



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.

Please send information for inclusion in MEMO to MEMO@scojec.org and [click here](#) to be added to the mailing list.

The Scottish Parliament is in recess until 24 October 2022.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Rural Visa Pilot

Natalie Don (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on the proposals for the rural visa pilot. (S6O-01413)

Reply from the Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine (Neil Gray): Last week, the Scottish Government's rural visa pilot proposal gained cross-party support in the Scottish Parliament. The proposal has been issued to the United Kingdom Government and we await its response.

We call on the UK Government to accept the recommendation of its own Migration

Advisory Committee to deliver a migration pilot for rural areas. The proposal that was endorsed by this Parliament was co-developed by the Scottish Government, local authorities, rural employers, academic experts and partners. Our ask of the UK Government is clear—for it to work with the Scottish Government, local authorities and employers to establish migration pilots to meet the needs of Scotland's rural and island communities.

Natalie Don: In August, the National Farmers Union estimated that more than £60 million-worth of food had been wasted because of workforce shortages. Farmers are doubly feeling the effect of Tory policy through not having the workforce available to help them, and now farmers, like most in the country, are suffering from inflationary pressures that have been exacerbated by Brexit, which the Tories forced on Scotland. Does the minister share my view that, unless the UK Government considers Scotland to be beneath its contempt, the very least that it can do is urgently agree to proposals for a rural visa pilot?

Reply from Neil Gray: Yes—I do. It is notable that the chief executive and the president of NFU Scotland have publicly called for the rural visa pilot proposal to be implemented. Scott Walker stated that it must be delivered “in tandem with UK Govt expanding number of seasonal workers visas and a review of shortage occupation list.”

The Conservatives are the only party in this Parliament yet to support the proposal. Donald Cameron asked for more time to consider it in detail, and I know that he and his colleagues will look to engage constructively. I hope that they can do that and that the Parliament can speak with one voice on this critical issue that our rural and island communities face.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13924&i=126176#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

The following five questions all received the same answer

Ukrainian Refugees: Accommodation

Stephen Kerr (Conservative) [S6W-10787] To ask the Scottish Government how many nights' accommodation have been booked for Ukrainian refugees under the Super Sponsor scheme with Trivago.co.uk since 1 March 2022, and for any such bookings, what the (a) lowest, (b) highest and (c) average cost per night is, and what the (i) shortest, (ii) longest and (iii) average length of a stay in a hotel is.

Stephen Kerr (Conservative) [S6W-10788] To ask the Scottish Government how many nights' accommodation have been booked for Ukrainian refugees under the Super Sponsor scheme with LateRooms.com since 1 March 2022, and for any such bookings, what the (a) lowest, (b) highest and (c) average cost per night is, and what the (i) shortest, (ii) longest and (iii) average length of a stay in a hotel is.

Stephen Kerr (Conservative) [S6W-10789] To ask the Scottish Government how many nights' accommodation have been booked for Ukrainian refugees under the Super Sponsor scheme with Expedia.co.uk since 1 March 2022, and for any such bookings, what the (a) lowest, (b) highest and (c) average cost per night is, and what the (i) shortest, (ii) longest and (iii) average length of a stay in a hotel is.

Stephen Kerr (Conservative) [S6W-10791] To ask the Scottish Government how many nights' accommodation have been booked for Ukrainian refugees under the Super Sponsor scheme with ebooking.com since 1 March 2022, and for any such bookings, what the (a) lowest, (b) highest and (c) average cost per night is, and what the (i) shortest, (ii) longest and (iii) average length of a stay in a hotel is.

Stephen Kerr (Conservative) [S6W-10792] To ask the Scottish Government how many nights' accommodation have been booked for Ukrainian refugees under the Super

Sponsor scheme with Booking.com since 1 March 2022, and for any such bookings, what the (a) lowest, (b) highest and (c) average cost per night is, and what the (i) shortest, (ii) longest and (iii) average length of a stay in a hotel is.

Reply from Neil Gray: The Scottish Government's absolute priority is ensuring the wellbeing and safety of displaced people from Ukraine. Our aim is to reduce overall hotel stay lengths and for people to be settled in accommodation in communities as soon as possible and for as long as they wish to stay.

The [contract notice](#) with Corporate Travel Management (CTM) (North) Ltd, was published on 09 August 2022. The contract is the primary route used to source and provide travel-related services for displaced people from Ukraine including accommodation in hotels and on the M/S Victoria I and M/S Ambition.

The full contract has a value of up to £100 million with a start date of 8 July 2022 and an end date of 12 December 2024.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-10787>

and

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-10788>

and

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-10789>

and

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-10791>

and

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-10792>

Ukraine: Super Sponsor Scheme

Miles Briggs (Conservative) [S6W11180] To ask the Scottish Government when it expects to complete (a) property and (b) disclosure checks for properties and individuals hosting people through its Super Sponsor scheme.

Reply from Neil Gray: We are working closely with local authorities and COSLA to speed up the matching process and increase the numbers of displaced people moving into host accommodation. We are asking councils to ensure all private offers in their area have been subject to disclosure checks before being paired with a displaced person. We are also ensuring accommodation checks are carried out so that properties being offered are appropriate for the matched guests. And of course, new hosts continually come into the process.

The Scottish Government has committed £11.2 million in funding to increase capacity of resettlement teams, support refurbishment of properties, and enhance the pace of host checks.

The Scottish Government has published statistics on the number of displaced people being supported in welcome accommodation, progress in conducting checks on volunteer hosts, and the performance of the national matching service: [Key points - Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme in Scotland: statistics](#). This information will be published on a regular basis.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-11180>

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

Asylum: Rwanda

Stephen Kinnock (Labour) [60212] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many payments were made to the Government of Rwanda in addition to the initial funding pledged as part of the Economic Transformation and Integration Fund in the last 12 months; and what was the (a) total value and (b) purpose of such payments.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The UK has provided Rwanda with an initial investment of £120m as part of the Migration and Economic Development Partnership. The UK is also funding the processing costs for each person relocated, such as caseworkers, legal advice, translators, accommodation, food, healthcare, and for those granted protection, a comprehensive integration package to help them put down roots and start a new life. The UK has also made a £20m upfront payment to the Government of Rwanda to support initial set up costs.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-10/60212>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer: Channel Migrants

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Owen Thompson (SNP) [54608] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how people arriving in the UK by small boat and who are then taken into custody by the Home Office are able to raise concerns about the whereabouts of their possessions.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: We operate a comprehensive complaints system for detained individuals who feel that they have not been treated in accordance with our standards, which includes raising concerns about the whereabouts of their possessions. Detained individuals may raise a concern about the whereabouts of their possessions with on-site staff at Manston, or through the Home Office's published complaints process.

We take complaints made by detained individuals very seriously, ensuring that they are investigated thoroughly and in a timely manner. Complaints that relate to detained individuals are investigated in accordance with published guidance; Detention Service Order 03/2015 handling complaints, which is available on the Gov.uk website:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/handling-complaints-in-immigration-removal-centres

Detained individuals who submit complaints are not disadvantaged in any way in relation to their treatment while in detention, or in relation to the outcome of their immigration case. Detained persons who are not satisfied with the way in which their complaint has been handled may ask for it to be reviewed by the Independent Prisons and Probation Ombudsman.

All other complaints (outside of circumstances when a person is detained) are governed by the published Complaints Management Guidance, which includes complaints to UKVI, HMPO, IE and Border Force, which is available on the Gov.uk website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/complaints-management-guidance-version-7>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-22/54608>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Afghanistan

Refugees: Afghanistan

Caroline Lucas (Green) [54503] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 22 September 2022 to Question 49607 on Afghanistan: Refugees, whether the Government's policy of keeping the number of places for each of the the ACRS pathway 3 cohorts includes the option of increasing the number of resettlement places to beyond 1500.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) will provide up to 20,000 women, children, and others at risk with a safe and legal route to resettle in the UK over the coming years.

In August 2021, 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 5,000 people helped to enter since the evacuation.

Under the first year of pathway 3 of the ACRS, we will offer resettlement places to up to 1,500 people from the three identified cohorts (British Council and Gardaworld contractors and Chevening alumni). This includes the principal and their eligible family members.

The capacity of the UK to resettle people is not unlimited and difficult decisions have to be made on who will be prioritised for resettlement.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-22/54503>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-08/49607>

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

Afghanistan: Refugees

Stephen Kinnock (Labour) [53416] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, how many Expressions of Interest in resettlement to the UK under pathway three of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme were submitted to his Department by Afghan nationals prior to 15 August 2022; and what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of such Expressions of Interest which were submitted by individuals who meet the current eligibility criteria for resettlement under that pathway.

Stephen Kinnock (Labour) [53417] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what information his Department holds on the number and proportion of Expressions of Interest in resettlement to the UK under pathway three of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme, received by his Department prior to 15 August 2022, which were submitted by Afghan nationals who were (a) British Council contractors; (b) GardaWorld contractors and (c) Chevening alumni.

Reply from Leo Docherty: Under the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) Pathway 3, the FCDO received over 11,400 Expressions of Interest (EOIs) before the window to submit EOIs closed on 15 August 2022. We are in the process of assessing their eligibility and have started notifying individuals of the outcome. We are not yet in a position to provide numbers for each of the 3 cohorts who meet the eligibility criteria. In the first year, we will offer up to 1500 places to eligible at-risk British Council contractors, GardaWorld contractors, and Chevening alumni, including their eligible family members.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-21/53416>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-21/53417>

Refugees: Afghanistan

Caroline Lucas (Green) [59601] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many referrals from the UNHCR to the Afghan Citizens Referral Scheme under Pathway 2 have been (a) received, (b) refused and (c) approved; and how many have people have arrived in the UK via this route.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Under Pathway 2, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) refer refugees who have fled Afghanistan to the scheme, based on their assessments of protection needs and vulnerabilities. We are pleased to have now welcomed the first arrivals to the UK under ACRS Pathway 2, and we will continue to welcome many more people as we receive further UNHCR referrals.

Resettlement figures for the ACRS will be published in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, which will allow progress to be monitored transparently.

The Home Office will include Afghan resettlement statistics in its [quarterly Immigration Statistics publications](#) in due course.

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Resettlement figures for the ACRS will be published in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, which will allow progress to be monitored transparently.

The Home Office will include Afghan resettlement statistics in its [quarterly Immigration Statistics publications](#) in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-10/59601>

Information about Pathway 2, referred to above, can be read at

<https://help.unhcr.org/uk/afghanistan/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Refugees: Afghanistan

Chris Law (SNP) [54549] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what support her Department provides to former serving Afghan military personnel who are still in Afghanistan with resettlement in the UK.

Chris Law (SNP) [54550] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what support her Department provides to people considered at-risk in Afghanistan who have family naturalised in the UK with resettlement in the UK.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: We recognise that the situation in Afghanistan is complex and presents significant challenges, including securing safe passage to another country for those who are eligible for resettlement in the UK.

The Government welcomes its responsibility to those who have worked for, and alongside, British forces in conflict zones. They worked in dangerous and challenging situations, and we would not have been able to carry out our work there without them.

Any current or former staff directly employed by, or for, the UK Government and assessed to be at serious risk of threat to life are eligible to apply for the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP). To support eligible people in Afghanistan in applying for the ARAP, we have made information available at:

[Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy: further information on eligibility criteria, offer details and how to apply](#)

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 17 of refugees granted protection in the UK, to join them here, if they formed part of the

family unit before the sponsor fled their country. To support people in Afghanistan, with family who have been granted protection in the UK, to understand their options, we have provided information on family reunion online, at: [Family reunion](#)

Those who are not eligible for protection under our resettlement schemes or family reunion policy, will need to apply to come to the UK under our existing economic or family migration rules, which can be viewed at:

<https://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration>

To bolster the support we'll offer to those eligible for relocation or family reunion in the UK, we intend to establish a diplomatic presence in Afghanistan as soon as the security and political situation in the country allows.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-22/54549>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-22/54550>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer: Ukraine

Homes for Ukraine Scheme

Janet Daby (Labour) [6897] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to reduce the time taken to approve applications to the Homes for Ukraine Scheme.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: We have received thousands of applications submitted to one of the fastest and largest visa programmes in UK history. Information on the number of visas granted under these schemes can be found on the GOV.UK webpage: Ukraine Schemes: application data (www.gov.uk).

We are committed to ensuring our operational teams have the resources they need to run an efficient and effective system, and we actively monitor workflows to ensure sufficient resources are in place to meet demand, including from pressures relating to Ukraine.

The Home Office and the commercial provider operating our Visa Application Centres have surged staff across Europe to meet demand and UKVI staff in the UK are working seven days a week to process applications.

As part of the Home Office's commitment to make it easier for applicants to apply to our schemes, since 15 March, Ukrainians with valid passports no longer need to go to a Visa Application Centre to give their biometrics before they come to the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-23/6897>

Information about the Ukraine Schemes referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-information-for-ukrainians-in-the-uk-british-nationals-and-their-family-members/immigration-information-for-ukrainians-in-the-uk-british-nationals-and-their-family-members>

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

Immigration Controls

Patricia Gibson (SNP) [58957] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the impact points-based immigration system on availability of labour in (a) manufacturing, (b) transport and (c) other sectors; and if she will take steps to help tackle these skills shortages.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Visa routes under the points-based immigration system allow firms to attract skilled workers across a range of sectors including

manufacturing and transport.

However, labour market issues should not be resolved through Government intervention alone. Immigration must be considered alongside investment in, and development of, the UK's domestic labour force.

An early insights evaluation of the Skilled Worker route was published on 15 July 2022: [Skilled Worker visa: early insights evaluation](#)

The Home Office is continuing to develop plans to evaluate immigration routes introduced under the points-based immigration system.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-10/58957>

Migrant Workers

Stephen Kinnock (Labour) [59778] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what specific steps her Department is taking to support people with Section 3C leave who are required to provide documentary proof of their immigration status as a condition of an offer of employment.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: If an individual is unable to present evidence of their right to work because of an outstanding, in-time Home Office application, employers are advised to contact the Home Office's Employer Checking Service (ECS). The ECS will confirm from Home Office records if the applicant has lawful status as a result of the outstanding application and issue a Positive Verification Notice (PVN), providing the employer with a statutory excuse against liability for a civil penalty, enabling them to hire or extend the person's contract. This is an established process that employers will be familiar with.

Published guidance clearly stipulates that employers should provide individuals with every opportunity to demonstrate their right to work and must not discriminate against those with an outstanding, in-time application:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/illegal-working-penalties-codes-of-practice-for-employers>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/right-to-work-checks-code-of-practice-on-avoiding-discrimination>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-10/59778>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration Controls

Stephen Timms (Labour) [53259] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the next Statement of Changes to the Immigration Rules will respond to the decision in R (AB & Ors) v SSHD [2022] EWHC 1524 (Admin); and if she will make a statement.

Migrants: Children

Stephen Timms (Labour) [53262] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the judgment of the High Court in R (AB and Another) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2022] EWHC 1524, in particular paragraph 54 of that judgement, whether she plans to take steps to ensure that the position of a British child is examined and their best interests ascertained before the condition of no recourse to public funds is imposed on their parent's grant of limited leave to remain; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The Home Office has considered the judgment of the High Court in R (AB and Another) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2022] EWHC 1524. We are in the process of making changes to the online guidance to comply with the judgement and it will be updated in Autumn 2022.

Additionally, Gen.1.11A of Appendix FM to the Immigration Rules was laid in Parliament on 15 March 2022 and came into force on 20 June 2022. This states that certain types of leave will normally be granted subject to a condition of no

recourse to public funds, unless the applicant has provided the decision-maker with evidence that:

(a) the applicant is destitute as defined in section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, or is at risk of imminent destitution

(b) there are reasons relating to the welfare of a relevant child which outweigh the considerations for imposing or maintaining the condition (treating the best interests of a relevant child as a primary consideration).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-21/53259>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-21/53262>

The judgement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2022/1524.html>

The Immigration Rules referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-fm-family-members>

British National (Overseas): Visas

Stewart Malcolm McDonald (SNP) [54562] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the British National (Overseas) (BNO) visa extension for individuals from Hong Kong born after 1997 with at least one parent with BNO status will apply to young people whose parent is deceased.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: On 24 February 2022, the Government announced in a Written Ministerial Statement a change to the Hong Kong British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) route which will allow adult children of BN(O) status holders born on or after the 1 July 1997, who are currently unable to apply for the BN(O) route independently to do so. The statement is available at: [Written statements - Written questions, answers and statements](#).

Under the new provisions, children born on, or after, 1 July 1997, whose deceased parent held BN(O) status, will be able to qualify for the route, providing they meet all other requirements for the route. Applicants will need to show evidence of the BN(O) status of at least one parent.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-22/54562>

Information about the BN(O) visa, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/british-national-overseas-bno-visa>

Visas: British National (Overseas)

Vicky Foxcroft (Labour) [59923] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether it is still her Department's policy that eligibility for a British National (Overseas) visa will be extended to people born to at least one British parent in Hong Kong after 1997 in October 2022.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: On 24 February 2022, the Government announced in a Written Ministerial Statement a change to the Hong Kong British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) route, which will allow adult children of BN(O) status holders born on or after the 1 July 1997, who are currently unable to apply for the BN(O) route independently to do so. The statement is available at: [Written statements - Written questions, answers and statements](#)

The change is currently scheduled to come into effect this Autumn, at which point further information will be published on GOV.UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-10/59923>

Information about the BN(O) visa, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/british-national-overseas-bno-visa>

The following five questions all received the same answer

Visas: Graduates

Stephen Flynn (SNP) [53508] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of extending the amount of time people holding Graduate visas can stay in the UK after successfully completing a course in the UK.

Stephen Flynn (SNP) [53509] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to engage with UK universities on the effectiveness of the Graduate visa in reducing skills shortages in affected sectors.

Stephen Flynn (SNP) [53510] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of removing application fees for the Graduate visa.

Stephen Flynn (SNP) [53511] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of allowing Graduate visa applicants to pay their healthcare surcharge on an annual basis, rather than upfront.

Stephen Flynn (SNP) [53512] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential impact of removing application fees and healthcare surcharges from the Graduate visa on the likelihood of additional graduates remaining in the UK for work after completing their studies.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The Graduate route was introduced in 2021 to help new graduates who have successfully completed their eligible study in eligible UK universities get a head-start on their career by allowing these graduates to work or look for work for up to three years immediately following their graduation.

A full impact assessment of the route was published in March 2021 and can be found on gov.uk at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statement-of-changes-to-the-immigration-rules-hc-1248-4-march-2021>

The Home Office has no plans to remove the application fee or to extend the length of stay for the Graduate route.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-21/53508>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-21/53509>

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<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-21/53510>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-21/53511>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-21/53512>

Information about the Graduate visa, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/graduate-visa>

Migrants: Children

Stephen Timms (Labour) [53260] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the impact of the no recourse to public funds policy on British children whose parents have no recourse to public funds.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Temporary migrants are generally required to support themselves and any accompanying family members, including children, in the UK without recourse to public funds. This is a well-established principle that protects taxpayer-funded public services from becoming overburdened.

Where a child is born in the UK, in order to be a British citizen, at least one parent must be a British citizen or be settled in the UK (such as holding indefinite leave to remain) at the time of the child's birth. This means that British children will generally have at least one parent who is eligible to claim public funds.

Where British children's parents do have a NRPF condition there are, nonetheless, strong and important safeguards in place to ensure they can receive support where they are destitute, at risk of destitution, or have community care needs, including issues relating to human rights or the wellbeing of children.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-21/53260>

Asylum: Applications

Scott Benton (Conservative) [54680] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum claims her Department has yet to determine and in which year those claims were initially logged with the Home Office.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: There are 99,419 asylum applications awaiting an initial decision as at 30 June 2022.

The Home Office publishes data on asylum in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on asylum applications awaiting a decision can be found 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 workbooks. Please note the data show a snapshot as at the last day of each quarter, rather than the number of asylum application awaiting a decision over the entire quarter. The latest data relates to as at 30 June 2022. Data as at 30 September 2022 will be published on 24 November 2022. Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the '[Research and statistics calendar](#)'.

The Home Office are unable to state when these claims were initially lodged; however, published transparency data provides a detailed breakdown of initial asylum claims that have been outstanding for less than 3 months, 3-6 months, 6-12 months and 12months + and can be found at Asy_02 published transparency data: [Migration transparency data](#).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-22/54680>

Asylum: Temporary Accommodation

Stephen Farry (Alliance) [60188] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether any unaccompanied minors seeking asylum are living in contingency accommodation sites.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The UK is experiencing an unprecedented increase in the number of people making life-threatening journeys to cross the Channel. These boats are often carrying unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) and this has placed unprecedented pressure on the National Transfer Scheme. Out of necessity and with the children's best interests in mind, we have arranged for them to be accommodated on an emergency and temporary basis in hotels, whilst placements with local authorities are being vigorously pursued.

Hotel accommodation is only ever a temporary means to accommodate the increased number of UASC arriving, not a long-term solution. The Home Office is using five hotels to accommodate young people temporarily. Each hotel has a team of support workers throughout the day and night to ensure children are supported, safe and their daily care needs are met. Additional support is provided on site by teams of social workers and nurses. The Home Office have sole occupancy of all hotels where UASC are temporarily accommodated.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-10/60188>

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

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Rwanda

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL2344] To ask His Majesty's Government what plans they have to publish the annual plan due to be agreed jointly by the Monitoring Committee and Joint Committee for the Migration and Economic Development Partnership with Rwanda.

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL2345] To ask His Majesty's Government what plans they have to publish the quarterly written reports produced for the Joint Committee by the Monitoring Committee for the Migration and Economic Development Partnership with Rwanda.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: The Monitoring Committee will agree an annual, resourced monitoring plan with the Joint Committee. The terms of reference and membership of the Monitoring Committee for the Migration and Economic Development Partnership have been published on Gov.uk.

As set out in its terms of reference, the Monitoring Committee will produce a summary report for publication once a year. More details on this will be set out in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-26/hl2344>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-26/hl2345>

The Terms of Reference and Membership referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/monitoring-committee-migration-and-economic-development-partnership/monitoring-committee-terms-of-reference-for>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers: Afghanistan

Refugees: Afghanistan

Lord Goddard of Stockport (Liberal Democrat) [HL2352] To ask His Majesty's Government how much money has been reimbursed for payments to people volunteering accommodation to Afghan refugees to date; and what liabilities have been incurred in this respect.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: Afghan families are provided with safe and clean accommodation in hotels, which are procured through Crown Commercial and contracting partners, whilst officials work to source appropriate settled accommodation for them. Those temporarily living in a hotel have access to healthcare, education, any essential items they need, as well as employment opportunities or Universal Credit.

Whilst we cannot comment on individual contracts, please be assured that the Home Office works hard to secure contracts that offer the best value for money, whilst providing an appropriate level of support to those under our care.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-26/hl2352>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Refugees: Housing

The Lord Bishop of Chelmsford [HL2332] To ask His Majesty's Government what measures they are taking to ensure (1) Afghan, and (2) Ukrainian, refugees are moved from temporary accommodation into more stable, long-term housing arrangements.

Refugees: Afghanistan

The Lord Bishop of Chelmsford [HL2333] To ask His Majesty's Government what

measures they are taking to assist Afghan refugees currently housed in poor-quality temporary accommodation.

Reply from Baroness Scott of Bybrook: The Government is working with councils to find families settled homes as quickly as possible. It is right that we take time to ensure that families are provided with suitable homes that support their integration and access to education and employment.

In addition to the funding local authorities receive for integration support costs, a £25.5million Housing Costs fund is available to local authorities to help meet the costs of housing. Funding provided to support integration can also be used towards costs needed to enable families to secure accommodation, including deposits and upfront rent, enabling families to fund their own accommodation.

We are working with Rightmove to identify potential properties available in the private rented sector. This provides councils with additional information to source appropriate properties. Our improved Housing Portal also allows property owners and organisations to submit offers of housing for people who have arrived from Afghanistan.

We are also working with councils to make it easier for Afghan families who are currently in bridging hotels to find and secure their own accommodation. We have formalised this as the 'Find Your Own Accommodation' pathway, and we have developed a supplementary training package to enable councils to support individuals and families throughout this process. We have also worked with the Ministry of Defence to make use of Service Family Accommodation and we are working directly with developers and educational bodies to consider alternative accommodation options.

We are working closely with local councils and voluntary and community sector partners to monitor the housing landscape for Ukrainian households, develop our strategy and actively explore options to find suitable long-term accommodation for those who are likely to stay in the UK beyond the initial six months. We have provided a tariff of £10,500 per arrival to councils to enable them to provide support to individuals and families. This is un-ringfenced, which allows councils to use the funding as best suits the local area, including measures to support guests to access the private rental market.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-26/hl2332>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-26/hl2333>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers: Ukraine

Homes for Ukraine Scheme

The Lord Bishop of Chelmsford [HL2328] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the longer-term sustainability of the Homes for Ukraine Scheme.

Reply from Baroness Scott of Bybrook: We are working closely with local councils and voluntary and community sector partners to monitor the housing landscape for Ukrainian households, develop our strategy and actively explore options to find suitable long-term accommodation for those who are likely to stay in the UK beyond the initial six months. We are also supporting Ukrainians that want to stay in sponsorships for a longer period, but with a different host by enabling a process of rematching and will continue to develop our bank of potential sponsors.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-26/hl2328>

Information about the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-information-for-ukrainians-in-the-uk-british-nationals-and-their-family-members/immigration-information-for-ukrainians-in-the-uk-british-nationals-and-their-family-members>

Refugees: Ukraine

The Lord Bishop of Chelmsford [HL2329] To ask His Majesty's Government what plans they have to increase support to Ukrainian refugees and their host families, in particular to address increases in the cost of living.

Reply from Baroness Scott of Bybrook: We recognise the growing pressure on family finances, and the challenges that households are facing with the rising costs of living. We are working with local authorities and sponsors to support them to continue hosting.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-26/hl2329>

Refugees: Ukraine

The Lord Bishop of Chelmsford [HL2330] To ask His Majesty's Government what plans they have to provide housing solutions to Ukrainian refugees in the UK to enable them to increase their independence.

Reply from Baroness Scott of Bybrook: We are working closely with local councils to understand where pressures may be and are actively exploring options to find suitable long-term accommodation for the Ukrainians who are likely to stay in this country beyond the households staying in the country beyond their initial sponsorship period. The updated guidance for the Homes for Ukraine guests, hosts and councils setting out all the support options available to them can be accessed (attached) here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-guidance-for-councils#four-to-6-months-after-guests-have-moved-to-your-area>

[Guidance for Council](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-26/hl2330>

Refugees: Ukraine

The Lord Bishop of Chelmsford [HL2331] To ask His Majesty's Government what measures they are taking to assist Ukrainian refugees in the UK who have been declared homeless.

Reply from Baroness Scott of Bybrook: Our priority was to get Ukrainians to safety as quickly as possible. As with any scheme of this size we anticipated relationship breakdowns which is why we put plans in place to address these risks. Local councils have a responsibility to support Ukrainians who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, including providing temporary accommodation where required to ensure no family is without a roof over their head.

Local councils' statutory homelessness duties will apply in instances of sponsorship breakdown if the Ukrainian household does not have alternative suitable accommodation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-26/hl2331>

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

Asylum: Detainees

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL2343] To ask His Majesty's Government how many

asylum applicants have been detained this year as a result of arriving in the UK via a third country.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: Individuals are detained only for the purpose of establishing identity or where there is a realistic prospect of removal within a reasonable timescale. Individuals are not detained simply because they have arrived via a third country. All decisions to detain are taken on the basis of a careful consideration of the known facts of the individual case, including all factors arguing both for and against detention

As the method or route of arrival is not a reason to detain an individual, the requested information cannot be accurately extracted from our internal systems. To provide this information would require a manual trawl of case records and to do so would incur disproportionate cost

The Home Office does publish statistics on people in detention in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release', which can be found on Gov.uk. The number of people in detention at the end of each year is broken down by asylum and non-asylum in table Det_01.

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

Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-26/hl2343>

The statistics referred to above can be read at

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

Asylum: Detainees

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL2346] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether asylum seeker detention centres will be able to provide a medical report within the seven-day appeals period that starts as soon as a notice of intent for removal is given to an asylum seeker.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: All immigration removal centres (IRCs) have dedicated health facilities run by doctors and nurses which are managed by the NHS or appropriate providers. All detained individuals entering an IRC receive a healthcare screening within 2 hours of their arrival and are offered an appointment with a doctor within 24 hours. In addition, residents have full access to the 24-hour on-site healthcare team during their stay in the IRC.

Rule 35 of the Detention Centre Rules 2001 requires General Practitioners (GP) working in IRCs to report to the Home Office where they (i) have concerns that an individual is likely to be to be injuriously affected by continued detention or any conditions of detention, (ii) suspect that an individual has suicidal intentions or (iii) have concerns that an individual may have been a victim of torture.

All reports raised under Detention Centre Rule 35 are now considered by a single Home Office team, independent from detained casework commands. The team considers the individual circumstances of the case in line with the Adults at Risk in Detention Policy. Following due consideration, a decision will be made and relayed to the individual, the relevant IRC, and the detained casework team as to whether or not continuing detention remains appropriate. Contingency plans are in place to manage any increase in Rule 35 requests from residents, which includes scheduling extra GP appointments where necessary and proactively striving to reduce waiting times. Work is underway in collaboration with healthcare providers

across the immigration removal estate to develop and refine training for on-site healthcare teams on the importance and correct use of Rule 35 of the Detention Centre Rules 2001.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-26/hl2346>

Justice and Home Affairs Committee

Evidence session: Family migration

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/10910/html/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motions

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [442] 10-year route to settlement – That this House believes migrants benefit this country in many ways and deserve to be treated fairly and compassionately during their route to settlement in the UK; further believes that a 10-year route to settlement is too long and forces migrants on this route into unnecessary harm for an extended period of time; acknowledges the research in Migrant Voice's report: Destroying Hopes, Dreams, and Lives: How the UK visa costs and process impact migrants' lives which details how families are pushed into poverty, mental health problems, and exploitative work as well as huge amounts of debt while on the 10-year route; recognises that due to long wait times from Home Office processing applications and renewals the 10-year route can last much longer than 10 years; and calls on the Government to abolish the failed 10-year route to settlement and place everyone on this route onto a shorter one in order to reduce the unnecessary pressure put on migrants in the UK.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/60138>

The report referred to above can be read at

https://www.migrantvoice.org/img/upload/Visa_fees_report_-_digital_final_to_upload.pdf

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [443] Visa fees and migrant's health and wellbeing – That this House believes migrants who come to this country should not have to pay extortionate sums of money to apply for or to renew their visa; is concerned by the report by Migrant Voice, Destroying Hopes, Dreams, and Lives: How the UK visa costs and process impact migrants' lives, which outlines the effects excessive visa fees have on the lives of migrants and assesses how these cause mental health issues, large levels of debt and in some instances, food poverty; is outraged that that Home Office profits from these fees, with the cost of processing a visa only accounting for between 10-15% of the fee charged; believes this is wrong and that the Home Office should not profit off of migrants, particularly when doing so negatively impacts the health and wellbeing of migrants; further believes that migrants and their family should not have to pay tens of thousands of pounds during their route to settlement; calls on the Home Office to reduce the cost of visa applications to the administrative cost of visas only; and further calls on the Home Office to remove the charge entirely for applicants under the age of 18.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/60139>

The report referred to above can be read at

https://www.migrantvoice.org/img/upload/Visa_fees_report_-_digital_final_to_upload.pdf

Press Releases

Providing homes for displaced people from Ukraine

<https://www.gov.scot/news/providing-homes-for-displaced-people-from-ukraine/>

Displaced Ukrainians in Scotland – six months on

<https://spice-spotlight.scot/2022/10/14/displaced-ukrainians-in-scotland-six-months-on/>

New Publications

Briefing: Safe and legal routes to the UK for people seeking protection

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9630/CBP-9630.pdf>

First-tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) Reform: interim process evaluation

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1109001/First-tier Tribunal Immigration and Asylum Chamber Reform interim evaluation final report.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1109001/First-tier_Tribunal_Immigration_and_Asylum_Chamber_Reform_interim_evaluation_final_report.pdf)

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

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

Ukraine Family Scheme, Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme (Homes for Ukraine) and Ukraine Extension Scheme visa data

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

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>

Know your rights guide: A guide to help migrants understand their rights and how to assert them

<https://migrantsrights.org.uk/resources/know-your-rights/>

News: Rwanda Refugee Policy

Rwanda three-week removals plan revealed

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-63248214>

Suella Braverman orders inquiry into government work by lawyer who blocked Rwanda flight

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/10/15/suella-braverman-orders-inquiry-government-work-lawyer-who-blocked/>

Suella Braverman says it is her ‘dream’ and ‘obsession’ to see a flight take asylum seekers to Rwanda

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/suella-braverman-rwanda-dream-obsession-b2195296.html>

Home Office apologises over threat to send pregnant rape survivor to Rwanda

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/oct/14/home-office-apologises-over-threat-to-send-pregnant-survivor-to-rwanda>

Most Britons believe Rwanda asylum deal will not work, polling shows

<https://www.independent.co.uk/independentpremium/uk-news/rwanda-deal-cost-effectiveness-polling-b2200492.html>

News: Channel Migrants

Suella Braverman's 'blanket ban' on Channel migrants claiming asylum would be barbaric and unlawful, charities say

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/suella-braverman-channel-asylum-man-b2195108.html>

Channel migrants facing asylum ban

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/channel-migrants-facing-asylum-ban-hqxdfvr8w>

Suella Braverman: No migrants who cross Channel will be able to claim asylum in the UK

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/10/03/suella-braverman-time-has-come-take-european-court-interfering/>

Channel smugglers pack 53 migrants to a boat

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/channel-smugglers-pack-53-migrants-to-a-boat-6crcqzwin>

Concerns of threats and violence at 'overcrowded' Channel migrant processing centre

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/10/06/concerns-threats-violence-overcrowded-channel-migrant-processing/>

Tackle inhumane crowding at migrant centres, ministers urged

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/ministers-urged-to-tackle-inhumane-overcrowding-at-migrant-centres-7dsdnptlm>

Refugees arriving in UK on boats asked to find own accommodation

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/oct/05/refugees-arriving-in-uk-on-boats-asked-to-find-own-accommodation>

Police taking photos and fingerprints of lone children arriving in UK

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/oct/03/police-taking-photos-fingerprints-lone-children-arriving-uk>

Channel migrants: 116 children missing from UK hotels

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-63231470>

Channel migrants: Man arrested after people smuggling probe

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-63169292>

News: Ukraine

New crisis looms for Ukrainians in the UK

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-63177289>

Scotland 'not ready for Ukraine refugee pledge'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/scotland-not-ready-for-ukraine-refugee-pledge-wlztcdbjm>

'It is great here in Scotland but our soul is at home in Ukraine'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-63090526>

News: Other Immigration and Asylum

Braverman asylum plan may breach refugee convention, says UNHCR

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/oct/05/suella-braverman-asylum-plan-may-breach-refugee-convention-unhcr>

Suella Braverman revives Tory pledge to cut net migration to 'tens of thousands'

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2022/oct/04/suella-braverman-revives-tory-pledge-to-cut-net-migration-to-tens-of-thousands>

Suella Braverman: I want migration cut to tens of thousands

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/suella-braverman-i-want-migration-cut-to-tens-of-thousands-36sqxj2st>

Suella Braverman says she will resist 'open borders' migration plan with India

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/10/05/suella-braverman-says-will-resist-open-borders-migration-plan/>

Home Office taken to court over 'pre-settled status' rules for EU citizens

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2022/oct/14/brexit-home-office-high-court-pre-settled-status-rules-for-eu-citizens>

Home Office reclassifies modern slavery as illegal immigration issue

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/oct/13/home-office-reclassifies-modern-slavery-as-immigration-issue>

Over 1,300 asylum seekers can claim compensation for phones seized by UK

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/oct/14/asylum-seekers-claim-compensation-phones-seized-uk>

Migrant students in Scotland win equal right to free tuition in landmark case

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2022/oct/13/migrant-students-in-scotland-win-equal-right-to-free-tuition-in-landmark-case>

State must pay for migrant's Scottish university fees after court ruling

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/state-must-pay-for-migrants-scottish-university-fees-after-court-ruling-7pj3q55n7>

Bus drivers near Bristol accused of refusing to pick up asylum seekers

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/oct/03/bus-drivers-near-bristol-accused-of-refusing-to-pick-up-asylum-seekers>

TOP

Community Relations

New Publication

BBC Scotland: Being Jewish in Scotland

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001d2w0>

News

Home secretary pledges to crack down on ‘unexamined drive’ towards multicultural Britain

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/world/home-secretary-pledges-to-crack-down-on-unexamined-drive-towards-multicultural-britain-3867377>

White students banned from Black History Month events at Westminster University

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/10/07/white-students-banned-black-history-month-events-westminster/>

Being Jewish in Scotland BBC documentary explores community life

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/homenews/23032254.jewish-scotland-bbc-documentary-explores-community-life/>

Britain’s hidden Muslim heritage – and where to find it

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/britains-hidden-muslim-heritage-and-where-to-find-it-rw68lnw9f>

TOP

Equality

Scottish Parliament Motion

Pam Gosal (Conservative) [S6M-06186] Recognising Black History Month – That the Parliament welcomes that Black History Month takes place in October 2022; notes that the theme is Time for Change: Action, Not Words; understands that it is possible to acknowledge the past and learn from it, but to improve the outlook for the future, action, not words, is needed; welcomes that Black History Month gives everyone the opportunity to share, celebrate, and understand the impact of black heritage and culture, and agrees that it is important to recognise the contributions and achievements of those with African or Caribbean heritage and to learn about the effects of racism and how to challenge negative stereotypes.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-06186>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Equal Pay: Ethnic Groups

Anneliese Dodds (Labour Co-op) [60033] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what the gender pay gap was by ethnicity in the most recent period for which data is available.

Reply from Katherine Fletcher: ONS last published data on the average (median) hourly pay differences between men and women in different ethnic groups in 2019

from the Annual Population Survey.

Pay differences between men and women vary by ethnic groups. While in most ethnic groups men earn more than women on average per hour, that is not the case in the Arab, Bangladeshi or black Caribbean ethnic groups.

Where men earn more than women, the largest pay difference is for people from the Indian ethnic group, where men earn £4.10 more per hour on average. This is higher than the difference for the white British ethnic group, where men earn £2.57 more per hour.

Median hourly pay, 17 ethnic groups by sex, England and Wales, 2019

	Female	Male	Difference between Male and Female pay (male minus female)
Arab	£12.49	£12.10	-£0.39
Bangladeshi	£10.60	£10.41	-£0.19
Black Caribbean	£12.09	£12.03	-£0.06
Other black / African / Caribbean background	£11.53	£12.28	£0.75
White Irish	£16.93	£17.80	£0.87
Other ethnic group	£11.11	£12.03	£0.92
Other Asian background	£11.06	£12.16	£1.10
Other white (including Gypsy Traveller)	£10.95	£12.07	£1.12
Other mixed / multiple ethnic background	£12.07	£13.28	£1.21
Black African	£10.92	£12.13	£1.21
Pakistani	£10.10	£11.43	£1.33
White and Asian	£12.50	£14.43	£1.93
White British	£11.21	£13.78	£2.57
White and black African	£10.13	£12.82	£2.69
White and black Caribbean	£9.71	£12.76	£3.05
Chinese	£14.16	£18.05	£3.89
Indian	£12.39	£16.49	£4.10

Source: Office for National Statistics, Annual Population Survey 2019

The original data referred to in this answer and further information is available on the ONS website at the following location:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/articles/ethnicitypaygapsingreatbritain/2019#pay-gaps-by-sex>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-10/60033>

Health: Equality

Andrew Gwynne (Labour) [49099] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps she is taking to tackle racial health disparities. .

Reply from Caroline Johnson: There is a range of action taking place across the system to tackle ethnic health disparities. This includes work to address disparities in local maternity systems. Last year, NHS England published equity and equality guidance for local maternity systems, which focuses on actions to reduce disparities for women and babies from black, Asian and mixed ethnic groups and those living in the most deprived areas and included an investment of £6.8 million to support the implementation of local action plans.

Each Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) is required to write an integrated care

strategy by December 2022 that sets out how the assessed local needs can be met through the Integrated Care Board, partner local authorities or NHS England. This must include clear plans to reduce disparities in health access, experience and outcomes. The Department's regional teams are working with ICPs to ensure that plans are comprehensive, ambitious and are driven by the evidence on local need. Good health is driven by a range of factors, from income to housing and wider environment, as well as health behaviours, wider risk factors and access to high quality services. Some groups are at greater risk of poorer health outcomes than others, with disparities by ethnicity, socio-economic status, and geography. The department continues to improve the evidence base on the drivers of poor health and disparities, including why some groups fare worse than others and the policy solutions to address it.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-07/49099>

Diseases: Ethnic Groups

Gareth Thomas (Labour) [48206] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if he will make an assessment of the prevalence of (a) diabetes, (b) heart disease, (c) hypertension, (d) high cholesterol, (e) obesity, (f) cancer, (g) poor eye health and (h) mental illness levels among people from the South Asian community in England; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Caroline Johnson: 'Health Survey England Additional Analyses, Ethnicity and Health, 2011-2019 Experimental statistics', published in June 2022, assesses the prevalence of commonly reported longstanding conditions, hypertension, diabetes and adult obesity. This data is available at the following link: <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/health-survey-england-additional-analyses/ethnicity-and-health-2011-2019-experimental-statistics#data-sets>

There are no recent estimates of raised cholesterol prevalence in South Asian ethnic groups in England. Data on the prevalence of child obesity by ethnic group are available from the National Child Measurement Programme. The latest data for 2021/21 show that prevalence of obesity in children aged four to five years old was below the national average for Indian children and above the national average for Bangladeshi and Pakistani children. In children aged 10 to 11 years old in 2021/20 prevalence of obesity was above the national average for Indian, Bangladeshi and Pakistani children.

Cancer prevalence counts the number of people living with and beyond a cancer diagnosis at a fixed point in time. Data from National Cancer Registration Dataset shows that in 2019, 47,761 people in the South Asian community were diagnosed with cancer between 1 January 2010 and 31 December 2019 and were alive on 31 December 2019.

There is no national dataset that provides information on the prevalence of the main eye conditions. Estimates are derived from population modelling and information from the Certification of Vision Impairment (CVI) register. While the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities is assessing the ethnicity data collected as part of the CVI register, no analysis has yet been completed.

The Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey of 2014 provides prevalence estimates of some mental health conditions by broad ethnic group. The prevalence rates, taking account of age, in Asian/Asian British adults in England were 17.9% for common mental disorders; 5.8% screened positive for post-traumatic stress disorder; 0.9% for psychotic disorder in the last year; and 1.4% screened positive for bi-polar disorder. For all conditions except bi-polar disorder, although the prevalence is higher in the Asian group than the White British group it is not possible to say whether this is a statistically significant difference.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-06/48206>

Information about the National Child Measurement Programme, referred to above, can be read at <https://digital.nhs.uk/services/national-child-measurement-programme/>

Information about the National Cancer Registration Dataset, referred to above, can be read at <https://digital.nhs.uk/ndrs/data/data-sets/rcrd/rcrd-data-quality-document/rapid-cancer-registration-data-set-rcrd-data-quality-document>

The Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey, referred to above, can be read at <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/adult-psychiatric-morbidity-survey/adult-psychiatric-morbidity-survey-survey-of-mental-health-and-wellbeing-england-2014>

New Publication

Black and Minority Ethnic Child Poverty in Scotland: A Review of the Local Child Poverty Action Reports 2020/21

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/615c1bee105b4f55a98326d0/t/63402dd9c5d4a10c2e7d6134/1665150614233/LCPARs+Report+2020-21.pdf>

News

Gender pay gap wider for minority ethnic women, Labour finds

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/oct/12/gender-pay-gap-widest-for-ethnic-minority-women-labour-finds>

Cancer-affected women offered skin-tone soft prosthetics

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-63115407>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Oral Answer

Education (Anti-racism)

Kaukab Stewart (SNP): What is the Scottish Government's response to reports that some ethnic minority teaching professionals have experienced racist online abuse after sharing their plans for more diversity in Scottish education at the Scottish learning festival? Will the First Minister join me in condemning the racist abuse faced by St Albert's primary school in her constituency and the racist graffiti that has been found on the campus of the University of Glasgow in my constituency? Will she further agree with me that anti-racist education is important in ensuring a more diverse and inclusive Scotland?

Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon): I whole-heartedly agree with that and I am sure that the whole chamber whole-heartedly agrees with that. No one should ever experience racism and we all have a duty to stand firmly in solidarity with anyone who does and against those who are racist. The vile racist abuse directed at teaching professionals, staff and children on the back of the Scottish learning festival should be condemned and I condemn it.

I make a particular comment, given how close to my heart the experience of pupils at St Albert's primary in my constituency of Pollokshields is. I know St Albert's very well. It is a fantastic school with a fantastic headteacher, fantastic teachers and

outstanding young people. I was privileged to visit the school on Friday, as I have been many times in the past. Racism sickens me, but there is nothing that turns my stomach more than the idea of adults—whether from Scotland or anywhere else in the world—who can look at a photograph of beautiful, clever children and see only the colour of their skin. It is despicable, it is disgusting, it has no place in Scotland and I hope that all of us will unite in utter condemnation of vile racists everywhere.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13927&i=126228#ScotParlOR>

Press Release

PACE calls for action to combat Islamophobia

<https://pace.coe.int/en/news/8843/pace-calls-for-action-to-combat-islamophobia>

New Publication

Deaths of racialised people in prison 2015 – 2022: Challenging racism and discrimination

<https://www.inquest.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=b7f9a0d0-0f48-48a2-b995-c8870f5a5e6a>

News

Hate crimes recorded by police more than a quarter

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-63157965>

Muslim and Jewish communities targeted in 65% of religious hate crimes in 2021/22

<https://tellmamauk.org/muslim-and-jewish-communities-targeted-in-65-of-religious-hate-crimes-in-2021-22/>

Racist hate crimes pass 100,000 in England and Wales for first time

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/oct/06/racist-hate-crimes-pass-100000-in-england-and-wales-for-first-time>

Record rise in hate crimes may not be 'genuine', says Home Office

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/10/06/record-rise-hate-crimes-may-not-genuine-says-home-office/>

Insider threat warning as rising number of far-right extremists flagged in Britain's armed forces

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/army-nazis-far-right-extremism-b2191499.html>

Armed forces grapple with more neo-Nazis in the ranks

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/armed-forces-grapple-with-more-neo-nazis-in-the-ranks-c3z3t6rj2>

Nicola Sturgeon condemns racist abuse of St Albert pupils

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/23027528.nicola-sturgeon-condemns-racist-abuse-st-albert-pupils/>

Nicola Sturgeon condemns ‘vile racists’ after school suffers online abuse
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/nicola-sturgeon-glasgow-first-minister-scotland-patrick-harvie-b2190728.html>

Racist abuse of pupils after Nicola Sturgeon visit prompts plea to Twitter
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/racist-abuse-of-pupils-after-nicola-sturgeon-visit-prompts-plea-to-twitter-h0d6r0j78>

Anti-racism training in Wales to boost ethnically diverse teachers
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-63246709>

Met chief pledges to root out racists from police after further scandal
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/oct/06/met-chief-pledges-to-root-out-racists-from-police-after-further-scandal>

‘Sack sexist and racist officers’ Met police report rules
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/oct/16/sack-sexist-and-racist-officers-met-police-report-rules>

Home Office suspends ex-Met officer over racist WhatsApp chat
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-63147341>

Black deaths in UK prisons are among most violent and neglectful, damning report finds
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/black-prison-deaths-violent-b2201312.html>

A third of Black women missed school photo day due to race-based hair discrimination
<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/women/black-women-hair-discrimination-dove-b2197659.html>

Royal Court Theatre bombarded with anti-Semitic ‘abuse’ over Jewish play
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/10/08/royal-court-theatre-bombarded-anti-semitic-abuse-jewish-play/>

‘Miss Hitler’ beauty queen to be released from prison early
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/miss-hitler-beauty-queen-released-prison-b2201805.html>

Minding Our Business: Supporting Black and minority ethnic well-being in the face of structural racism
<https://www.crer.org.uk/blog/minding-our-business>

Sorry folks, ‘banter’ is just a veil for verbal bullying
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/columnists/2022/10/05/sorry-folks-banter-just-veil-verbal-bullying/>

Cricket Scotland: Racism probe begins at Holyrood
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/23017439.cricket-scotland-racism-probe-begins-holyrood/>

Cricket Scotland chief ‘determined’ to solve racism issues within sport
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/cricket-scotland-health-scotland-msps-b2195077.html>

Azeem Rafiq formally reprimanded by Cricket Discipline Committee for anti-Semitic slurs
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/cricket/2022/10/10/azeem-rafiq-formally-reprimanded-cricket-discipline-committee/>

Former England cricketer 'repeatedly used racist language in front of county team-mate'
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/former-england-cricketer-repeatedly-used-racist-language-in-front-of-county-team-mate-pb609j7gc>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Website: Help during the cost of living crisis

Scottish Government information about cost of living crisis support including:

- Energy and Bills
- Benefits and Income
- Children and Families
- Debt and Money
- Health and Wellbeing
- Older or Disabled People

In addition, your local council might be able to provide urgent help with money, food, or fuel – contact your council for information.

Scottish Government Freedom of Information Release

The number of schools of different faiths in Scotland
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/foi-202200317073/>

New Publication

Conversion practices – LGBT+ people of colour and minority ethnic faith experiences: research report
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/lgbt-poc-minority-ethnic-faith-experiences-conversion-practices/>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

New Publication

Scottish independence referendum: legal issues
<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9104/CBP-9104.pdf>

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Other New Publication

Poverty in Scotland 2022

<https://www.jrf.org.uk/file/59294/download?token=0ApebtQy&filetype=full-report>

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Other News

Coronation on 6 May for King Charles and Camilla, Queen Consort

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-63172425>

Sickle cell: Black donors urged to give blood to help treat patients

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-63155204>

Campaign for Black blood donors launched amid NHS shortage

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/aclt-charity-blood-donations-nhs-b2202859.html>

'Speaking about the 22 babies I lost is seen as taboo'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-manchester-63141283>

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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>

Equality and Human Rights Committee: Stage 1 Report

<https://digitalpublications.parliament.scot/Committees/Report/EHRCJ/2022/10/6/d81c72da-4070-4355-aacb-cc58d9c1bc08#Introduction>

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) (No.2) 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_0907.pdf

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

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

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

Race & Inclusion in Art Education (closing date 31 October 2022)

https://assets.website-files.com/61488e50132da098d2dd729b/62c6bf3339659acfccfb61c2_Visualise-Race%20and%20Inclusion%20in%20Art%20Education.pdf

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Job Opportunities

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

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

** *this week!*

Black History Month

All month to 31 October 2022 (Scotland-wide)

Black History Month raises awareness of Black history and present-day racism. This includes highlighting the histories and legacies of empire, colonialism and slavery that continue to shape Scottish society. For information and a full programme of events see

<https://tinyurl.com/2h7pwceu>

** *this week!*

Journey of the Mind

Until 23 October 2022 in Glasgow

Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum exhibition to explore the texts of the Sikh teachers and how, through these, the journey to understand the mind begins. For information see

<https://www.withoutshapewithoutform.com/journey-of-the-mind-glasgow-1>

National Hate Crime Strategy Conference

25 October 2022 (Glasgow, 9.30–1.00)

BEMIS launch of their Hate Crime Strategy Consultation Programme, with the Minister for Older People and Equalities, Christina McKelvie MSP, and speakers from a wide range of stakeholder organisations. For information see <https://bemis.org.uk/event/national-hate-crime-strategy-conference/>

**** COVID-19 & support for migrant & minority ethnic communities in Scotland**

25 October 2022 in Edinburgh (10.00–1.00)

University of Glasgow project presentation and discussion: Addressing the needs of Scotland's migrant and minority ethnic communities under covid-19: lessons for the future. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2p8amuep>

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

**** Refugees Welcome: Challenging Hate Crime**

27 October 2022 (Online, 6.30–8.30)

Interfaith Glasgow and WSREC event to explore hate crime and prejudice as experienced by people from refugee backgrounds, with a particular focus on race and religion, including discussion of what hate crime is, how to report it, and rights and protections. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/3ewhcn5w>

Lifecycle of a charity – the trustee journey

9 November 2022 (online, 1.00–2.00)

SCVO webinar looking at what excellence looks like for a trustee, and what key skills you need to have, including how to develop and build those skills and what you need to know legally and practically. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/222y9myy>

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>

Scottish Interfaith Week

13–20 November 2022 (Scotland-wide)

Interfaith Scotland community-led festival to celebrate religious and cultural diversity. The theme this year is Storytelling, to tie in with Scotland's Year Of Stories. For information, and to see the full calendar of events, see <https://scottishinterfaithweek.org/>

Working with Interpreters

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>

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

Lifecycle of a charity - when is the right time to wind up?

7 December 2022 (online, 1.00–2.00)

SCVO webinar looking at how to recognise when it's the right time to wind up and dissolve a charity. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2kvfvda7>

Supporting Refugee Integration

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

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

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Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services
<https://www.volunteerscotland.net/for-organisations/disclosure-services/>

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

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



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



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

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