



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

### Contents

[Immigration and Asylum](#)

[Equality](#)

[Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination](#)

[Other Scottish Parliament and Government](#)

[Other UK Parliament and Government](#)

[Cost of Living](#)

[Other Publications](#)

[Other News](#)

[Bills in Progress](#)

[Consultations](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

[Funding Opportunities](#)

[Events, Conferences, and Training](#)

[Useful Links](#)

[Back issues](#)

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

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

## Immigration and Asylum

### Scottish Parliament Debate

#### Illegal Migration Bill

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=15260&i=130156#ScotParlOR>

### Scottish Parliament Written Answers

#### Ukrainian Refugees: Super Sponsor Scheme

**Miles Briggs (Conservative)** [S6W-16282] To ask the Scottish Government whether it

plans to resume the Super Sponsor Scheme for Ukrainian refugees, and, if this is the case, when this will take place.

**Reply from Shirley-Anne Somerville:** The Scottish Government Super Sponsor Scheme has been overwhelmingly popular, with local authorities, the third sector and local communities responding in partnership.

As of 11 April, there have been a total of 24,216 arrivals in the UK with a Scottish Sponsor, of which 19,565 are sponsored by the Scottish Government. Total arrivals in the UK with a Scottish Sponsor (which includes those sponsored by the Scottish Government (Super Sponsor Scheme) and by Individual Sponsors) represent 20.1% of all arrivals in the UK, and it is the most per head of any UK nation.

Our priority over the coming months is on supporting displaced people from Ukraine already in the UK with a Scottish sponsor and who choose to remain here longer-term. With a shortage of affordable housing across Scotland, a cost of living crisis and significant pressures on both local and national Government finances, the scale of the challenge is significant.

Following the pause of the scheme in July 2022, this was reviewed by the Ukraine Programme Board in late October and again in February. Parliament was informed of our decision for the scheme to remain closed to new applications as the criteria required to re-open the scheme could not be met at that time. We will review the reopening of the Scheme again in June 2023.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-16282>

### Human Trafficking

**Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat) [S6W-16762]** To ask the Scottish Government what it is doing to support victims of human trafficking who are trafficked to Scotland and forced to work or beg for their handlers.

**Reply from Siobhian Brown:** Any form of human trafficking or exploitation is completely unacceptable.

The Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015, which was passed unanimously by the Scottish Parliament, gives police and prosecutors greater powers to detect and bring to justice those responsible for trafficking as well as strengthening protections for survivors.

In the current financial year, Migrant Help and the Trafficking Awareness Raising Alliance will share over £2.1m to support adult victims of human trafficking and exploitation. We are also providing funding to Justice and Care to support two Victim Navigators who work alongside Police Scotland's National Human Trafficking Unit; funding to JustRight Scotland to support the work of their Scottish Anti-Trafficking Centre, including the provision of early legal advice to potential victims. Furthermore, we are funding Survivors of Human Trafficking in Scotland to deliver a long-term support pilot to those recovering and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde to provide a national psychological trauma support service to adult trafficking victims.

We will continue to work with partners across Scotland and beyond to provide support to victims and combat those who seek to profit from the exploitation of others.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-16762>

## Scottish Parliament Motions

**Shirley-Anne Somerville (SNP) [S6M-08680] Illegal Migration Bill – That the Parliament**

deems the UK Government's proposed Illegal Migration Bill to be dehumanising and immoral; notes that the bill proposes that anyone who enters the UK by irregular routes would not be able to remain in the UK, and would be subject to detention and then returned to their home country or what the UK Government deems to be a safe third country such as Rwanda; agrees that the proposals in this bill will remove access to support for some of the most vulnerable people in the world, including children, potentially forcing them into further exploitation and destitution; acknowledges that the Home Secretary has no confidence that the bill is compliant with the European Convention on Human Rights; notes the strict limitations on any formal routes for people seeking asylum; agrees that the UK has moral and international legal obligations to uphold the 1951 Refugee Convention and offer a place of safety to people, including children, fleeing conflict and persecution, and affirms that sanctuary should be available under these obligations to those fleeing war and persecution, and that Scotland remains welcoming to such vulnerable people in their time of need.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-08680>

**Paul O’Kane (Labour)** [S6M-08680.1] **Illegal Migration Bill Amendment** – As an amendment to motion S6M-08680 in the name of Shirley-Anne Somerville (Illegal Migration Bill), insert at end “, and agrees with the assessment of the Equality and Human Rights Commission that the bill risks undermining the universality of human rights and protections for victims of trafficking and modern slavery, as well as breaching the UK’s obligations under both the 1951 Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights.”

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-08680-1>

## UK Parliament Debate

**Asylum Seeker Accommodation: South Dorset**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-04-26/debates/20E08728-A88C-4902-8905-A9EEAA56A20A/AsylumSeekerAccommodationSouthDorset>

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

### Refugees: Rwanda

**Rebecca Long Bailey (Labour)** [181531] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has made an assessment of the implications for her policies of reports of potential violence towards refugees deported to Rwanda from the UK by (a) organisations or bodies under the control of the Rwandan Government and (b) other groups originating within Rwanda.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** Rwanda has an established record of welcoming asylum seekers and refugees and our assessment, as set out in the relevant Country Policy and Information Notes (CPINs), found it to be a generally safe and secure country.

The Memorandum of Understanding and associated Notes Verbales set out the support in place for individuals relocated to Rwanda and details of the oversight provided by the Joint Committee and independent Monitoring Committee.

The UK and Rwanda have a strong relationship. Working together, the Migration and Economic Development Partnership will see people who come to the UK through dangerous and illegal routes relocated to Rwanda, where they will be given

the opportunity to settle and rebuild their lives.

We have always maintained that this policy is lawful, including complying with the Refugee Convention, and last year the High court upheld this. We continue to defend the policy against legal challenge.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-19/181531>

*The Memorandum of Understanding referred to above can be read at*

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

*The Notes Verbale referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1120066/Note\\_Verbale\\_for\\_asylum\\_processing\\_23\\_11\\_22.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1120066/Note_Verbale_for_asylum_processing_23_11_22.pdf)

and

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/migration-and-economic-development-partnership-reception-and-accommodation/note-verbale-on-assurances-in-paragraphs-8-and-10-of-the-mou-between-the-united-kingdom-and-rwanda-for-the-provision-of-an-asylum-partnership-arrangement>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer: Channel Migrants

### Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

**Stephen Kinnock (Labour)** [181314] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to her Department's data entitled Factsheet: Small boat crossings since July 2022, published 2 November 2022, how many of the Albanian nationals who crossed the English Channel in small boats from May to September 2022 have since returned to Albania.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The Home Office publishes data on returns by nationality in the '[Immigration System Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on returns of Albanian nationals are published in table Ret\_D01 of the '[Returns detailed datasets](#)'.

Please note this data relates to all returns, not just returns of individuals who arrived via small boat. Data on the method of arrival of people returned is not published. 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 September 2022.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-18/181314>

*The factsheet referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/factsheet-small-boat-crossings-since-july-2022/factsheet-small-boat-crossings-since-july-2022>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Afghanistan

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### Refugees: Afghanistan

**Steve McCabe (Labour)** [181870] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that applications to the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy scheme from applicants with credible links to the UK armed forces are processed in a timely way.

**Steve McCabe (Labour)** [181871] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress her Department has made on processing applications to the Afghan

Citizens Resettlement Scheme.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The UK has made one of the largest commitments of any country to support those impacted by events in Afghanistan.

The latest [Immigration System Statistics, year ending December 2022](#), published on 23 February, show that since their first arrivals in 2021, the ACRS and the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) have resettled a total of 21,387 people. These statistics also show that we have now resettled more than 7,600 vulnerable Afghan nationals through the first phase of the ACRS.

The Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) will see up to 20,000 people from Afghanistan and the region resettled to the UK over the coming years.

Under the second pathway, which opened in 2022, we have now begun to receive the first referrals from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) of vulnerable refugees who have fled Afghanistan for resettlement to the UK. We are pleased to have welcomed the first 22 people to the UK under Pathway 2.

Under Pathway 3 we have welcomed the first arrivals to the UK and look forward welcoming all remaining individuals under this Pathway as soon as is practically possible. There are currently no published statistics on Pathway 3 as arrivals under this pathway began after the start of the new reporting period. The next publication of statistics is due on 25 May 2023.

We will continue to honour our commitment to those who remain in Afghanistan and the region. Our priority is to ensure that future UK arrivals can go directly into appropriate accommodation rather than costly temporary hotel accommodation. Doing this, whilst making sure that these individuals are fully supported and are able to successfully integrate into life in the UK is the right thing to do.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-20/181870>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-20/181871>

*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>*

*Information about Pathways 2 and 3, referred to above, can be read at*

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

### **Afghanistan: Refugees**

**John Healey (Labour)** [181355] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to the Answer of 18 April 2023 to Question 176544 to Afghanistan: Refugees, how many of the 54 applicants that have failed to respond to several attempts to contact them have (a) dependents cleared for relocation to the UK with these principals and (b) his Department established contact with.

**Reply from James Heapey:** We have now re-established contact with one of the 54 ARAP eligible individuals with whom contact has been lost.

Of the now 53 remaining principals, 11 have confirmed ARAP-eligible dependants with our caseworkers. We have not received details of dependants for the other 42 principals. Clearance for onward movement to the UK will be subject to Home Office visa checks.

As noted in my previous response, applicants may fail to respond to our communications for a variety of reasons, such as a change in their contact details of which we were not informed. In some cases, applicants may decide to relocate

elsewhere but fail to communicate that decision with us.

We continue to endeavour to re-establish contact with the remaining 53 applicants so that they can continue their relocation to the UK if they still wish to do so.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-18/181355>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-29/176544>

*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**

**Jim Shannon (DUP)** [181168] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will increase the number of places in Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme Pathway 3.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** Under the first stage of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) Pathway 3, we are offering resettlement places to up to 1,500 eligible individuals from the three identified cohorts which are British Council contractors, GardaWorld contractors and Chevening alumni.

We recognise there are many vulnerable individuals who remain in Afghanistan and the region. However, it is important we take into account the capacity of the UK to resettle people is not unlimited and difficult decisions have to be made on who will be prioritised for resettlement.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-18/181168>

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

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

### **Refugees: Children**

**Hilary Benn (Labour)** [180782] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether counselling support is being provided to children from Afghanistan who are separated from parents who remain in Afghanistan.

**Reply from Robert Courts:** [Children] resettled under ACRS and ARAP have been dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Where this has happened, we have worked in close collaboration with social services and the relevant Local Authority.

The Government provides a warm welcome to Afghans arriving in the UK and all guests are registered with a GP or are being helped to do so. A full range of vaccinations are offered, alongside mental health support and other services.

We know just how much of an adjustment Afghan children and young people will be facing. Schools and colleges have access to a range of government support programmes to help children and young people with their mental health and we are rolling out Mental Health Support Teams that work with groups of schools and colleges to identify specialist needs of pupils in their areas.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-17/180782>

*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 Answers: Ukraine

### Refugees: Ukraine

**Drew Hendry (SNP)** [181669] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the potential merits of extending access to the Ukraine Family Scheme to Ukrainians who have settled in the UK under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** As of 21 February 2023, the UK has granted a total of 219,400 visas under its Ukraine schemes. Of these, 66,100 were under the Ukraine Family Scheme and 153,300 were under the Home for Ukraine scheme.

The Ukraine Family Scheme allows a UK based sponsor who is a British citizen, settled in the UK, has protection status or limited leave to remain under the EUSS, to bring close family members, extended family members and close family members of those extended family members, to the UK. Those arriving in the UK must be Ukrainian or the family member of a Ukrainian.

The Homes for Ukraine Scheme provides for those Ukrainians and their family members seeking to enter the UK but who do not have family members to sponsor them under the Ukraine Family Scheme. This scheme allows individuals and organisations in the UK to sponsor applicants to come to the UK and to provide them with accommodation.

Both the Homes for Ukraine Scheme and the Ukraine Family Scheme are temporary and provide applicants with leave to enter or remain in the UK for three years. They also provide access to work, benefits, education, English language tutoring and services, including those provided by Local Authorities.

There are no current plans to extend the list of those eligible to sponsor or apply under these schemes, however we continue to keep all schemes under review.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-19/181669>

*Information about the Ukrainian Family Scheme and Homes for Ukraine Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

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

### Homes for Ukraine Scheme

**Daisy Cooper (Liberal Democrat)** [179863] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, pursuant to the Answer of 23 February to Question 148806 on Homes for Ukraine Scheme, whether he plans to update the How to rent guidance to include guidance for people leaving a Homes for Ukraine scheme placement; and when he plans to publish existing guidance in Ukrainian and Russian.

**Reply from Felicity Buchn:** We have already [republished guidance on renting in Ukrainian and Russian](#) to help households who wish to move on from sponsorship by accessing private rented accommodation: [How to Rent guide in Ukrainian](#) and [How to Rent guide in Russian](#).

We have made amendments to eligibility criteria to ensure arrivals from Ukraine under all of the Government's visa schemes are now eligible for housing assistance from day one of their arrival.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-14/179863>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-20/148806>

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

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

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

### Visas: Fees And Charges

**Darren Jones (Labour)** [180668] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment her Department has made of the affordability of the cost of visas.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The Home Office keeps fees for immigration and nationality applications under review. Where we make fee changes in legislation, an Impact Assessment is published.

The Home Office provides fee waivers in a number of circumstances. This includes a waiver for those making Article 8 claims, based on Family and Private life, who are unable to afford the fee or where payment of the fee would leave them unable to meet the needs of a child who is dependent upon them.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-14/180668>

*The following four questions all received the same answer*

### Immigration Controls

**Stuart C McDonald (SNP)** [180147] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the impact of the 10-year route to settlement on integration (a) before and (b) after it was expanded in 2012.

**Dan Carden (Labour)** [180199] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the 2012 expansion of the 10-year route to settlement.

**Tony Lloyd (Labour)** [180426] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the impact of the 10-year route to settlement on levels of integration in the period since 2012; and if she will make a statement.

**Christina Rees (Independent)** [180688] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the impact of the 10-year route to settlement on levels of integration in the period since 2012; and if she will make a statement.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** Those who meet all eligibility and specified evidential requirements of the Family Immigration Rules are granted on a five-year route to settlement (granted in two periods of 30 months, with a third application for indefinite leave to remain). Those who cannot or do not meet these requirements, or seek to rely on their private life, instead have a 10 year route to settlement (granted in four periods of 30 months, with a fifth application for indefinite leave to remain). This reflects our obligations under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

The 10 year route provides additional time for those applicants to better integrate into British society by being able to achieve an appropriate knowledge of the English language which, in turn, will enable them to obtain employment and take a full and active part in their community.

We are in the process of simplifying the immigration system, including the 10 year routes to settlement. As part of this simplification the impact of existing policies will be taken into account.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-14/180147>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-14/180199>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-14/180426>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-14/180688>



*The following four questions all received the same answer*

### **Immigration: Applications**

**Stuart C McDonald (SNP)** [180150] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has made an assessment of the potential merits of introducing a fee waiver for applications for indefinite leave to remain.

**Dan Carden (Labour)** [180202] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reasons her department does not have a fee waiver for applications for indefinite leave to remain; and whether she has made an assessment of the potential merits of introducing a fee waiver for applications for indefinite leave to remain.

**Christina Rees (Independent)** [180691] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has made an assessment of the potential merits of a fee waiver for applications for indefinite leave to remain.

**Tony Lloyd (Labour)** [180975] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has made an assessment of the potential merits of introducing a fee waiver for applications for indefinite leave to remain.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The right to stay indefinitely is one of the most valuable entitlements offered for those seeking to enter or remain in the UK, and it is right that the fee should be higher than most for migrants staying temporarily in the UK.

A grant of indefinite leave to remain is not necessary to enable people to remain in the UK on the basis of their Article 8 or other ECHR rights, as these can be met through a grant of limited leave to remain. The provision of an affordability-based waiver for limited leave on family and private life routes allows an individual or family to remain here lawfully, and to then apply for settlement and pay the fee when the funds become available. As such, there are no plans to waive the fee for indefinite leave to remain.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-14/180150>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-14/180202>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-14/180691>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-17/180975>

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Claire Hanna (SDLP)** [180094] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of extending the definition of a child under the EU Settlement Scheme to include US Special Guardianship Orders.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** We keep the scope of the Immigration Rules for the EU Settlement Scheme under review, including in light of representations from stakeholders. However, we have received no such representations where US special guardianship orders are concerned and their status in the UK is not a matter for the Immigration Rules.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-14/180094>

*Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

### **Refugees: Biometrics**

**Jim Shannon (DUP)** [181167] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether it is her policy that biometric tests are not mandatory for people seeking legal and safe entry to the UK.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** In most circumstances we require biometrics, in the form of a facial image and fingerprints, from everyone who applies for a visa or a

biometric residence permit, including people using safe and legal routes to come to the UK. Moreover, the UK's forthcoming Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) scheme will also require applicants to provide their biometrics as part of the application form, starting with facial images from the offset, until there is a technological solution which will allow applicants to self-upload fingerprints of the required quality.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-18/181167>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Visas: Biometrics**

**Marsha De Cordova (Labour) [181859]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 20 March 2023 to Question 130066 on Biometrics visa exemptions, what the procedure is for a person to be excused or deferred from having to enrol their biometric information where the case has been determined as urgent.

**Marsha De Cordova (Labour) [181860]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 20 March 2023 to Question 130066 on Biometrics visa exemptions, how her Department defines an urgent request for a person to be excused or deferred from having to enrol their biometric information.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** In most circumstances we require biometrics from everyone who applies for a visa or a biometric residence permit to ensure we protect our national security.

Where applicants have contacted UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) to say they are unable to travel to a Visa Application Centre (VAC) to enrol their biometrics, we write to them to explain how they can request an urgent consideration on whether we would predetermine their application or waive the requirement for them to attend a VAC. UKVI will assess the applicant's particular circumstances to determine whether they are particularly exceptional so that their request requires urgent consideration based on the evidence they provide. Where a request is deemed urgent, they will contact the applicant within 28 days of receipt of their request. If the request is considered to be urgent it will be assessed in line with the published biometric enrolment guidance.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-19/181859>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-19/181860>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-23/130066>

#### **Refugees: Families**

**Caroline Lucas (Green) [181331]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Home Office response to report on re-inspection of family reunion applications, published on 21 February 2023, and the accepted recommendation from the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration (ICIBI) to dedicate staffing resource to urgently address the work in progress (WIP) prioritising family reunion applications from children separated from both parents, how many full time equivalent decision maker posts (a) are already in place for family reunion applications and (b) will be created to implement that recommendation.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The Secretary of State for the Home Department has fully accepted all the recommendations made in the report by the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration regarding family reunion applications.

Following the recommendations made, the department has already undertaken a review of its' resourcing for consideration of Family Reunion visa applications, and we are currently in the process of increasing number of decision makers to speed up processing times.

Since 2015 we have granted approximately 45,000 family reunion visas to the family members of refugees. We prioritise all applications where the application has been made by an unaccompanied child, under the age of 18. We will also prioritise applications where there is an evidenced urgent or compelling reason to do so.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-18/181331>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1137651/A\\_reinspection\\_of\\_family\\_reunion\\_applications\\_September\\_October\\_2022.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1137651/A_reinspection_of_family_reunion_applications_September_October_2022.pdf)

*The Government response referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/response-to-report-on-a-re-inspection-of-family-reunion-applications/home-office-response-to-report-on-re-inspection-of-family-reunion-applications>

### **Refugees: Families**

**Caroline Lucas (Green)** [181333] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Home Office response to report on re-inspection of family reunion applications, published on 21 February 2023, and the accepted recommendation from the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration (ICIBI) to introduce criteria for expediting applications based on vulnerability, when this criteria will be incorporated into family reunion policy guidance.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The Family Reunion guidance was published on 12 April 2023. This introduced a prioritisation process which includes the expedition of all applications from unaccompanied children. Requests for prioritisation from applicants or their representatives will be determined by a manager, who will undertake a holistic consideration of the applicant's circumstances.

We are committed to improving and speeding up processing times for all family reunion applications.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-18/181333>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1137651/A\\_reinspection\\_of\\_family\\_reunion\\_applications\\_September\\_October\\_2022.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1137651/A_reinspection_of_family_reunion_applications_September_October_2022.pdf)

*The Government response referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/response-to-report-on-a-re-inspection-of-family-reunion-applications/home-office-response-to-report-on-re-inspection-of-family-reunion-applications>

*The guidance referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1149936/Family\\_reunion.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1149936/Family_reunion.pdf)

### **Refugees: Families**

**Caroline Lucas (Green)** [181336] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Home Office response to report on re-inspection of family reunion applications, published 21 February 2023, and the accepted recommendation from the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration to implement a mechanism to triage family reunion applications after biometrics have been submitted and before the decision-making stage, when the dedicated team to work on this will be in place.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The Home Secretary has fully accepted all the recommendations made in the report by the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration regarding family reunion applications.

Following the recommendations made, the Home Office has already undertaken a review of resourcing for consideration of Family Reunion visa applications, and

have a dedicated resource to identify, for example, unaccompanied children and prioritise their applications.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-18/181336>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1137651/A\\_reinspection\\_of\\_family\\_reunion\\_applications\\_September\\_October\\_2022.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1137651/A_reinspection_of_family_reunion_applications_September_October_2022.pdf)

*The Government response referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/response-to-report-on-a-re-inspection-of-family-reunion-applications/home-office-response-to-report-on-re-inspection-of-family-reunion-applications>

### **Asylum: Uganda**

**Chi Onwurah (Labour)** [181138] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what safe and legal routes her Department has made available to the UK for asylum seekers from Uganda who identify as LGBT.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The UK has a proud history of supporting refugees. Since 2015, we have offered just under half a million people safe and legal routes into the UK.

The UK made a generous resettlement offer, with worldwide displacement now standing at around 100 million people, we are unable to make routes available for every eventuality.

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

Referrals for the UKRS, Community Sponsorship, Mandate Resettlement and Pathway 2 of the ACRS are assessed and submitted by UNHCR. These assessments are based on people's needs and vulnerabilities and the UK does not seek to influence which cases are referred by UNHCR

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-17/181138>

*Information about the UK Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1011824/Resettlement\\_Policy\\_Guidance\\_2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1011824/Resettlement_Policy_Guidance_2021.pdf)

*Information about the Community Sponsorship Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

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

*Information about the Mandate Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/257392/manadaterefugees.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/257392/manadaterefugees.pdf)

*Information about the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme Pathway 2, referred to above, can be read at*

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

### **Asylum: Questionnaires**

**Chi Onwurah (Labour)** [181142] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what support her Department provides for asylum claimants required to complete an Asylum Claim Questionnaire where (a) English is not their first language and (b) they are living with a mental health condition; and whether her Department has made an assessment of the impact on the mental health of claimants of the requirement to complete that Questionnaire within 20 working days.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The asylum claim questionnaires are in English as is generally the case for immigration paperwork across the Department. Claimants can utilise legal representatives, Non-Government Organisations and other support networks to help them respond to the questionnaire. All asylum seekers are entitled to legal representation to support them, including with translation, through Legal Aid.

Throughout the asylum decision making process, we aim to ensure that vulnerable claimants are identified. That difficulties they may face in disclosing their experiences are given due consideration and that they are given help in accessing appropriate services. Extensions can be requested where the timeframe cannot be met, for example because of a mental health condition which is impacting their ability to respond to the questionnaire. This will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-17/181142>

### **Asylum: Questionnaires**

**Chi Onwurah (Labour)** [181502] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to guidelines on Streamlined asylum processing published on 23 February 2023, what steps her Department took to inform the offices of hon. Members of plans to require current asylum claimants to complete an Asylum Claim Questionnaire within 20 working days or potentially have their claim treated as withdrawn; for what reason her Department did not directly contact the offices of all hon. Members in advance of the announcement of those requirements; and if she will make an assessment of the potential impact of those requirements on the ability of asylum claimants to receive appropriate and timely support from their local Member of Parliament.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** Extension requests to complete the questionnaire can be submitted and all relevant circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis when deciding whether someone's asylum claim should be withdrawn.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-18/181502>

*The guidance referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/streamlined-asylum-processing/streamlined-asylum-processing-accessible>

### **Asylum**

**Neil Coyle (Independent)** [181980] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to extend the 20-working day deadline for asylum seekers to complete the streamlined asylum processing; and what criteria will be used to determine whether an applicant will receive a 10-day extension.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** Claimants who receive an Asylum Questionnaire will have 20 working days to return this. If the questionnaire is not returned within the timeframe, claimants will automatically 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. In addition, extension requests to complete the questionnaire can be submitted and all relevant circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

For more information, please see the guidance at: [Streamlined asylum processing](#).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-20/181980>

### **Health Services: Asylum**

**Tom Hunt (Conservative)** [181473] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether the Government cover NHS costs on behalf of asylum seekers.

**Reply from Will Quince:** The information requested is not held centrally. Those seeking asylum or temporary or humanitarian protection are exempt from paying

for National Health Service treatment in England, where they have made a valid application, until their application is finally determined. Devolved Administrations are responsible for NHS charging in their areas.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-18/181473>

### **Asylum: Health Services**

**Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op) [181729]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the adequacy of the ability of asylum seekers housed on (a) military bases, (b) accommodation barges, (c) cruise ships and (d) other non-urban locations to access medical care.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The Home Office will ensure that all accommodation is safe, habitable, fit for purpose and meets all regulatory requirements.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-19/181729>

### **Asylum: English Language**

**Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op) [181728]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the adequacy of the ability of asylum seekers housed on (a) military bases, (b) accommodation barges, (c) cruise ships and (d) other non-urban locations to access English for speakers of other languages classes.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** We are working through the design of these sites and a wide range of measures. This includes access to language classes, recreational activities, healthcare, welfare, safeguarding considerations, and other matters.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-19/181728>

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

### **Refugees: Homelessness**

**Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL7146]** To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to support newly recognised refugees; and what plans they have to reconsider extending the move-on period from 28 to 56 days in line with the prevention duty contained in section 195 of the 1996 Housing Act.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** If an asylum seeker is granted refugee status, they gain immediate access to the labour market and receive advice to help them transition to the mainstream benefit system if they still require support.

We offer support through Migrant Help or their partner organisations. This includes providing advice on accessing the labour market through the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), providing advice on applying for Universal Credit and signposting to local authorities for assistance with housing. In some circumstances, Migrant Help may also book appointments for newly recognised refugees with the DWP to apply for Universal Credit.

Newly recognised refugees are entitled to housing assistance from their local authority and are treated as a priority need if they have children or are considered vulnerable.

The asylum accommodation estate is under huge strain and increasing the 'move on' period would exacerbate these pressures. There are no current plans to change the time period (of 28 days) for how long individuals remain on asylum support once they have had a grant of asylum.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-17/hl7146>

*Section 195 of the Housing Act 1996, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/52/section/195>

## Asylum

**The Lord Bishop of Leicester** [HL7143] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the costs of implementing the recommendations made in the report by the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration 2021, An inspection of asylum casework (August 2020–May 2021), published on 18 November 2021.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** The Home office welcomes the recommendations made in the report by the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration 2021 “An inspection of asylum casework”; and we are taking immediate action to accelerate decision-making and rapidly speed up processing times to eliminate the backlog of people waiting for initial asylum decisions by the end of 2023.

Costs related to implementing the recommendations made in the report have not been assessed independently from the wider costs of the asylum system.

Asylum costs are detailed in the Home Office Annual Report and Accounts, with the most recent Annual Report and Accounts for 2021 to 2022 published on 14 July 2022 and available at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/home-office-annual-report-and-accounts-2021-to-2022>

[Annual Report and Accounts for 2021 to 2022](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-17/hl7143>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1034012/An\\_inspection\\_of\\_asylum\\_casework\\_August\\_2020\\_to\\_May\\_2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1034012/An_inspection_of_asylum_casework_August_2020_to_May_2021.pdf)

## Asylum

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL7160] To ask His Majesty's Government how many asylum claims were processed in (1) 1993, (2) 2003, (3) 2013 and (4) 2022.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** The Home Office publishes data on asylum in the ‘Immigration System Statistics Quarterly Release’. Data on initial decisions made on asylum applications can be found in table [Asy\\_D02 of the asylum and resettlement detailed datasets](#). The latest data available is from 2001 up the year ending December 2022. Data for the year ending March 2023 will be published on 25 May 2023.

The number of full time equivalent (FTE) asylum caseworkers employed in each financial year from 2010/11 – 2021/22 is located in the [ASY\\_04 tab](#) of the published Migration transparency data, found online: Immigration and protection data: Q4 2022.

Caseworking staff as referred to in the published immigration data, are defined as those responsible for delivering the interview and decision stages of asylum claims within asylum operations.

The number of (FTE) caseworkers working on asylum decisions from 1993 and 2003 is not published.

[Asy\\_D02](#)

[ASY\\_04 tab](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-17/hl7160>

## Appeals: Immigration

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL7162] To ask His Majesty's Government how many immigration decisions were overturned on appeal in (1) 1993, (2) 2003, (3) 2013 and (4) 2021.

**Reply from Lord Bellamy:** Data on appeal outcomes is not available for appeals

concluded prior to 2007. For the period January to December in each of the years set out below the Immigration and Asylum Chamber of the First-tier Tribunal allowed the following number of appeals against Home Office decisions:

1) 29,189 appeals in 2013

2) 11,506 appeals in 2021

The latest release of Official Statistics for Tribunals (Tribunal Statistics Quarterly: October to December 2022) published on 9 March 2023 can be found on Gov.uk. The percentage Allowed/Granted in the Official Statistics for Immigration and Asylum (FIA3) are rounded to the nearest whole number.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-17/hl7162>

*The statistics referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/tribunal-statistics-quarterly-october-to-december-2022/tribunal-statistics-quarterly-october-to-december-2022>

## Press Releases

**Protecting those fleeing violence in Sudan**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/protecting-those-fleeing-violence-in-sudan/>

**Milestone reached in UK-Albania agreement on illegal migration**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/milestone-reached-in-uk-albania-agreement-on-illegal-migration>

## New Publications

**Statistics relating to the Illegal Migration Bill**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/statistics-relating-to-the-illegal-migration-bill>

**Safe and legal routes**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/illegal-migration-bill-factsheets/safe-and-legal-routes>

**Letter from Dunja Mikatovic, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights to MPs and Peers regarding the Illegal Migration Bill**

[https://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2023-0346/Lord\\_Speaker\\_Letter\\_from\\_Dunja\\_Mikatovic.pdf](https://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2023-0346/Lord_Speaker_Letter_from_Dunja_Mikatovic.pdf)

**Support for Afghans to find settled accommodation**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/support-for-afghans-to-find-settled-accommodation>

**Change to the residency criteria for access to tuition fee and living cost support – UK nationals and their family members who have fled Ukraine as a result of the Russian invasion**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/change-residency-criteria-access-tuition-fee-living-cost-support-uk-nationals-family-members-fled-ukraine-result-russian-invasion/pages/4/>

**Equality Impact Assessment - Changes to the residency criteria for access to tuition fee and living cost support – Evacuated UK nationals from Afghanistan as part of Operation Pitting**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/equality-impact-assessment-changes-residency-criteria-access-tuition-fee-living-cost-support-evacuated-uk-nationals-afghanistan-part-operation-pitting/>



**No Rest. No Security. Report into the experiences of asylum seekers in hotels**  
[https://www.migrantvoice.org/img/upload/“No rest. No Security .” Report into the experiences of asylum seekers in hotels - Migrant Voice .pdf](https://www.migrantvoice.org/img/upload/No%20rest.%20No%20Security.%20Report%20into%20the%20experiences%20of%20asylum%20seekers%20in%20hotels%20-%20Migrant%20Voice%20.pdf)

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

**Updated: 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: 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: Rwanda Refugee Policy

**Don't delay Rwanda flights, say Tory MPs**  
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/dont-delay-rwanda-flights-say-tory-mps-fkrplrb0l>

**Thousands of migrants 'face being sent to Rwanda even if home nation is safe'**  
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/04/27/migrant-crisis-thousands-sent-rwanda-home-nation-safe/>

**Judges urged to block Home Office plans to send refugees to Rwanda**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/apr/27/judges-urged-to-block-home-office-plans-to-send-refugees-to-rwanda>

**UK medical bodies 'gravely concerned' over Rwanda deportation scheme**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2023/apr/24/uk-medical-bodies-gravely-concerned-over-rwanda-deportation-scheme>

## News: Channel Migrants

**Channel migrants at odds with British values, Suella Braverman claims**  
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/channel-migrants-at-odds-with-british-values-suella-braverman-claims-wdbvztfxh>

**Illegal migrants fuelling crime and prostitution, warns Suella Braverman**  
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/04/26/illegal-migrants-crime-prostitution-suella-braverman/>

**Does Suella Braverman have evidence to link boat arrivals to crime?**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2023/apr/26/does-suella-braverman-have-evidence-to-link-boat-arrivals-crime>

**Suella Braverman fails to back up criminality claim against migrants**  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/suella-braverman-immigration-legislation-commons-b2327834.html>

**Suella Braverman: small boat arrivals have ‘values at odds with our country’**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/apr/26/suella-braverman-small-boat-arrivals-have-values-at-odds-with-our-country>

**Channel migrants threaten cultural cohesiveness, says Robert Jenrick**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/channel-migrants-threaten-cultural-cohesiveness-says-robert-jenrick-qlbtqp3dz>

**Indians now second-biggest cohort of Channel migrants**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/indians-now-second-biggest-cohort-of-channel-migrants-30bqb0592>

**Asylum seekers arriving in UK on small boats are now one step closer to being deported as bill clears Commons**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/small-boats-bill-asylum-tories-b2327568.html>

**Senior Tory MP blames Home Office for small boats crisis**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/small-boat-crisis-home-office-b2329578.html>

**Ministers attack small boat ‘asylum shoppers’ as Tories row over migration bill**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/suella-braverman-small-boats-migrants-b2327517.html>

**Rishi Sunak gives way to rebels over child migrants**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/04/23/rishi-sunak-detention-child-migrants-small-boats-bill/>

**UK coastguard ‘left Channel migrants adrift’ in lead-up to mass drowning**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/apr/29/uk-coastguard-left-channel-migrants-adrift-in-lead-up-to-mass-drowning>

## News: Other Immigration and Asylum

**Illegal Migration Bill passes as Tory rebellion defused**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/65397710>

**Illegal Migration Bill risks breaching human rights obligations, watchdog warns**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-65376793>

**Illegal Migration Bill: Law ‘will not allow arrivals to be returned home’**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/illegal-migration-bill-law-not-allow-migrants-returned-home-latest-pbt9sfq6w>

**Sunak’s asylum plans risk breaching UK’s rights obligations, says watchdog**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/apr/24/sunak-asylum-plans-risk-breaching-uk-rights-obligations-says-watchdog-ehrc>

**PACE committee expresses grave concerns regarding the United Kingdom’s Illegal Migration Bill**

<https://pace.coe.int/en/news/9050/pace-committee-expresses-grave-concerns-regarding-the-united-kingdom-s-illegal-migration-bill>

**Braverman rebuked for falsely claiming Sudanese asylum seekers have ‘various’ ways of coming to UK**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/suella-braverman-un-sudan-asylum-b2327304.html>

**Braverman rules out asylum routes for Sudan refugees**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world-news/2023/04/26/braverman-rules-out-asylum-routes-for-sudan-refugees/>

**Britain’s legal migration numbers matter more than small boats**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/britains-legal-migration-numbers-matter-more-than-small-boats-cztbsdhbv>

**Newport man guilty of racist attack on a Shrewsbury hotel housing refugees**

<https://tellmamauk.org/newport-man-guilty-of-racist-attack-on-a-shrewsbury-hotel-housing-refugees/>

**‘Punched, chased and abused in the street’: Asylum seekers living in terror at riot-hit hotel**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/migrant-hotels-riot-knowsley-attacks-b2328888.html>

**Shared rooms, rancid food, no clothes: new report lays bare shocking conditions of those seeking refuge in UK**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/apr/22/shared-rooms-rancid-food-no-clothes-new-report-lays-bare-shocking-conditions-of-those-seeking-refuge-in-uk>

TOP

## Equality

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Equal Pay: Ethnic Groups**

**Tulip Siddiq (Labour)** [181548] To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, whether her Department has made a recent assessment of the potential merits of introducing compulsory ethnicity pay gap reporting.

**Tulip Siddiq (Labour)** [181550] To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what steps her Department is taking to reduce the ethnicity pay gap.

**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 organisation. Therefore, as set out in the “Inclusive Britain” report published in March 2022, the Government will not be legislating to make ethnicity pay reporting mandatory at this stage. Instead we have produced guidance to support those who wish to report voluntarily. This was published earlier this month.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-19/181548>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-19/181550>

*Inclusive Britain, referred to above, can be read at*

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

### **Prison and Probation Service: Ethnic Groups**

**Janet Daby (Labour)** [181024] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, whether His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service is expected to meet its target of having the proportion of ethnic minority staff in senior leadership roles reflecting the working population as a whole by 2030.

**Reply from Damian Hinds:** The proportion of HMPPS Senior leaders (from Band 10 upwards) from an ethnic minority background has increased from 4.8% in December 2019 to 9.5% in 2022. HMPPS will continue to work towards the representation of ethnic minority senior staff to match the working age population by 2030.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-17/181024>

### **Travellers: Caravan Sites**

**Tulip Siddiq (Labour)** [176787] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what steps his Department is taking to help ensure local authorities are meeting the accommodation needs of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community.

**Reply from Lee Rowley:** Specific planning policies for traveller sites are set out in the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites document which should be read in conjunction with the National Planning Policy Framework. Local authorities are best placed to make decisions about the number and location of such sites locally, having had due regard to national policy and local circumstances.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-29/176787>

*The Planning Policies referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-policy-for-traveller-sites/planning-policy-for-traveller-sites>

and

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1005759/NPPF\\_July\\_2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1005759/NPPF_July_2021.pdf)

### **Energy Bills Rebate: Travellers**

**Ben Lake (Plaid Cymru)** [180124] To ask the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, what steps he is taking to ensure that Gypsy and Traveller households can access (a) Energy Bills Support Scheme Alternative Funding and (b) the Alternative Fuels Payment.

**Reply from Amanda Solloway:** In order to protect public funds against potentially fraudulent activity, the Government require applicants to show proof of address, such as a tenancy agreement or a utility bill. The Government understands that some Gypsy and Traveller households may not be able provide this evidence, which means they won't currently be able to receive the EBSS AF or the AFP AF. However, the Government is keen to support these households and officials are working to establish whether there is a robust method for them to provide proof of eligibility, whilst protecting public funds, so they can receive support.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-14/180124>

### **Alternative Fuel Payments: Travellers**

**Rupa Huq (Labour)** [180007] To ask the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net

Zero, what recent progress his Department has made on providing Gypsy and Traveller communities living on permanent Gypsy and Traveller sites with Alternative Fuel Payment support.

**Reply from Amanda Solloway:** The Government is keen to support these households and to ensure that they can receive the Alternative Fuel Payment via the Alternative Fund where eligible. The Government is currently working to find an acceptable method for these households to provide proof of eligibility, whilst protecting public funds, so they can claim the AFP AF support.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-14/180007>

### **Clinical Trials: Ethnic Groups**

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op)** [180912] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether he plans to help increase the representation of ethnic minority patients participating in clinical trials.

**Reply from Will Quince:** The Department commissions research through the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR). The NIHR has published a strategy setting out how it will become a more inclusive funder of research and widen access to participation in clinical trials. The strategy has been designed to address inequalities associated with the protected characteristics of the Equality Act 2010, which includes ethnicity.

The NIHR is also seeking to better understand who is participating in its research to monitor changes over time and has published its first randomised controlled trial (RCT) data report which found that the diversity of NIHR's RCT participants is in line with the diversity of the 2011 census population.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-17/180912>

### **Cosmetics: Ethnic Groups**

**Chi Onwurah (Labour)** [181150] To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, whether her Department has made an assessment of the impact of hair relaxers containing lye on (a) the health of black women and (b) associated health outcomes and inequalities experienced by black women.

**Reply from Kevin Hollinrake:** An assessment of the impact of hair relaxers containing lye on the health of, or associated health outcomes experienced by, black women has not been undertaken by the Department.

Lye is already a restricted substance under annex III of the Cosmetics Regulations 2009. There are specific rules in place both for general and professional use of cosmetic products containing this ingredient.

The Office for Product Safety and Standards, in its role as the regulator for cosmetic products, often commissions scientific assessment of the safety of chemicals. If new evidence becomes available, the Government will take the appropriate action to ensure the safety of consumers.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-17/181150>

*The Regulations referred to above can be read at*

[https://health.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2016-11/cosmetic\\_1223\\_2009\\_regulation\\_en\\_0.pdf](https://health.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2016-11/cosmetic_1223_2009_regulation_en_0.pdf)

## **UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers**

### **Maternity Services: Languages**

**Baroness Coussins (Crossbench)** [HL7204] To ask His Majesty's Government whether all printed information and advice provided to women who are pregnant or in labour about specific conditions and procedures which may be required at short notice are available in languages other than English; and if so, in which languages.

**Reply from Lord Markham:** The language and format of information available at short notice to women who are pregnant or in labour about specific conditions and procedures vary, as this is often locally produced in line with the needs of the local population. NHS England has developed some information nationally, which is available in English alongside Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, French, Gujarati, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Spanish and Urdu. It is also available in spoken formats including British Sign Language.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-18/hl7204>

*The information referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.nhs.uk/about-us/health-information-in-other-languages/>

## Press Release

**UN Human Rights Chief urges UK to reverse ‘deeply troubling’ Public Order Bill**

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/04/un-human-rights-chief-urges-uk-reverse-deeply-troubling-public-order-bill>

## New Publications

**Scottish Government Equality outcomes and mainstreaming report 2023**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/equality-outcomes-mainstreaming-report-2023/>

**Police Scotland EDI Mainstreaming and Equality Outcomes Progress Report 2021-2023**

[https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/o3jlkxja/edi\\_mainstream\\_report\\_21\\_23\\_9958\\_ar.pdf](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/o3jlkxja/edi_mainstream_report_21_23_9958_ar.pdf)

**‘So Help Me God’? Does oath swearing in courtroom scenarios impact trial outcomes?**

<https://bpspsychub.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/bjop.12651>

**Towards a church where all are welcome**

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/about-us/equality-diversity-and-inclusion-group/towards-a-church-where-all-are-welcome>

## News

**Britain’s diverse communities to be recognised in coronation service**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/charles-britain-ephraim-mirvis-people-sikh-b2329596.html>

**Why diversity tactics in the creative industries continue to fall short**

<https://theconversation.com/why-diversity-tactics-in-the-creative-industries-continue-to-fall-short-197654>

TOP

# Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

### Casey Review

**Rupa Huq (Labour)** [904636] What discussions [has the Minister] had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the implications of the findings of the independent review by Baroness Casey into the standards of behaviour and internal culture of the Metropolitan Police Service for people with protected characteristics. (904636)

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Sarah Dines):** The Casey review made for sobering reading about deeply disturbing allegations of racism, misogyny and homophobia in the Met. The Home Secretary and the Prime Minister have been clear that urgent improvements must be delivered. I have confidence that the Met Commissioner is leading in this area. I have also met Dame Lynne Owens, who is doing great work. We want to see improvement and we must have it.

**Rupa Huq:** With the Police Federation now accepting that there is institutional racism, plus the vile sexism detailed by Casey and the damning fire brigade reports, will the Government order an urgent inquiry into cultures among uniformed officers, to keep workplaces and the public safe?

**Reply from Sarah Dines:** Workplaces and the public must be safe, but I have confidence that work is going on, across the whole country but particularly in the Met, to ensure that racism is not accepted. Unfortunately, the Mayor has taken his eye off the ball; under him, crime, including issues of racism, rose by 10%. The Labour party is weak on crime and it is this Government who are holding the Met to account.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-04-26/debates/1FDA5CAC-25E2-470E-8F35-57D5729A16CA/CaseyReview>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

### Cricket: Racial Discrimination

**Navendu Mishra (Labour)** [181252] To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, whether she has made an assessment of the implications for (a) her policies and (b) cricket at all levels of the verdict of the Cricket Discipline Commission in March 2023 on allegations of racism by Yorkshire County Cricket Club and seven other individuals.

**Reply from Stuart Andrew:** The Government is clear that racism has no place in cricket, sport, or society at large. We welcomed the steps that the England and Wales Cricket Board's (ECB) Cricket Disciplinary Commission took to investigate historic racism allegations at Yorkshire County Cricket Club.

We expect to see clear and sustained evidence of cultural change across the club and the sport and will continue to hold the ECB to account on this.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-18/181252>

*The verdict referred to above can be read at*

<https://resources.ecb.co.uk/ecb/document/2023/03/31/bf619c58-af70-4442-a9f4-0ec4cfaec6f6/ECB-v-Yorkshire-County-Cricket-Club-Others-Decisions.pdf>

### Hate Crime

**Baroness Gohir (Crossbench):** To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the incidence of each of the five monitored strands of hate crime in respect of the sex of the (1) victims, and (2) perpetrators; and why annual hate crime data are not routinely disaggregated by sex when published.

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Sharpe of Epsom):** My Lords, police-recorded hate crime data, published annually on GOV.UK by independent Home Office statisticians, are not routinely disaggregated by sex of victim or perpetrator. On 1 April, police forces started to identify and record any crimes of violence against the person, as well as sexual offences, that are deemed to be motivated by hostility towards the victim's sex.

**Baroness Gohir:** ... Will historical data be made available on the government website? Looking at the last 10 years of hate crime data, it has increased every single year. Between 2021 and 2022, it increased by 26%. What action are the Government taking to reduce hate crimes for all groups affected?

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** On the noble Baroness's latter point, she is right: in the year ending March 2022, there was a 26% increase compared to the previous year. Although the latest data does indicate that increase, the most recent Crime Survey for England and Wales figures, which were published in 2020, indicate a downward trend in overall hate crime incidents over the past decade. It is felt that the biggest driver for the increase in police-reported crime is likely to be general improvements in the recording of the crime. The police are also better at identifying whether a crime is a hate crime, along with increased victim willingness to come forward. As regards the publication of the data that we are collecting as of 1 April, I cannot say for sure yet. It is for 2023/24. It is voluntary at the moment, but it will be part of the annual data requirement. The Home Office statisticians will make an independent judgment as to whether it is fit for publication or not.

**Lord Browne of Ladyton (Labour):** My Lords, hate crimes have developed incrementally. First, they were targeted at racially motivated offences, before broadening into the five strands to which the noble Baroness's Question alludes. So this should remind us that their current state is a snapshot in time. We must always review these things to extend further protections where they are necessary; that is how we got to where we presently are. So surely the routine disaggregation of annual data by sex would enable us to review whether there is a necessity of extended protections offered by hate crime laws to women and girls, in a way that is better informed than it apparently is at present?

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** The noble Lord raises a good point. Of course, the Law Commission did look into this—a subject to which I am sure I will return. But the recording for hate crimes in terms of the sex of the perpetrator is actually very complex. The Ministry of Justice holds court criminal data; the sex of perpetrators is published for all crimes prosecuted that are specified in legislation, including hate crime offences such as racially and religiously aggravated assault, as the noble Lord has suggested. But where a sentence uplift is used because there is evidence of a hate element in the offence, it will be recorded under the offence legislation, not the uplift. Therefore, the sex of the perpetrator, while published, is not always linked to hate crime. Consequently, the data is not a complete representation of all hate crime and will not provide an accurate picture of the sex of the perpetrators.

**Lord Singh of Wimbledon (Crossbench):** My Lords, would the Minister agree that the whole point of collecting statistics on so-called hate crime is to use them to determine remedial action? But we already know the causes and the action required. So-called hate crime is unacceptable behaviour, not only against the five listed strands, but also against



the very tall, the very short, the thin, the fat, people with red hair—anyone seen to be different from a questionable norm. We do not need statistics to lay down norms of acceptable behaviour in schools, the police and wider society.

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** I entirely agree ...

**Lord Hannan of Kingsclere (Conservative):** My Lords, the hate crimes legislation seems to me to violate one of the general principles of common law, in that it defines crime subjectively: it defines crime as anything perceived to be a crime by the victim or by anyone else. Does my noble friend the Minister believe that the increase in reporting correlates exactly with an increase in actual crime? If it does, then what evidence is there that this legislation has been of value in combating discrimination and prejudice?

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** My noble friend asks an interesting question. I referred earlier to the Law Commission, which we asked to undertake a wide-ranging review into hate crime legislation. On the specific question, the Law Commission found that adding sex and gender to hate crime legislation could have made it more difficult to prosecute the most serious crimes that harm women and girls, including rape and domestic abuse. It would also treat sex unequally to other characteristics in scope of relevant hate crime laws, such as race or religion. So, while I cannot necessarily specifically answer my noble friend's point, I would say that it is an incredibly complex area that needs very careful thought.

**Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede (Labour):** My Lords, the Question from the noble Baroness, Lady Gohir, asked why hate crime statistics are not disaggregated by sex. But the question could equally be asked about why the data is not disaggregated by the age of the victim and the perpetrator. I well remember, when I sat on the pre-legislative scrutiny committee for the Domestic Abuse Bill, we had a lot of lobbying about violent acts against older people by younger people. Does the Minister agree that reporting the interaction of these characteristics, both sex and age, would allow resources to be better allocated for the victims and to prevent these types of crimes?

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** Again, the noble Lord raises an interesting point. He will be aware that age is not one of the five protected characteristics ... I cannot answer his question in greater detail than that at the moment but I will certainly take it back to the department. ...

**Lord Dobbs (Conservative):** My Lords, Saturday was the occasion of Stephen Lawrence Day. I pay tribute to the noble Baroness, Lady Lawrence, who is in her place, for all the dedicated work she has done to build on the memory of her son. What a pity that it should have coincided with the outbursts of Diane Abbott, which left me cold in our modern world. We have hate legislation. Does my noble friend really think that that legislation is effective? Is it really reducing the amount of hate in society, or is it encouraging us to concentrate on the wicked things that are going on rather than allowing us the opportunity to celebrate and build on all the many good things that are going on in terms of race relations in this country, of which the Stephen Lawrence Day Foundation is one?

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** I associate myself with my noble friend's remarks about the noble Baroness, Lady Lawrence, and the work she has done in that area. As regards whether hate crime legislation increases, improves or takes away from the current situation, there are plenty of reasons why hate is present in society—you can start with Twitter and move on. I am not sure that the legislation makes an enormous difference to that, but it is something that will remain front and centre of public debate for many years.

**To read the full transcript see**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-04-24/debates/FEF07A65-5306-45CE-8AF6-2069CC2C3B65/HateCrime>

*The hate crime data referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2021-to-2022/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2021-to-2022>

The Crime Survey for England and Wales figures referred to above can be read at <https://www.crimesurvey.co.uk/en/SurveyResults.html>

The Law Commission review referred to above can be read at <https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/lawcom-prod-storage-11jsxou24uy7q/uploads/2021/12/Hate-crime-report-accessible.pdf>

Diane Abbott's letter to the Observer referred to above can be read (second down) at <https://www.theguardian.com/theobserver/commentisfree/2023/apr/23/success-for-women-not-same-as-for-men-letters>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Grand Committee

### **Code of Practice on the Recording and Retention of Personal Data in relation to Non-Crime Hate Incidents**

**col 443GC The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Murray of Blidworth):** My Lords, I begin by acknowledging that non-crime hate incidents have attracted a significant amount of controversy, particularly in this place, due to concerns relating to free speech. ...

Let me first explain that the collection of non-crime hate incident information is a key legacy of the Macpherson inquiry into the murder of Stephen Lawrence. This information pertains to incidents which are not crimes and provides the police with the means to understand tensions within communities or cases involving particular individuals before they can escalate into serious harm. In this respect, this data is vital for helping the police build intelligence to understand where they must target resources to prevent serious crimes or harms which may later occur.

This Government are absolutely clear that vulnerable individuals and communities must continue to be protected. However, non-crime hate incidents must never be used to inhibit lawful debate, and we must also be very careful about what information is kept on an individual's record. This balance has unfortunately not always been struck, and this issue is precisely what the code is designed to address.

**col 444GC** Free speech is a cornerstone of our democracy. This code addresses concerns that those who express views which some consider offensive but are not against the law are at risk of becoming the subject of a non-crime hate incident report, and that this may result in their personal data being stored on a policing record. It addresses those concerns by introducing new safeguards to ensure that personal data may be included in a non-crime hate incident record only if the event is clearly motivated by intentional hostility and where there is a real risk of escalation causing significant harm or a criminal offence.

To be recorded as a non-crime hate incident or NCHI, the police must judge that any perception of hostility is valid; the complaint must not be irrational, trivial or malicious. This will ensure that the police record NCHIs only when it is absolutely necessary and proportionate to do so, and not simply because someone is offended. ...

We are confident that the content of the code fully reflects the Court of Appeal's judgment in the case of *Harry Miller v College of Policing*, which was handed down in December 2021. The court found that the recording of these incidents is lawful but must be subject to more robust safeguards to ensure that such recording is proportionate and protects free speech. ...

To reiterate, by taking these steps, we are protecting the vital changes that have been implemented by policing since the Stephen Lawrence inquiry. We continue to recognise the need to record intelligence that enables the police to intervene to prevent serious harms and future crimes, and we are determined to support the police in protecting the public. However, we have listened to the concerns raised in relation to the fact that this recording has at times gone too far, and we have acted on them. ...

**col 445GC Lord Sandhurst (Conservative):** ... until now, there has been no formal basis to ensure a proper system for selecting and recording what is to be logged, what personal data are to be kept, or when, if ever, the matter is to be reviewed. Nor was there any consistent basis as to when the subject would be given the opportunity, if at all, to respond. ... I understand that the number of reports which are now on record runs well into six figures—a very large number. Remember that the subjects have committed no crime, but in many cases their names have been recorded and remain recorded.

My first point is therefore that it is important that all police forces act promptly, as the code commends, to review all those reports currently on record to ensure that only those which meet the new requirements remain on record and that others are expunged without delay. ...

Secondly ... It is really important that this code is henceforth applied with common sense and due regard for the right to freedom of expression.

It is particularly important that the police in the field give full weight to the clear provision in the code that it is not every case which justifies recording the name and details of a particular subject, even if the incident is recorded. ...

**col 446GC Lord Strathcarron (Conservative):** ... The need for reform of non-crime hate incidents is clear on many levels, one of which is that an estimated quarter of a million of these have been recorded, which works out at about 70 a day. One can only imagine the amount of non-crime police time this has used up. It is worth remembering that nothing illegal has been done during all this police time. The police have taken it upon themselves to monitor our thoughts and opinions, and if they do not like what they find they record against us. ... I suspect what really brought everyone to horrified attention were the NCHIs recorded against four young schoolboys in Wakefield, one of them autistic, for accidentally dropping and scuffing a Koran, even though the head teacher found that there was no evidence of any malicious intent. The publicity around this case also brought to light the fact that NCHIs, unlike actual crimes, will not automatically be deleted from the young boys' records when they reach the age of 18.

Not content with issuing non-crime hate incidents against the schoolboys, we then saw the chief constable appearing to promote the idea of blasphemy law and the public humiliation of the autistic boy's mother. This is where we find ourselves when we start to police hurt feelings and not crime. ...

**col 447GC** The Home Office provides clear definitions of what constitutes a hate incident, including the requirement that there must be evidence of hostility and not just a vague and often anonymous impression that there has been some hostility. It also focuses on criminality, emphasising that not all incidents that may be perceived as offensive or hurtful should automatically be recorded. Importantly, it also clarifies how the data should be integrated into UK GDPR. To support all these clarifications, it provides 11 case studies as examples of how the new code would work in practice, predicting, as far as possible, real-life experiences that might be faced by officers. ...

As I said, so far, so good, but then comes the College of Policing's interpretation of what the Home Office intended. In the Home Office's code, these 11 examples recommended that in 63% of cases the police are explicitly advised not to record the hate incidents. In its interpretation, the college provides just eight examples and if their advice is followed, only 12.5% would not be recorded. ...

**col 448GC The Earl of Leicester (Conservative):** ... To add further to what my noble friend was saying, seven of the eight scenarios in the College of Policing's new guidance, its authorised professional practice, were found in the old guidance, which the Court of Appeal, in the Miller case, subsequently found to be unconstitutional because it had a chilling effect on freedom of speech. ...

I have a point to add on training. Following a freedom of information request to police forces in England and Wales on how many had conducted training on free speech, 78% of the police forces that responded said that they had done no training on Article 10 of the

European Convention on Human Rights or on the free speech protections in our own common law. Conversely, 56% of the responding police forces said that equality, diversity and inclusion training was inextricably embedded in their training. ...

Training in freedom of speech is a real issue for the Home Office to address because it is really important that police officers understand how important it is to uphold the foundational values of freedom of expression in the democratic and liberal society in which we live. ...

**col 449GC Lord Jackson of Peterborough (Conservative):** ... These are non-statutory guidelines. I can say, quite brusquely, that if the College of Policing does not take on board the comments from the Home Secretary, Ministers, Peers and Members of Parliament we may need to legislate and move it out of the non-statutory field. ...

Briefly, it is important that police at all levels understand that they have a duty to comply with Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights in respect of freedom of speech. ...

**col 450GC** The Miller case was much needed in exposing the extrajudicial policy of perceived offence, but it still worries me that the cultural paradigm shift that we have seen in the police, which is reflected in the College of Policing's hate crime operational guidance, is all about the perception of hurt feelings rather than the reality of criminal conduct.

While the NCHI does not create a criminal offence, it can be disclosed in an enhanced criminal records check and therefore has the potential to prevent a person gaining employment. ...

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Conservative):** ... it is important that these statistics are available to the police and to ensure that we have good communal relations. At the time of the terrorist attacks in Manchester, London and elsewhere it was extremely important that these statistics were available. I would not want ... a message to go out today that this is to scrap the process of looking at non-crime hate incidents. It is important that we build up a picture and that we say ... that it is recognised how important this is as the basis for acting. ...

**col 451GC** Of course, freedom of speech is important, as is the point about not characterising people as criminals. ...

**Baroness Brinton (Liberal Democrat):** My Lords, in the Explanatory Memorandum, the Government say that they have consulted, although not formally, with "key policing stakeholders" but ... the Secondary Legislation Committee says in its 35th report that it asked the Home Office whether they had consulted more widely, "for example, free speech advocates, those representing victims or data protection interest groups—and, if not, why was this not considered appropriate".

**col 452GC** The Government's response worries me. They said: "Given the democratic scrutiny that the code will be subject to and the comprehensive policing input received, the Government did not consult more widely". ...

The problem with harassment ... is that it escalates, often in a worsening pattern of behaviour. The early decision on whether or not to record is now weighed with the freedom of speech issue only. Part III of paragraph 31, on page 15 of the code, says: "All recording authorities have a duty to balance the right to free expression ... and/or a real risk that a future criminal offence may be committed against individuals or groups with a particular characteristic(s). All efforts should be made to avoid a chilling effect on free speech (including, but not limited to, lawful debate, humour, satire and personally held views)".

My concern is with the phrase "all efforts". The focus of that entire paragraph is free speech. Can the Minister assure me that the issues around an already visible pattern of behaviour—some criminal, some not—in a matter that might be, or progress to be, a crime of, say, affray, assault or harassment, are being considered only in terms of the narrow issue of crime/non-crime hate incidents and in relation to freedom of speech?

**col 453GC** ... example J says: "An individual who uses a wheelchair reports to the police

that a man approached her during a house party and threatened her in circumstances that could amount to a crime under section 4 of the Public Order Act 1986. In doing so, the man also made derogatory comments about her disability. A police officer is of the view that this incident would have been recorded as a disability hate crime had this occurred in a public place given the demonstrable threat and hostility that was evident”.

The response to the scenario then focuses entirely on the Public Order Act not being enforceable in a private dwelling, therefore making the incident a non-crime hate incident, but says that, because of the threatening language and the possibility of future escalation, it should be processed and recorded.

I am horrified by this example. Assuming that threatening behaviour that could have amounted to a crime occurred, this is not just a Public Order Act offence. It could also be affray, assault or harassment, all of which are crimes. ... My concern would be about what just happened to me. Someone saying, “Sorry, madam, it just happened in the wrong place”, is not going to make me feel safer. ...

**col 454GC Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede (Labour):** ... The code puts a lot of weight on using common sense, but I do not believe we should rely on that phrase too much to ensure its fair and uniform application at an operational level. What is common sense to an experienced officer may not be to a new recruit having to apply these rules for the first time. It also opens the code up to being abused. ...

I also want to comment on the language of the Government on this matter. The Secretary of State published an article last month stating that the very concept of non-crime hate incidents is “largely Orwellian and wrongheaded”, and that they “distract the police from their core duties”. ...

**col 455GC** We should remember, just after the 30th anniversary of the murder of Stephen Lawrence, why the comprehensive recording of hate incidents was introduced in the first place. It was to help protect against more serious hate crimes down the line and stop what happened to Stephen from ever happening again. ...

**col 456GC Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** ... NCHIs are vital for building community confidence and ensuring that significant harm and future criminal offences can be averted. The key thing is to ensure that this recording is properly regulated and that personal data is recorded only when it is necessary and proportionate to do so. This is precisely what the code does.

I also want to be clear that we will not ask forces to delete all existing records because valuable police intelligence would be lost and, fundamentally, it would not be a proportionate use of police resources to undertake a review of all existing records. However, where these records exist and if in any context they are reviewed—for example, during general policing inquiries for the purposes of an enhanced DBS certificate or when a person makes a subject access request—the code makes it clear that particular care should be taken to review the record before considering disclosure. ...

The Home Office is working very closely with the College of Policing to ensure that its authorised professional practice accurately reflects the contents of the new code. ...

To be clear, the college will publish operational guidance documents for the police on how to deal with the many different types of crimes and incidents, which will be known collectively as the authorised professional practice. It will be considered the official source of professional practice for policing. As it is vital to forces and will cover a number of technical matters, it is important for the college to determine how best to operationalise the content set out in the code. However, we are clear that the college’s guidance must be consistent with the provisions and principles in the code before the Committee today, which will have statutory effect once it is approved by Parliament. ...

**col 457GC** This code does not prohibit disclosure of non-crime hate incident

personal data as police information on an enhanced criminal record certificate issued by the Disclosure and Barring Service—the DBS. This is for two main reasons. First, NCHIs are simply one form of police intelligence that sits alongside many others—missing persons data, anti-social behaviour, unproven allegations of sexual assault and so on. They exist in line with the police’s common law powers to prevent crime. There are circumstances where police non-conviction information of various kinds will be considered for disclosure in enhanced DBS checks used in relation to roles which involve close working with vulnerable adults or children. ... Secondly, the rules surrounding disclosure of this type of data are already governed by statutory disclosure guidance produced by the Home Office. Non-crime hate incident intelligence is not an exceptional form of police intelligence; it is simply a type of non-crime incident data, collected by the police to prevent crime, hence why it is covered in the same statutory guidance. ...

*col 458GC* DBS records suggest that, in any event, it is rare for non-crime police information of any sort to appear on an enhanced criminal records certificate supplied to a potential employer. This type of information featured in only 0.1% of the 3.9 million enhanced checks issued by the DBS between April 2019 and March 2020. ...

During the debate, my noble friend Lord Bourne and a number of other noble Lords raised a question about consultation. ... the Government consulted relevant policing stakeholders, including the College of Policing, the National Police Chiefs’ Council and senior police officers. ...

*col 459GC* I turn to the remarks made by the noble Baroness, Lady Brinton. We were all shocked and saddened by the offending to which she was exposed that she described to the Committee. It is the Government’s view that the code takes particular care in relation to vulnerable individuals. The examples it gives are designed to be examples of non-criminal offences. The matters which were described by the noble Baroness were criminal offences, and the police will follow other guidance if an actual crime has occurred. ...

The scope of the code is limited to non-crime hate instances. ...

**To read the full transcript see**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-04-26/debates/69571C08-CC48-438F-B481-C2C41B12647C/CodeOfPracticeOnTheRecordingAndRetentionOfPersonalDataInRelationToNon-CrimeHateIncidents>

*To read the Non-Crime Hate Incidents: Draft Code of Practice on the Recording and Retention of Personal Data see*

<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>

*The Court of Appeal judgement referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.judiciary.uk/judgments/miller-v-the-college-of-policing/>

*The College of Policing guidance referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.college.police.uk/app/major-investigation-and-public-protection/hate-crime/responding-hate#recording-non-crime-incidents-perceived-by-the-reporting-person-to-be-motivated-by-hostility>

*The Secondary Legislation Committee report referred to above can be read at*

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/34660/documents/191322/default/>

*The Secretary of State’s article referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/suella-braveman-orwellian-non-crime-hate-incidents-distract-police-bfqg5mf9k>

## New Publications

### **Police Scotland Hate Monster campaign**

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/advice-and-information/hate-crime/hate-monster-campaign/>

### **Government response to recommendation 8 of the Law Commission's review of hate crime legislation**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/law-commission-review-of-hate-crime-legislation/government-response-to-recommendation-8-of-the-law-commissions-review-of-hate-crime-legislation-accessible>

## News

### **Diane Abbott's comments were antisemitic, Labour leader says**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-65374104>

### **Keir Starmer 'utterly condemns' Diane Abbott's comments as he vows to 'tear out antisemitism by its roots'**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/starmer-abbott-labour-antisemitism-b2325704.html>

### **Keir Starmer says he was 'shocked' by Diane Abbott's letter to the Observer**

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2023/apr/30/starmer-shocked-by-diane-abbott-letter-to-the-observer>

### **Keir Starmer signals end of Diane Abbott's Labour career over 'anti-Semitic' comments**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/04/24/keir-starmer-signals-end-diane-abbott-labour-anti-semitism/>

### **Diane Abbott's comments were antisemitic, Keir Starmer says**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/diane-abbott-comments-were-antisemitic-keir-starmer-says-78jzxt9dp>

### **Diane Abbott: Minority groups condemn Labour MP's 'anti-Semitic' comments and warn there cannot be 'hierarchy of racism'**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/diane-abbott-minority-groups-condemn-labour-mps-anti-semitic-comments-and-warn-there-cannot-be-hierarchy-of-racism-4116421>

### **Diane Abbott's suggestion that Jews don't experience racism is not only absurd – but dangerous**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/diane-abbott-racism-antisemitism-b2325729.html>

### **What Diane Abbott missed in her letter about racism**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/independentpremium/politics-explained/labour-antisemitism-diane-abbott-starmer-b2325840.html>

### **Dear Diane Abbott, I'm Jewish, let me explain where you've gone wrong**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/deborah-ross-diane-abbott-22p2v3jd8>

### **The lesson from the Diane Abbott furore: neither false equivalence nor hierarchies of victimhood help us**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/apr/24/diane-abbott-letter>

**The lesson from the Diane Abbott row: if we fight racism in silos, we just can't win**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/apr/27/diane-abbott-racism-letter-racial-politics>

**Diane Abbott's letter shows how antiracism has been reduced to decrying 'white privilege'**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/apr/30/diane-abbott-letter-shows-antiracism-reduced-to-decrying-white-privilege>

**Suella Braverman says police should not intervene in 'legitimate debate' on trans people and race**  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/suella-braverman-police-transgender-race-b2327328.html>

**UK politicians stigmatising Muslims over Islamist terrorism, report finds**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/apr/26/uk-politicians-stigmatising-muslims-over-islamist-terrorism-report-finds>

**Campus racism: University of Manchester apologises over slurs in class**  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/newsbeat-65410599>

**Guardian apologises over cartoon of BBC chairman Richard Sharp**  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-65438581>

**Guardian apologises to Richard Sharp and Jewish community over 'antisemitic' cartoon**  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/richard-sharp-guardian-antisemitic-cartoon-b2329583.html>

**Guardian apologises over 'antisemitic' Richard Sharp cartoon**  
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/guardian-apologises-over-antisemitic-richard-sharp-cartoon-329vwlhjm>

**Twitter verifies far-right group Britain First with gold tick**  
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/technology/2023/04/24/twitter-verifies-britain-first-elon-musk-shakeup>

**Far-right Britain First party given Twitter gold tick**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2023/apr/24/far-right-britain-first-twitter-gold-tick>

**The Church and the legacies of slavery**  
<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2023/articles/the-church-and-the-legacies-of-slavery>

**Investigation launched as Black woman wrongly accused of theft at Aldi condemns store's 'racial profiling'**  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/aldi-theft-black-shoppers-women-b2323031.html>

**BMA suspends junior doctor who joked about gassing Jews on Twitter**  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/bma-junior-doctor-anti-semitism-b2324934.html>

TOP



## Other Scottish Parliament and Government

### Press Releases

#### Coronation events in Scotland

<https://www.gov.scot/news/coronation-events-in-scotland/>

#### Scottish Household Survey 2021 results published

<https://www.gov.scot/news/scottish-household-survey-2021-results-published/>

#### Long COVID Report Urges Scottish Government to Address Stigma and Improve Awareness

<https://www.parliament.scot/about/news/news-listing/long-covid-report-urges-scottish-government-to-address-stigma-and-improve-awareness>

### New Publications

#### Scottish Household Survey 2021 - telephone survey: key findings

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-household-survey-2021-telephone-survey-key-findings/>

#### Long COVID

<https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdneq.azureedge.net/published/CVDR/2023/4/26/3f31d972-6497-4e89-b77a-07c03ffa5c10/CVDR062023R2.pdf>

TOP

## Other UK Parliament and Government

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

*The following five questions all received the same answer*

#### **Schools: Admissions**

**Crispin Blunt (Conservative)** [179841] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if she will take steps to ban school admissions policies that require women to dress modestly.

#### **Faith Schools: Admissions**

**Crispin Blunt (Conservative)** [179842] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, with reference to the national secular society report entitled how state school admissions policies enable coercive control in religious communities, published in February 2023, whether she has made an assessment of the implications for her policies of that report's findings on admissions requirements for state-funded faith schools.

**Crispin Blunt (Conservative)** [179843] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment she has made of the impact of faith schools setting admissions criteria relating to families' private lives on those families.

**Crispin Blunt (Conservative)** [179844] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what guidance her Department issues to faith schools on the implications of the UK's human rights obligations under international law for their admissions policies.

**Crispin Blunt (Conservative)** [179845] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of removing admissions exemptions that allow faith schools to select pupils based on the religious beliefs and practices of parents.

**Reply from Nick Gibb:** Like all other mainstream state funded schools, schools

designated with a religious character, commonly known as faith schools, must admit all children who apply, without reference to faith, where there are places available. Where they are oversubscribed, they may give priority for places to applicants on the basis of faith. No parent is required to provide information on their membership or practice of the faith when applying to a faith school, although they may not then be eligible for priority under any faith oversubscription criteria.

The Department does not intend to remove faith schools' ability to set faith-based oversubscription criteria. Faith-based oversubscription criteria provide a means to support parents to have their children educated in line with their religious and philosophical beliefs, where they wish to do so.

The admission authority of a faith school is responsible for setting their admission arrangements and deciding whether or not to use faith-based oversubscription criteria.

The Department issues the statutory School Admissions Code which applies to all mainstream state funded schools, including faith schools, and places requirements on admission authorities about their arrangements and what they may ask from parents as part of the admissions process. The Code also signposts other relevant laws which admission authorities must comply with, including the Human Rights Act 1998.

In constructing any faith oversubscription criteria, a faith school's admission authority must have regard to any guidance from the body or person representing the religion or religious denomination, to the extent that the guidance complies with the Code. They must also consult with the religious body when deciding how membership or practice of the faith is to be demonstrated. Ultimately, the admission authority must ensure its arrangements comply with the Code and other relevant legislation, including the Human Rights Act 1998 and the Equality Act 2010.

Anyone who is concerned that a school's admission arrangements are unfair or unlawful is encouraged to refer an objection to the independent Schools Adjudicator, whose decision is binding and enforceable. The Government does not routinely make an assessment of the impact of individual faith schools' admissions criteria. All legislation, including admissions law, must be compatible with equalities and human rights law.

The Department has no current plans to introduce more specific requirements for faith school admissions beyond those already set out in law. The Department routinely considers reports and guidance from stakeholders and other bodies, such as the report issued by the National Secular Society. All such information helps to inform future policy development.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-14/179841>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-14/179842>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-14/179843>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-14/179844>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-14/179845>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.secularism.org.uk/uploads/nss-report-how-state-school-admissions-policies-enable-coercive-control-in-religious-communities.pdf>

*The School Admissions Code, referred to above, can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1001050/School\\_admissions\\_code\\_2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1001050/School_admissions_code_2021.pdf)

## Schools: Blasphemy

**Lord Godson (Conservative)** [HL7123] To ask His Majesty's Government whether the new blasphemy guidance being developed by the Home Office and the Department for Education will be legally binding upon schools; how they are planning to make schools aware of their new responsibilities under that guidance; and how that guidance will be enforced.

**Reply from Baroness Barran:** In response to recent incidents, the Government has been clear that there is no blasphemy law in the UK. The Department has no plans to produce specific guidance on blasphemy for schools.

Head teachers are best placed to make the decisions on how to meet the needs of their pupils. In doing so, there are a range of considerations, supported by existing departmental guidance. This includes ensuring political impartiality and promoting respect and tolerance between people of different faiths and beliefs.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-17/hl7123>

## Press Releases

**How to watch the Coronation of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-coronation-of-their-majesties-king-charles-iii-and-queen-camilla>

**Government needs to better understand faith, independent review claims**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-needs-to-better-understand-faith-independent-review-claims>

## New Publication

**The Bloom Review: Does government 'do God?' An independent review into how government engages with faith**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1152684/The\\_Bloom\\_Review.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1152684/The_Bloom_Review.pdf)

TOP

## Cost of Living

### Scottish Government Website

#### Help during the cost of living crisis

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

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

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

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

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

## Press Release

**Collective effort to tackle poverty**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/collective-effort-to-tackle-poverty/>

## Publications

**UK Parliament House of Commons Library Briefing: Rising cost of living in the UK**

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9428/CBP-9428.pdf>

**The long shadow of the cost of living emergency**

[https://d1ssu070pg2v9i.cloudfront.net/pex/pex\\_carnegie2021/2023/04/25162115/Carnegie-UK\\_LongShadow\\_Final.pdf](https://d1ssu070pg2v9i.cloudfront.net/pex/pex_carnegie2021/2023/04/25162115/Carnegie-UK_LongShadow_Final.pdf)

## News

**Cost of living payment: Millions to get £301 to help pay bills**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-65352703>

**Number of food parcels to Scots children rises by 'alarming 60%**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/23480653.number-food-parcels-scots-children-rises-alarming-60/>

TOP

## New Publication

**'Called to Serve': The Coronation Liturgy**

<https://www.churchofengland.org/coronation/liturgy>

TOP

## Other News

**Lambeth Palace Publishes Liturgy for the Coronation of King Charles III**

<https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/news/lambeth-palace-publishes-liturgy-coronation-king-charles-iii>

**Coronation: Public asked to swear allegiance to King Charles**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-65435426>

**Welsh teen forced to take virginity test before marriage**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-65055005>

TOP

## **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>

Notice of amendments

[https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-03/0284/amend/illegal\\_migration\\_rep\\_day\\_0426.pdf](https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-03/0284/amend/illegal_migration_rep_day_0426.pdf)

House of Commons consideration of the Bill as amended in Committee, and Third Reading.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-04-26/debates/5751EE9A-180E-48BA-A8CA-D51B230C1984/IllegalMigrationBill>

Bill as brought to the House of Lords

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/50885/documents/3348>

First Reading, House of Lords

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-04-27/debates/F1F11017-36C1-4FAE-8DD8-8287D30C54EB/IllegalMigrationBill>

Supplementary European Convention on Human Rights Memorandum

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1153051/Commons\\_Report\\_stage\\_supplementary\\_ECHR\\_memo\\_FINAL.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1153051/Commons_Report_stage_supplementary_ECHR_memo_FINAL.pdf)

House of Commons Library Briefing: Progress of the bill

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9776/CBP-9776.pdf>

Letters from Minister Jenrick about amendments to the Illegal Migration Bill

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1152801/2023-04-24\\_Letter\\_to\\_Stephen\\_Kinnock\\_MP\\_Report\\_stage\\_amendments\\_002\\_.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1152801/2023-04-24_Letter_to_Stephen_Kinnock_MP_Report_stage_amendments_002_.pdf)

and

[https://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2023-0363/Robert\\_Jenrick\\_to\\_Stephen\\_Kinnock-Illegal\\_Migration\\_Bill.pdf](https://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2023-0363/Robert_Jenrick_to_Stephen_Kinnock-Illegal_Migration_Bill.pdf)

Factsheet: Safe and legal routes

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/illegal-migration-bill-factsheets/safe-and-legal-routes>

Statement from the Equality and Human Rights Commission

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/statement-illegal-migration-bill-ahead-house-commons-report-stage>

## **Immigration and Nationality Fees (Exemption for NHS Clinical Staff)**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3436>

### **\*\* Online Safety Bill**

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

Committee Stage, House of Lords

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-04-25/debates/8A42D322-903C-485F-907E-11FDF4EDCB08/OnlineSafetyBill>

and

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-04-25/debates/8234D7A4-68A0-4598-98CA-F1F5F833B168/OnlineSafetyBill>

and

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-04-27/debates/AC7C700F-39F3-406C-854C-0EA6F3E3E911/OnlineSafetyBill>

and

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-04-27/debates/958CAC63-A345-45E8-9DE3-7CBA46611DCA/OnlineSafetyBill>

Notice of amendments

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/50805/documents/3334>

and

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/50864/documents/3342>

and

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/50887/documents/3349>

and

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/50905/documents/3352>

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

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

## Scotland (Self-Determination) Bill

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

TOP

## Consultations

\*\* new or updated this week

**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/>

**Review of the Race Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1997** (closing date 18 June 2023)

<https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-review-race-relations-ni-order-1997>

**ITV/Tell MAMA survey on mosque safety in the UK** (closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/V7V5B6L>

TOP

## Job Opportunities

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

TOP

## Funding Opportunities

\*\* new or updated this week

### **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>

### **People's Postcode Trust**

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

*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](https://www.postcodetrust.org.uk/media/2724/3_ppt_fundingguide_2023.pdf)

TOP

## Events, Conferences, and Training

\*\* new or updated this week

**\*\* this week!**

### **Applying a Human Rights and Equalities First Approach: Workshop**

2 May 2023 (online, 1.00–4.00)

15 May 2023 (online, 10.00–1.00)

1 June 2023 (online, 10.00–1.00)

THRE course about applying a human rights and equalities first approach – for people who already know a bit about human rights and equalities or are already familiar with the human rights and equalities first approach, and want to know how to apply them to their role and/or organisation. For information about 2 May see <https://tinyurl.com/389ys5ke>, about 15 May see <https://tinyurl.com/2p8zzeuv>, and 1 June see <https://tinyurl.com/59fc5enf>

**\*\* this week!**

### **Reflections on a Human Rights Agenda for Scotland**

3 May 2023 (online, 9.30–11.00)

Human Rights Consortium Scotland event to listen to conversations and reflections from leading human rights experts and activists who will share their thoughts on the Scottish Government and civil society's priorities to better protect human rights in Scotland in the coming months. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/mr47chxy>

### **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](mailto:margaret.starkie@volunteerscotland.org.uk)

### **A Human Rights and Equalities First Approach – The Basics**

11 May 2023 (online, 10.00–3.00)

24 May 2023 (online, 10.00–12.00)

THRE course for people who are just starting out and want to learn the fundamentals or who know a bit about human rights and equalities and want to know more. For information about 26 April see <https://tinyurl.com/prje3us3>, about 11 May see <https://tinyurl.com/bdz4edb9>, and about 24 May see <https://tinyurl.com/3yjwdvwt>

### **Protect UK Workshop for the Voluntary Sector**

24 May 2023 (online, 12.00–1.00)

National Counter Terrorism Security Office workshop to learn more about the ProtectUK Platform its uses and benefits, and understand how the ProtectUK App (formerly ACT) will benefit your organisation in countering terrorism and developing your protective security and preparedness. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/5brvpy7m>

**\*\* The Muslim, State and Mind: Islamophobia in Mental Health and Psychology**

25 May 2023 (online and Manchester University – hybrid event, 1.00–2.15)



Centre on the Dynamics of Ethnicity (CoDE), Our Shared Cultural Heritage Radical Readers, and Manchester Institute of Education's Anti-Racist Teaching Network discussion about how psychological theories and practices serve state interests and perpetuate inequality, especially racism and Islamophobia. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/37h9kwf9>

[TOP](#)

## 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>

[TOP](#)

**SCoJeC**  
Scottish Council of  
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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

**BEMIS**

Empowering Scotland's Ethnic and  
Cultural Minority Communities

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



gov.scot

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

The copyright of each article belongs to the publisher on whose website it appears, and it may only be copied or reproduced in accordance with the relevant terms and conditions. Full details of these, and the publisher's contact information, are available on each website.