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

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Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Illegal Migration Bill (Impact on Asylum Seekers)

Ariane Burgess (Green) [S6O-02219] To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with local authorities regarding any preparations for the potential impact of the proposed Illegal Migration Bill on asylum seekers currently accommodated in hotels in Scotland.

Reply from the Minister for Equalities, Migration and Refugees (Emma Roddick): The Scottish Government is deeply concerned that the United Kingdom Government's Illegal Migration Bill will push people deeper into exploitation and destitution. We have urged the UK Government to stop the bill and focus on improving the asylum system to increase the quality and speed of decisions. That would reduce the number of people who are accommodated in hotels and the risk

that they are left in prolonged limbo without the ability to work or access services. The provision of accommodation for asylum seekers is entirely reserved to the UK Government but, of course, has an impact on our local authorities. I will discuss that with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities spokesperson for community wellbeing when I meet her shortly.

Ariane Burgess: Moray Council and Health and Social Care Moray will be supporting people who are seeking asylum and arriving in my region over the coming weeks. How can the Scottish Government support the oversight group to ensure that our communities are fully involved in welcoming those residents and that we do not see a repeat of the short-notice changes to accommodation arrangements that have been seen in other areas?

Reply from Emma Roddick: The “New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy 2018-2022” provides a framework that can help planning to support people seeking asylum in line with our principle that integration should be supported from day 1 of arrival.

New Scots was developed in partnership by the Scottish Government, COSLA and the Scottish Refugee Council. Asylum accommodation is reserved to the Home Office, which should engage with local authorities as early as possible. We believe that the Home Office also needs to provide long-term funding for local authorities and services that recognises the true costs of asylum dispersal to local authorities and enables better support for people seeking asylum as well as those local communities.

Ivan McKee (SNP): As the minister has outlined, the Scottish Government, councils and the third sector have worked well to implement Scotland’s new Scots strategy, which supports refugees and asylum seekers into our communities from day 1 of arrival. For Westminster to disrupt that good work would be unforgivable. What communications has the Scottish Government had with UK Government counterparts to express Scottish communities’ opposition to the bill?

Reply from Emma Roddick: The Scottish Government has made our opposition to the bill very clear. The Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture wrote to the UK Government in March to say that we condemned the bill’s cruel and inhumane provisions and to urge it not to proceed with the bill.

On 25 April, the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice again wrote to emphasise Scotland’s significant concerns and our intention to lodge a legislative consent memorandum due to clauses that alter the executive competence of the Scottish ministers, and to point out the opposition of this Parliament to the bill following the passing of a recent motion.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=15297&i=130498#ScotParlOR>

The New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy 2018-2022, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/new-scots-refugee-integration-strategy-2018-2022/>

The Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture’s letter, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/illegal-migration-bill-letter-to-uk-government/>

The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice’s letter, referred to above, is not available online.

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

School Places: Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Jamie Greene (Conservative) [S6W-17462] To ask the Scottish Government how many school places have been utilised by child (a) refugees and (b) asylum seekers since 2022.

Reply from Jenny Gilruth: The pupil census, which records a snapshot of data at a particular point in time, showed that on the date of collection in September 2022 there were 2,062 pupils reported as asylum seekers and 5,746 reported as refugees.

Under the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 local authorities have a duty to provide adequate and efficient provision of school education for all children residing in their local area.

This duty does not distinguish between children and young people on the basis of their country of origin, race, belief or religion or refugee status.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-17462>

UK Parliament Debates

No Recourse to Public Funds

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-05-11/debates/DC92333D-0732-466B-AF3A-911EFFE92D29/NoRecourseToPublicFunds>

Draft Houses in Multiple Occupation (Asylum-Seeker Accommodation) (England) Regulations 2023

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-05-10/debates/5221e982-d4c6-45b6-a2d8-38199731a3fa/DraftHousesInMultipleOccupation\(Asylum-SeekerAccommodation\)\(England\)Regulations2023](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-05-10/debates/5221e982-d4c6-45b6-a2d8-38199731a3fa/DraftHousesInMultipleOccupation(Asylum-SeekerAccommodation)(England)Regulations2023)

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Afghanistan

Refugees: Afghanistan

Jessica Morden (Labour) [183376] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applicants for the Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme Pathway 1 have been resettled in the UK up to 2 May 2023; and of this number, how many arrived in the UK as part of the Operation Pitting evacuations.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: We owe a debt of gratitude to those Afghan citizens who risked their lives working for, or with, UK forces. Their safety and security, and that of their families, is a government priority. The Intimidation Policy and Ex-Gratia Scheme (EGS) was initially set up to recognise this.

We relocated approximately 1,400 people including Locally Engaged Staff and their immediate families to the UK. Of those staff, all but six were interpreters. Four were relocated under the now defunct Intimidation Policy, one under the new Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP).

To date, we have relocated over 12,000 ARAP eligible principals and their immediate families to the UK, including over 5,000 since Operation PITTING concluded at the end of August 2021.

We know there is still a way to go to bring all those who are eligible to safety in the UK. The Ministry of Defence continues to receive an unprecedented number of applications to the ARAP scheme, many of which are speculative, or duplicates of applications already made.

There has been total of 21,365 individuals arrive in the UK under the ARAP and Pathway 1 of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme. 7,619 people who were brought to safety in the UK during and after the evacuation eligible for the ACRS have been resettled under Pathway 1.

Whilst a precise breakdown of the all the data requested is not available, work

continues to assure information relating to all the people resettled and relocated to the UK. The next quarterly publication of statistics is due on 25 May 2023.

More information can be viewed at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-resettlement-programme-operational-data/afghan-resettlement-programme-operational-data>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-02/183376>

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>

Visas: Chevening Scholarships Programme

Nadia Whittome (Labour) [183627] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to extend leave to remain to Afghan Chevening Scholars whose visas are due to expire within the next 12 months.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Under Pathway 1, vulnerable and at-risk individuals who arrived in the UK under the Afghan evacuation programme have been the first to be settled under the Afghan Citizen Resettlement Scheme (ACRS). This includes those Chevening scholars who were evacuated, and those who were notified by the UK Government that they had been called forward or specifically authorised for evacuation, but were not able to board flights and have subsequently arrived in the UK.

Individuals on the 2020/21 and 2021/22 Chevening programmes who were in the UK and did not meet the eligibility requirements for ACRS Pathway 3, which includes Chevening alumni at risk, were granted Indefinite Leave to Remain outside of the Rules, alongside their immediate family members who were also already in the UK.

Chevening awards were offered to Afghans resident in safe third countries for the academic year 2022-23. It was made clear to applicants that the scholarship is not an offer of resettlement and that the usual Chevening policy would apply, including the requirement to leave the UK at the end of their scholarship.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-02/183627>

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 Pathway 3, referred to above, can be read at

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2022-06-](https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2022-06-13/debates/2206135000016/AfghanCitizensResettlementSchemeLaunchPathways2And3)

[13/debates/2206135000016/AfghanCitizensResettlementSchemeLaunchPathways2And3](https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2022-06-13/debates/2206135000016/AfghanCitizensResettlementSchemeLaunchPathways2And3)

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer: Ukraine

Homes for Ukraine Scheme: Higher Education

Drew Hendry (SNP) [183461] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that Ukrainian people with visas under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme who are beginning higher education studies in the UK will be able to complete their period of study.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Ukrainians in the UK under our Ukraine Schemes can apply for other types of leave where they are eligible, including leave as a student. If their study is ongoing after their 36 months leave, they are able to apply for a student visa to extend their leave at any time during their Ukraine scheme leave. A student visa is granted for the duration of the course, so can be applied for before

the end of the three-year visa to ensure a student has the leave required to complete their course. More information can be found at Ukrainian nationals in the UK: visa support - GOV.UK ([Immigration Rules - Immigration Rules: Appendix Student - Guidance](#)).

The UK Government is keeping the broader potential need for an extension of leave, for sanctuary after 36 months, under review, in line with the developments of the situation in Ukraine.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-02/183461>

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

British Nationality: Children

Justin Madders (Labour) [183107] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of reducing the cost of making an application for British citizenship for children who were born in the UK.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: A fee waiver for children wishing to register as British Citizens on the basis of affordability, along with a fee exception for children who are looked after by a Local Authority, were introduced on 16 June 2022.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-27/183107>

Visas: Sudan

Sarah Champion (Labour) [183067] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the potential merits of extending visit visas for Sudanese nationals who are in the UK.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Those wishing to come to the UK for a short time to stay with family can apply for a visit visa which allows them to stay in the UK for up to six months. Further details about visiting the UK are available here: <https://www.gov.uk/standard-visitor>

Immediate family members of British citizens, and those settled in the UK, who wish to come and live in the UK can apply under one of the existing family visa routes.

Further details are available here: <https://www.gov.uk/uk-family-visa>

Applications can be made at any Visa Application Centre (VAC) and we will accept applications which would normally have to be made in the country where the person is living at any VAC from someone who has been evacuated, or self-evacuated, from Sudan. Each case is treated fairly and judged on merit, taking into account the individual circumstances of the case.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-27/183067>

Visas: Sudan

Claire Hanna (SDLP) [183609] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has taken steps to review family reunification visa mechanisms for people affected by the conflict in Sudan.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Family Reunion allows individuals with protection status in the UK to sponsor their partner or children to stay with or join them here, provided they formed part of the family unit before the sponsor left their country of origin in order to seek protection.

Where an application does not meet the eligibility requirements of the Immigration Rules, decision makers must consider whether there are any exceptional circumstances which would render a refusal a breach of our international obligations. Our policy also makes clear that there is discretion to grant visas outside the Immigration Rules, where there are compelling compassionate factors.

Between 2015 and 2022, we have offered places to almost half a million (481,804) people from all over the world seeking safety. This includes 44,659 family reunion grants since 2015.

There currently are no plans to review the Family Reunion route.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-02/183609>

Asylum: Sudan

Neil Coyle (Independent) [182877] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what legal routes of entry to the UK exist for Sudanese national family members of British nationals.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Family Immigration Rules, contained in Appendix FM to the Immigration Rules ([Immigration Rules - Immigration Rules Appendix FM: family members - Guidance](#)) provide for close family members of British citizens and persons settled in the United Kingdom to come to the UK on a route to settlement. These routes are available to partners, parents, children and adult dependent relatives. Each route has specific requirements which must be met. Each application is considered on its merits and on a case-by-case basis taking into account the individual circumstances. Details of the routes available to family members can be found at: [Family in the UK](#).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-26/182877>

Sudan: Refugees

David Lammy (Labour) [183652] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what estimate his Department has made of the number of safe and legal routes currently available to refugees fleeing Sudan.

Reply from Andrew Mitchell: Our priority has been the safe evacuation of British nationals and their eligible dependants from Sudan - since 25 April the UK has supported the departure of 2,450 people, including British nationals, dependants, and other eligible nationals.

The UK's current refugee resettlement schemes allow us to support the most vulnerable refugees direct from regions of conflict and instability. The safe and legal entry routes include resettlement, which includes United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) schemes (UK Resettlement scheme, mandate scheme, and community sponsorship) and family reunion visas.

On 4 May, the UK Government announced an initial £5 million allocation which will help to provide urgent assistance to tens of thousands of refugees and returnees in South Sudan and Chad fleeing violence in Sudan.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-03/183652>

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

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

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>

Asylum: Kurds

Hilary Benn (Labour) [182785] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she will include Kurds from Iraq and Iran in the streamlined asylum process.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: From 23 February, legacy claims from nationals of

Afghanistan, Eritrea, Libya, Syria and Yemen will be considered through the Streamlined Asylum Process.

This is on the basis of their current high-grant rate of protection status (refugee status or humanitarian protection). All these nationalities have a grant rate of over 95% and over 100 grants of protection status in the year-ending September 2022. Please see [Migration statistics](#) for more information.

Upon arrival, all asylum seekers undergo a screening interview, as well as robust security checks in which they will provide biometric information.

Separate work is ongoing to more efficiently process all other asylum claims admitted to the UK asylum system awaiting consideration. To further accelerate decision making we will further drive productivity improvements by simplifying and modernising our system. This includes measures like shortening interviews, removing unnecessary interviews, making guidance simpler and more accessible, dealing with cases more swiftly where they can be certified as manifestly unfounded (e.g. Albania) and recruiting extra decision makers.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-26/182785>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [183258] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum applications were processed by her Department in the last 12 months; and how many and what proportion of these applications were made by Palestinians.

Asylum: Palestinians

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [183258] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of applications for asylum made by Palestinian people were successful in the last 12 months.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office publishes data on asylum in the '[Immigration System Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on initial decisions made on asylum applications by nationality can be found in table Asy_D02 of the '[asylum and resettlement detailed datasets](#)'. Information on how to use the datasets can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbooks. The latest data relate to the year ending December 2022. Data for the year ending March 2023 will be published on 25 May 2023. Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the '[Research and statistics calendar](#)'.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-28/183258>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-28/183259>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Refugees: Children

Navendu Mishra (Labour) [183603] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many children have been issued a letter signalling the intention for them to be designated as a group 2 refugee should their asylum claim be successful (a) since 28 June 2022 and (b) for the most recent period in which data is available.

Navendu Mishra (Labour) [183604] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what information her Department holds on the (a) age and (b) nationality of children who received a letter of intention to designate them as a group 2 refugee.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office publishes data on asylum in the '[Immigration System Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on initial decisions made on asylum applications, including grants of temporary refugee permission by age and nationality, can be found in table Asy_D02 of the '[asylum and resettlement detailed datasets](#)'. Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes'

page of the workbook.

Please note this data only includes those who have been granted temporary refugee permission, not those who have received a letter of intention to designate them as a group 2 refugee.

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-02/183603>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-02/183604>

Asylum: Age

Julian Knight (Independent) [182881] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the impact of the new regulations for age assessments for asylum seekers on the level of safeguarding risk arising from adults pretending to be children.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The National Age Assessment Board (NAAB) launched on 31 March 2023. The NAAB aims to make age assessments more consistent and robust from the outset, reducing the safeguarding risks of individuals being incorrectly assessed. The service is currently limited to working with a small number of local authorities in London and West Midland regions with a view to expanding out nationally as we build up capacity. We will continue to monitor the impact of the National Age Assessment Board on customer behaviour.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-26/182881>

Asylum: Hotels

Gregory Campbell (DUP) [183335] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department takes to consult with local communities before it signs a contract to use a hotel as temporary accommodation for asylum seekers.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The record number of people that have crossed the Channel in small boats in recent years has placed the Home Office's asylum support infrastructure and accommodation services under immense pressure. Under the Immigration & Asylum Act 1999, the Home Office has a statutory obligation to provide asylum seekers, who would otherwise be destitute, with accommodation and support whilst their claim is under consideration. Eligible asylum seekers are ordinarily placed in housing accommodation; however, the unprecedented number of small boat arrivals has forced the Home Office to consider alternative accommodation options to ensure that we meet our statutory obligations, which has resulted in the temporary use of contingency accommodation.

The use of contingency accommodation is a short-term solution and we are working hard with Local Authorities and our accommodation providers to find more appropriate accommodation.

We have taken significant steps to improve levels of engagement with key stakeholders including district and parish councils, around hotel accommodation sites to ensure Local Authorities are kept updated and better informed and to ensure we understand and act on any concerns appropriately.

We work closely with Local Authorities on full asylum dispersal to create a fairer distribution across the UK. We do not routinely engage with members of the public regarding utilising contingency accommodation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-02/183335>

Asylum: Housing

Richard Drax (Conservative) [181964] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, who has been contracted to provide the barge for Portland Port; and whether the same provider will be responsible for all facilities, services and staff on the barge and shore side.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The vessel will be managed by our supplier, under contractual terms agreed with the Home Office. The same supplier has safely and successfully managed two vessels for Ukrainian refugees for the Scottish Government over the past year.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-20/181964>

Asylum: Housing

Richard Drax (Conservative) [181965] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she plans to take to help resource the policing of potential protests outside Portland Port; and what assessment she has made of the potential impact of housing asylum seekers at the port on local communities in (a) Weymouth and (b) Portland.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The safety and security of the local communities, those asylum seekers on the sites and the staff are of the utmost importance.

To ensure security forms an integral part of the proposed site, a specialist security provider will be working on site 24/7. We are also working closely with the local police force to ensure appropriate security arrangements are in place.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-20/181965>

Asylum: Housing

Richard Drax (Conservative) [181967] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers will be initially accommodated on the barge in Portland Port when it opens; and what her Department's planned timescale is to fill the total number of spaces.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The provision of an accommodation barge at Portland Port will provide capacity for a maximum of 506 asylum seekers. There will be a phased programme of embarkation to ensure the site is run effectively, with as minimal impact on the local community as possible.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-20/181967>

Asylum: Housing

Richard Drax (Conservative) [182291] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when her Department plans to begin housing asylum seekers in Portland Port; and whether her Department holds data on the (a) country of origin, (b) age and (c) asylum process status of the people planned to be housed in the port.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Every resident at Manston undergoes security checks and screening for health issues. Treatment is given where appropriate. We will assess an individual's suitability to reside at Portland prior to placement there and continue to assess each person's suitability at regular intervals whilst on the vessel. The cohort will be single adult males who have undergone health and security checks at Manston. The cohort will be mixed nationalities that reflect the nationalities arriving in the UK and claiming asylum. They will all have entered the asylum process.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-24/182291>

Asylum: Housing

Richard Drax (Conservative) [182293] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of hours a day migrants will

remain on the barge in Portland Port; whether those migrants will be required to be on the barge overnight; and what steps her Department plans to take when a migrant does not return to the barge at an appointed time.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Asylum seekers accommodated in large accommodation sites will be non-detained. The site is self-contained with essential living needs provided on site, although those living at the site would be free to come and go. If an asylum seeker were not back on site by 11pm a call would be made to the individual to establish their whereabouts.

The vessel will be managed an experienced accommodation provider, under contractual terms agreed with the Home Office. The same supplier has safely and successfully managed two vessels for Ukrainian refugees for the Scottish Government over the past year.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-24/182293>

Asylum: Housing

Richard Drax (Conservative) [182294] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has made an assessment of the risk of the migrants on the barge in Portland Port being forced into (a) modern slavery, (b) drug activity and (c) other crimes.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: A specialist and experienced security provider will be working to ensure the site is run in an orderly manner with limited impact on the local community.

We are also working closely with local police forces to ensure appropriate security arrangements are in place.

Upon arrival, all asylum claimants are subject to mandatory security checks to confirm their identity and to link it to their biometric details for the purpose of immigration, security and criminality checks. These checks are critical to the delivery of a safe and secure immigration system.

The safety and security of the local communities, asylum seekers on site and staff are of the utmost importance to the Home Office.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-24/182294>

Asylum: Housing

Richard Drax (Conservative) [182295] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to help ensure that the migrants on the barge in Portland Port do not engage with local criminals.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: A specialist and experienced security provider will be working on site 24/7. We are also working closely with the local police force to ensure appropriate security arrangements are in place. The safety and security of the local communities, asylum seekers on site and staff are of the utmost importance to the Home Office.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-24/182295>

Asylum: Housing

Richard Drax (Conservative) [182570] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she plans to take to refurbish the asylum accommodation vessel she plans to use in Portland Port; what facilities she plans to provide on that vessel; and what provisions she plans to make for (a) water, (b) sewage, (c) electricity, (d) gas, (e) rubbish collection and (f) mobile phone and wifi connectivity on that vessel.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The vessel to be berthed in Portland Port will undergo statutory inspection along with any necessary refurbishment and general maintenance, in a UK port, ahead of its berthing in Portland.

It will be managed by a specialist and experienced provider, which has a strong track record of providing this kind of accommodation, having managed the two

vessels in Scottish ports for the past year, and successfully with local authorities and other public organisations in Scotland.

Using Portland Port's existing infrastructure to service vessels, appropriate utilities will be provided to support the accommodation barge, including water, power, and WiFi connectivity.

Portland Port has a Waste Management Plan that ensures that all ships using the Harbour dispose of all waste in an efficient and environmentally correct manner.

We will continue to work closely with the councils, communities, and key local partners to manage any impact in Dorset.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-25/182570>

Asylum: Housing

Richard Drax (Conservative) [182572] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, which local authority will be responsible for housing people who successfully apply for asylum in the UK after being accommodated on a vessel in Portland Port.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: All asylum seekers will have entered the asylum process.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-25/182572>

Asylum: Housing

Richard Drax (Conservative) [182573] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she plans to take with Cabinet colleagues for the provision of healthcare for asylum seekers accommodated on a vessel in Portland Port, in the context of existing levels of healthcare capacity in (a) Portland and (b) Weymouth.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: For all asylum accommodation sites we consider the impact on the local service, and this includes the NHS. We will provide basic healthcare on site to limit pressure on local services. These plans are being actively discussed and considered with key stakeholders and local partners through the Multi-Agency-Forum.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-25/182573>

UK Parliament Home Affairs Committee

Human Trafficking: evidence session

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/13121/html/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motions

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [1147] **Illegal Migration Bill** – That this House believes the proposals in the Illegal Migration Bill contravene international law, including the Refugee Convention, the European Convention on Human Rights, the European Convention on Action Against Trafficking and the Convention on the Rights of the Child; considers that the Bill will effectively close the UK's asylum system and undermine the ability of trafficking victims to access protection; regrets the rushed timetable for the Bill's passage through the House, including the lack of a bill committee, and the short committee stage; regrets the failure of the Government to allow proper scrutiny of its policies, including by failing to publish its impact assessment; notes that there was no mention of any proposals resembling those found in the Bill in the general election manifesto of any party represented in the House; and in light of the grave consequences of the Bill and the failure of scrutiny by this House, calls on Members of the House of Lords to vote against the Bill.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/60876>

Hywel Williams (Plaid Cymru) [1130] Potential merits of a Sudanese Family Scheme visa – That this House calls for the creation of a Sudanese Family Scheme visa for Sudanese people affected by the ongoing conflict in Sudan; notes civilians have become trapped in Khartoum without access to water, electricity, and access to food or medical care as the city is bombarded by rival factions; acknowledges the success of the Homes for Ukraine scheme as a viable means of helping people flee from war zones to join relatives and families in the UK; and calls on the UK Government to do its part to help the displaced families of Sudan and renew its efforts to help end the fighting.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/60860>

Press Releases

Supporting EU citizens to Stay in Scotland

<https://www.gov.scot/news/supporting-eu-citizens-to-stay-in-scotland/>

Illegal Migration Bill in Lords for second reading

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/illegal-migration-bill-in-lords-for-second-reading>

UK Nationals arriving from Sudan to have access to benefits

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-nationals-arriving-from-sudan-to-have-access-to-benefits>

Driver who smuggled children bolted inside hidden van hatch jailed

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/driver-who-smuggled-children-bolted-inside-hidden-van-hatch-jailed>

New Publications

Guidance: Ukraine Longer Term Resettlement Fund

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/ukraine-longer-term-resettlement-fund/>

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>

Windrush 75: National Windrush Day 2023 toolkit

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/windrush-75-national-windrush-day-2023-toolkit>

News: Rwanda Refugee Policy

Former British army chief dramatically intervenes in government's Rwanda policy

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/small-boats-sunak-braverman-rwanda-b2328318.html>

Britain's faith leaders condemn 'heartless' threat to send Afghan war hero to Rwanda

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/rwanda-small-boats-sunak-archbishop-b2337806.html>

News: Channel Migrants

Patel warns Home Secretary 'clock is ticking' to stop the boats

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/priti-patel-kemi-badenoch-suella-braverman-home-secretary-house-of-lords-b2338333.html>

Suella Braverman again rebuked by stats watchdog for saying 'millions of migrants' could come to UK

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/suella-braverman-migrants-millions-small-boats-b2336373html>

Suella Braverman's claims modern slavery laws are being abused questioned by Home Office's own report

<https://www.independentco.uk/news/uk/home-news/suella-braverman-modern-slavery-abuse-small-boats-b2332640.html>

Migrant centres to 'stop the boats' will not be ready until next year

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/05/08/migrant-centres-will-not-be-ready-until-next-year/>

News: Ukraine

Thousands of Ukrainian refugees still in temporary accommodation

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/23508229.thousand-ukrainian-refugees-still-temporary-accommodation/>

Ukrainian refugees to leave Edinburgh cruise ship

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-65549389>

Mortgage refused 'for hosting Ukrainian refugees'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-65424719>

News: Other Immigration and Asylum

Net migration may top one million this year, Home Office fears

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/05/11/net-migration-million-home-office-government-conservative/>

Peers, take note: our asylum bill delivers on the will of the people

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/peers-take-note-our-asylum-bill-delivers-on-the-will-of-the-people-98fd5hj0f>

Illegal Migration Bill answers will of the people, ministers warn Lords

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/lords-back-illegal-migration-bill-uk-asylum-seekers-2023-wdjmv5tjt>

Migration bill risks damage to UK's reputation, says Archbishop of Canterbury

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-65535784>

Archbishop of Canterbury attacks 'morally unacceptable' small boats bill

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/archbishop-canterbury-small-boats-sunak-b2336236.html>

Archbishop of Canterbury: Migration law is morally unacceptable

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/rishi-sunak-latest-news-pmqs-small-boats-bill-migrants-l6q085fvm>

UK migration bill impractical and morally unacceptable, says Justin Welby

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/may/10/uk-migration-bill-impractical-and-morally-unacceptable-says-justin-welby>

Justin Welby is 'wrong' to condemn Illegal Migration Bill as 'morally unacceptable'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/05/10/justin-welby-illegal-migration-bill-house-of-lords/>

Lib Dem peer in bid to block Illegal Migration Bill

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-65535784>

New migrant centres will not be ready until next year

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/new-migrant-centres-will-not-be-ready-until-next-year-shlc8zrnc>

Huge barge set to house 500 asylum seekers arrives in the UK

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/barge-falmouth-cornwall-migrants-bibby-b2333313.html>

Portland migrant barge protest held at port

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-dorset-65582951>

Barge for 500 migrants arrives in Falmouth

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/barge-migrants-falmouth-refit-26fwc8xxv>

Home Office accused of being 'unashamedly racist' towards Sudanese

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/may/07/home-office-accused-of-being-unashamedly-racist-towards-sudanese>

Sanctuary for people from Sudan

<https://scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/sanctuary-for-people-from-sudan/>

Nobody wants to admit the truth: Mass immigration is fuelling the housing crisis

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2023/05/10/mass-immigration-is-fuelling-the-housing-crisis/>

It's no longer 'the will of the people' to turn our back on asylum seekers

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/may/14/small-boats-bill-no-longer-will-of-people-to-turn-our-back-on-asylum-seekers>

TOP

Community Relations

News

Aasmah Mir: ‘Kids rubbed my skin to see if the colour would come off’

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/aasmah-mir-kids-rubbed-my-skin-to-see-if-the-colour-would-come-off-kv3s6xgp2>

TOP

Equality

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Minority Ethnic People: Poverty

Monica Lennon (Labour) [S6W-17005] To ask the Scottish Government when it last met (a) local authorities and (b) the UK Government to discuss the issue of poverty rates among minority ethnic people in Scotland.

Reply from Shirley-Anne Somerville: Tackling poverty and protecting people from harm is one of three critical and interdependent missions for the government – alongside our focus on the economy and strengthening public services.

As set out within ‘Best Start, Bright Futures’, the Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan: 2022-26, the Scottish Government is taking a wide range of action across the three drivers of poverty reduction – income from work and earnings, costs of living and income from social security and benefits in kind – as well as taking action to improve the wellbeing and outcomes of people across Scotland.

In delivering action, we are focused on ensuring that interventions deliver for those at greatest risk of poverty, including people from a minority ethnic background. In doing so we will help to reduce poverty for these groups whilst delivering significant progress on our wider equality and human rights ambitions – particularly in relation to advancing equality and human rights for women, disabled people and minority ethnic people.

The Scottish Government meet regularly with representatives of local government in order to progress shared priorities which tackle poverty. This includes in relation to delivery of employment support through our No One Left Behind approach, which is tailored to the needs of people from a minority ethnic background, delivery of more affordable homes, tackling child poverty and delivery of the wide ranging action set out in our refreshed Fair Work Action Plan.

The Scottish Government also meet regularly with the UK Government on areas of shared interest, which are key to tackling poverty, including in relation to social security and employment.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-17005>

Best Start, Bright Futures, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/best-start-bright-futures-tackling-child-poverty-delivery-plan-2022-26/pages/3/>

The Fair Work Action Plan referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/fair-work-action-plan-becoming-leading-fair-work-nation-2025/>

Minority Ethnic People: Poverty

Monica Lennon (Labour) [S6W-17006] To ask the Scottish Government what action it is

taking to reduce the number of minority ethnic people in poverty, in light of reports that almost 50% of people from Asian, British Asian, Mixed-ethnic, Black and Black British backgrounds in Scotland are in poverty.

Reply from Shirley-Anne Somerville: Tackling poverty and protecting people from harm is one of three critical and interdependent missions for the government – alongside our focus on the economy and strengthening public services.

The Scottish Government is taking a wide range of action to tackle and reduce poverty, with almost £3 billion allocated both last year and this to support policies which tackle poverty and protect people as far as possible during the ongoing cost of living crisis.

Key actions, which will benefit people from a minority ethnic background, include continued investment in the delivery of more affordable homes, providing free transport for over two million people in Scotland and delivering five family payments including the Scottish Child Payment, which was increased in value to £25 per child per week as of November 2022.

In addition to these key anti-poverty actions, we are also taking action targeted to supporting people from a minority ethnic background. This includes funding local community organisations such as BEMIS, CEMVO and SAREC, who work predominantly with minority ethnic householders, and have been able to offer targeted support to vulnerable households. This includes issuing direct hardship payments and ensuring they are supported to access welfare support they are entitled to.

The Scottish Government also published ‘A Fairer Scotland for All: An anti-racist strategy’, in December 2022, which includes guidance, advice, and examples of good practice for employers in order to address the issues and disadvantages experienced by people from racialised minorities. The strategy is a key component to reaching the ambition of a becoming a leading Fair Work Nation by 2025.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-17006>

A Fairer Scotland for All, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/fairer-scotland-anti-racist-employment-strategy/>

Press Release

UK: Keep calm and respect diversity, says UN expert

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/05/uk-keep-calm-and-respect-diversity-says-un-expert>

News

Legal action may be needed to lower ‘appalling’ death rates of black women in childbirth

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/legal-action-may-be-needed-to-lower-appalling-death-rates-of-black-women-in-childbirth-58svhmftk>

How Britain’s squalid housing crisis hits Black and Asian tenants hardest

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/mould-asthma-housing-association-london-b2327203.html>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

The following three questions all received the same answer

Islamophobia

Afzal Khan (Labour) [182937] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what progress has been made on developing an official definition of Islamophobia.

Afzal Khan (Labour) [182938] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what recent assessment he has made of the potential merits of establishing an official definition of Islamophobia.

Afzal Khan (Labour) [182939] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what discussions he has had with Muslim communities on the potential merits of an official definition of Islamophobia.

Reply from Dehenna Davison: Anti-Muslim hatred is entirely abhorrent. Such hate has no place in our communities or society, which is why we have funded Tell MAMA since 2016 to monitor and combat anti-Muslim hatred.

As set out previously, the Government does not support taking forward work on an official definition of Islamophobia but instead is working to address anti-Muslim hatred and the unacceptable forms which that takes.

We are considering our approach to religious hatred more broadly, including anti-Muslim hatred, and will be announcing our next steps in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-26/182937>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-26/182938>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-26/182939>

Schools: Antisemitism

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [182801] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps she is taking to tackle antisemitism in schools.

Reply from Claire Coutinho: Antisemitism, as with all forms of bullying and hatred, is abhorrent and has no place in our schools. Under the Equality Act 2010, schools have a duty to take steps to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and to foster good relations across all protected characteristics, including religion. The department has published guidance for schools on how to comply with their duties under the Equality Act 2010 here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/equality-act-2010-advice-for-schools>

The department is also making sure that all children in England learn about respectful relationships, in person and online, as part of mandatory relationships, sex and health education (RSHE). This includes content on the different types of bullying, the impact bullying has, the responsibility of bystanders, and how to get help. RSHE guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/teaching-about-relationships-sex-and-health>

The department is fully committed to remembering the Holocaust and supporting high-quality and rigorous Holocaust education. We believe that young people should be taught the history of the Holocaust to understand why and how it happened, which is why it is the only historic event that is compulsory within the national curriculum for history at key stage 3. The topic is one that also has relevance to and can be taught in other subjects such as citizenship, religious education and English.

The department is providing over £3 million of funding, between 10 August 2021

and 31 March 2024, to five anti-bullying organisations to support schools to tackle bullying. One grant recipient, The Anne Frank Trust, runs termly teacher training sessions which focus on a different form of prejudice at each meeting. The first one of these focuses on Antisemitism and helps to equip schools with the skills, resources and confidence to continue growing an anti-bullying culture within their school.

The department continues to publish information, guidance and support for teachers and school leaders on how to challenge radical views, including racist and discriminatory beliefs, on the Educate Against Hate website, which can be found here: <https://www.educateagainsthate.com/>. The department has also published Respectful School Communities, a self-review and signposting tool to support schools to develop a whole-school approach which promotes respect and discipline.

https://educateagainsthate.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/6.4953_DFE_Respectful-schools_signposting-tool_FINAL_Fillable_Client_Cop....pdf

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-26/182801>

Maternity Disparities Taskforce

Marsha De Cordova (Labour) [183264] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if he will revise the Terms of Reference for the Maternity Disparities Task Force in order to ensure they (a) adequately reflect the multiple and complex reasons underlying those disparities and (b) explicitly mention racism.

Reply from Maria Caulfield: We updated the Women and Equalities Select Committee via correspondence about various aspects of the Maternal Disparities taskforce in March. The questions raised within these Parliamentary Questions are taken from the recommendations within the Women and Equalities Select Committee Report on Black maternal Health, which was published on 18 April 2023. We will consider the findings and recommendations made by the Women and Equalities Select Committee and publish our response in due course.

We take the contents of this report very seriously and remain committed to tackling maternal inequalities and improving equity for mothers and babies. We will continue work to make the National Health Service one of the best places in the world to give birth by offering mothers and babies better support and safer care.

While births in England are among the safest globally, we must do more to ensure maternity care is consistent regardless of race. To address this, Local Maternity and Neonatal Systems have begun to publish Equity and Equality Action Plans to tackle disparities in outcomes and experiences of maternity care at a local level. The Maternity Disparities Taskforce, which last met on 18 April, brings together experts from across the health system, Government Departments and the voluntary sector to explore and consider evidence-based interventions to tackle maternal disparities.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-28/183264>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/38989/documents/191706/default/>

Prisons: Racial Discrimination

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour) [183542] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what recent steps he has taken to help prevent racial discrimination in prisons in England.

Reply from Damian Hinds: Our response to the HMI Prisons thematic on the experiences of adult black staff and black prisoners recently set out our ambition to take a zero-tolerance approach to racism and discrimination. This is a long-term commitment to change the culture of HMPPS for the better, with a plan focussed on actions and underpinned by clear accountability.

Our approach includes short, medium, and long-term actions to ensure there is

equal opportunity and equal outcomes for all staff and people in custody. This will include reviewing the impact of use of force, developing a nationwide reverse mentoring programme, creating more targeted recruitment campaigns and continuing to work closely with third sector partners, trade unions and our staff networks, such as RISE, which focuses on black and other underrepresented staffing groups.

Routinely, prisons are responsible for identifying and tackling disproportionality locally. This is done via diversity and inclusion forums where racial issues are raised, discussed, and solutions actioned. In addition, the HMPPS Tackling Unacceptable Behaviour Unit (TUBU) began work in August 2020 in order to change workplace behaviours (focussing on staff on staff behaviour) for the better, by providing additional support to managers investigating concerns and ensuring that investigations are carried out fairly and consistently and any unacceptable behaviour is challenged and dealt with appropriately.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-02/183542>

The thematic report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprison/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2022/12/The-experiences-of-adult-black-male-prisoners-and-black-prison-staff-web-2022-1.pdf>

The Government response to the report, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1144945/Response_to_HMIP_Thematic_Review_The_experiences_of_adult_Black_male_prisoners_and_Black_prison_staff_-_March_2023.pdf

Prisons: Racial Discrimination

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour) [183543] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, if he will make an assessment of the implications for his policies on outcomes for prisoners from ethnic minority backgrounds of the report by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons for England and Wales entitled *The experiences of adult black male prisoners and black prison staff*, published on 13 December 2022.

HMPPS take the findings of reports from His Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons very seriously. We recognise that improving outcomes for Black prisoners and staff will require a long-term commitment from the entire organisation.

A full response, which sets out the detailed actions we will take to address the findings of the HMI Prisons Inspectorate thematic inspection on the Experience of Adult Male Prisoners and Black Staff was published 22 March and can be found via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/thematic-review-of-the-experience-of-adult-male-prisoners-and-black-staff>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-02/183543>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprison/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2022/12/The-experiences-of-adult-black-male-prisoners-and-black-prison-staff-web-2022-1.pdf>

News

Suella Braverman accused of breaching barristers' code over 'racist' language

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2023/may/14/suella-braverman-accused-of-breaching-barristers-code-over-racist-language>

The Sickening True Beliefs of Nazis behind the New “Homeland Party”

<https://hopenothate.org.uk/2023/05/07/exposed-the-sickening-true-beliefs-of-nazis-behind-the-new-homeland-party/>

Alan Sugar: Antisemitism hurts. But it’s ignorance, really

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/alan-sugar-the-apprentice-interview-amstrad-tottenham-gvpdrxvdc>

The left sees ‘unconscious bias’ everywhere. But it’s oddly blind to blatant antisemitism

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/the-left-sees-unconscious-bias-everywhere-but-its-oddly-blind-to-blatant-antisemitism-t80bp06fj>

Arsenal liaising with police over antisemitic messages in Ashburton Army fan group

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2023/may/12/arsenal-police-antisemitic-messages-ashburton-army-fan-group>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Debate

Coronation of King Charles III and The Queen

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=15293&i=130415#ScotParlOR>

Press Release

Coronation: First Minister’s speech – 9 May 2023

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronation-debate-first-ministers-speech-9-2023/>

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/>

Publication

Designing out the most severe forms of hardship in local areas
<https://www.jrf.org.uk/file/59869/download?token=5jTFIDXs&filetype=full-report>

News

Bank of England: Food prices mean inflation will fall more slowly
<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-65554797>

Slash cost of fruit and veg, experts urge PM ahead of No 10 food summit
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/rishi-sunak-fruit-vegetables-inflation-b2337961.html>

Food banks are taking over from the welfare state, warns Gordon Brown
<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2023/may/09/food-banks-are-taking-over-from-the-welfare-state-warns-gordon-brown>

Record interest rates leave low-income families with still more impossible trade offs says Joseph Rowntree Foundation
<https://www.jrf.org.uk/press/record-interest-rates-leave-low-income-families-still-more-impossible-trade-offs-says-jrf>

Design out deep poverty - strengthen the social safety net
<https://www.jrf.org.uk/blog/design-out-deep-poverty-strengthen-social-safety-net>

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Other News

Muslim and Jewish worshippers in Aberdeen poised to get free parking on holy days
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/muslim-and-jewish-worshippers-in-aberdeen-poised-to-get-free-parking-on-holy-days-55m9cbrv6>

King and Queen say thanks for 'glorious occasion'
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-65517604>

King Charles III's Coronation watched by more than 18 million viewers
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-65518360>

Celebrations continue across Scotland after Coronation parade
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-65517021>

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>

Stage 1 Debate

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=15297&i=130499>
[#ScotParlOR](#)

Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/gender-recognition-reform-scotland-bill>

UK Parliament

Asylum Seekers (Accommodation Eviction Procedures) Bill

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

Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) Bill

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

Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) (No.2) Bill

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

Bill of Rights Bill

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

Housing Standards (Refugees and Asylum Seekers) Bill

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

Human Trafficking (Child Protection) Bill

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

Human Trafficking (Sentencing) Bill

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

Illegal Immigration (Offences) Bill

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

**** Illegal Migration Bill**

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

Second Reading, House of Lords

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-05-10/debates/36161ECC-6FAF-4CEC-9830-80C71BEB1272/IllegalMigrationBill>

and

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-05-10/debates/A22D19A2-1B8F-43D0-B760-A6CD0A20FA68/IllegalMigrationBill>

and

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-05-10/debates/FC2D65CD-6FC8-42EA-AB0E-F460E02CF2D0/IllegalMigrationBill>

Notice of amendments

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/51087/documents/3400>

Equality Impact Assessment

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/115534/2023-05-03_Illegal_Migration_Bill_-_Overarching_EIA_FINAL.pdf

Equality and Human Rights Commission briefing

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/file/43251/download>

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

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

Bill as introduced

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-03/0272/220272.pdf>

**** Online Safety Bill**

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

Committee Stage, House of Lords

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-05-09/debates/0FB2262B-A381-48C7-9FBB-D8186C72704C/OnlineSafetyBill>

and

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-05-09/debates/3BA20677-E90E-490B-ACDB-C331C4BE9118/OnlineSafetyBill>

and

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-05-11/debates/CBE8C549-CF55-482D-BA76-3CAFDB5E6E6F/OnlineSafetyBill>

Notice of amendments

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/51085/documents/3398>

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

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

Scotland (Self-Determination) Bill

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

Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Draft Bill

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/terrorism-protection-of-premises-draft-bill-overarching-documents>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** An inspection of asylum casework 2023** (closing date 26 May 2023)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/call-for-evidence-an-inspection-of-asylum-casework-2023>

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>

JPR 2023 Antisemitism in the UK Survey (closing date not stated)

<https://bit.ly/3Vg7DDH> (Scotland)

and

<https://www.jpr.org.uk/panel/UKantisemitism2023> (UK except Scotland)

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Job Opportunities

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

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Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

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

Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Applying a Human Rights and Equalities First Approach: Workshop

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!**

Police Scotland Positive Action Recruitment Information: BMI Communities

18 May 2023 (Edinburgh, 6.00–9.00)

20 May 2023 (Jackton, 10.00–1.00)

3 June 2023 (Aberdeen, 10.00–1.00)

Police Scotland events focusing on the recruitment process, the training and what life as a police officer is really like. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yckr34ya> or contact RecruitmentPositiveActionTeam@scotland.police.uk

**** Hate Crime in Glasgow**

23 May 2023 (online, 9.15–10.00)

GCVS event to dispel some of the myths and misconceptions around hate crime in Glasgow, and offer practical advice for how organisations can support victims of hate crime. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yw8d8jcx>

A Human Rights and Equalities First Approach – The Basics

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>

**** Volunteers' Week Scotland 2023**

1–7 June 2023 (Scotland-wide)

Volunteers' Week is a UK wide campaign when volunteering involving organisations and groups are encouraged to thank their volunteers, past and present and celebrate and recognise volunteering efforts. For information see <https://volunteersweek.scot/>

Holding Hope in the face of Hate

22 June 2023 (Glasgow, 11.00–1.30)

Interfaith Scotland refugee Week event bringing together members of faith communities and the general public from across Scotland to engage in a dialogue around ways to challenge hatred towards asylum seekers and refugees, especially in light of the growing anti-asylum seeker rhetoric and the cost of living crisis. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2pt4bolx>

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Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services

<https://www.volunteerscotland.net/for-organisations/disclosure-services/>

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

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SCoJeC
Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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

BEMIS
Empowering Scotland's Ethnic and
Cultural Minority Communities

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



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

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