services available are supplemented by guidance and advice on trauma informed restorative practice being provided to onsite staff, from a specialist external organisation.

In addition to published guidance, staff at all centres are also given training and support to proactively identify and act upon indicators of vulnerability at the earliest opportunity and Detainee Custody Officers at Derwentside IRC receive trauma informed training as part of their induction and refresher training courses, to ensure effective and supportive engagement with residents. Welfare teams are onsite at every IRC to assist detained individuals in accessing support specific to their needs.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-21/hl1133>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-21/hl1135>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-21/hl1136>

The guidance referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/919659/Detention_Services_Order_03-2020_about_whistleblowing.pdf

and

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1019798/DSO_06_2013_Reception_Induction_and_Discharge_.pdf

UK Parliament Justice and Home Affairs Committee

Evidence session: The Life in the UK Test

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/10261/html/>

UK Parliament Home Affairs Committee

Evidence session: Migration and Asylum

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/10545/html/>

New Publications

Windrush Compensation Scheme data: May 2022

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1088535/WCS_Data_-_May_22.ods

Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme: Visa data by country, upper and lower tier local authority

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

Refugee mental health and the response to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/refugee-mental-health-and-the-response-to-the-humanitarian-crisis-in-ukraine/>

Ukrainian refugees in the UK: Access to public services and employment

<https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/ukrainian-refugees-in-the-uk-access-to-public-services-and-employment/>

News: Rwanda Refugee Policy

Rwanda: Fresh attempt to transport asylum seekers likely despite Boris Johnson's 'no major decisions' pledge

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/boris-johnson-rwanda-asylum-seekers-b2118778.html>

Government 'eroding public trust' in asylum system with Rwanda scheme

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/rwanda-mps-home-secretary-government-refugee-council-b2117090.html>

Home Office to reopen 'dangerous' immigration removal centre as part of Rwanda plan

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/campsfield-immigration-removal-oxfordshire-home-office-b2110905.html>

50 migrants set for next flight to Rwanda 'including children'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/50-migrants-set-for-next-flight-to-rwanda-including-children-9hjj6n63z>

Female trafficking survivor targeted for UK removal to Rwanda, says charity

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/jul/05/female-trafficking-survivor-targeted-for-uk-removal-to-rwanda-says-charity>

News: Channel Migrants

Priti Patel's plan to end Channel crossings in disarray as navy threatens to 'walk away'

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jul/09/priti-patels-plan-to-end-channel-crossings-in-disarray-as-navy-threatens-to-walk-away>

Britain and France set for new £50m deal to tackle Channel migrants

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/07/07/britain-france-set-new-50m-deal-tackle-channel-migrants/>

Smuggling operation sent thousands across Channel illegally in small boats

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/jul/06/smuggling-operation-sent-thousands-of-people-across-channel-illegally-in-small-boats>

People-smuggling network behind 10,000 Channel migrant crossings targeted with Europe-wide arrests

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/migrant-channel-crossings-europol-nca-arrests-b2116830.html>

Channel crossing gang made £13m from smuggling 10,000 migrants

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/07/06/channel-crossing-gang-made-13m-smuggling-10000-migrants/>

Police smash gang 'behind quarter of Channel migrant arrivals in UK'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/07/05/police-smash-gang-behind-quarter-channel-migrant-arrivals-uk/>

International raid brings down £15m human traffic ring

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/channel-boat-gangs-hit-by-massive-police-raids-in-germany-france-britain-and-netherlands-xptxrd78n>

Almost 150 more people arrive in UK after crossing Channel in small boats

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/channel-priti-patel-uk-government-ministry-of-defence-government-b2119788.html>

News: Ukraine

Public support for Ukrainian refugees already waning in UK, poll shows

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/ukraine-refugees-uk-support-war-b2119095.html>

Row over UK child visas as Ukrainian violinist's three-month wait continues

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/jul/10/row-over-uk-child-visas-as-ukrainian-violinists-three-month-wait-continues>

News: Other Immigration and Asylum

Home Office 'undermining immigration watchdog's legitimacy' by failing to implement recommendations

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/priti-patel-immigration-watchdog-recommendations-b2113253.html>

Visa delays may remain for months, Priti Patel admits

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/visa-delays-could-remain-for-months-priti-patel-admits-sdvv8b35f>

Home Office to face legal challenge over post-Brexit rights of EU citizens in UK

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2022/jun/30/home-office-to-face-legal-challenge-over-post-brexit-rights-of-eu-citizens-in-uk>

Government admits controversial digitalisation of rent and work checks risk comparison with Windrush

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/windrush-home-office-rent-work-b2113758.html>

Hongkongers who fled to UK criticise lack of mental health support

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/jul/05/hongkongers-fled-to-uk-criticise-lack-mental-health-support>

Child asylum seekers forced to hand over social media passwords in age dispute cases
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-seekers-children-social-media-court-b2113865.html>

Priti Patel plans 'league table' of nations for deportation deals
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/priti-patel-plans-league-table-of-nations-for-deportation-deals-q3gch0g0q>

Linton-on-Ouse: Asylum site villagers plagued by far right
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/linton-on-ouse-asylum-site-villagers-plagued-by-far-right-z0mnhvfv>

Scotland's first refugee councillor Roza Salih on Iraq hell... and escaping to Glasgow
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/opinion/20263499.scotlands-first-refugee-councillor-roza-salih-iraq-hell-escaping-glasgow/>

'I don't want to live in a society where people are kidnapped from their homes': the neighbours fighting immigration raids
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/jul/07/i-dont-want-to-live-in-a-society-where-people-are-kidnapped-from-their-homes-the-neighbours-fighting-immigration-raids>

TOP

Community Relations

News

Of course Britain is ready for an ethnic minority Prime Minister
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/07/09/course-britain-ready-ethnic-minority-prime-minister/>

Belief that Britain is racist 'has taken hold' at councils, Don't Divide Us says
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/belief-that-britain-is-racist-has-taken-hold-at-councils-dont-divide-us-says-bfbf2wwsk>

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Public Appointments: Equality

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [28442] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what steps he is taking to help ensure that people appointed to public bodies reflect the diversity of the UK.

Reply from Michael Ellis: The Government is committed to making sure that these important opportunities are available to talented people across the UK. Work to support this includes a number of virtual and face-to-face events held across the UK and the phased rollout of a new digital system that will make it easier for anyone to apply for these roles. The Cabinet Office also publishes annual data on public

appointments diversity. The latest figures, published on 21st October 2021, show that compared to the previous year there were more women, people from ethnic minority backgrounds, and people from outside London and the South East in these vital roles.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-30/28442>

The data referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-appointments-data-report-202021/public-appointments-data-report-202021-html>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Luke Pollard (Labour Co-op) [28478] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what the ethnicity intake target is for the (a) UK Regular Forces and (b) FR20 Volunteer Reserve by 2030.

Armed Forces: Ethnic Groups

Luke Pollard (Labour Co-op) [28479] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what the ethnicity target is for the number of (a) officers, (b) Lieutenant Colonels and above and (c) Majors and below in the Regular Forces by 2030.

Reply from Leo Docherty: Whilst Defence does not work to specific intake targets for ethnicity, we are committed to achieving a more diverse workforce and have embarked on a range of activities to increase the number of ethnic minority and female recruits into the Armed Forces. Whilst the representation of ethnic minority personnel joining the Armed Forces is improving, we recognise that progress in terms of the representative rates of our people - both military and civilian - has been too slow. It is clear there is still much further to go and we are working hard to fulfil the key objective in our 2018-2030 Diversity and Inclusion Strategy to eliminate discrimination and improve diversity throughout Defence:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/defence-diversity-and-inclusion-strategy-2018-to-2030-a-force-for-inclusion>

Section 2.2.4, Supporting Commitments for Goal 2, sets out Defence's ambition to improve our ethnic diversity.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-30/28478>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-30/28479>

Cricket: Ethnic Groups

Navendu Mishra (Labour) [26040] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what estimate her Department has made of the number of ethnic minority cricket officials in (a) England and (b) Wales.

Reply from Nigel Huddleston: The national governing body for cricket, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) assesses trends in representation in the sport. This includes the level of representation of African, Caribbean and Asian coaches, umpires and match officials. The Department does not have these figures. The ECB have acknowledged there remains an under-representation of Black or South Asian heritage officials despite an increase in the proportion of umpires from ethnically diverse backgrounds on the National Panel last year. Following an independent Officiating Review in 2021, the ECB have committed to four ambitions focusing on equity of opportunity, inspiring the next generation, developing a diverse network that reflects society and promoting a culture of inclusivity and fairness.

We welcome the ECB's promise to take meaningful action, including the creation of a diverse Officiating Oversight Panel, which met in October 2021, to challenge and question all decisions relating to selection, appointments, practices and

processes across the department. They have also developed a targeted coaching and mentoring programme that focuses on supporting aspiring umpires from diverse backgrounds.

The updated Code for Sports Governance requires sports organisations that receive significant public funding, including the ECB, to agree a diversity and inclusion action plan with Sport England and/or UK Sport, which will be published and updated annually. The Government and our arm's length bodies will continue to monitor and liaise with the cricket authorities on improving diversity and inclusion at all levels.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-27/26040>

The Code for Sports Governance, referred to above, can be read at

<https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2021-12/A%20Code%20for%20Sports%20Governance..pdf?VersionId=Q0JD6BVXB.VqwbGEacG0zWsNPiWcGDHh>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Football: Equality

Lord Pendry (Non-affiliated) [HL1096] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the White Paper on the future of football governance, which is due to be published this summer, will include a detailed strategy on how to improve equality and diversity in football.

Reply from Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: Her Majesty's Government's response to the recommendations made by the Independent Fan-Led Review of Football Governance accepted the need for action on equality, diversity and inclusion in football. The response set out that Her Majesty's Government supports clubs' commitment to improving these, focusing on improving outcomes while remaining flexible on plans for action.

We will publish a White Paper in the summer which will set out the details on the implementation of our football governance reforms. This includes proposals on the approach to take forward plans for football clubs. We are working to deliver these measures which will bring sustainable reform to ensure that all fans continue to enjoy our national game.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-20/hl1096>

News

New test to tackle 'staggering' prostate cancer rates in Black men being developed

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/genetic-test-prostate-cancer-black-men-b2115492.html>

'We didn't feel it was for us': the UK's minority ethnic walking groups tearing down barriers

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2022/jul/06/uk-minority-ethnic-walking-groups-tearing-down-barriers>

Time to restore the 'forgotten right'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/time-to-restore-the-forgotten-right-q2s83tvsg>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Motion

Foysoil Choudhury (Labour) [S6M-05309] An End to Hatred and Intolerance – That the Parliament notes the rally organised by the Muslim Council of Scotland outside the Scottish Parliament on 30 June 2022 calling for an end to Islamophobia; further notes what it sees as the importance of freedom of expression but considers that it should be exercised in such a way that does not foment hatred or acts of violence; believes that minority communities should feel confident in being able to report incidents of abuse and hate crime to the authorities with the knowledge that they will be taken seriously; calls on the Scottish Government to bring forward its new hate crime strategy as a matter of urgency; further calls on world leaders and prominent politicians to exercise restraint and responsibility in their language, given the platforms that they hold and the consequences that their language can have, and expresses its hope that diverse communities in an ever more interconnected world will approach each other with an attitude of tolerance, respect and mutual understanding.

Supported by: Pam Duncan-Glancy, Monica Lennon, Audrey Nicoll, Paul Sweeney

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-05309>

UK Parliament Debate

Macpherson Report: Twenty-two Years On

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-07-07/debates/C28BB36B-3631-4001-8D29-96683531ACFA/MacphersonReportTwenty-TwoYearsOn>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Antisemitism

John Howell (Conservative) [25801] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what assessment he has made of the implications for his policies of the debate that took place at the Council of Europe in the week beginning 20 June 2022 entitled Preventing and combating antisemitism in Europe.

Reply from Kemi Badenoch: Antisemitism has no place in our society, which is why we became the first country to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism and continue to encourage other bodies to do so. We also continue to support the independent adviser on Antisemitism, Lord Mann, to provide expert advice to Government on contemporary Antisemitism, and how best to tackle it.

Online abuse of any kind, including antisemitic abuse, is unacceptable. We want the internet to be a safe space for all users - we are clear that what is unacceptable offline should be unacceptable online. A new regulatory framework will mean that companies will be held to account for tackling illegal activity and content, such as hate crime, harassment and cyber-stalking, as well as that which may not be illegal but is nonetheless highly damaging to individuals and society.

This Government is providing £14 million this year, and has provided over £65 million to date, for the Protective Security Grant to provide protective security measures at all Jewish state, free and independent schools, colleges, nurseries, and some other Jewish community sites, including a number of synagogues.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-27/25801>

The transcript of the debate referred to above can be read at <https://pace.coe.int/en/verbatim/2022-06-22/am/en>

The Resolution adopted following the debate can be read at <https://pace.coe.int/pdf/dbece4493c71cf009fa013fab2d7b5c8c7c5c218fcedd22bd8594f297b5ee074/resolution%202447.pdf>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Cricket: Racial Discrimination

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL1122] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take, alongside sporting bodies and associations, to tackle racism in cricket.

Reply from Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: Racism has no place in cricket, sport, or wider society. The Government is committed to working with our arm's-length bodies, sporting bodies and sector partners to ensure sport does all it can to tackle racism and all forms of discrimination.

We welcome the action the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) is taking to tackle racism in cricket. We will continue to monitor its actions, including the implementation of the ECB's plan for diversity and inclusion. [A recent update](#) indicates that the ECB is continuing to deliver on its commitments on improved diversity in governance, the development of an anti-discrimination unit, and its review of crowd management alongside the First Class Counties and the Sports Grounds Safety Authority. The Independent Commission for Equity in Cricket, established by the ECB in March 2021, is also currently in the process of reviewing the evidence to form an independent report with suggested recommendations on how to tackle discrimination and achieve equity in cricket.

Funding from our arm's-length body for grassroots sport, Sport England, is explicitly linked to the development and implementation of robust diversity and inclusion policies and plans. This has been made clear to the ECB, which has responded positively and constructively.

We will continue to liaise with the cricket authorities on tackling racism and hold them to account on this.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-20/hl1122>

News

Man goes on trial accused of distributing 'racist and antisemitic' podcasts

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/ian-wright-swanssea-crown-court-pembrokeshire-jews-adolf-hitler-b2112021.html>

Growing 'culture of extremism' among UK and European police forces, report warns

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/jul/10/growing-culture-of-extremism-among-uk-and-european-police-forces-report-warns>

How Covid exposed the racial segregation rife in the workplace

<https://www.runnymedetrust.org/blog/how-covid-exposed-the-racial-segregation-rife-in-the-workplace>

Campaign to shape Afro hair discrimination in schools

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/afro-hair-discrimination-survey-school-guidance-b2116051.html>

Mother of Richard Okorogheye rejects Met Police's apology for its 'unacceptable' efforts

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/07/06/mother-richard-okorogheye-rejects-met-police-apology-handling/>

Channel 4 orders racism inquiry over 'toxic' culture

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/channel-4-orders-racism-inquiry-over-toxic-culture-37nzvww85>

Police to investigate allegations of racism in crowd during England vs India Test match

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/cricket/2022/07/04/alex-lees-zak-crawley-epitomise-bazball-historic-opening-stand/>

Undercover spotters to be deployed at Edgbaston in bid to combat racist abuse

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/sport/20262846.undercover-spotters-deployed-edgbaston-bid-combat-racist-abuse/>

Undercover spotters to be used at Edgbaston in effort to root out racist abuse

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/cricket/2022/07/07/undercover-spotters-used-edgbaston-effort-root-racist-abuse/>

England v India: Undercover 'spotters' to tackle Edgbaston racism

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/england-v-india-undercover-spotters-to-tackle-edgbaston-racism-hrbgqvkg>

Fans found guilty of racist abuse at Edgbaston face bans from cricket grounds

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/cricket/edgbaston-police-england-and-wales-cricket-board-azeem-rafiq-ecb-b2116137.html>

TOP

Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Twitter

Nicola Sturgeon: #EidMubarak to everyone celebrating in Scotland and across the world

<https://twitter.com/NicolaSturgeon/status/1545682969469272064>

TOP

Other UK Parliament and Government

Twitter

Downing Street: Wishing Muslims here in the UK and around the world a very happy and blessed Eid al-Adha.

<https://twitter.com/10DowningStreet/status/1545679508417781760>

New Publications

Prime Minister Boris Johnson's [resignation]statement in Downing Street: 7 July 2022

includes video

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-minister-boris-johnsons-statement-in-downing-street-7-july-2022>

Scottish independence referendum: legal issues

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9104/CBP-9104.pdf>

News

Boris Johnson resigns: It is painful to leave Downing Street, says PM

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-62076257>

Boris Johnson resignation: What happens now?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-62068930>

Government resignations: Who resigned, who stayed?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-62058278>

TOP

Other News

Police Scotland applicants fall 50% in one year

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-62040344>

Stand-off between council and Gypsy travellers in Selkirk

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-south-scotland-62067875>

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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>

UK Parliament

Asylum Seekers (Accommodation Eviction Procedures) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3257>

Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3263>

Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3304>

Bill of Rights Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3227>

Housing Standards (Refugees and Asylum Seekers) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3264>

Human Trafficking (Child Protection) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3248>

Human Trafficking (Sentencing) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3249>

Illegal Immigration (Offences) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3282>

**** Online Safety Bill**

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

Notice of amendments

https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-03/0121/amend/onlinesafety_rm_rep_0705.pdf

Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee Report: Amending the Online Safety Bill

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/22894/documents/168085/default/>

Written statement: Foreign Interference Offence: Online Safety Bill

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-07-06/debates/22070624000011/ForeignInterferenceOffenceOnlineSafetyBill>

Written statement: Online Safety Bill: Update for Report Stage

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-07-07/debates/22070768000011/OnlineSafetyBillUpdateForReportStage>

Written statement: Online Safety Bill: Scope

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-07-07/debates/22070768000012/OnlineSafetyBillScope>

**** Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill**

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

Second Reading, House of Lords

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-07-08/debates/EC434AF3-EBEF-4634-B6C9-17C257C28A46/Refugees\(FamilyReunion\)Bill\(HL\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-07-08/debates/EC434AF3-EBEF-4634-B6C9-17C257C28A46/Refugees(FamilyReunion)Bill(HL))

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

Public Participation at the Scottish Parliament (closing date 22 July 2022)

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

Scotland's Census (closing date 24 August 2022)

https://yourviews.parliament.scot/ceeac/scotlandscensus/consult_view/

Equality Evidence Strategy 2023-25 (closing date 23 September 2023)

<https://tinyurl.com/mpunv6cw>

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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

National Voluntary Youth Organisations Support Fund

Closing date for applications: 22 July 2022

Scottish Government funding to support workforce development within the voluntary youth work sector. In addition to the main fund, funding is also available for specialist equalities focused voluntary youth work organisations. For information and to apply see

<https://www.youthlinkscotland.org/funding/national-voluntary-youth-organisations-support-fund/>

CashBack for Communities

Closing date for applications: 12 August 2022

Scottish Government funding focusing on young people at risk of entering the criminal justice system and the communities most affected by crime. Funded projects will support young people most at risk of being involved in antisocial behaviour offending or reoffending; provide person-centred support for young people, parents and families impacted by Adverse Childhood Experiences and trauma; support young people to improve their health, mental health and wellbeing; and support people, families and communities most affected by crime. For information and to apply see

<https://cashbackforcommunities.org/phase6/>

**** Multicultural Celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe**

Closing date for applications: 31 July 2022

BEMIS Scotland, Scotland on Tour, and Edinburgh Fringe Festival will award ten grants of £5,000 to provide an opportunity for Scotland's diverse multicultural organisations to deliver bespoke fringe festival events in their own communities to mark the 75th anniversary of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. For information and to apply see

<https://bemis.org.uk/fringe/>

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**** this week!**

Dandelion Festival

continues until September 2022 (Scotland-wide – various locations)

Dandelion, a creative celebration of growing, music, and community, is holding a wide range of free events across the country throughout the summer. For information see bemis.org.uk/dandelion-events and <https://dandelion.scot/whats-on/>

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. This course will 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

Refugees: Asylum and Resettlement

6 and 7 September 2022 (online, 11.30–3.30 both days)

27 and 28 October 2022 (online, 11.30–3.30 both days)

Scottish Refugee Council 2-day course drawing on the experiences of people seeking asylum and people who have been resettled in the UK, to examine why people might need to flee their own country, how they seek asylum in the UK, and what opportunities exist for rebuilding their lives here in the UK. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/jd2tey6w>

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 interactions and relationships. Participants will consider ways to become more aware of our readings as they form, and more cautious about their accuracy, and 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 bi-lingual support worker, and who to use when, and recognise when it is inappropriate to use a family member, a friend or a community member to interpret. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/puykxxnu>

Supporting Refugee Integration

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

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

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

Introduction to Working with Religious Diversity

26 October 2022 (online, 10.30–12.30)

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

Working with Unaccompanied Refugee Children

10 and 11 November 2022 (online, 11.30–3.30 both days)

Scottish Refugee Council 2-day course to enable participants to recognise the legal difference between children seeking asylum, children who have been trafficked, refugees and migrants, appreciate the journeys that children have made to be in the UK including being trafficked, understand the Age Assessment process, identify the rights and entitlements of separated children, and become familiar with the statutory responsibilities of the Scottish Guardianship Service. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/3fedr5xn>

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

6 December 2022 (online, 1.30–3.30)

Interfaith Scotland short course exploring the language used to describe groups of people, particularly in relation to Protected Characteristics like race, disability, religion and belief. 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/>*



*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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