



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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Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Gender-specific Risk and Safety Planning (Ukrainian Refugees)

Ruth Maguire (SNP) [SO6-01937] To ask the Scottish Government what gender-specific risk and safety planning is carried out to support Ukrainian refugees at the point of their arrival in Scotland, as well as in the medium and long term.

Reply from the Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine (Neil Gray): Ruth Maguire can be assured that ensuring the wellbeing and safety of Ukrainian people through early identification of risk and need is central to our response, as it has been from the very outset of our programme.

Our welcome hubs conduct trauma-informed initial assessments to identify any

immediate welfare or protection concerns. That includes gender-specific risks. On-going support is tailored on the basis of the needs of the individual and is delivered locally. The Scottish Government is working with various safeguarding partners to inform our approach. That is linked to equally safe, which is our strategy to prevent and eradicate violence against women and girls.

Ruth Maguire: We know that, once trafficking happens, it is very difficult to recover victims of trafficking. Last week, the cross-party group on human trafficking heard from experts that the risks that increase people's vulnerability include insecure accommodation, relationship breakdown and complacency from authorities. In saying that, it was putting a challenge to all of us. Does the minister agree not only that there is the opportunity to be awake to the threat and to work together to prevent that heinous crime before it happens, but that it is imperative on us all to do so?

Reply from Neil Gray: I agree—100 per cent—with Ruth Maguire. Guidance for practitioners involved in safeguarding people arriving from Ukraine, to identify and respond to risk and need, has been published and is regularly reviewed. In 2022-23, we are providing £622,000 to the Trafficking Awareness Raising Alliance to support adult females trafficked for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation. That is in addition to more than £2.5 million that was provided to the Migrant Help charity during this financial year to support all the adult victims of human trafficking and exploitation in Scotland.

Given her clear interest and long-standing work in the area, I would be more than happy to meet Ruth Maguire to talk about the issue in more detail. ...

Foyso Choudhury (Labour): The SEREDA—sexual and gender-based violence against refugees: from displacement to arrival—project in Scotland recently launched its report on sexual and gender-based violence among refugees in Scotland. The report highlights the urgent need for services in Scotland to focus on forced migrant survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, including a dedicated working group to address the specific needs of survivors. Given the continued influx of refugees into Scotland from Ukraine, what action is the Scottish Government taking to consider the report's recommendations?

Reply from Neil Gray: I would be more than happy to consider that. In addition to the £622,000 funding for trafficking awareness and more than £2.5 million provided to Migrant Help that I mentioned in response to Ruth Maguire's question, we are also funding and working directly with the Scottish Refugee Council. It provides initial support and it is also helping us to ensure that, from a policy perspective, we are responding in the most effective way.

As I said, I would be more than happy to consider what Foyso Choudhury has raised, and I thank him for his support and work in this area.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=14174&i=128379#ScotParlOR>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/Documents/college-social-sciences/social-policy/iris/2022/sereda-scotland-report.pdf>

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Asylum: Public Transport

Paul Sweeney (Labour) [S6W-14574] To ask the Scottish Government how many local authorities have received funding in the last six months to provide free (a) bus passes and (b) rail cards to people seeking asylum.

Reply from Jenny Gilruth: The Scottish Government has not provided funding to local authorities in the last six months to provide free bus passes or rail cards to people seeking asylum and does not hold information on whether local authorities

have received funding from elsewhere.

However, Refugee Survival Trust and partners have been provided with funding from the Paths for All Smarter Choices Smarter Places Open Fund. This has enabled them to begin a pilot scheme to provide free bus travel to people seeking asylum living in Glasgow through the provision of three month bus passes, along with information and digital support to access and use the pass.

The Pilot will run until summer 2023 and will help inform options on how to deliver our Programme for Government commitment to consider how best to provide free bus travel to people seeking asylum across Scotland.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-14574>

UK Parliament Debates

Homes for Ukraine Scheme Anniversary

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-03-01/debates/874C666F-1BB5-44D5-A638-D58E26B288DC/HomesForUkraineSchemeAnniversary>

Draft Special Immigration Appeals Commission (Procedure) (Amendment) Rules 2023

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-03-01/debates/0b75a5fc-c17a-4e84-a9ed-f5cfafdb7636/DraftSpecialImmigrationAppealsCommission\(Procedure\)\(Amendment\)Rules2023#contribution-858BD375-DC25-446B-8F73-B08F69E3BB86](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-03-01/debates/0b75a5fc-c17a-4e84-a9ed-f5cfafdb7636/DraftSpecialImmigrationAppealsCommission(Procedure)(Amendment)Rules2023#contribution-858BD375-DC25-446B-8F73-B08F69E3BB86)

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Channel Migrants

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Charlotte Nichols (Labour) [147102] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to take steps to create safe and legal routes for migrants travelling across the channel in small boats.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The UK continues to welcome refugees and people in need through existing resettlement schemes which include the UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS), Community Sponsorship, the Mandate Resettlement Scheme, and the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS).

There are no plans to establish safe and legal routes for migrants crossing the Channel. Individuals should claim asylum in the first safe country they reach - that is the fastest route to safety. Our focus remains on helping people in genuine need directly from regions of conflict and instability.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-17/147102>

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Bill Wiggin (Conservative) [151263] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to bring forward legislative proposals to help prevent migrants crossing the channel in small boats.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office is working at pace to introduce legislation to tackle illegal migration.

The Bill will deliver the Prime Minister's commitment, as set out in his oral statement on 13 December 2022 (Official Report, column 885 to 888), "to make it unambiguously clear that, if you enter the UK illegally, you should not be able to remain here. Instead, you will be detained and swiftly returned either to your home

country or to a safe country where your asylum claim will be considered. You will no longer be able to frustrate removal attempts with late or spurious claims or appeals, and once removed, you should have no right to re-entry, settlement or citizenship.”

Further details will be set out in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-23/151263>

The statement referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-12-13/debates/DB61C374-16B5-411C-9A29-CC3DCA119EB3/IllegalImmigration>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Refugees

Luke Pollard (Labour Co-op) [152304] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what steps his Department is taking to reduce the backlog of applications awaiting a decision under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy scheme.

Reply from James Heapey: Every Afghan national that applies to the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) scheme deserves and must have a response. That's why the MOD has invested and continues to invest in additional casework resource, and has implemented a bespoke casework system to better manage applications.

Thanks to these steps, we are now processing and issuing decisions on more applications per month than we are receiving, and in February 2023 we issued more eligibility decisions than in any other month previously.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-24/152304>

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

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

Afghanistan: Refugees

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour) [147474] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, how many teachers who worked for the British Council and are eligible for the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme have been evacuated to the UK since August 2021.

Reply from Leo Docherty: Eligible at-risk British Council contractors, Chevening alumni and GardaWorld contractors who expressed interest in Pathway 3 of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) are being considered for resettlement, along with their dependents. We have allocated over 1000 of the 1500 places available in the first year of Pathway 3, subject to security checks. FCDO are notifying those who have completed initial security checks and providing advice on next steps. Some eligible individuals and their families have arrived in third countries, where they are offered accommodation and support from the International Organisation for Migration. We do not comment on individual cohort numbers while expressions of interest are being processed and security checks are outstanding. We look forward to welcoming the first arrivals to the UK under Pathway 3 as soon as practicable.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-17/147474>

Information about Pathway 3, referred to above, can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2022-06-13/debates/2206135000016/AfghanCitizensResettlementSchemeLaunchPathways2And3>

Refugees: Afghanistan

Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op) [150496] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 18 January 2023 to Question 126658, how many of the remaining places on Pathway 3 in Year one will be (a) filled and (b) carried over to Year Two.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Under Pathway 3, in the first year, up to 1,500 places will be offered to eligible at-risk British Council contractors, GardaWorld contractors, and Chevening alumni in Afghanistan or the region. This includes their eligible family members.

This route was open for expressions of interest between 20 June and 15 August 2022. We received over 11,400 expressions of interest which have had to be assessed individually.

The FCDO are assessing eligibility and communicating decisions on eligibility in principle to those who submitted an EOI. To date, over 1000 of the 1500 places available in the first year of Pathway 3 have been allocated, subject to security checks.

If an individual is offered a resettlement place in the first year but is unable to travel, we will honour the commitment to resettle them to the UK [subject to completion of the necessary checks] up until the end of the Scheme.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-22/150496>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-18/126658>

Information about Pathway 3, referred to above, can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2022-06-13/debates/2206135000016/AfghanCitizensResettlementSchemeLaunchPathways2And3>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Afghanistan: Refugees

Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op) [150495] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, pursuant to Answer of 24 January 2023 to Question 126658 on Refugees: Afghanistan, how many of the 11,400 expressions of interest were rejected because of (a) ineligibility and (b) information was missing from the form; and whether applicants whose forms were missing information were given the opportunity to clarify and resubmit their applications.

Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op) [150500] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 24 January 2023 to Question 126658 on Refugees: Afghanistan, how many expressions of interest have yet to be reviewed.

Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op) [150501] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 24 January 2023 to Question 126658 on Refugees: Afghanistan, when her Department began reviewing expressions of interest.

Reply from Leo Docherty: FCDO launched an online system on 20 June 2022, closing on 15 August 2022, for individuals to express interest in UK resettlement under Pathway 3 of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) in its first year. Details were widely communicated and the Expression of Interest (EOI) form was translated into Dari and Pashto. The EOI form was designed to have all mandatory fields populated and could not be submitted with missing information. FCDO began processing EOIs on 21 June 2022. We are assessing eligibility and notifying those who submitted an EOI of the outcome. We will update Parliament on numbers once all EOI processing is complete and we have assured data to share.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-22/150495>
and
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-22/150500>
and
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-22/150501>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-18/126658>

Information about Pathway 3, referred to above, can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2022-06-13/debates/220613500016/AfghanCitizensResettlementSchemeLaunchPathways2And3>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Ukraine

Homes for Ukraine Scheme

Lisa Nandy (Labour) [155112] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what recent assessment his Department has made of the adequacy of the operation of the Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme, known as Homes for Ukraine.

Reply from Felicity Buchan: The department is proud of the Homes for Ukraine scheme which has seen 116,400 Ukrainians welcomed to safety in the UK since it was launched, and a total of 153,900 visas issued. We have delivered this working in partnership with councils, the devolved administrations and other government departments including the Home Office who are responsible for issuing the visas. Figures given are correct as of 28th February 2023.

We continue to keep the scheme under constant review, and will set out any updates in the usual way.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-28/155112>

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

Lisa Nandy (Labour) [151282] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what recent steps his Department has taken to prevent homelessness amongst Ukrainian refugees in the UK.

Reply from Felicity Buchan: As we have set out previously, we always knew that it was sadly inevitable that a small proportion of sponsorships would fail and that there was a risk that sponsors would be unable to continue sponsoring after the conclusion of their initial period of hosting. We therefore took the decision to extend the period when sponsors can receive ‘thank you’ payments and to increase the payments for those whose guests have been in the country for over 12 months. Councils have a duty to ensure families have temporary housing and they receive government support for each Homes for Ukraine guest in their area for precisely this eventuality. In addition, we have set out further support, details of which can be found [here](#).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-23/151282>

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

Immigration: Step-families

Steve McCabe (Labour) [149392] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the legal immigration status of a British citizen's non-adopted step child who is under 18 and not a British citizen is.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The entry to, and eventual settlement in, the United Kingdom of non-British family members of British citizens is governed by the family Immigration Rules. Individuals must apply in the appropriate capacity according to their circumstances and the reason they wish to come to or remain in the UK.

Appendix FM to the Immigration Rules provides routes for those wishing to apply to live with their spouse or partner, fiancé(e) or proposed civil partner, child, parent or relative who'll provide long-term care for them. Part 8 of the Immigration Rules provides for a child to join a British or settled parent or relative in the UK where the child could not be adequately cared for by their other parent or relatives in their own country.

All information on immigration can be found under the Immigration Rules Appendix FM - [Immigration Rules - Immigration Rules Appendix FM: family members](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-21/149392>

Visas: Pay

Steve McCabe (Labour) [149393] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the potential merits of relaxing the salary requirements for visa applicants.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: A key principle of the immigration system is that sponsors of Skilled Workers must be offering pay at least at the going rate before seeking to sponsor workers from overseas. The salary requirements of the Skilled Worker immigration route have been devised so that migrant workers are not used to undercut resident workers and to ensure migrant workers are not abused.

Our immigration should not be seen as an alternative for employers to avoid improving pay and conditions for its workforce or investing in technology.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-21/149393>

Visas: Married People

Judith Cummins (Labour) [150510] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has made an assessment of the potential merits of offering a fee waiver for people with a British spouse applying for a visa renewal.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office keeps the fees for immigration and nationality applications under regular review. However, no specific assessment on the potential merits of offering a fee waiver for people with a British spouse applying for a visa renewal has been undertaken.

The Home Office provides exceptions to the need to pay application fees in a number of specific circumstances. These exceptions ensure the Home Office's immigration and nationality fee structure complies with international obligations and wider government policy.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-22/150510>

Visas: Carer's Allowance

Stephen Farry (Alliance) [151436] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether financial exemptions are in place for British nationals in receipt of carers allowance when applying for a visa for (a) their spouse or (b) a parent of their child.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Appendix FM of the Immigration Rules contains an

exemption from the minimum income requirement, for those applying for a spouse, child or parent visa, where the sponsor is in receipt of certain benefits. This includes carers allowance. Instead, they need to show that they can meet the adequate maintenance requirement, as set out in [Appendix FM-SE](#) of the Immigration Rules.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-23/151436>

The following four questions all received the same answer

Visas: Charities

Stephen Farry (Alliance) [147137] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether a 12 month Tier 5 (Temporary worker - Charity workers) visa can be extended where the original visa was approved substantially after the desired start date.

Stephen Farry (Alliance) [147199] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether a Tier 5 (temporary worker - Charity workers) visa applicant can apply for application cost exemption when an in-country visa extension is subsequently granted.

Stephen Farry (Alliance) [147200] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether it is possible to apply for a refund for the cost of (a) a tier five temporary charity workers visa and (b) immigration health surcharge in circumstances where that visa is granted after the original start date and an in-country visa extension is subsequently granted.

Stephen Farry (Alliance) [147207] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of bringing forward application start dates for tier five charity visas from three months to (a) six and (b) nine months in advance, in the context of recent processing times for those visas.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Where a Charity Worker visa (Temporary Work) is granted for less than 12 months at Entry Clearance, they can apply to extend in-country for the remaining leave up to that amount. However, if the full 12-month period has already been granted, it cannot be extended any further.

No cost exemption will apply for an in-country visa extension unless there has been an error in the original period of leave granted. If an error has occurred, the Home Office will correct this.

The applicant pays for the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) based on the duration of immigration permission requested. If the applicant is granted a shorter period than which they applied, they may receive a partial IHS refund.

Currently UKVI are within the published service standard for the Charity Worker (Temporary Worker) route and have continued to meet this target. The unique circumstances of 2022 created by the Russian invasion of Ukraine temporarily prevented the normal service standards being met. Any application which is not considered within service standard at present is due to the complexity of its nature and therefore, no change to application start dates are being considered.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-17/147137>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-17/147199>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-17/147200>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-17/147207>

Refugees: Resettlement

Dan Carden (Labour) [149579] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to set a new target for refugee resettlement under the UK Resettlement Scheme.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: As the Prime Minister set out in his statement to

Parliament on 13 December 2022, as we get a grip on illegal migration, we will introduce an annual quota on the number of refugees admitted to the UK via safe and legal routes.

The quota will be agreed by parliament and will be amendable in the face of humanitarian emergencies. In developing the quota, we will engage with local authorities and relevant sector bodies to determine capacity.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-21/149579>

The statement referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-12-13/debates/DB61C374-16B5-411C-9A29-CC3DCA119EB3/IllegalImmigration>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Refugees: Resettlement

Dan Carden (Labour) [149580] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will publish a National Integration Strategy to help improve refugee integration outcomes.

Refugees: English Language

Dan Carden (Labour) [149581] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of increasing English language support for refugees.

Refugees: Employment

Dan Carden (Labour) [149582] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of increasing employment support for refugees.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: All refugees and those granted protection in the UK should be able to fully integrate into life here and become self-sufficient, providing for themselves and their families, and contributing to the economy. Refugees in the UK have access to mainstream benefits and services to enable their integration and we are working across Government to ensure these services meet the needs of refugees.

The Government recognises the ability to speak English is key to helping refugees integrate into life in the UK, as well as to breaking down barriers to work and career progression.

The Government is committed to offering an enhanced integration package for refugees arriving through safe and legal routes, to help them integrate and become self-sufficient more quickly. This will be delivered in England through the Refugee Employability Programme (REP), centred on the three key pillars tailored employment support, integration support and English language training.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-21/149580>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-21/149581>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-21/149582>

Refugees: English Language

Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op) [153774] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will publish (a) reports published by and (b) minutes of any meetings since January 2019 of the Migration and Border Analysis Home Office Science Group which relate to the investigation into the benefits and merits of early intensive language courses for refugees, as referenced in the ad hoc query of 29 January 2019 to the European Migration Network made by the UK EMN National Point of Contact.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: We recognise that the ability to speak English is key to helping refugees integrate into life in England, as well as to breaking down

barriers to work and career progression. Home Office officials explored an early intensive language offer as part of a wider investigation into English language support for refugees. Exploration of the intensive offer was paused to avoid duplication with the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) for Integration Fund (EFIF) launched by the Department for Levelling Up in August 2020. EFIF supported one of the key commitments in the 2018 Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper by supporting individuals to be able to meaningfully integrate and participate in society boosting English language proficiency. The programme trialled a new approach to funding ESOL, adopting a localised place-based design, providing community-based English language sessions, social mixing clubs and activities to individuals with little or no English. In the same period, the Home Office funded the development of English language teaching resources to support refugees with their early integration.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-27/153774>

The ad hoc query referred to above can be read at

https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2019-08/201915_early_language_support_wider_dissemination.pdf

Asylum: Applications

Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op) [151300] To the Secretary of State for the Home Office, if she will publish a copy of her Department's questionnaire to be completed by refugees from (a) Afghanistan, (b) Eritrea, (c) Libya, (d) Syria and (e) Yemen as an alternative to being interviewed.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: There are no plans to publish the questionnaire at this time; instead, it will be sent to eligible claimants from Afghanistan, Eritrea, Libya Syria and Yemen

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-23/151300>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Asylum: Detainees

Anne McLaughlin (SNP) [150521] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people applied for asylum in 2022 from detention in the UK.

Asylum

Anne McLaughlin (SNP) [150522] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many new asylum applications were submitted in 2022 by people who had previously been refused asylum.

Asylum: Applications

Anne McLaughlin (SNP) [150523] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the five most common nationalities of asylum applicants making new claims to the UK were in 2022; and how many of those applications were received from nationals of each of those five countries in that year.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office publishes data on asylum and detention in the '[Immigration System Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'.

Data on asylum applications by nationality is published in table Asy_D01 of the '[asylum and resettlement detailed datasets](#)'. Data on the number of people entering, in and leaving detention with an asylum claim is published in table Det_01 of the '[detention summary tables](#)'.

Information on how to use the datasets can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data relates to December 2022.

The Home Office does not publish information on applications from individuals previously refused asylum.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-22/150521>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-22/150522>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-22/150523>

Asylum: Children

Dan Carden (Labour) [152294] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of establishing an independent inquiry into the disappearance of children from accommodation managed by her Department.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The rise in the number of small boat crossings has placed significant pressures on local authority care placements for young people. Out of necessity, and with the best interests of the child in mind, we have had no alternative but to temporarily use hotels to give some unaccompanied children a roof over their heads whilst Local Authority accommodation is found.

We take the safety and welfare of those in our care seriously and the Home Office has robust safeguarding procedures in place to ensure those in our accommodation are as safe and supported as possible as we seek urgent placements with a local authority. Young people are supported by team leaders and support workers who are on site 24 hours a day. Further care is provided in hotels by teams of specialist social workers and nurses.

We have no power to detain UASC in hotels. Children's movements in and out of hotels are monitored and recorded and they are accompanied by support workers when attending organised activities and social excursions off-site, or where specific vulnerabilities are identified.

When any young person goes missing the 'missing persons protocol' is followed and led by our directly engaged social workers. A multi-agency, missing persons protocol is mobilised alongside the police and local authorities, to establish their whereabouts and to ensure that they are safe.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-24/152294>

Asylum: Children

Matthew Pennycook (Labour) [147140] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will publish new police guidance on locating missing asylum-seeking children.

Reply from Chris Philp: Police guidance is a matter for the College of Policing, which is operationally independent of the Home Office. The Authorised Professional Practice (APP) for missing persons is publicly available on the College's website and sets out best practice guidance for all missing person investigations, including missing migrant children, for police forces in England and Wales.

In addition to the APP, the National Police Chiefs' Council lead for Missing Persons is developing advice for forces on the police response to missing migrant children. Other safeguarding agencies and third sector organisations are involved in drafting this advice which should be published this Spring, subject to consultation with relevant partners

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-17/147140>

The APP referred to above can be read at

<https://www.college.police.uk/app/major-investigation-and-public-protection/missing-persons/missing-persons>

Asylum: Children

Barry Sheerman (Labour Co-op) [150390] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many meetings she had with asylum centre providers to discuss reports

of abductions of unaccompanied children in the last twelve months.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office engages with a range of internal and external stakeholders in relation to the provision of support and accommodation to destitute asylum seekers, through a variety of channels.

The wellbeing of children and minors in our care is an absolute priority. Robust safeguarding procedures are in place to ensure all children and minors are safe and supported as we seek urgent placements with local authorities.

We continue to consult multi-agency partners and subject matter experts to ensure our processes and procedures are robust and evolve as new trends or risks emerge. Local police forces are engaged in ongoing activity where a child fails to return to a hotel and this data is shared across the police national computer as it would be in any case where a child goes missing.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-22/150390>

Asylum: Children

Matthew Pennycook (Labour) [147139] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether police informed her Department that asylum-seeking children who had recently arrived in the UK without parents or carers and who were staying in Home Office accommodation could be targeted by human traffickers.

Robert Jenrick: All asylum seekers, including children, have an interview on arrival in the UK which includes a series of questions designed to understand whether there are any potential indicators of trafficking and to identify any vulnerabilities.

If there are any indicators that a child is potentially at risk of modern slavery a referral is made to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). The Single Competent Authority (SCA) will make a decision on this referral. Children who are identified to be at risk are placed on a safety plan by the safeguarding team.

We have no power to detain unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) in temporary hotel accommodation. Many of those who have gone missing are subsequently traced and located. There are many reasons why children go missing from care and this is also true of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

The safety and wellbeing of those in our care is our primary concern. Robust safeguarding and welfare procedures are in place to ensure all children and minors are safe and supported as we seek urgent placements with a local authority. This includes support workers being onsite in the hotels 24 hours a day, including nurses and social workers. All contingency sites have security staff on site and providers liaise closely with local police to ensure the welfare and safety of vulnerable residents.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-17/147139>

Children: Asylum

Caroline Lucas (Green) [137781] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what recent assessment she has made with Cabinet colleagues of the adequacy of the regulatory framework applying to hotels providing accommodation to unaccompanied children seeking asylum under the National Transfer Scheme; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Claire Coutinho: The Home Office are accommodating unaccompanied asylum seeking children on an emergency and temporary basis until they are transferred under the National Transfer Scheme to a responsible local authority. The Department for Education and the Home Office are clear that the best place for these children is in a local authority care placement.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-01/137781>

Asylum: Children

Caroline Lucas (Green) [146876] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department,

pursuant to the Answer of 16 February 2023 to Question 137785 and the Answer of 31 January 2023 to Question 132555 on Asylum: Hove, what the normal notice period is prior to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children being moved into a hotel site; and what the reduced period of notice was that was referred to in the Answer to Question 132555.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The rise in dangerous small boats crossings means there are significant challenges on providing local authority care places for unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC). Out of necessity and with the best interests of the child in mind, we have had no alternative but to temporarily use hotels to give some unaccompanied children a roof over their heads whilst local authority accommodation is found.

We take the welfare of these vulnerable children extremely seriously. We have robust measures in place to ensure that the imminent safeguarding and welfare needs of young people can be met whilst we source more appropriate long-term care placements under the National Transfer Scheme (NTS).

The National Transfer Scheme (NTS) was established in 2016 and provides a mechanism for the statutory responsibility for an Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Child (UASC) to be transferred from an entry local authority to another local authority in the UK for ongoing care and support.

The NTS aims to ensure that UASC receive support and accommodation they need. It also enables a more equitable distribution of responsibility for UASC to local authorities across the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-17/146876>

The answers referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-01/137785>
and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-25/132555>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Temporary Accommodation

Dan Carden (Labour) [147201] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers are accommodated by her Department in the Suites Hotel in Knowsley; and how many of those are (a) women and (b) children.

Dan Carden (Labour) [147202] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she is taking steps to help improve (a) security and (b) safeguarding for asylum seekers at the Suites Hotel in Knowsley.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Occupancy levels are recorded at a specific point in time and vary daily. Statistics relating to asylum seekers temporarily residing in contingency accommodation are published as Immigration Statistics under the S98 population tables. These statistics can be found at Asylum and resettlement datasets

www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/asylum-and-resettlement-datasets

The Home Office has a legal obligation to support asylum seekers (including any dependants) who would otherwise be destitute by providing appropriate support under section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

When using sites for asylum accommodation, we engage with local police and other community stakeholders as early as possible to identify any tensions, but recognise that the unprecedented rise in small boats means we need to accommodate people. All accommodation sites have security staff and we continually review the security at asylum accommodation sites with providers.

All incidents at asylum accommodation sites are reported by providers to the Home Office immediately. We then work with the provider to put in additional safety measures if required.

The government has been clear that the use of hotels to house asylum seekers

needs to stop as they are an expensive short-term solution. The government is working with our accommodation providers to find longer-term accommodation, such as dispersal properties.

We do not comment on the security arrangements for particular hotels.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-17/147201>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-17/147202>

Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre: Legal Profession

Kate Osborne (Labour) [150648] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the answers of 14 July 2022, 26 September 2022 and 9 February 2023 to Questions 32512, 53359 and 138399 on Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre (IRC): Legal Profession, what assessment she has made of the reason for the increase in the number of in-person legal visits at Derwentside IRC between 22 and 30 September 2022 compared with the number between 1 July and 21 September 2022.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Legal Aid Agency (LAA) operates free legal advice surgeries in immigration removal centres (IRCs) in England under the Detained Duty Advice Scheme (DDAS). Individuals who are detained are entitled to receive up to 30 minutes of advice regardless of financial eligibility or the merits of their case. There is no restriction on the number of surgeries an individual may attend. If an individual who is detained requires substantive advice on a matter which is in scope of legal aid, full legal advice can be provided if the statutory legal aid means and merits criteria are met.

Individuals detained in IRCs can also access privately commissioned legal advice, including legally aided advice provided through means other than the DDAS.

Access to DDAS legal advice across the immigration removal estate is currently facilitated through both remote means (by telephone and video conferencing) and in-person visits on request. The volume of requests for in-person appointments may vary, with more requests at Derwentside IRC having been made at certain times than at others, and it is currently a matter for the detained individual to decide the means by which their appointment is facilitated.

Previously released data was provisional management information, which is not assured to the standard of Official Statistics and is subject to change. We are working with the LAA to better understand the data.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-22/150648>

The answers referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-07/32512>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-21/53359>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-02/138399>

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

The following three questions all received the same answer

Asylum: Applications

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL5542] To ask His Majesty's Government what is the average processing time for a decision on the admissibility of an asylum application.

Asylum

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL5543] To ask His Majesty's Government how many

individuals' asylum applications were declared inadmissible in 2022; and what percentage of such individuals were returned to a safe or third country.

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL5544] To ask His Majesty's Government how many individuals, whose applications were declared inadmissible for asylum but who were unable to be returned to a third country, have been added to the list of asylum applications.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: Statistics on inadmissibility can be found in tables Asy_09a and Asy_09b of the Asylum and Resettlement Summary Tables which are published on gov.uk quarterly.

The Home Office does not publish a breakdown of these statistics which provide an average length of time to reach an inadmissibility decision. Those figures are not available in a reportable format and to provide the information could only be done at disproportionate cost.

[Asylum and Resettlement Summary Tables](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-08/hl5542>
and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-08/hl5543>
and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-08/hl5544>

Press Releases

Migration policies are harming families and society

<https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/519/justice-and-home-affairs-committee/news/186349/migration-policies-are-harming-families-and-society/>

Hands off UK aid for the world's poorest and most vulnerable countries, demands the International Development Committee

<https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/98/international-development-committee/news/186437/hands-off-uk-aid-for-the-worlds-poorest-and-most-vulnerable-countries-demands-the-international-development-committee/>

Government announces a third year of support to help Hong Kongers settle into life in the UK

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-a-third-year-of-support-to-help-hong-kongers-settle-into-life-in-the-uk>

New Publications

All families matter: An inquiry into family migration

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/34107/documents/187686/default/>

Aid spending in the UK

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/34179/documents/188059/default/>

Anniversary of the Homes for Ukraine scheme

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CDP-2023-0043/CDP-2023-0043.pdf>

Information on the Homes for Ukraine programme

Email to hosts

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/homes-for-ukraine-emails-to-guests-and-hosts/email-to-hosts-information-on-the-homes-for-ukraine-programme>

Email to guests

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/homes-for-ukraine-emails-to-guests-and-hosts/email-to-guests-information-on-the-homes-for-ukraine-programme>

Briefing: Asylum Statistics

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN01403/SN01403.pdf>

“A Punishing Process”: Experiences of people on the 10-year route to settlement

<https://www.ippr.org/files/2023-03/10-year-route-march23.pdf>

Guardianship for unaccompanied children – A manual for trainers of guardians

https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2022-guardianship-trainers-manual_en.pdf

Updated: Migrants detected crossing the English Channel in small boats – last 7 days

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/migrants-detected-crossing-the-english-channel-in-small-boats/migrants-detected-crossing-the-english-channel-in-small-boats-last-7-days>

Updated: Diphtheria: cases among asylum seekers in England, weekly data tables

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/diphtheria-cases-among-asylum-seekers-in-england-2022/diphtheria-cases-among-asylum-seekers-in-england-weekly-data-tables>

News: Channel Migrants

Number of Channel migrants could hit 85,000 this year

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/02/27/number-channel-migrants-could-hit-85000-year/>

Rishi Sunak vows to end asylum claims from small boat arrivals

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-64803783>

Rishi Sunak to launch bill to stop people arriving on small boats claiming asylum

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/mar/05/sunak-to-launch-bill-to-bar-asylum-claims-from-people-arriving-on-small-boats>

Rishi Sunak to press France for 'substantial' increase in beach patrols

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/03/04/rishi-sunak-press-france-substantial-increase-beach-patrols/>

Rishi Sunak ‘over-promising’ on stopping small boats and will fail to deliver by election, senior Tories fear

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/small-boat-crossings-law-sunak-channel-b2293719.html>

Rishi Sunak aims to ban all migrants on small boats from life in UK

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/rishi-sunak-aims-to-ban-all-migrants-on-small-boats-from-life-in-uk-3lnl3qrccs>

News: Other Immigration and Asylum

Up to a third of overseas aid budget used for housing refugees in UK, MPs report

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/mar/02/overseas-aid-budget-uk-select-committee-report-housing-refugees>

Home Office migration policies 'are failing families'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/home-office-migration-policies-are-failing-families-qxsnr9w9>

Refugees 'need a permanent reserve of UK host homes'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/refugees-need-a-permanent-reserve-of-uk-host-homes-s372mbjmk>

Rwanda flights put back until 2024

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/rwanda-flights-put-back-until-2024-xq8g9827k>

Anger grows over Afghan journalists still stranded by Home Office inaction

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2023/mar/04/anger-grows-over-afghan-journalists-still-stranded-by-home-office-inaction>

Forbes: We have not underestimated challenge of housing Ukrainians in Scotland

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/scotland-snp-glasgow-forbes-nicola-sturgeon-b2293112.html>

Russian patient offers to house Ukrainian doctor in Fairford

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-wiltshire-64758099>

Asylum seeker plans legal challenge to Home Office questionnaire

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/feb/27/asylum-seeker-plans-legal-challenge-to-home-office-questionnaire>

Hundreds of trafficking victims in UK missing after referral to support scheme

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2023/mar/02/hundreds-of-trafficking-victims-in-uk-missing-after-referral-to-support-scheme>

Modern slavery loophole to be shut for foreign criminals and illegal migrants

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/03/02/modern-slavery-loophole-shut-foreign-criminals-illegal-migrants/>

Lee Anderson says he is sympathetic to asylum hotel protesters

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-64823712>

Tory MP Lee Anderson condemned for comments over asylum seeker hotel protests

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/lee-anderson-mp-protests-asylum-seekers-b2293503.html>

It's time to believe the public on immigration

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/its-time-to-believe-the-public-on-immigration-0l3vqrk3p>

Britain's immigration system is in a panicky state of collapse

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/columnists/2023/02/28/fast-tracking-asylum-seekers-sly-shabby-betrayal-british-people/>

Maintenance failures sparked Heathrow detention centre disturbances, FoI reveals

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/feb/27/maintenance-failures-sparked-heathrow-detention-centre-disturbances-foi-reveals>

Priti Patel condemns failure to deport violent criminal as ‘absolutely appalling’
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/02/27/priti-patel-condemns-failure-deport-violent-criminal-absolutely/>

TOP

Community Relations

News

Minister condemns death threats against pupils who damaged Koran
<https://www.faith-matters.org/minister-condemns-death-threats-against-pupils-who-damaged-koran/>

Row over pupils who damaged Koran raises free speech concerns – Braverman
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-secretary-department-for-education-koran-suella-braverman-muslims-b2294057.html>

The Muslim Council of Britain on the Controversy in Wakefield Schools
<https://mcb.org.uk/the-muslim-council-of-britain-on-the-controversy-in-wakefield-schools/>

TOP

Equality

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Libraries: Racial Equality

Liam McArthur (Liberal Democrat) [S6W-14706] To ask the Scottish Government what financial support is available to schools and community libraries to improve the availability of books that promote racial equality.

Reply from Shirley-Anne Somerville: The School Libraries Improvement Fund (SLIF) is distributed via the Scottish Library and Information Council (as is the Public Libraries Improvement Fund). £200,000 has been allocated in 2022/23 to SLIF which has supported a total of 18 initiatives across Scotland. In this year's funding round, priority was given to applications which focused on supporting anti-racism and racial equality, supporting the aims of the Scottish Government's Anti-Racism in Education Programme.

In 2022-23 the Scottish Government has also provided funding of £450,000 to the Scottish Library and Information Council (SLIC) for the Public Library Improvement Fund (PLIF), which enables libraries to undertake a wide range of pioneering projects within communities. Eight initiatives were selected to receive grants from the 2022-23 PLIF, supporting sustainable development and innovation within Scotland's public libraries.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-14706>

Press Release

New large-scale data project will get to the heart of disparities

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-large-scale-data-project-will-get-to-the-heart-of-disparities>

New Publications

Muslim Voices: The palliative care needs of British Muslims during the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond

https://mcb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/J437_MCB_MC_Report_280223.pdf

Traveller culture and history

https://ncca.ie/media/5959/traveller-culture-and-history-research-report_en.pdf

News

Joint report reveals difficulties British Muslims face accessing healthcare

<https://mcb.org.uk/joint-report-reveals-difficulties-british-muslims-face-accessing-healthcare/>

Irish Traveller culture to be promoted through school curriculum

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-64803783>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Pupils: Travellers

Stephen Morgan (Labour) [151398] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what data her Department holds on the provision of training courses specifically on preventing discrimination against Gypsy, Roma and Traveller families to teaching staff; and whether her Department requires teachers to complete such training.

Reply from Nick Gibb: The Department does not hold data on specific training courses on preventing discrimination against Gypsy, Roma and Traveller families. All teachers must satisfy the Teachers' Standards throughout their careers. To be awarded Qualified Teacher Status (QTS), trainees must demonstrate that they meet all of the Teachers' Standards at the appropriate level. Section 2 of the Teachers' Standards is clear that teachers must treat all pupils with dignity, building relationships rooted in mutual respect and show tolerance and respect for the rights of others.

Once teachers achieve QTS, they enter into two years of funded support through the Early Career Framework, which requires early career teachers to be trained and supported to develop their understanding of maintaining fair and inclusive school environments.

Once a teacher is qualified, head teachers are responsible for ensuring their workforce has appropriate training to meet the needs of all pupils, which is in line with the Department's position on school autonomy and head teachers being best placed to assess the needs of their pupils and workforce.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-23/151398>

The Teachers' Standards referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1040274/Teachers_Standards_Dec_2021.pdf

New Publication

State of Hate 2023: Rhetoric, Racism and Resentment

<https://hopenothate.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/state-of-hate-2023-v7-1.pdf>

News

SNP MP accused of 'racial slur' over 'tandoori make-up' remark

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/23357837.snp-mp-accused-racial-slur-tandoori-make-up-remark/>

MP John Nicolson condemned over 'tandoori' clip

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/mp-john-nicolson-condemned-over-tandoori-clip-qmvdltwjh>

Labour MP Rupa Huq regains whip after Kwasi Kwarteng racism row

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-64835061>

Labour MP who called Kwasi Kwarteng 'superficially black' regains party whip

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/03/02/labour-mp-who-called-kwasi-kwarteng-superficially-black-regains/>

Secret House of Lords circle 'shown to have worked with far right'

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/feb/25/house-of-lords-worked-with-far-right>

Bereaved families and civil society organisations call for structural racism to be explicitly interrogated in the COVID-19 Inquiry

<https://www.runnymedetrust.org/news/bereaved-families-and-civil-society-organisations-call-for-structural-racism-to-be-explicitly-interrogated-in-the-covid-19-inquiry>

Covid inquiry: Race should be at its core, say campaigners

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-64783753>

'Investigate racism in Covid-19 inquiry,' bereaved families urge government

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/racism-covid19-inquiry-government-urged-b2290591.html>

My father's death from Covid wasn't 'terrible luck'. We were failed by a racist system in the UK

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/feb/28/fathers-death-covid-racist-system>

Senior nurse wins 'landmark' race discrimination case against NHS

<https://www.nursingtimes.net/news/leadership-news/senior-nurse-wins-landmark-race-discrimination-case-against-nhs-24-02-2023/>

Call for inquiry into 'kangaroo courts' for ethnic minority NHS staff

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/call-for-inquiry-into-kangaroo-courts-for-ethnic-minority-nhs-staff-fv326b2qn>

Prince Harry is wrong: unconscious bias is not different to racism

<https://theconversation.com/prince-harry-is-wrong-unconscious-bias-is-not-different-to-racism-198103>

Steven Spielberg says antisemitism today is 'standing proud with hands on hips like Hitler'

<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2023/mar/03/steven-spielberg-says-antisemitism-today-is-standing-proud-with-hands-on-hips-like-hitler>

Ethnicity fakers and the end of identity politics

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/ethnicity-fakers-and-the-end-of-identity-politics-txzmq7dg6>

Yorkshire cricket racism hearing told 'Tim Bresnan used racial slur towards Azeem Rafiq sister'

<https://www.bbc.com/sport/cricket/64814128>

Yorkshire racism hearing – the unanswered questions

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/cricket/2023/03/05/yorkshire-racism-hearing-unanswered-questions/>

TOP

Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Scottish Parliament Motion

Pam Gosal (Conservative) [S6M-08057] Ramadan 2023 – That the Parliament congratulates all those celebrating the start of Ramadan 2023 in Scotland, the rest of the UK and around the world; notes that the blessed month of Ramadan will start on 22 March 2023 and will last for 30 days; understands that the ninth month of the Islamic calendar is a month of fasting from sunrise until sunset, the study of Islam, prayer and worship, and good deeds; appreciates the charitable giving during Ramadan to those who are in need, and wishes everyone Ramadan Mubarak.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-08057>

Press Releases

A Parliament for All - Reforms to strengthen representation and participation at Holyrood unveiled

<https://www.parliament.scot/about/news/news-listing/a-parliament-for-all-reforms>

Recorded crime decrease

<https://www.gov.scot/news/recorded-crime-decrease/>

Deputy First Minister to stand down

<https://www.gov.scot/news/deputy-first-minister-to-stand-down/>

New Publications

A Parliament for All: Report of the Parliament's Gender Sensitive Audit

<https://www.parliament.scot/-/media/files/spcb/gender-sensitive-audit.pdf>

Recorded Crime in Scotland: year ending December 2022

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/recorded-crime-scotland-year-ending-december-2022/>

News

Scotland's deputy first minister John Swinney to stand down

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-63914518>

Faith and politics: What is the role of religion in modern Scotland?

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/23363631.faith-politics-role-religion-modern-scotland/>

Politicians have the right to strong religious views. But not to be shielded from scrutiny

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/feb/26/kate-forbes-politicians-have-right-to-strong-religious-views-but-not-shielded-from-scrutiny>

In politics, there's no such thing as private faith

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/in-politics-theres-no-such-thing-as-private-faith-v5pkl5vwt>

TOP

Other UK Parliament and Government

New Publication

Female Genital Mutilation, October 2022 - December 2022

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

TOP

Cost of Living

Scottish Government Website

Help during the cost of living crisis

Most households are concerned about the cost of living, with worries about issues such as rent and mortgages, food and utility bills, energy costs, and debt.

In response, the Scottish Government has launched a new website that provides information to help people access support with

- Energy and Bills
- Benefits and Income
- Children and Families
- Debt and Money

- Health and Wellbeing

Your local council might be able to help if you need urgent help with money, food or fuel – contact the council for information.

<https://costofliving.campaign.gov.scot/>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Cost of Living: Ethnic Groups

Angela Crawley (SNP) [148722] To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what assessment his Department has made of the impact of the cost of living on ethnic minorities in the UK.

Reply from John Glen: The government understands that people are worried about the cost of living challenges ahead.

That's why the government has announced support worth £26 billion for 2023-24, designed to target the most vulnerable households.

The Treasury carefully considers the equality impacts of the individual measures announced at fiscal events on those sharing protected characteristics, including gender, ethnicity and disability – in line with both its legal obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) and its strong commitment to equality issues.

The government is committed to promoting economic growth and supporting all individuals and communities to achieve their full potential

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-20/148722>

New Publication

An Essentials Guarantee: Reforming Universal Credit to ensure we can all afford the essentials in hard times

https://www.irf.org.uk/system/files/an_essentials_guarantee_report.pdf

News

UK energy price guarantee ‘to remain for another three months’

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/uk-energy-price-bills-2023-extend-guarantee-jeremy-hunt-n9hjmww8j>

Why your energy bill will soar by £500 despite prices falling

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/money/consumer-affairs/why-energy-bill-will-soar-500-despite-prices-falling/>

Cost-of-living crisis: More than half of Scots have mental health worries about cost of living

<https://www.scotsman.com/health/cost-of-living-crisis-more-than-half-of-scots-have-mental-health-worries-about-cost-of-living-4042117>

Call for a landmark change to Universal Credit so people can afford the essentials – research shows overwhelming public support for new ‘Essentials Guarantee’

<https://www.irf.org.uk/press/call-landmark-change-universal-credit-so-people-can-afford-essentials-research-shows>

Eggs and margarine drive food inflation to record 17.1%

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-64796022>

Grocery price inflation hits record 17.1%

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/grocery-price-inflation-hits-record-17-1-2xnd87jm0>

A quarter of British shoppers struggle as grocery prices soar

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2023/feb/28/british-shoppers-grocery-prices-kantar>

In Britain, 'warm hubs' emerge to beat soaring energy costs

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/ap-britain-william-shakespeare-labour-party-royal-shakespeare-company-b2294063.html>

Cost of living crisis prompting over-50s in UK to seek work, thinktank suggests

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2023/mar/02/cost-of-living-crisis-forcing-retired-people-in-uk-to-look-for-work-thinktank-suggests>

Poor families more resourceful in past, says top Tory Lee Anderson

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-64814421>

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Other New Publication

Demand, Survival, Change: The challenges facing charity management in Scotland

https://hubble-live-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/cranfield-trust/file_asset/file/1120/Cranfield_Trust_Report_-_Charity_Management_Challenges_in_Scotland_February_2023.pdf

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Other News

Plans approved to remove slavery plaque from Edinburgh statue

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-64823151>

TikTok: The reality of being a British Asian influencer

<https://www.bbc.com/news/newsbeat-64784714>

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Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/charities-regulation-and-administration-scotland-bill>

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) (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://bills.parliament.uk/publications/49991/documents/3049>

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

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

Scotland (Self-Determination) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3413>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

Access to information rights in Scotland (closing date 14 March 2023)

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/access-information-rights-scotland-consultation/>

Electoral reform (closing date 15 March 2023)

<https://consult.gov.scot/constitution-and-cabinet/electoral-reform/>

**** How the current refugee and asylum system affects refugees' integration into wider UK society** (31 March 2023)

<https://refugeeintegrationuk.com/call-for-evidence/>

Adult Disability Payment: Review of the mobility component (closing date 25 April 2023)

<https://consult.gov.scot/social-security/adult-disability-payment-review/>

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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

**** Supporting New Scots Fund**

Application deadline 26 March 2023

The Supporting New Scots Fund, led by the Scottish Government, Scottish Refugee Council, and other organisations, aims to help people seeking safety feel at home in their new communities and reduce their risk of poverty. This round of grants will focus on two of the highest priority areas for refugee integration: English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and Employability. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/mwt569jk>

**** Ethnic Minority Development Fund**

Application deadline 3 April 2023

National Lottery/CEMVO funding of between £500 and £20,000 for projects that bring ethnic minority people together and build strong relationships across communities, help more ethnic minority people to be the best they can be, or improve places and spaces that matter to ethnic minority communities. For information and to apply see <https://cemvoscotland.org.uk/emdf/>

**** People's Postcode Trust**

*There will be three opportunities to apply for funding in 2023 but **each will only be open for 24 hours**. Applications can be submitted from:*

10am on 3 April 2023

10am on 3 July 2023

10 am on 2 October 2023

*Application forms will go live at the above dates and times and must be **started and submitted** within the submission window. In the meantime, a copy of the application questions can be downloaded in order to help you prepare your submission.*

National Lottery funding of between £500 and £25,000 for projects on a wide range of themes including supporting marginalised groups and tackling inequality. Funding priorities include communities experiencing racial inequity, people with disabilities, and the LGBT+ Community. For information and to apply see

<https://www.postcodetrust.org.uk/apply-for-a-grant/>

and

https://www.postcodetrust.org.uk/media/2724/3_ppt_fundingguide_2023.pdf

Cost-of-Living Support Scotland

Application deadline not stated

National Lottery funding from £10,001 to £75,000 for projects to help support individuals, families and communities currently experiencing hardship as a result of the cost-of-living increases. The programme aims to fund activity that reduces the impact of, or prevents financial insecurity so that people have more resilience and are more able to identify ways to deal with the impact of increased cost of living in their lives, are able to shape activity in their community to address the increased cost-of-living, and have more access to support and services that will help them to deal with the increased cost of living. For information and to apply see

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/cost-of-living-support-fund>

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Martyn's Law Webinar for Education

8 March 2023 (online, 10.30–12.00)

Home Office webinar to provide an opportunity for people working in education settings to learn about Martyn's Law, which will place a requirement on those responsible for certain locations to consider the threat from terrorism and implement appropriate and proportionate mitigation measures. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/5n97f5wa>

**** this week!**

Martyn's Law Webinar for Charities

8 March 2023 (online, 2.30–4.00)

Home Office webinar to provide an opportunity for charities to learn about Martyn's Law, which will place a requirement on those responsible for certain locations to consider the threat from terrorism and implement appropriate and proportionate mitigation measures. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yckzyene>

**** this week!**

Introduction to Racial Literacy

9 March 2023 (online, 10.00–1.00)

Amina Muslim Women's Resource Centre, and Action on Prejudice training session to help youth workers explore and understand the impact of dominant identities, how people react to things they don't know, barriers to participation for young people, and what actions they can take to become more inclusive. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/mrxecjvy>

**** this week!**

Martyn's Law Webinar for Places of Worship

9 March 2023 (online, 11.00–12.30)

Home Office webinar to provide an opportunity for people working with faith communities and places of worship to learn about Martyn's Law, which will place a requirement on those responsible for certain locations to consider the threat from terrorism and implement appropriate and proportionate mitigation measures. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/bdfch8rn>

**** this week!**

Hong Kongers in Scotland

10 March 2023 (Edinburgh, 10.00–1.30)

Migration Policy Scotland event to explore the experiences of Hong Kongers in Scotland, and consider what support they need to flourish in Scotland. For information see

<https://tinyurl.com/ykd7wmzb>

**** this week!**

Human Rights and Recruitment Training

10 March 2023 (online, 10.00–11.30)

CEMVO training session to develop knowledge and understanding of human rights and how to put them into practice within the recruitment process. For information see

<https://tinyurl.com/44ukwx9v>

Refugee Week UK Conference

15 March 2023 (online, 10.30–12.30)

Refugee Week UK conference to find out all you need to know about putting your own activity on the theme of “Compassion”, and to learn about the history of Refugee Week. For information see

<https://tinyurl.com/4wj7eute>

Journeying with New Scots – Building community with refugees & asylum seekers

25 March 2023 (Stirling, 10.00–3.30)

Faith Impact Forum event to share joint experiences, expand our learning and strengthen our ties in a shared concern for the deep longing to be seen, heard, and accepted. For information see

<https://tinyurl.com/2p89wzr3>

The Big Help Out

8 May 2023 (UK-wide)

The Big Help Out will be a national day of volunteering on the Bank Holiday Monday of the King's Coronation weekend. For information see <https://thebighelpout.org.uk/> or contact

margaret.starkie@volunteerscotland.org.uk

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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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