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Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Illegal Migration Bill

Kaukab Stewart (SNP): The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees condemns it, international charities are horrified by it, and the European Commission is scathing of it. It might, indeed, be in violation of the continent-wide European Convention on Human Rights. Does the First Minister agree that the United Kingdom Government's Illegal Migration Bill has no place in the open and international Scotland that we in this Parliament are seeking to build?

Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon): Yes, I agree with that wholeheartedly. This Scottish Government has, as many people have, condemned what is a cruel and inhumane bill, and we continue to urge the UK Government to scrap

it. How Douglas Ross could have voted for that bill in the House of Commons earlier this week is beyond me.

I think that it is incumbent on all of us to demonstrate respect for international law, human rights and social justice by offering protection through humane, fair and compassionate refugee and asylum policies. I certainly hope and expect that that is exactly what an independent Scotland would be able to do.

During this week, the Scottish Government extended funding for the women in conflict 1325 fellowship programme. At the same time, the UK Government has pressed forward with a bill that would see the rights of women who have been subjected to trafficking and sexual exploitation taken away, and children being subjected to detention. No one with a moral conscience should support legislation that, against international law, removes offering a place of safety to desperate people who are fleeing conflict and persecution.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=15205&i=129685#ScotParlOR>

Information about the fellowship programme referred to above can be read at <https://www.gov.scot/news/support-for-women-tackling-conflict/>

Illegal Migration Bill

Siobhian Brown (SNP) [S6O-02018] To ask the Scottish Government what its assessment is of any potential impact that the United Kingdom Government's proposed Illegal Migration Bill could have on devolved social justice powers and the duties of Scottish local authorities. (S6O-02018)

Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government (Shona Robison): We have written to the UK Government to state unequivocally that Scottish ministers do not support the Illegal Migration Bill. It is imperative that safe and legal routes exist for people who are seeking safety and protection from war and persecution, but the bill will remove the right to seek refugee protection. That risks pushing people into exploitation and destitution. We should be upholding the United Nations refugee convention, not undermining its international protections. We are currently considering the detail of the bill, including the impact on people and services and any legislative consent implications.

Siobhian Brown: The Immigration Law Practitioners Association says that the clauses of the bill that deal with modern slavery and trafficking breach the UK's obligations to victims of trafficking under article 4 of the European convention on human rights. Does the cabinet secretary agree that the actions of the UK Government are not only deeply immoral but illegal?

Reply from Shona Robison: The Home Secretary was unable to state that the bill's provisions are compatible with the European convention on human rights. That tells us all that we need to know about that abhorrent bill, which follows on from the shameful UK Nationality and Borders Act 2022.

A further restriction on provision of support to human trafficking victims penalises particularly vulnerable people—people who have suffered unimaginable trauma, including sexual exploitation or being forced, through violence, to work for no pay—and will prevent them from accessing the safety and support that would be available to them in the UK.

Children will be left in a shocking position until they turn 18, when they will be detained and removed to a third country where they have no connections or family. That cannot be allowed to happen. I would have thought that the whole chamber would agree on that.

Foysool Choudhury (Labour): The UK Government's Illegal Migration Bill is likely to have a significant impact on migrants and asylum seekers in Scotland. Scotland's legal profession alone will likely see the number of cases in their case loads skyrocket under

the bill's provisions for removal.

Many asylum seekers who have arrived here have risked their lives and arrived with nothing, so it is likely that the legal assistance that many asylum seekers would require would have to be done pro bono. Will the cabinet secretary advise what the potential impact of the bill will be on Scotland's legal aid service?

Reply from Shona Robison: There are many issues about the bill: Foysoil Choudhury has raised one issue about the impact that it will have. Of course, the real concern is that the bill will leave more people destitute and without recourse to public funds. That has a major impact on services as well as on the individuals themselves.

We will continue to do what we can by supporting third sector organisations, some of which are involved with provision of legal support and legal advice, and we will consider what more we can do.

However, let us be under no illusion: the legislation will have a profound impact on the people who are affected and on services here. We should all unite in condemnation of the UK Government for the move.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=15205&i=129696#ScotParlOR>

Independent Scotland (Migration Strategy)

Jackie Dunbar (SNP) [S6O-02026] To ask the Scottish Government what its policy is for the migration strategy in an independent Scotland, including how it could address any workforce and recruitment challenges resulting from the withdrawal from the European Union.

Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, External Affairs and Culture (Angus Robertson): The Scottish Fiscal Commission forecasts that Scotland's working-age population will fall by an average of 10,000 a year for at least the next five years, with net migration from the European Union lower as a result of Brexit and the United Kingdom Government's putting in place a restrictive immigration system that does not account for Scotland's needs.

Independence would give us the power to design immigration policy that is tailored to Scotland's needs, and to return the right to free movement in the European Union. Our approach would seek to attract working-age people and their families to live here and make a positive contribution to our economy and our communities, especially in rural areas.

Jackie Dunbar: As international condemnation of the UK Government's atrocious and dehumanising Illegal Migration Bill continues to pour in, the need for the full immigration powers of an independent state has never been clearer. Will the cabinet secretary assure Parliament that this Scottish Government will remain committed to Scotland's role as a good global citizen before, and after, independence?

Reply from Angus Robertson: I agree entirely with my colleague. Although immigration and asylum are reserved to the UK Government, we remain committed to providing support and assistance to all those who seek safety and sanctuary in Scotland, and we will do our utmost to support people to make Scotland their home. With independence, Scotland can leave behind the hostile environment that characterises UK Government policy.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=15205&i=129672#ScotParlOR>

UK Parliament Debate

Ukrainian Refugees: Homelessness

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-03-14/debates/3ED49363-939A-4FE4-9540-62CFBE0840E2/UkrainianRefugeesHomelessness>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Refugees

Dan Jarvis (Labour) [163853] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many individuals have been relocated to the UK under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy scheme in each month since December 2022.

Reply from James Heapey: The number of individuals relocated to the UK under the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP) scheme since December 2022 can be found in the table below:

Month	Total ARAP Relocations to the UK
December	1
January	31
February	24

These relocation figures include eligible principals, their dependants who are eligible by default and additional family members (AFM) who qualify to be relocated to the UK under ARAP.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-13/163853>

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

Refugees: Afghanistan

Hilary Benn (Labour) [163725] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will waive the requirement for an English language test for refugees from Afghanistan who are in Pakistan seeking to join their spouse in the UK and who are unable to register for such tests because they lack immigration status in Pakistan.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Government believes those seeking to enter and make a permanent home in the UK should be equipped to integrate successfully in UK society, with an appropriate level of English and an understanding of British life. There are no plans to waive the requirement for family members from Afghanistan to pass an English language test to enter the UK.

However, under the Immigration Rules an applicant can already be exempted from the English language requirement to enter the UK if a decision maker considers there are exceptional circumstances preventing the applicant from meeting the requirement.

The applicant must demonstrate, as a result of these circumstances, they are unable to learn English before coming to the UK, or it is not practicable or reasonable for them to travel to another country to take an approved English language test.

Each application for an exemption on the basis of exceptional circumstances will be considered on its merits on a case-by-case basis.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-13/163725>

Asylum: Afghanistan

Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat) [160237] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, how many asylum applications are awaiting decision by her Department from Afghan nationals whose spouse has already been granted asylum in the UK; and if she will provide a breakdown of locations from which applications have been made.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office publishes data on asylum in the '[Immigration System Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on asylum applications awaiting a decision by nationality 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 applications awaiting a decision over the entire quarter. The latest data relates to as at 31 December 2022. Data as at 31 March 2023 will be published on 25 May 2023. Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the '[Research and statistics calendar](#)'.

This data is not available broken down by outcomes received by family members. Official statistics published by the Home Office are kept under review in line with the code of practice for statistics, taking into account a number of factors including user needs, as well as quality and availability of data.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-07/160237>

Refugees: Afghanistan

Deidre Brook (SNP) [162216] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential impact of (a) evacuating children without their parents and (b) other instances of families being separated during their evacuation from Afghanistan under Operation Pitting on those people.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Following the evacuation of Kabul any children who we became aware of in the UK, that were not with their parents, have been dealt with on a case-by-case basis. When this has happened, we work in close collaboration with social services and the relevant local authority.

The Government has provided, and it continues to provide, a warm welcome to Afghans arriving in the UK. This includes the provision of accommodation, food, integration support, English lessons, and healthcare.

The situation in Afghanistan remains very complex and presents significant challenges, including how those who are eligible for resettlement in the UK can leave the country. This includes the eligible family members of those who arrived during Operation Pitting.

For those evacuated from Afghanistan and resettled under the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS), without their immediate family members, further information will be made available in due course about options for reuniting with them.

Otherwise, anyone without refugee status - including those resettled under ACRS Pathway 1 and the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) - wishing to bring family members would need to apply through the regular family visa route under Appendix FM of the Immigration Rules.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-09/162216>

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

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

Appendix FM of the Immigration Rules, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-fm-family-members>

Afghanistan: Refugees

John Healey (Labour) [162117] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) (a) principals and (b) dependents are currently being housed in bridging hotels following their relocation to the UK under that scheme.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Government continues to work at pace, in collaboration with over 350 local authorities across the UK, to meet the demand for housing. Alongside this, we are reaching out to landlords, developers, and the wider private rented sector to encourage further offers of properties.

All those resettling under the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) or Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP), have recourse to public funds and the right to work and study.

We are working intensely across government, and in partnership with c.350 local authorities across the country to both bring down the number of people in bridging hotels and move families into more sustainable accommodation as quickly as possible so they can put down permanent roots. Local authorities currently receive integration tariff funding of £20,520 per person, over three years, for each Afghan family they resettle and provide full integration support to for this duration.

The UK is currently experiencing a shortage of local housing accommodation for all, and we acknowledge that sourcing appropriate accommodation for Afghan families can be a complex process due to the diverse needs of those we are supporting. However, this government will remain committed to ensuring each and every Afghan family resettling in the UK has a permanent home. Whilst hotels do not provide a long-term solution, they do offer safe, secure and clean accommodation.

Statistics on individuals resettled or relocated under the Afghan schemes is available in the [Immigration System Statistics, year ending December 2022](#) release.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-09/162117>

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

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

Refugees: Afghanistan

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [162232] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department is taking steps with Cabinet colleagues to (a) ensure that Afghan families are not living in hotels by August 2023 and (b) help integrated those families into their local communities.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Whilst hotels do not provide a long-term solution, they do offer safe, secure and clean accommodation. We are working intensely across government, and in partnership with c.350 local authorities across the country to both bring down the number of people in bridging hotels and move families into more sustainable accommodation as quickly as possible so they can put down permanent roots.

The UK is currently experiencing a shortage of local housing accommodation for all, and we acknowledge that sourcing appropriate accommodation for Afghan families can be a complex process due to the diverse needs of those we are supporting. However, this government remains committed to helping each and every Afghan family resettling in the UK into permanent accommodation as soon as possible.

All those resettling under the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) or Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP), have recourse to public funds and the right to work and study. Local authorities currently receive integration tariff funding of £20,520 per person, over three years, for each Afghan family they resettle and provide full integration support to for this duration.

Local authorities and health partners who resettle families currently receive up to £4,500 per child for education, £850 for English language provision for adults requiring this support and £2,600 for healthcare.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-09/162232>

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

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

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer: Ukraine

Refugees: Ukraine

Philippa Whitford (SNP) [163756] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, whether he has taken steps with Cabinet colleagues to advertise English language (a) tuition services and (b) other learning initiatives to Ukrainian refugees.

Reply from Felicity Buchan: We recognise that English language skills are vital for Ukrainians to integrate into UK and find employment. The Government announced on 15 March a £11.5 million employment and support programme for Ukrainians which includes provision of English language training. We are working with other government departments to consider how to promote and harness the current ESOL offer available through the Adult Education Budget and engaging with employers to understand what flexibilities might be available within the overall employment offer. Further information can be accessed [here](#).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-13/163756>

The announcement referred to above can be read in paragraphs 3.66 and 4.170 at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1142902/Web_accessible_Budget_2023.pdf

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

Radicalism

Cat Smith (Labour) [161324] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department is taking steps to monitor the activities of (a) Patriotic Alternative and (b) other far-right groups relating to refugees.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Government remains committed to tackling those who spread views that promote violence and hatred against individuals and communities in our society. This includes using existing mechanisms to analyse, prevent and disrupt the spread of ideologies that can lead to community division. Rights to peaceful protest do not extend to violent or threatening behaviour and the police have powers to deal with any such acts and protect the public.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-08/161324>

Cost of Living Payments: Migrants

Fleur Anderson (Labour) [162308] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if he will make an assessment of the potential merits of extending eligibility for cost of living support schemes to include people with no recourse to public funds.

Reply from Mims Davies: The Government has provided a wide range of measures to support with the cost of living in 22/23, including the Energy Bill Support Scheme and the Energy Price Guarantee which are available to all households with a domestic electricity bill. To ensure stability and certainty for households we are providing further cost of living support in 2023/24, including maintaining the Energy Price Guarantee at £2,500 for a further three months, from April 2023.

There is a general expectation that people wishing to come to the UK can maintain themselves and their families until they are settled here. Those granted immigration leave with a No Recourse to Public Funds condition are not therefore eligible for means-tested benefits or the Cost of Living Payment. However, we are increasing the National Living Wage (NLW) by 9.7% to £10.42 an hour for workers aged 23 and over, from 1 April 2023 for those individuals who have a right to work.

Local Authorities can provide a basic safety net support to an individual, regardless of their immigration status, if there is a genuine care need that does not arise solely from destitution, for example if:

- there are community care needs
- they have serious health problems
- there is a risk to a child's wellbeing

Local Authorities must use their judgement to decide what legal powers and funding can be used to support individuals who are ineligible for public funds or statutory housing assistance.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-09/162308>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Migrants: Finance

Fleur Anderson (Labour) [162309] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what recent assessment the Government has made of the impact of the No Recourse to Public Funds policy on (a) child poverty and (b) child health inequalities.

Fleur Anderson (Labour) [162310] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if he will make an assessment with his Cabinet colleagues of the potential impact of the No Recourse to Public Funds policy on levels of (a) poverty and (b) inequality.

Reply from Mims Davies: The Department has made no recent assessments, and it has no plans to do so in the future.

DWP has no powers to award public funds benefits to an individual whose Home Office immigration status restricts access to public funds. Those on certain visa routes, including the family and human rights routes, can apply, for free, to have public funds access restrictions lifted if they are destitute or at risk of destitution, if the welfare of their child is at risk due to their low income, or where there are other exceptional financial circumstances.

Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 imposes a general duty on local authorities to safeguard and promote the welfare of "children in need" in their area. Support provided to a child by local authorities under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 is not dependent on the immigration status of the child or their parent(s). In addition, individuals with no recourse to public funds can also benefit from the Household Support Fund and may be able to receive support in limited circumstances, as determined by Local Authorities.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-09/162309>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-09/162310>

Section 17 of the Children Act 1989, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/41/section/17>

Migrants: Hong Kong

Julian Knight (Independent) [158967] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, whether his Department is taking steps to increase the level of support available to people from Hong Kong who have moved to the UK.

Reply from Felicity Buchan: In 2021, the Department launched a UK-wide Welcome Programme to support Hong Kong BN(O) status holders to settle in the UK, and has recently announced continued funding for 2023/24. The Programme continues to provide a comprehensive support package with an easily accessible universal offer as its foundation, progressing to targeted support for those most in need.

The universal offer is open to all BN(O) visa holders in the UK and includes a network of 12 virtual Welcome Hubs across the UK, funding for voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations to deliver national and regional projects and a comprehensive Welcome Pack on GOV.UK. The Programme also funds targeted support provided by local authorities in England on a demand-led basis for those BN(O) individuals who require additional assistance with English language or where there is a risk of destitution.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-06/158967>

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

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

The Welcome Pack referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1013244/HK_BN_O_Welcome_Pack_August_2021.pdf

Refugees: Resettlement

Selaine Saxby (Conservative) [163977] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have settled in the UK under the UK Resettlement Scheme in 2023.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office publishes data on resettlement in the '[Immigration System Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on refugees resettled in the UK by scheme can be found in table Asy_D02 of the '[asylum and resettlement detailed datasets](#)'. Information on how to use the datasets can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbooks.

The latest data relate to the year ending December 2022. Data for the year ending March 2023 will be published on 25 May 2023. Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the '[Research and statistics calendar](#)'.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-13/163977>

Asylum

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [161408] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department issues guidance on legal routes to claim asylum in the UK.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Whilst we sympathise with people in many difficult situations around the world, we are not bound to consider asylum claims from overseas. Those who need international protection should claim asylum in the first safe country they reach – that is the fastest route to safety.

Our resettlement schemes operate differently to asylum. We have provided safe and legal routes for tens of thousands of people to start new lives in the UK. The

UK welcomes people at risk through the UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS), Mandate Resettlement Scheme, Community Sponsorship and the Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme and we have routes for Hong Kongers and Ukrainians via other safe and legal routes. This commitment, alongside a fair and firm asylum system, will ensure we continue to offer safe and legal routes to the UK for those in need of protection. Our focus will remain on helping individuals directly from regions of conflict and instability.

Further information on our resettlement schemes is available on GOV.UK at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/resettlement-policy-statement

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-08/161408>

Asylum: Families

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [162236] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she will take to provide safe routes for family reunification.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Government already provides a safe and legal route to bring families together through its refugee family reunion policy. This allows the partner and children of those granted protection in the UK to join them here, if they formed part of the family unit before the sponsor fled their country. Our family reunion policy has reunited many refugees with their family members; since 2015 more than 44,659 family reunion visas have been granted.

Our policy also makes clear that there is discretion to grant visas outside the Immigration Rules, which caters for extended family members where there are compelling compassionate factors or relevant factors under Article 8 of European Convention on Human Rights. In addition, there are separate provisions in the Rules such as paragraph 319X to allow extended family to sponsor children to come here where there are serious and compelling circumstances.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-09/162236>

Paragraph 319X of the Immigration Rules, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-part-8-family-members>

Undocumented Migrants: Families

Cat Smith (Labour) [160314] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Illegal Immigration Bill, what steps she plans to take to ensure that children are not separated from their parents.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Family groups with children will remain together wherever possible during the detention and removal process.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-07/160314>

Asylum: Children

Stephen Timms (Labour) [165190] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to her oral contribution to the second reading debate on the Illegal Migration Bill on 14 March 2023, Official Report, Column 580, what steps she is taking to ensure that unaccompanied asylum-seeking children are removed from the UK only (a) for the purposes of family reunion and (b) in other limited circumstances.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Illegal Migration Bill provides the Home Secretary with a legal duty to remove people who have entered the UK illegally.

The Secretary of State is not required to make arrangements to remove an unaccompanied child from the UK until they turn 18 years old. As a matter of current policy, this power will only be exercised in very limited circumstances ahead of them reaching adulthood, such as for the purposes of family reunion or where removal is to a safe country of origin.

Unaccompanied children who arrive in the UK illegally will be provided with the necessary accommodation and support but they will not be able to settle in the UK.

Taking these measures will send a clear message that children cannot be exploited and forced into crossing the Channel in small boats for the purpose of starting a new life in the UK.

The only way to come to the UK for protection will be through safe and legal routes. This will take power out of the hands of the criminal gangs and protect vulnerable people, including children.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-14/165190>

The oral contribution referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-03-13/debates/97D4F67E-2C1B-44CB-B860-DD9024958EEF/IllegalMigrationBill#contribution-09646CB3-0916-4B84-944D-89627FC5CAB5>

Asylum

Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op) [163816] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 10 March 2023 to Question 160288 on Asylum, what assessment she has made of the implications for her Department's policies of trends in the number of people claiming asylum after arriving on land-based transport.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: On 7 March 2023 the Government introduced the new Illegal Migration Bill in Parliament. The new legislation will build on and strengthen measures in the Nationality and Borders Act 2022 to tackle illegal migration. The purpose of the legislation is to deter people from making dangerous and unnecessary journeys to the UK and break the model of criminals exploiting people by facilitating this route.

Anyone who enters or arrives in the UK illegally having passed through a safe country, including those who arrive clandestinely through land-based transport, will be subject to the duty.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-13/163816>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-07/160288>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Asylum

Ellie Reeves (Labour) [165406] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what percentage of asylum applications were (a) granted, (b) refused, (c) withdrawn and (d) pending a decision in each year since 2010.

Ellie Reeves (Labour) [165407] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for asylum were submitted in each of the last five years; and how many decisions have been reached in each of those years.

Ellie Reeves (Labour) [165408] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what percentage of asylum applications received in (a) 2020, (b) 2021 and (c) 2022 have had a decisions.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office publishes data on asylum in the '[Immigration System Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on asylum applications raised can be found in table Asy_D01, data on initial decisions made on asylum applications can be found in table Asy_D02, and data on outcomes of asylum applications raised in specific years can be found in table Asy_D04 of the '[asylum and resettlement detailed datasets](#)'. Information on how to use the datasets can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbooks.

For table Asy_D01 and Asy_D02, the latest data relate to the year ending December 2022. Data for the year ending March 2023 will be published on 25 May 2023.

For table Asy_D04, the latest available data is for 2021, and data are accurate as of June 2022. An update to this table will be published in August 2023, which will

include data for 2022.

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-14/165406>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-14/165407>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-14/165408>

Asylum: Albania

Hilary Benn (Labour) [165222] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people arrived in the UK from Albania in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and how many people were returned to Albania in that period.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office publishes data on entry clearance visas in the '[Immigration System Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on visas granted to Albanian nationals are published in table Vis_D02 of the '[Entry clearance visa applications and outcomes](#)' detailed datasets

Data on irregular arrivals are published in the '[Irregular Migration to the UK release](#)'.

Data on detected irregular arrivals of Albanian nationals are published in table Irr_D01 of the '[Irregular Migration to the UK detailed datasets](#)'.

Please note that the published Home Office entry clearance visa statistics show the number of visa applications and outcomes, but this may not necessarily equal the total number of individuals arriving in the UK on visas (for example, some visas may be unused, or some individuals may apply for more than one visa in a given period). The data also shows visas for Albanian nationals, but does not show if they have applied from Albania.

Data on returns are published in the '[Immigration System Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on returns by destination are published in table Ret_D02 of the '[Returns detailed datasets](#)'.

Further information on how to use the datasets can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbooks. The latest data relates to the end of December 2022, except for Returns which are to the end of September 2022.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-14/165222>

Asylum: Questionnaires

Rupa Huq (Labour) [160339] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure asylum seekers are not penalised if questionnaires are sent to previous addresses following relocation.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: We need to make sure asylum seekers do not spend months or years - living in the UK at vast expense to the taxpayer - waiting for a decision. That is why the Prime Minister has made a commitment to clear the historical asylum backlog by the end of the year.

As part of this commitment, 12,000 asylum seekers who lodged asylum claims before 28 June 2022 are going to be considered through a Streamlined Asylum Process. This will involve eligible claimants being sent a questionnaire to their correspondence address asking them to provide all the necessary information so claims can be considered more quickly. This will speed up decisions for those in genuine need, ending the uncertainty over their future, and help us remove people with no right to be here.

Claimants who receive an asylum questionnaire will have 20 working days to respond. If the questionnaire is not returned within the timeframe, we will make further attempts to contact eligible claimants and they will receive a reminder via post, email and phone (where they have made their contact details available to the

Home Office), and a further 10 working days to complete the questionnaire. Extensions can be requested by contacting the Home Office.

All relevant individual circumstances will be considered, on a case-by-case basis when deciding whether someone's asylum claim should be withdrawn. Asylum claims will not be withdrawn if there is a reasonable explanation

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-07/160339>

Asylum: Questionnaires

Harriet Harman (Labour) [162112] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what resources are being provided to support asylum seekers required to fill in the 11 page questionnaire in English and return it within 20 days.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Streamlined Asylum Process policy guidance was published on 23 February 2023 ([Streamlined asylum processing](#)). On the same day, questionnaires began to be sent out to legacy claimants from Afghanistan, Eritrea, Libya, Syria and Yemen to their most recently recorded correspondence address. These countries have been included in the streamlined asylum process on the basis of their high-grant rate of 95% or higher and over 100 grants in the year-ending September 2022 of protection status (refugee status or humanitarian protection). All questionnaires should be dispatched to eligible claimants by the end of March 2023.

The asylum claim questionnaires are in English as is generally the case for immigration paperwork across the Department. If necessary, claimants can utilise legal representatives, Non-Government Organisations and other support networks to help them respond to the questionnaire. For those who are unable to return the questionnaire within 20 working days, a reminder will be sent to the claimant allowing a further 10-working days to complete and return it to the Home Office. A further extension can be requested where the timeframe cannot be met, for example because the claimant has serious medical conditions which is impacting their ability to respond to the questionnaire.

The intention of these questionnaires is to enable claimants to provide any further information about their claims after their initial screening interview upon arrival.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-09/162112>

Asylum: Harassment and Intimidation

Cat Smith (Labour) [160312] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to prevent the intimidation and harassment of asylum seekers; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Chris Philp: The wellbeing, welfare and safety of those in our care is our primary concern. Nobody should be subject to harassment or intimidation and anyone who experiences such treatment should ensure they report it to their local police force to take appropriate action.

For the many asylum seekers currently housed in hotels the Home Office has taken extensive action to ensure their safety. The Home Office and our accommodation providers work closely with the police and keep security under constant review.

Home Office contractors, their subcontractors and hotel staff on site are responsible for addressing the immediate safety and needs of those in their care. Security is in place at each site including a full team of security personnel on site 24 hours a day to ensure the safety of asylum seekers and staff in accommodation. 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.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-07/160312>

Asylum: LGBT+ People

Rupa Huq (Labour) [160341] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to protect LGBT+ people from experiencing homophobic abuse whilst in detention in the UK.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The rights of all detained individuals are safeguarded by the [Detention Centre Rules 2001](#), published operating standards for immigration removal centres (IRCs) and [Detention Services Orders](#) (DSO).

Any discrimination against those who are detained in our immigration removal estate is unacceptable, and we take robust action against anyone who is found not to have behaved appropriately. Published guidance sets out the standards of treatment for transexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people in detention, to ensure that all staff working in the Home Office removal estate are aware of the actions to identify and appropriately meet their needs.

Detainee Custody Officers in IRCs receive diversity training as part of their initial training, covering the treatment of LGBT detained persons and others with protected characteristics. In addition, supplier staff provide opportunities for detained individuals to safely disclose their sexual orientation and ensure that those who choose to disclose can access support and assistance. This information is treated sensitively in line with data protection legislation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-07/160341>

Asylum: Children

Dan Carden (Labour) [160375] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reasons her Department will not establish an independent inquiry into the disappearance of children from accommodation managed by her Department.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: All cases of missing children remain open, with police forces completing investigations and following any new evidence.

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 involving the police and the local authority, who have a shared statutory responsibility to safeguard all children, including missing migrant children, in order to establish their whereabouts and to ensure that they are safe.

When any looked after child who goes missing from a care setting, including the UASC hotels, the MARS (Missing After Reasonable Steps) protocol is followed.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-07/160375>

Asylum: Children

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour) [160365] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 1 March 2023 to Question 156231, what steps her Department is taking to locate the remaining missing asylum seekers under the age of 18 who were staying in hotels procured by her Department.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: We have safeguarding procedures in place to ensure all unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in hotels 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 social workers and nurses.

Once in a hotel where UASC are accommodated, there are various measures in place to ensure that the risk of a child going missing is minimised. Records are kept and monitored of children leaving and returning to the hotel. Support workers will accompany children off site on activities and social excursions, or where specific vulnerabilities are identified. The Home Office has no power to hold children in hotels or any temporary accommodation if they wish to leave.

If a young person goes missing from a care setting, including a UASC hotel, the MARS (Missing After Reasonable Steps) protocol is followed. A multi-agency, missing persons meeting is chaired by the local authority to establish the young person's whereabouts and to ensure that they are safe.

When used correctly, similar protocols within police forces have safely reduced the number of missing episodes from placements by 36%.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-07/160365>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-01/156231>

Asylum: Housing

Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op) [162183] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers have been removed from their dispersal accommodation by the provider but are not currently in alternative dispersal accommodation.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office provides dispersal accommodation to support asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute. That accommodation is generally available until the asylum application is decided and, or eligibility for support has ceased. Accommodation providers may occasionally relocate people temporarily – for example to repair a property. The number of people formerly housed in dispersal accommodation who are currently awaiting an alternative is not recorded.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-09/162183>

Asylum: Housing

Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op) [162184] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that all dispersal accommodation providers who remove an asylum seeker from their accommodation immediately organise for her Department to arrange alternative dispersal accommodation.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Dispersal accommodation is longer-term accommodation managed by Asylum Accommodation and Support Services Contracts (AASC) Accommodation providers on behalf of the Home Office.

Asylum seekers normally remain in dispersal accommodation until their asylum claim has been fully determined. It is not always possible to stay in the same property in the event that the property is withdrawn by the landlord or the Home Office is not satisfied that the property continues to meet the high standards we expect.

The accommodation needs of any newly granted refugees do, of course, fall to local authorities as part of their statutory duties.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-09/162184>

Asylum: Hotels

Bambos Charalambous (Labour) [162258] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what provision is being made for the education of and the disruption caused to children from asylum seeking families who are moved to hotel accommodation.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Irrespective of where “school aged” asylum seeking children are housed, the responsibility for the provision of education remains with the Local Authority in conjunction with the parent(s). When dispersal accommodation is identified a dispersal notification is issued which generally provides 5 days’ notice to the family. For those children of service users who are due to be dispersed there is a responsibility on the parent to ensure that their childrens’ school is advised they are due to move. Where necessary, accommodation providers will signpost and assist asylum seekers with this.

In terms of the new receiving school, it remains the responsibility of the asylum seeker to ensure that the new school is advised of their child's previous place of education so effective 'link up' can be made by both schools, as is the case for the general population. Accommodation providers reiterate the importance of this when signposting asylum seekers to schools within the local area. Receiving councils will work quickly to ensure that available school places are offered to the children of asylum seekers.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-09/162258>

Asylum: Hotels

Sarah Olney (Liberal Democrat) [162254] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an estimate of the cost to the public purse of housing asylum seekers in hotels in each of the next three years.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: In order to meet our statutory obligations to accommodate asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute, we have been forced to temporarily house asylum seekers in hotels. The use of hotels is a short term solution and we are working hard with Local Authorities and our accommodation providers to find more appropriate accommodation.

Operating hotels as contingency accommodation for asylum seekers is not something we want to be doing and is not a long-term solution. We have been working with providers, local authorities and Strategic Migration Partnerships in order to move people from hotels across the country to more suitable dispersal accommodation. Increased asylum intake has meant that the Home Office has had to deal with growing demand for asylum support and accommodation services. In addition to these pressures, it remains slow to bring on dispersal accommodation, and procurement has not kept pace with intake.

We do not have a set budget for contingency hotels. Costs are subject to change depending on numbers being accommodated within the asylum system. Accommodation costs are considered to be commercially confidential, therefore the Home Office does not publish this information. However, total expenditure on asylum is published in the Home Office Annual Report and Accounts, available at

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-09/162254>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Dungavel House Immigration Removal Centre

Neale Hanvey (Alba) [165451] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has had recent discussions with (a) the Scottish government, (b) local authorities and (c) other relevant stakeholders on the operation of the Dungavel House immigration removal centre.

Neale Hanvey (Alba) [165456] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the Scottish Government has requested that responsibility for the immigration detention facility at Dungavel be devolved.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Contact takes place between Dungavel House IRC and relevant local stakeholders, as necessary, on issues relating to the day to day running of the centre. Although immigration is not a devolved matter, we will keep the Scottish Government informed of any significant changes to the operation of this IRC.

The Annual Budget for Dungavel House IRC forms part of the budget for the wider detention estate and is not disaggregated. Published figures for the average cost of a detention bed per day can be found at the link: [Immigration Enforcement data: Q4 2022](#)

The Home Office publishes statistics on people entering and leaving immigration

detention in the '[Immigration System Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. The number of people entering detention each quarter are in table Det_D01 of the '[Detention detailed datasets](#)', where the data can be broken down by age and first place of detention. The number of people leaving detention each quarter are in table Det_D03 of the 'Detention detailed datasets', where the data can be broken down by length of detention.

The Home Office does not publish by place of detention: asylum-related detentions, length of detention of people leaving detention, or a breakdown of pregnant women detained.

However, data on the total number of asylum-related detentions each year is in table Det_01 and data on the total number leaving detention by place of detention is in table Det_04c of the '[Detention summary tables](#)'. The latest data relate to the end of December 2022.

Data on the total number of pregnant women detained in the immigration detention estate each quarter is published in table PWD_01 of the '[Immigration Enforcement data: Q4 2022](#)'. This data is only available from July 2016 and goes up to the end of September 2022. For data prior to 2010, see the archived Detention tables.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-14/165451>
and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-14/165456>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

EU Settlement Scheme

Baroness Ludford (Liberal Democrat): To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the High Court judgment of 21 December 2022, what plans they have to allow EU citizens who hold pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme (1) to keep their rights under the Withdrawal Agreement when that status expires, and (2) to automatically obtain permanent residence rights without making a second application to that scheme.

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Murray of Blidworth): We have informed the High Court that we do not wish to pursue an appeal against the judgment. This avoids continuing uncertainty for those affected. We are working to implement the judgment as swiftly as possible, and we will provide a further update in due course.

Baroness Ludford: My Lords, it is nearly three months since the High Court found that the Government's interpretation of the withdrawal agreement was wrong in law in the way it constructed the EU settlement scheme for EEA citizens to get a permanent residence right. I suggest that the Government need to undertake some consultations with parties and groups with relevant expertise, such as the 3million and the Independent Monitoring Authority for the Citizens' Rights Agreements, to ensure that any changes now uphold—rather than undermine, as in the past—the rights under the withdrawal agreement. Are the Government undertaking such consultation? Can the Minister clarify what “in due course” really means?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: I can confirm that work is proceeding to implement the judgment. As the noble Baroness will have noticed, the High Court accepted, in paragraphs 188 and 191 of its judgment, that “before and after the conclusion of the WA”—the withdrawal agreement—officials in the European Commission “understood, and ... accepted, the United Kingdom's intention to require” pre-settled status-holders “to apply for settled status”.

In the High Court's view, this was embarrassing for the Commission, but it did not alter the fact, as was contended by the Commission, that the text of the withdrawal agreement did not require such a further application for pre-settled status, and

therefore the High Court found as it did. The Government will certainly implement its findings.

I add that the EU settlement scheme has been a great success, with over 7 million applications received and 6.9 million applications concluded as of 31 December 2022.

The Earl of Kinnoull (Crossbench): My Lords, the High Court judgment was very much in line with the recommendations and spirit of the multiple reports on citizens' rights of the European Union Committee and the European Affairs Committee. In the reset of the scheme, will the Government make provision for another of our strong recommendations, made multiple times in these many reports, for the option of physical proof of status?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: As the noble Earl rightly observes, the High Court judgment upheld both limbs of the IMA challenge: first, that the withdrawal agreement residence right of a holder of pre-settled status does not expire for failure to make a second application to the EUSS; and, secondly, that a pre-settled status holder acquires the right to permanent residence under the withdrawal agreement automatically once the conditions for it are met. The intention has always been to provide digital proof of status, and that remains the department's view.

Lord Hannan of Kingsclere (Conservative): ... One of the reasons that this case came to court is because we have the independent monitoring authority ... It has a budget of £5.5 million and 50 staff and has been working assiduously to ensure that EU nationals in the UK enjoy their full rights under the treaty. There is no equivalent body. It is supposedly the Commission that does it on other the side with a couple of people there. ...

Romania has exactly the same scheme as we do. The Commission has not begun enforcement proceedings. Will my noble friend the Minister press for a measure of symmetry in the treatment of UK nationals in the European Union?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: I entirely agree with my noble friend and can reassure him that the department works very closely with our colleagues in Brussels in relation to the protection of the rights of UK nationals within the European Union.

The Lord Bishop of Southwark: My Lords, does the Minister agree that a positive move to implement the High Court judgment may help in bilateral representations where British citizens find themselves disadvantaged by the application of the immigration laws in certain EU countries where residence was not hitherto a problem?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: I entirely agree with the right reverend Prelate that clearly it helps that the Home Office works very closely with those in the Commission in relation to the respective rights of citizens in each other's countries.

Lord Hannay of Chiswick (Crossbench): My Lords, will the Minister give an absolute undertaking that the remedial action which he referred to in his reply to the noble Baroness, Lady Ludford, will be completed and enforced by the date which the one that was struck down would have come in this autumn? Will he give an absolute undertaking that that will be remedied by then? Does he recognise that it might be more sensible if the Government paid a little more attention to the IMA, which was actually set up to give advice on how the withdrawal should be enforced, rather than forcing it to take them to court?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: I can certainly confirm that it is our intention to abide by the judgment. We work very closely with the IMA and will continue to do so. ...

Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede (Labour): My Lords, the High Court's decision affects about 2.6 million people granted pre-settled status. Will the Government now ensure that the plan to be put in place will be quick and that settled EU citizens do not risk having their right to live here put in any jeopardy? Can the Minister say what he means by "in due course"?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: I can confirm to the noble Lord, Lord Ponsonby, that we will certainly not put in jeopardy any such residence rights. I am afraid that I am unable to confirm at this stage what “in due course” might mean, but I hope to return to the House fairly shortly to confirm the position.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-03-13/debates/90889654-3295-4C13-AB9E-78B218CE4CC6/EUSettlementScheme>

The judgement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2022/3274.html>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer: Afghanistan

Refugees: Afghanistan

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL6117] To ask His Majesty's Government whether they will notify Afghan refugees in the UK starting with those who arrived under the Afghans Citizens Resettlement Scheme Pathway 3 of how they can apply to be reunited with close family members, regardless of where such family members are now located.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: In line with our existing policy, those resettled under the ACRS may be able to be accompanied by their immediate family members (their spouse or partner, and dependent children under 18).

The government remains committed to providing protection for vulnerable and at-risk people fleeing Afghanistan. The situation is very complex and presents significant challenges, including how those who are eligible for resettlement in the UK can leave Afghanistan.

This includes the eligible family members of those being resettled under the ACRS. For those evacuated from Afghanistan under the ACRS without their immediate family members, further information will be made available in due course about options for reuniting with them.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-03/hl6117>

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 Lords Written Answers: Other Immigration and Asylum

Windrush Generation: Anniversaries

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Conservative) [HL6028] To ask His Majesty's Government what plans they have to celebrate Windrush Day in 2023.

Reply from Baroness Scott of Bybrook: The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has committed £3.75 million in funding to date toward honouring the Windrush legacy. This includes £2.75 million across five years of the Windrush Day Grant Scheme, and £1 million allocated to the National Windrush Monument.

HM Government is fully committed to ensuring that National Windrush Day celebratory events in 2023 mark the 75th anniversary of the arrival of MV Empire Windrush at the Port of Tilbury.

We have already announced that the funding pot offered by the 2023 Windrush Day Grant Scheme has increased from £500,000 to £750,000. This is the largest sum yet to be offered by the scheme. For the first time, projects operating in Northern Ireland were also given the opportunity to apply for funding.

Details of this year's grant scheme can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/windrush-75-windrush-day-grant-scheme-2023/windrush-75-windrush-day-grant-scheme-2023-guidance-for-applicants>

DLUHC has also committed £50,000 toward developing educational materials, which will be made available via HM Government's National Windrush Monument website. These will ensure that the contributions of the Windrush generation and their descendants are recognised across the UK.

I can also confirm that officials have been asked to explore further what else we can do ahead of the summer.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-01/hl6028>

The following four questions all received the same answer

Asylum: Applications

Baroness Coussins (Crossbench) [HL6031] To ask His Majesty's Government what plans they have to require written asylum applications to be submitted in English.

Baroness Coussins (Crossbench) [HL6032] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the letter to the Minister of State for Immigration from the Chartered Institute of Linguists and the Institute of Translation and Interpreting on 27 February about the use of online translation tools to assist written asylum applications.

Baroness Coussins (Crossbench) [HL6033] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the use of online translation tools to assist written asylum applications on the level of appeals against asylum decisions.

Baroness Coussins (Crossbench) [HL6034] To ask His Majesty's Government what plans they have to provide public service interpreters to assist asylum seekers if they are required to submit a written asylum application in English.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: 12,000 asylum seekers from Afghanistan, Eritrea, Syria, Yemen, and Libya who lodged asylum claims before 28 June 2022 will be considered through a Streamlined Asylum Process. This will involve eligible claimants being sent a questionnaire asking them to provide all the necessary information so claims can be considered more quickly. This will speed up decisions for those in genuine need, ending the uncertainty over their future, and help us remove people with no right to be here.

It is standard practice for the Home Office to issue correspondence and questionnaires to asylum claimants in English. This is to avoid responses being received in other languages.

Asylum claims will continue to be considered on a case-by-case basis against published Immigration Rules, policy guidance and country information. These five nationalities had a grant rate of over 95% in the year-ending September 2022, therefore it is right to accelerate the processing of these claims where appropriate. An automatic grant of protection status for these countries is certainly not guaranteed – all individuals will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and an interview will follow the questionnaire if more information is needed.

All individuals will have already undergone a screening interview, including criminal checks and will have their biometrics, such as their fingerprints, taken before they can be considered for a grant of protection status.

If individuals do not reply to the questionnaire, and the Home Office is unable to trace them, their claim could be withdrawn.

We will respond to the correspondence from the Chartered Institute of Linguists and the Institute of Translation and Interpreting in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-01/hl6031>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-01/hl6032>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-01/hl6033>
and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-01/hl6034>

The letter referred to above can be read at

<https://www.ciol.org.uk/ciol-and-iti-express-concerns-home-office>

Press Releases

K and Rwanda strengthen agreement to deal with global migration issues

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-rwanda-strengthen-agreement-to-deal-with-global-migration-issues>

Ukrainian hosts see uplift in ‘thank you’ payments as Wales continues to prove itself as a Nation of Sanctuary

<https://www.gov.wales/ukrainian-hosts-see-uplift-thank-you-payments-wales-continues-prove-itself-nation-sanctuary>

New Publications

Letter from Baroness Goldie to Baroness Coussins regarding an issue raised during a question on the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme: whether cases of Afghan interpreters eligible but unprocessed under the ACRS or Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP) can be fast tracked

<https://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2023-0226/Letter from Baroness Goldie to Baroness Coussins.pdf>

See Us, Believe Us, Stand With Us: The experiences of lesbian and bisexual women seeking asylum in the UK

<https://www.refugeewomen.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Women-for-Refugee-Women-See-Us-Believe-Us-Stand-With-Us.pdf>

Towards a Human Rights-Based Approach to Migration: Training Guide

<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/publications/Towards-Human-Rights-Based-Approach-Migration-Training-Guide.pdf>

Update: 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: 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>

Updated: 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>

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: Illegal Migration Bill

Illegal Migration Bill: Solutions to small boat crossings the government rejected
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/illegal-migration-bill-small-boats-solutions-b2299953.html>

Illegal migration bill under fire
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/illegal-migration-bill-under-fire-pftnqrd8k>

Suella Braverman's 'stop the boats' plan would bar 45,000 children from UK
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/mar/19/suella-bravermans-stop-the-boats-plan-would-bar-45000-children-from-uk>

Illegal migration bill 'risks further trauma for trafficked children'
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/rachel-souza-illegal-migration-bill-uk-government-2023-65np509wv>

Tory unease over bill to detain and deport child refugees
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/tory-unease-over-bill-to-detain-and-deport-child-refugees-m6jp8h6w6>

Theresa May says asylum plan won't solve illegal migration issue
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-64943444>

Theresa May says small boats Bill will 'shut the door' to slavery victims
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/03/13/theresa-may-says-small-boats-bill-will-shut-door-slavery-victims/>

Theresa May says small boats bill 'shuts door' to trafficking victims as Tory backlash builds
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/small-boats-theresa-may-sunak-braverman-b2300066.html>

Small boats plan 'racist', says ex-Home Office adviser as Theresa May joins backlash
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/small-boats-braverman-home-office-racist-b2300306.html>

Braverman policies are 'heartless', says ex-Home Office adviser Nimco Ali
<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2023/mar/13/suella-braverman-policies-are-cruel-and-heartless-says-ex-home-office-adviser>

Illegal Migration Bill won't stop smugglers, warns Theresa May
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/illegal-migration-bill-wont-stop-smugglers-warns-theresa-may-njkqfki9p>

Caroline Nokes: I'm horrified by migrant bill and will vote against it
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/caroline-nokes-im-horrified-by-migrant-bill-and-will-vote-against-it-wr3zfpwzl>

Hundreds gather in Parliament Square to protest over illegal migration bill
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/mar/13/hundreds-gather-in-parliament-square-to-protest-migration-bill>

News: Rwanda Refugee Policy

Suella Braverman to visit Rwanda as £140m asylum agreement remains stalled
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/suella-braverman-rwanda-visit-asylum-deal-b2302468.html>

Suella Braverman: Rwanda can take thousands of migrants
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/suella-braverman-rwanda-can-take-thousands-of-migrants-97q2qsgzh>

Migrant flights to Rwanda ‘by this summer’
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/03/18/migrant-flights-rwanda-summer/>

Illegal migrants off to Rwanda ‘by summer’
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/suella-braverman-rwanda-home-secretary-immigration-mbx58gd0v>

Asylum seekers win permission to challenge UK’s Rwanda policy
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/mar/14/asylum-seekers-win-permission-for-rwanda-policy-legal-challenge>

News: Afghanistan

MoD apologises for asking Afghans to get Taliban’s approval to come to UK
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/mar/18/mod-apologises-for-asking-afghans-to-get-talibans-approval-to-come-to-uk>

Another sickening betrayal: Britain tells Afghans in hiding they can come to UK – but only if Taliban approves documents
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/afghans-arap-taliban-documents-mod-b2288164.html>

News: Other Immigration and Asylum

Jeremy Hunt: More immigration not a Brexit betrayal
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-64975488>

Commit to 100,000 net migration target, Tories urge Rishi Sunak
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/commit-to-100-000-net-migration-target-tories-urge-rishi-sunak-3zfmzmdqc>

‘A legacy of contribution’: photo series pays tribute to Windrush generation
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/mar/17/photo-series-tribute-windrush-generation-britain-called-we-answered-anniversary>

Challenging divisive language against refugees

<https://www.runnymedetrust.org/blog/challenging-divisive-language-against-refugees>

Cleverly criticises plans for asylum centre in former Essex airbase

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2023/mar/08/james-cleverly-criticises-plans-to-house-asylum-seekers-in-braintree>

RAF Scampton: Historians pen letter against WW2 airfield migrant plan

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-lincolnshire-65000047>

Erskine hotel asylum seekers row: inside a community meeting

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/23382640.erskine-hotel-asylum-seekers-row-inside-community-meeting/>

London councils urge Home Office to rethink hotels policy for asylum seekers

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/mar/12/london-councils-urge-home-office-to-rethink-hotels-policy-for-asylum-seekers>

We need to #StartSafeRoutes

<https://www.paih.org/we-need-to-startsaferoutes/>

Man cleared of immigration raid protest charges

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-64967369>

TOP

Equality

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Teachers: BME

Liam McArthur (Liberal Democrat) [S6W-15500] To ask the Scottish Government what specific steps it is taking to engage with Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) people to meet the target of recruiting 4% BME teachers in schools by 2030, as recommended in the report, *Teaching in a diverse Scotland: increasing and retaining minority ethnic teachers*.

Reply from Shirley-Anne Somerville: The Scottish Government is clear that the continued under-representation of minority ethnic teachers, at all levels, is unacceptable and requires continued action. Through our Diversity in the Teaching Profession and Education Workforce (DITPEW) working group we are taking a range of specific steps - all of which are predicated on engagement with minority ethnic people with anti racist and educational expertise - to meet the 4% target. These include:

- Appointing 2 minority ethnic, senior education professionals to co-chair the DITPEW working group and drive forward Professor Arshad's recommendations. DITPEW working group members also have lived experience of racism, professional experience in education and in developing anti-racist practice.
- Working with the General Teaching Council for Scotland to develop the new National Race Diversity Lead post which is supported by SG funding in 2022-24. It sees the postholder working across local authorities, regional improvement collaboratives and schools, to facilitate increased racial diversity within the teaching profession.

- Working with Dr Khadija Mohammed, Associate Dean of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at University of the West of Scotland in the development of an anti-racist framework for Initial Teacher Education (ITE) providers. The framework's aim is to ensure that minority ethnic ITE students have an anti-racist experience from initial application stage through to becoming a newly qualified teacher.
- Working with minority ethnic teachers to deliver sessions through the Developing the Young Workforce Live platform, aimed at encouraging minority ethnic children and young people to consider teaching as a career.

Key to informing the development and delivery of these ambitions is the annual Scottish Government Diversity in the Teaching Profession Data report, which will be published at the end of March.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-15500>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/teaching-diverse-scotland-increasing-retaining-minority-ethnic-teachers-scotlands-schools/>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer

Equal Pay: Ethnic Groups

Anneliese Dodds (Labour Co-op) [161403] To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what her Department's planned timetable is for the publication of the Government's ethnicity pay gap reporting guidance.

Anneliese Dodds (Labour Co-op) [161405] To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what assessment she has made of the adequacy of the number of firms who have published ethnicity pay gap reporting.

Reply from Kevin Hollinrake: This Government remains committed to tackling all areas of disparities in this country, including in employment. It is crucial that everyone is treated fairly in the workplace, so that they can thrive and reach their full potential and we want to ensure that everyone has access to the same employment opportunities.

Ethnicity pay gap reporting is just one type of tool to assist employers in doing this and it may not always be the most appropriate mechanism for some types of organisations. Therefore, as set out in the "Inclusive Britain" report, which was published in March 2022, the Government will not be legislating to make ethnicity pay reporting mandatory at this stage. Instead we are committed to producing guidance to support those who wish to report voluntarily. This will be published in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-08/161403>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-08/161405>

Covid-19 Inquiry: Equality

Anneliese Dodds (Labour Co-op) [161404] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what steps the Department is taking to ensure that the Covid-19 inquiry hears views from people with protected characteristics including (a) ethnicity, (b) disability and (c) sex.

Reply from Alex Burghart: The Covid-19 inquiry's terms of reference require it to consider any disparities evident in the impact of the pandemic on different protected characteristics including (a) ethnicity, (b) disability and (c) sex, and to listen to the

experiences of those most affected by the pandemic. The inquiry's process and procedure for fulfilling its terms of reference are a matter for its independent chair.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-08/161404>

Information about the inquiry referred to above can be read at

<https://covid19.public-inquiry.uk/>

Missing Persons: Ethnic Groups

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour) [163908] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the implications for her policies of the findings of The Ethnicity of Missing People report, published 7 March 2023.

Reply from Tom Tugendhat: The Government is determined that missing people and their families receive the best possible protection and support from Government, statutory agencies, and the voluntary sector.

The Government acknowledges that the most recent data published by the National Crime Agency, covering the period 2020-21, indicated that Black people are disproportionately affected by missing incidents:

<http://missingpersons.police.uk/en-gb/resources/downloads/missing-persons-statistical-bulletins>

This aligns with the findings from The Ethnicity of Missing People report, which also indicates the over-representation of Black children in care in missing reports.

To improve the police response to missing people from all backgrounds and address racial and ethnic disparities, the National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) works with police forces across England and Wales, the charity Missing People and the NCA Missing Persons Unit to consider these issues and what action is needed. To ensure the response to all missing people is prioritised by all relevant agencies and that existing resources and processes are adapted to improve that response, the NPCC published the Missing from Care Framework (February 2022), which the previous Safeguarding Minister endorsed. This provides a blueprint for how to respond to those who go missing from health and care settings. Protecting and supporting all vulnerable missing people is also a key element of our action to tackle exploitation and abuse, including sexual abuse and county lines exploitation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-13/163908>

The report referred to above can be read at

https://www.missingpeople.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Missing_Ethnicity-report.pdf

The Framework referred to above can be read at

[https://www.thefosteringnetwork.org.uk/sites/default/files/2022-](https://www.thefosteringnetwork.org.uk/sites/default/files/2022-11/Children%20who%20go%20Missing%20from%20Care%20Framework%20Final_0.pdf)

[11/Children%20who%20go%20Missing%20from%20Care%20Framework%20Final_0.pdf](https://www.thefosteringnetwork.org.uk/sites/default/files/2022-11/Children%20who%20go%20Missing%20from%20Care%20Framework%20Final_0.pdf)

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Pupil Premium: Travellers

Baroness Whitaker (Labour) [HL5963] To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the Education Policy Institute report COVID-19 and Disadvantage Gaps in England 2021, published in December 2022, which found that Gypsy and Traveller pupils were the only ethnic groups whose attainment fell further behind in 2021, whether they will extend the Pupil Premium to cover all Gypsy and Traveller pupils.

Reply from Baroness Barran: Pupil premium eligibility will be kept under review, to ensure that funding is targeted at those who most need it.

The department is committed to helping children and young people, including those from the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, to catch-up and recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In England, the primary and secondary school attainment gap between disadvantaged pupils and their peers has grown between 2019 and 2022, having narrowed between 2011 and 2019. The disruption to education caused by the pandemic has affected disadvantaged students more than their peers.

We are supporting the most disadvantaged and vulnerable pupils, including those from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller groups, through pupil premium funding, which is increasing to almost £2.9 billion in the 2023/24 financial year. In addition, the department has made available almost £5 billion of funding to support education recovery, including through the recovery premium, National Tutoring Programme and the 16-19 Tuition Fund. The department does not design education policy that exclusively targets certain groups of pupils based on ethnicity.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-27/hl5963>

The report referred to above can be read at

[https://epi.org.uk/wp-](https://epi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Covid19_2021_Disadvantage_Gaps_in_England.pdf)

[content/uploads/2022/12/Covid19_2021_Disadvantage_Gaps_in_England.pdf](https://epi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Covid19_2021_Disadvantage_Gaps_in_England.pdf)

Press Release

Support for equalities and human rights groups

<https://www.gov.scot/news/support-for-equalities-and-human-rights-groups/>

News

Nearly all FTSE 100 firms now have at least one minority ethnic board member

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2023/mar/13/uk-ftse-companies-minority-ethnic-board-members-parker-review>

Ethnic group differences in health, employment, education and housing shown in England and Wales' Census 2021

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/ethnicity/articles/ethnicgroupdifferencesinhealthemploymenteducationandhousingshowninenglandandwalescensus2021/2023-03-15>

Black people in England and Wales three times as likely to live in social housing

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2023/mar/15/census-black-britons-social-housing-ons>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Ministerial Statement

Non-crime Hate Incidents: Personal Data

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-03-13/debates/2303134000004/Non-CrimeHateIncidentsPersonalData>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Health Services: Racial Discrimination

Janet Daby (Labour) [160415] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to address negative and racial stereotypes in healthcare settings.

Reply from Will Quince: Racism in any form is at odds with our National Health Service values. A key tool for tackling racism across the NHS is the Workforce Race Equality Standard. It measures NHS organisations against nine indicators which look at issues such as discrimination in the workplace, career progression, bullying and harassment and entry into disciplinary processes. Each employer is required to develop an action plan to tackle these challenges and this plan is considered by the Care Quality Commission as part of their well-led domain.

NHS England is also developing an NHS Equality, Diversity and Inclusion workforce plan which will include specific actions and expectations to embed inclusive and fair recruitment and promotion practices in organisations, to address under-representation and talent management across all protected characteristics.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-07/160415>

The Workforce Race Equality Standard, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/about/equality/equality-hub/workforce-equality-data-standards/equality-standard/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Islamophobia

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Conservative) [HL6029] To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to combat anti-Muslim behaviour and prejudice.

Reply from Baroness Scott of Bybrook: This Government will not tolerate Anti-Muslim hate crime in any form. We have supported Tell MAMA (Measuring Anti-Muslim Attacks) with nearly £5 million between 2016 and 2023 to monitor and combat anti-Muslim hatred and support Muslim victims of hate crime.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-01/hl6029>

Antisemitism

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Conservative) [HL6030] To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to combat antisemitism.

Reply from Baroness Scott of Bybrook: I refer the noble Lord to the answer given to Question UIN 117512 on 16 January 2023.

The answer referred to above reads:

Antisemitism has absolutely no place in our society, which is why we welcome the recent report from Lord Mann, the Government's Independent Adviser on Antisemitism. We are already taking a strong lead in antisemitism in all its forms. The Home Office is providing £14 million this year through the Jewish Community Protective Security Grant to provide protective security measures at Jewish schools, colleges, nurseries and synagogues; the Department is providing £500,000 to the Holocaust Education Trust from 2020/21 to 2022/23 to deliver their Lessons from Auschwitz project, as an example. We will continue to work together with Lord Mann on this vital issue.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-06/117512>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-01/hl6030>

Hate Crime

Lord Jackson of Peterborough (Conservative) [HL6087] To ask His Majesty's Government whether the Home Office collects data on non-crime hate incidents; and if not, why not.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: The Home Office does not collect data on non-crime hate incidents (NCHIs). The data collected from the police balances policy needs and the burden on police forces.

This Government recognises concerns surrounding the recording of NCHIs. Accordingly, on 13 March, under provisions in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022, the Home Secretary laid the statutory Non-Crime Hate Incidents Draft Code of Practice on the Recording and Retention of Personal Data before Parliament.

The code will be subject to the affirmative procedure and introduces new safeguards to better protect personal data and the right to freedom of expression. Once in effect, the code will ensure that police only record NCHIs when it is absolutely necessary and proportionate to do so, and not simply because someone is offended.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-02/hl6087>

The Draft Code of Practice referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/non-crime-hate-incidents-draft-code-of-practice/non-crime-hate-incidents-draft-code-of-practice-on-the-recording-and-retention-of-personal-data-accessible>

Sports: Racial Discrimination

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL5955] To ask His Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to implement anti-discrimination legislation to help tackle racism in sports.

Reply from Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: There is no place for racism or any other illegal discrimination in sport. Anyone found guilty of using racist slurs at football matches can be charged with a Football Banning Order under the Football Spectators Act 1989, and more severe sentences can be imposed. Further charges may be applicable under the Football (Offences) Act 1991 or the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

In addition to these statutory protections, we are working to increase diversity in sporting organisations and to help the sport sector be more inclusive and welcoming to its spectators and participants, and to the people in its workforce. We are working with bodies including Sport England and UK Sport in this, as well as to strengthen the handling of issues such as discrimination and racism in sport.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-27/hl5955>

Press Releases

Former security guard from Glasgow jailed for terrorism charge

<https://www.copfs.gov.uk/about-copfs/news/man-shared-instructions-on-building-3d-printed-firearms/>

Petra Bayr: 'anti-Muslim racism endangers its direct targets, but also other minority groups and society as a whole'

<https://pace.coe.int/en/news/9010/petra-bayr-anti-muslim-racism-endangers-its-direct-targets-but-also-other-minority-groups-and-society-as-a-whole->

New Publication

Non-Crime Hate Incidents Draft Code of Practice on the Recording and Retention of Personal Data

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/non-crime-hate-incidents-draft-code-of-practice/non-crime-hate-incidents-draft-code-of-practice-on-the-recording-and-retention-of-personal-data-accessible>

News

Labour accused of still not engaging with 'hierarchy of racism' claims

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2023/mar/17/labour-accused-still-not-engaging-hierarchy-racism-claims>

Met police force is racist, sexist and homophobic, report will say

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/met-police-force-is-racist-sexist-and-homophobic-report-will-say-hgr8dd37x>

'Men with bats shouted the N-word': Racism in Scotland

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/23396522.men-bats-shouted-n-word-gary-young-racism-scotland/>

Far-right Scot jailed for replica machine gun video

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-64964275>

Neo-Nazi is jailed after sharing DIY machinegun video

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/neo-nazi-is-jailed-after-sharing-diy-machinegun-video-0dmbqpxtg>

Police to be banned from recording non-crime hate incidents because someone is offended

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/03/13/police-banned-recording-non-crime-hate-incidents-someone-offended/>

Protesters take to streets in anti-racism demonstration

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/protesters-london-government-glasgow-cardiff-b2303554.html>

MCB marks inaugural United Nations' International Day to Combat Islamophobia

<https://mcb.org.uk/un-day-to-combat-islamophobia/>

ITV and Tell MAMA launch survey on mosque safety in the UK

<https://tellmamauk.org/itv-and-tell-mama-launch-survey-on-mosque-safety-in-the-uk/>

Why we must continue standing together against anti-Muslim hate and bias

<https://tellmamauk.org/statement-why-we-must-continue-standing-together-against-anti-muslim-hate-and-bias/>

Ivan Toney: Man given 'landmark' stadium ban for racially abusing Brentford striker

<https://www.bbc.com/sport/football/64949252>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Forced Marriage

Jamie Greene (Conservative) [S6W-15590] To ask the Scottish Government what estimate it has made of the number of people resident in Scotland who have undergone forced marriages abroad in each year for which data is available.

Reply from Keith Brown: The Scottish Government has not made any estimates of number of people resident in Scotland who have undergone forced marriages abroad in each year. Whilst we do have data on forced marriages, this data does not identify where the marriage itself took place. This is as the locus of the offence is where the violence, threats, coercion or deception took place and not the locus of the marriage itself, which could potentially be outside of Scotland.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-15590>

Forced Marriage Protection Orders

Jamie Greene (Conservative) [S6W-15591] To ask the Scottish Government how many Forced Marriage Protection Orders have been (a) issued and (b) breached in each year since 2012.

Reply from Keith Brown: Please see the answers to your questions in the following table. There were no Forced Marriage Protection orders issued or breached prior to the 2017-18 financial year.

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Forced Marriage Protection Orders Granted	1	5	0	0
Forced Marriage Protection Orders Dismissed	1	0	0	1
Forced Marriage Protection Orders Breached	0	0	0	0

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-15591>

Press Releases

Emergency Mobile Phone Alerts

<https://www.gov.scot/news/emergency-mobile-phone-alerts/>

Baby loss Memorial Book

<https://www.gov.scot/news/baby-loss-memorial-book/>

TOP

Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Female Genital Mutilation

Gill Furniss (Labour) [160351] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department,

whether the Forced Marriage Unit plans to take steps to publish data on the number of cases of female genital mutilation it is supporting.

Reply from Sarah Dines: The Government's Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) supports British nationals (including dual nationals) overseas who are at risk of or who have undergone female genital mutilation (FGM).

The FMU's published annual statistics, which provide information on the numbers of victims and potential victims (generally of forced marriage) for whom it has provided support, have since 2020 included figures on the numbers of victims and potential victims of FGM for whom support has been provided. The figures for 2021 showed that, out of the 337 victims and potential victims for whom support was provided, three were victims or potential victims of both forced marriage and FGM, and 18 were victims or potential victims solely of FGM. The statistics can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/forced-marriage-unit-statistics>

Statistics for 2022 will be published in the coming months.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-07/160351>

Female Genital Mutilation

Gill Furniss (Labour) [160352] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to help support local authorities to develop interventions to safeguard against female genital mutilation.

Reply from Maria Caulfield: Data on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is collected in the FGM Enhanced Dataset by National Health Service healthcare providers in England. This dataset presents a national picture of the prevalence of FGM in England and supports work in the NHS to prevent and treat FGM. It is therefore a valuable information source supporting the identification, commissioning and management of FGM services locally.

The Home Office's FGM Team provides a range of resources for frontline professionals. This consists of an FGM resource pack, which includes a section for local authorities, a free e-learning course, statutory multi-agency guidance and a range of communications materials.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-07/160352>

The most recent release in the dataset referred to above can be read at

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

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

The following three questions all received the same answer

Female Genital Mutilation: Criminal Investigation and Prosecutions

The Lord Bishop of St Albans [HL6096] To ask His Majesty's Government how many cases of female genital mutilation have been (1) investigated, and (2) prosecuted, in (a) 2022, (b) 2021, (c) 2020, and (d) 2019.

Forced Marriage

The Lord Bishop of St Albans [HL6097] To ask His Majesty's Government how many instances of forced marriage occurred in (1) 2022, (2) 2021, (3) 2020, and (4) 2019.

British Nationals Abroad: Marriage

The Lord Bishop of St Albans [HL6098] To ask His Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of number of girls under the age of 18 who are British Citizens who have been married abroad.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom (Conservative): The Government is committed to tackling forced marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM). On 27 February 2023 we brought into force legislation which raises the minimum age of

marriage and civil partnership in England and Wales to 18, and expands the offence of forced marriage so it is illegal to do anything to cause a child to marry before they turn 18, even if coercion is not used.

Since April 2019, the Annual Data Requirement for England and Wales has required police forces to provide quarterly data returns to the Home Office on the number of offences they have recorded which they have identified as being related to 'honour'-based abuse, which includes FGM. The table below shows the number of FGM offences recorded by the police from April 2019 to March 2022.

	April 2019- March 2020	April 2020- March 2021	April 2021- March 2022
FGM offences recorded by police	74	78	77

There have been two prosecutions for FGM under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003, these occurred in 2019.

We do not hold information on the number of British girls under the age of 18 who have been married abroad or on the total numbers of forced marriages which have occurred.

We recognise that data on the prevalence of FGM and forced marriage is limited. That is why we are funding a feasibility study to explore whether a more rigorous estimation of the prevalence of these crimes in England and Wales can be made. This study is estimated to complete later this year.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-02/hl6096>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-02/hl6097>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-02/hl6098>

New Publication

Tackling loneliness evidence review

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tackling-loneliness-evidence-review/tackling-loneliness-evidence-review-full-report>

News

At a glance: What does the budget mean for Scotland?

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/23388809.glance-budget-mean-scotland/>

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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/>

Publications

Stirling Citizens' Advice Bureau: Cost of Living Crisis Guide

<https://www.stirlingcab.org.uk/sites/stirlingcab.org.uk/files/pdfs/Cost%20of%20Living%20Crisis%20Guide%20General-compressed.pdf>

Stirling Citizens' Advice Bureau: The Cost of Living Crisis – A 'snapshot' of the effects on vulnerable citizens in Stirling

https://www.stirlingcab.org.uk/sites/stirlingcab.org.uk/files/pdfs/Cost%20of%20Living%20Effects%20Research-compressed_0.pdf

News

UK faces 'disastrous decade' for living standards as households set to be £4,200 poorer

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/budget-2023-highlights-cost-living-worse-b2302093.html>

Energy bill help to continue until end of June

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-64961667>

Households urged to reapply as one in five energy vouchers go unredeemed

<https://www.independent.co.uk/business/households-urged-to-reapply-as-one-in-five-energy-vouchers-go-unredeemed-b2302369.html>

Cost of living crisis: 'We're not really living any more'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-64987492>

Cost of Living: 'I tell my kids I'll buy it tomorrow - and hope they forget'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-64496546>

Is the 'cost of living' a racial crisis?

<https://wearecitizensadvice.org.uk/is-the-cost-of-living-a-racial-crisis-39090d85e428>

Budget 2023: Cardiff free garden shop helping cost of living

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-64942901>

'I earn £30,000 a year and I'm still struggling'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-64824078>

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Other New Publications

Views of female genital mutilation survivors, men and health-care professionals on timing of deinfibulation surgery and NHS service provision: qualitative FGM Sister Study
<https://njl-admin.nihr.ac.uk/document/download/2042119>

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Other News

Make sure your Ramadan donations reach those in need

[Note that this advice is from the England/Wales Charity Commission. The Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator may issue Scotland-specific advice later. To check whether an organisation is registered as a charity in Scotland, see <https://www.oscr.org.uk/search/>]
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/make-sure-your-ramadan-donations-reach-those-in-need>

Postcode lottery for FGM provision in largest UK study of survivor experiences of healthcare

<https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/2023/postcode-lottery-for-fgm-provision-in-largest-uk-study-of-survivor-experiences-of-healthcare>

Somaiya Begum: Uncle who killed niece who refused marriage jailed

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-leeds-64957852>

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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>

**** Illegal Migration Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3429>

Second Reading, House of Commons

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-03-13/debates/97D4F67E-2C1B-44CB-B860-DD9024958EEF/IllegalMigrationBill>

Notice of amendments

https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-03/0262/amend/illegal_migration_cwh_rm_0320.pdf

**** Online Safety Bill**

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

Notice of amendments

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/49991/documents/3140>

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

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

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

**** Illegal Migration Bill** (closing date 6 April 2023)

<https://committees.parliament.uk/call-for-evidence/3085/>

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

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

Reforming the criminal law to address misogyny (closing date: 2 June 2023)
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/reforming-criminal-law-address-misogyny-scottish-government-consultation/>

**** ITV/Tell MAMA survey on mosque safety in the UK** (closing date not stated)
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/V7V5B6L>

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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

**** closes 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>

Social Isolation and Loneliness Fund 2023 – 2026

Application deadline 31 March 2023

Scottish Government funding to support projects and organisations to facilitate progress towards the priorities of [A Connected Scotland](#) (2018) strategy, and contribute to the recovery and reduction in societal harm associated with the Covid-19 pandemic, and mitigate the impact of the ongoing cost of living crisis. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/3b8j98xa>

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!**

Ethnic Minority Development Fund - Information Session

21 March 2023 (online, 5.00–6.00)

22 March 2023 (online, 2.30–3.30)

The Ethnic Minority Development Fund (EMDF) is available to any ethnic minority-led third-sector organisations in Scotland. This session will enable ethnic minority-led third-sector organisations to learn more about the EMDF and have the opportunity to ask questions. For information about the 21 March event see <https://tinyurl.com/2xvdv3jd> and about the 22 March event see <https://tinyurl.com/y27jjcej>

**** this week!**

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 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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