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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 Written Answer

BN(O) Visa: Higher Education Tuition fees

Willie Rennie (Liberal Democrat) [S6W-18389] To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the reported change to residency eligibility criteria for free student tuition support in Scotland, whether people from Hong Kong with a British National (Overseas) visa will be eligible for free tuition fees in higher education, if they have three years of residency in Scotland.

Reply from Graeme Dey: I am pleased to confirm that from Academic Year 2023-24 all students who meet the following criteria will be eligible for home fees status and student financial support in Further Education and Higher Education:

- Ordinarily resident in the UK for three years prior to the relevant date;
- Ordinarily resident in Scotland on the relevant date; and

- Granted a form of leave to enter or remain in the UK, where that leave has not expired.

As the British National (Overseas) visa would be considered a form of leave to enter or remain in the UK, a student holding this visa would be eligible for support in the event that they satisfy the remaining criteria.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-18389>

Scottish Parliament Motion

Paul Sweeney (Labour) [S6M-09184] #LoveMyBus Week, the Route to a Fairer Scotland for People Seeking Asylum – That the Parliament celebrates Scottish Bus Week 2023; considers that one of the benefits highlighted by this year's #LoveMyBus campaign is that bus travel is the route to a fairer Scotland, promoting a fairer and more accessible society for everyone who calls Scotland home; understands that a campaign for free bus travel for people seeking asylum was launched in December 2021 and has the support of third sector organisations, including VOICES Network, Maryhill Integration Network, Scottish Refugee Council, and more; further understands that eligible people who are seeking asylum can access free bus travel through existing concessionary schemes, including the schemes for young, older and disabled people, and notes the calls on the Scottish Government to extend this provision to provide free bus travel for all people seeking asylum in Scotland.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-09184>

Scottish Parliament Petition

PE2028: Extend the concessionary bus travel scheme to include people seeking asylum in Scotland

<https://petitions.parliament.scot/petitions/PE2028>

UK Parliament Debates

Asylum-seeking Children: Hotel Accommodation

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-06-07/debates/89256441-99C1-4A55-9156-69583908D31F/Asylum-SeekingChildrenHotelAccommodation>

Immigration Rules: Offshore Workers

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-06-06/debates/9493A322-16BB-944C-B24C-81EF26248ABE/ImmigrationRulesOffshoreWorkers>

UK Parliament, Ministerial Statement

Illegal Migration Update

The Minister for Immigration (Robert Jenrick) [HCWS837] Provisions within the Nationality and Borders Act 2022 (NABA), which came into force on 28 June 2022, set out the framework to differentiate between two groups of refugees who ultimately remain in the UK: “group 1” and “group 2”.

The primary way in which the groups are differentiated is the grant of permission to stay: group 1 refugees are normally granted refugee permission to stay for five years, after

which they can apply for settlement, whereas group 2 refugees are normally granted temporary refugee permission to stay for 30 months on a 10-year route to settlement.

The differentiation policy was intended to disincentivise migrants from using criminal smugglers to facilitate illegal journeys to the UK. This was the right approach. Since then, the scale of the challenge facing the UK, like other countries, has grown—and that is why the Government introduced the Illegal Migration Bill. The Bill goes further than ever before in seeking to deter illegal entry to the UK, so that the only humanitarian route into the UK is through a safe and legal one. The Bill will radically overhaul how we deal with people who arrive in the UK illegally via safe countries, rendering their asylum and human rights claims (in respect of their home country) inadmissible and imposing a duty on the Home Secretary to remove them. This represents a considerably stronger means of tackling the same issue that the differentiation policy sought to address: people making dangerous and unnecessary journeys through safe countries to claim asylum in the UK.

We will therefore pause the differentiation policy in the next package of immigration rules changes in July 2023. This means we will stop taking grouping decisions under the differentiated asylum system after these rules changes and those individuals who are successful in their asylum application, including those who are granted humanitarian protection, will receive the same conditions. Our ability to remove failed asylum applicants remains unchanged.

Individuals who have already received a “group 2” or humanitarian protection decision under post-28 June 2022 policies will be contacted and will have their conditions aligned to those afforded to “group 1” refugees. This includes length of permission to stay, route to settlement, and eligibility for family reunion.

On 23 February 2023 the Home Office announced the streamlined asylum processing model for a small number of cases of nationalities with high asylum grant rates: Afghanistan, Eritrea, Libya, Syria, Yemen. Because this model focuses on manifestly well-founded cases, positive decisions can be taken without the need for an additional interview. No one will have their asylum application refused without the opportunity of an additional interview. Those claims made between 28 June 2022 and the date of introduction of the Illegal Migration Bill (7 March 2023) will be processed according to this model. This will also include claimants from Sudan. Sudanese legacy claimants are already being processed in-line with established policies and processes and will be decided in-line with the Prime Minister’s commitment to clear the backlog of legacy asylum claims by the end of 2023.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-06-08/debates/23060842000014/IllegalMigrationUpdate>

UK Parliament, Ministerial Statement and Q&A

Illegal Migration

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Suella Braverman): ... I will make a statement about the progress of the Government’s plan to stop the boats. This is a complex and enduring problem, which we must tackle on multiple fronts. It is a moral imperative. ... there are several outcomes to note. First, the small boats operational command was established in December to oversee operations in the channel, with a new senior director, Duncan Capps, a former general, appointed to lead it. We have doubled the funding for Project Invigor—which brings together the National Crime Agency, Home Office intelligence and policing—over the next two financial years to help disrupt the people-smuggling gangs upstream.

Secondly, freeing up immigration enforcement officers meant that there were over 50% more illegal working raids between January and March this year than in the same period in 2022. Since the introduction of the Nationality and Borders Act 2022 in June last year,

Immigration Enforcement has doubled the number of arrests, charges and convictions in comparison with the figures in the same period in the preceding year. We have established the UK's first cross-Government ministerial taskforce on immigration enforcement, so that only those who are here lawfully can work, receive benefits or access public services. Meanwhile, data sharing with the financial sector recommenced in April, as we crack down on illegal migrants accessing banking services.

Thirdly, the asylum initial decision backlog is down by 17,000 and we are on track to abolish all legacy cases by the end of this year, having doubled the number of asylum decision makers over the last two years. We continue to improve the system and aim to boost the productivity of the caseworkers by simplifying the process with shorter interviews and the removal of unnecessary steps.

Fourthly, the current accommodation system is unsustainable and hugely unfair to taxpayers. We recently set out to the House our plans for a fairer, more cost-effective asylum accommodation system, starting with the former Ministry of Defence sites at Wethersfield and Scampton. We will see an accommodation barge arrive in Portland within the next fortnight and we have secured another two to accommodate another 1,000 individuals. We are also making more efficient use of hotels by asking people to share rooms where appropriate.

Fifthly, on the international front, we have signed the biggest ever small boats bilateral deal with France and strengthened co-operation with a range of other European partners including Belgium, Italy and the EU. In 2023 so far, more small boat migrants have been intercepted by France than have reached the UK's shores. French interceptions this year are more than double what they were two years ago. Additional drones, aircraft and other surveillance technologies will be deployed to support French law enforcement. French forces have increased the proportion of small boat launches that are prevented and have arrested more than 200 people smugglers so far this year. As part of the new deal, France will establish a new 24/7 zonal co-ordination centre in Lille, with permanently embedded British officers. My right hon. Friend the Immigration Minister was in France last week to see at first hand the impact of UK funding and to discuss a joint plan to intensify our engagement on the channel as we move into the summer.

Sixthly, the Government continue to prioritise the return of individuals with no right to remain in the United Kingdom. We established through the Nationality and Borders Act a disqualification from modern slavery protection for individuals who meet specific criteria, including foreign national offenders with custodial sentences of 12 months or more and individuals convicted of terrorism offences. Between January and March this year, over 4,000 people with no right to be in the UK were removed or departed voluntarily—an increase of more than 50% compared with the same period last year.

We recently signed the UK-Georgia readmissions agreement and have made significant progress on our returns relationship with Pakistan. We are also continuing to progress our returns relationship with India following the implementation of our migration and mobility partnership. Since the Prime Minister signed a joint communiqué with Prime Minister Rama in December, nearly 1,800 Albanian nationals without the right to be in the UK have been returned to Albania. ...

Seventhly, we continue to prepare to deliver the Government's migration and economic development partnership with Rwanda. This partnership is an innovative international solution to an international problem. The Home Office has always maintained that this policy is lawful, and the UK High Court upheld this in December 2022. Legal proceedings are ongoing, but we are committed to delivering this policy and getting flights going as soon as legally practicable. ...

These efforts demonstrate our commitment to doing all we can within the existing legislative framework, but we have also been clear that, to stop the boats, we must go further, and that the framework needs to change. That is why, lastly, we are reforming our laws. This is what the public want, and all politicians should get behind our Bill. Our Illegal

Migration Bill will make it clear to anyone coming here illegally that they will not be able to build a life in this country. Instead, they will be liable to be detained and will be swiftly removed either to their home country or to a safe third country like Rwanda. This is the deterrent factor we need to break the people smugglers' business model.

We will introduce new safe and legal routes for those at risk of war and persecution to come to seek refuge and protection in the UK, within an annual quota to be set by Parliament and informed by consultation with local communities. The British people are generous and welcoming, but they rightly expect immigration to be controlled. Coming here illegally from other safe countries is unnecessary, unsafe and unfair. It must stop. We have a long way still to go and we are not complacent but, unlike the Opposition, we have a plan. We are delivering that plan, and we will not rest until we stop the boats. æ

Yvette Cooper (Labour): ... The Prime Minister flew to Dover today ... to tell us that his plan is working, even though the asylum backlog he promised to clear is at a record high, decisions are down, caseworker numbers have dropped, hotel use is up, returns are still down, only 1% of last year's small boat cases have been processed, and seven and a half thousand people arrived on dangerous small boats in the last few months alone. The massive gap between the Tories' rhetoric and reality shows that the Home Secretary still has no grip on the system. ...

The Prime Minister claimed today that he is stopping the boats, but the 7,600 people who have arrived in the last few months alone is three times more than two years ago and eight times more than before the pandemic. We all hope that the limited reduction in the winter months, compared with last year, will be sustained when the weather improves, but criminal gangs have already made an estimated £13 million in the last few months alone from putting lives at risk and undermining our border security ... The Home Secretary boasts about an increase in enforcement, but that is compared with the covid period. Compared with before the pandemic, enforcement visits are down 22% and arrests are down 17%. This is not an achievement.

The Home Secretary also says she has cut the backlog, but the backlog is at a record high of 170,000. It has gone up, not down, since December. There has been an 18% drop in asylum decisions in the last quarter, and it is no good claiming they are only clearing a so-called legacy backlog of cases from before June 2022. What about the growing backlog of 60,000 people and more who have arrived in the last 12 months? They are still in the asylum system, still in hotels and still in limbo. ...

The Prime Minister and Home Secretary promised to end hotel use, but it has gone up, to 47,000 people, which is higher than the 40,000 she told us about in December. The Prime Minister also said in December that he already got locations for accommodating 10,000 more people, but now the Home Secretary says it is only 3,000, from the end of this year. What she has not admitted is that this is not instead of hotels—it is additional ...

Enforced returns are lower than they were pre-pandemic, and only 23 of the 24,000 people the Government have tried to return to safe countries they have travelled through have actually been returned. Even in the case of Albania, with which there is a return agreement in place, we find that 12,000 people arrived on small boats last year but fewer than 1% of those cases have been decided and barely a few hundred people have been returned. ...

Reply from Suella Braverman: ... Last December, the Prime Minister and I set out a plan to stop the boats. Since then, we have been working flat out to deliver that programme. ...

Labour Members ... have voted against every single measure that we have put forward to stop the boats. They would scrap our world-leading plan with Rwanda, and they continue to oppose our laws to detain and remove. ... more than 100 Opposition Members—over half the parliamentary Labour party—signed a letter campaigning for dangerous foreign criminals to be spared deportation. Those criminals included murderers and rapists who went on to commit further terrible crimes here in Britain. ...

The British people have spoken clearly and repeatedly. They welcome genuine refugees and do not want people to come here illegally. ...

Lee Anderson (Conservative): The Home Secretary will know that I am a big supporter of her hard work to sort out this crisis, but sharing rooms, using barges and drones and relying on the French is not the answer. I think that anyone with any common sense in this place knows what the answer is, and that is to get the flights off to Rwanda as quickly as possible. ...

Reply from Suella Braverman: I have huge confidence in our world-leading plan with Rwanda. As my hon. Friend will know, that plan was endorsed by the High Court in a legal challenge at the end of last year. We have had a Court of Appeal hearing, and we now await its judgment. As soon as we complete the full legal process, we will ensure that the flights take off as soon as possible. ...

Alison Thewliss (SNP): The Home Secretary comes here with selective statistics that she has put together to suit the press release that she wants to put out, but the reality is that the total asylum backlog has increased by more than 40,000 people since this time last year. There are fewer decision makers in the Home Office now than there were in January. ... There is no evidence that the plans so far have had any impact or that the heavy-handed deterrence, which is based, as her own officials say, on demented assumptions, works. Policies such as the hostile environment, which were started by Labour, have been turbocharged by successive Tory Home Secretaries. The Nationality and Borders Act 2022, the Rwanda plan, deals with Albania and the Illegal Migration Bill are not working because the central fact remains that people are coming here in small boats because they are desperate and they have no other choice.

The latest Office for National Statistics figures for May show that just 54 Afghans were resettled under pathway 1 of the Afghan citizens resettlement scheme since August 2021. There have been 40 under pathway 2 and only 14 under pathway 3. At the same time, 8,429 Afghans arrived in the UK on small boats. They are coming because they cannot get here to safety any other way.

I do agree slightly with what the Home Secretary said in her statement about the accommodation system being unsustainable and unfair. It is also absolutely brutal for asylum seekers, such as those in my constituency, who are being left to wait indefinitely. Yet the Home Secretary proposes to throw yet more money, reportedly £6 billion, at private providers and prison ships instead of tackling the real problem: the outstanding backlog she has created. She gives no thought to the trauma and stress that has caused incidents such as that at the Park Inn in my constituency and led to reported suicides of those stuck waiting under her incompetence.

At Napier Barracks, sharing spaces caused the spread of infectious disease and had a significant impact on mental health, so what safeguarding consultation has the Home Secretary done on the proposal to make total strangers share hotel rooms? How will she ensure that people from rival factions do not get put in a room together, which could be incredibly dangerous? Will she fast-track Afghans, Syrians, Eritreans, Sudanese and Iranians, who have a very high grant rate, and let them work and contribute, as they dearly want to do? Finally, will she accept that all she has done so far is make life significantly worse for some of the most vulnerable and brutalised people in the world?

Reply from Suella Braverman: I refute the characterisation the hon. Lady puts forward. I am proud of this Government's track record of welcoming hundreds of thousands of vulnerable people from across the globe over several years, through schemes that have offered them sanctuary. It is a track record of which we can be incredibly proud. ...

To read this very long question and answer session in full see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-06-05/debates/BFC40996-90DE-46DB-AE88-9AC048267380/IllegalMigration>

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

Deportation: Rwanda

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [186953] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether people due to be deported under the Rwanda Scheme will be held at Campsfield House Immigration Removal Centre.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Campsfield House immigration removal centre (IRC), in line with other IRCs, will hold a mixture of time-served foreign national offenders and immigration offenders while we prepare to remove them from the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-25/186953>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Afghanistan

The following two questions both received the same answer

Afghanistan: Refugees

Jessica Morden (Labour) [187093] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many applications for the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy scheme were (a) received; (b) processed; and (c) had eligibility decisions made in each month since April 2021.

Jessica Morden (Labour) [187108] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many decisions have been taken on applications through the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy scheme since its establishment on 1 April 2021.

Reply from James Heapey: The information requested can be found in the table below. The data in the table is drawn from a live system and as such, is subject to change as we continue to refine and improve our processes.

Month	Number of ARAP applications received (including duplicates)	Number of Unique ARAP applications processed / Total Number of Eligibility Decisions
Apr-21	118	7
May-21	664	68
Jun-21	4,460	81
Jul-21	3,726	354
Aug-21	63,179	2,237
Sep-21	16,508	10
Oct-21	5,897	49
Nov-21	4,511	9
Dec-21	3,220	14
Jan-22	6,384	140
Feb-22	3,723	244
Mar-22	2,197	348
Apr-22	1,670	48
May-22	1,907	96
Jun-22	1,729	394
Jul-22	1,768	1,155
Aug-22	2,684	1,659
Sep-22	2,170	1,701
Oct-22	2,051	2,043
Nov-22	1,784	2,550

Dec-22	1,284	2,196
Jan-23	1,348	2,845
Feb-23	2,126	3,280
Mar-23	1,474	3,949
Apr-23	1,500	2,217
May-23	1,023	4,632

To note, the number of unique Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) applications (excluding duplicate applications) processed is the same as the number of eligibility decisions made and therefore, the answer to questions b) and c) have been answered under the same column.

There are a high number of duplicate ARAP applications and when an eligible decision is made on each unique ARAP application, this will simultaneously process all associated duplicate application. Therefore, the figure for total cleared applications will be much greater.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-02/187093>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-02/187108>

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

Afghanistan: Refugees

Jessica Morden (Labour) [187096] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many applications for the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy scheme are waiting to be processed by his Department.

Reply from James Heapey: As of 30 May 2023, 60,280 applications were awaiting an initial eligibility decision.

The Ministry of Defence continues to process ARAP applications at pace, and in May we processed and issued decisions on more applications than in any month previously. We aim to process all outstanding initial applications by August 2023.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-02/187096>

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

Afghanistan: Refugees

Dan Jarvis (Labour) [186402] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many people have been relocated to the UK from hotels in Islamabad under the Afghan Relocations and Assistant Policy in (a) March, (b) April and (c) May 2023.

Reply from James Heapey: The Ministry of Defence continues to use commercial flights to bring individuals to the UK from a number of third countries. The number of individuals who have relocated to the UK exclusively from Pakistan under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) are set out in the table below:

Month	Number of ARAP individuals relocated to the UK from Pakistan
Mar-23	1
Apr-23	0
As of 24 May 2023	1

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-23/186402>

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

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

Afghanistan: Refugees

Jessica Morden (Labour) [187101] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme Pathway one principals resettled in the UK came through the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy scheme.

Reply from James Heapey: No Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) Principals have been resettled under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy scheme (ARAP).

The ACRS and ARAP are different schemes administered separately. ACRS is a referrals-based scheme, of which Pathway One is administered by the Home Office. The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is not involved in the administration of the ACRS. Applications to the ARAP scheme are processed by the MOD.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-02/187101>

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>

Afghanistan: Refugees

Jessica Morden (Labour) [187102] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many ARAP-eligible (a) principals and (b) family members have arrived in the UK in each of the last six months.

Reply from James Heapey: The total number of Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP) eligible principals and family members relocated to the UK under the ARAP scheme since December 2022 is included in the table below. It is important that the Government takes steps to ensure that when Afghans are relocated under the ARAP scheme that necessary support mechanisms are in place and they move into appropriate, settled accommodation to set them up for a successful life here in the UK.

Month	Principals	Family members
Dec-22	1	0
Jan-23	7	24
Feb-23	5	19
Mar-23	2	0
Apr-23	0	3
May-23	0	3

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-02/187102>

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

Afghanistan: Refugees

Jessica Morden (Labour) [187097] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many applications to the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy scheme were rejected by his Department in each month since April 2021.

Reply from James Heapey: As of 31 May 2023, 28,790 ARAP applications have been rejected by the Ministry of Defence. A monthly breakdown is available below. A finite number of Afghans are eligible for ARAP. Based on HMG records, we

estimate there are approximately 378 Afghans eligible for ARAP remaining in Afghanistan. It is important that every applicant to the scheme receives a response, but we know the vast majority of applications are speculative and likely ineligible, so our priority is finding and supporting the relocation of eligible Afghans and their families out of Afghanistan and into the safety of third countries at best pace.

Month	Not eligible decisions
Apr-21	0
May-21	1
Jun-21	18
Jul-21	210
Aug-21	37
Sep-21	1
Oct-21	0
Nov-21	2
Dec-21	1
Jan-22	6
Feb-22	136
Mar-22	274
Apr-22	40
May-22	29
Jun-22	189
Jul-22	1,030
Aug-22	1,634
Sep-22	1,677
Oct-22	2,028
Nov-22	2,521
Dec-22	2,140
Jan-23	2,831
Feb-23	3,233
Mar-23	3,935
Apr-23	2,197
May-23	4,620
TOTAL	28,790

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-02/187097>

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>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer: Ukraine

Homes for Ukraine Scheme

Catherine West (Labour) [186741] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of the level of financial support for Homes for Ukraine hosts in the context of recent rises in the cost of living.

Reply from Felicity Buchan: In recognition of their ongoing support amidst the

rising cost-of-living pressures, all sponsors will receive an increased 'thank you' payment of £500 a month for guests who have been in the country for over a year. 'Thank you' payments will also be extended from 12 months to two years, so that guests who may not yet be ready to move into independent accommodation can stay in sponsorship for longer where sponsors are willing to extend arrangements.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-24/186741>

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

Naturalisation: Applications

Apsana Begum (Labour) [186725] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to process naturalisation applications for which service standard processing times have been exceeded.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The most recent Migration Transparency data published in May 2023 shows that 98.4% of straightforward applications were decided within six months.

It is not always possible to conclude non-straightforward applications for citizenship within the published service standards. The Home Office actively monitors and reviews such cases on a regular basis, to ensure they can be progressed as soon as possible. Where a case is not straightforward, customers are contacted to explain that their application cannot be decided within the six months service standard.

The link to the latest Migration Transparency Data can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visas-and-citizenship-data-q1-2023>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-24/186725>

Illegal Migration Bill

Jim Shannon (DUP) [186800] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the Illegal Migration Bill includes exemptions from (a) detention and (b) removal from the UK for people who have (i) entered the UK illegally as a result of trafficking and (ii) been referred to the police as a potential victim of modern slavery under the National Referral Mechanism.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Under the provisions of the Illegal Migration Bill, those who arrive illegally will be liable to detention and will be removed to their home country or to a safe third country.

Under clause 21, a person subject to the clause 2 duty to make removal arrangements and who receives a positive Modern Slavery Reasonable Grounds decision will, subject to limited exceptions, be disqualified from the benefits of the National Referral Mechanism and arrangements for their removal will be made in line with the duty in clause 2 of the Bill

Clauses 21 to 24 are not blanket approaches, as individuals may be exempt from a public order disqualification in specific circumstances. Namely, the exemption applies where the Secretary of State satisfied that the person is cooperating with a public authority in connection with an investigation or criminal proceedings relating to the alleged exploitation, and the Secretary of State considers that it is necessary for the person to be present in the UK to provide that cooperation. The legislative detail of this exemption is set out in clause 21 of the Illegal Migration Bill.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-24/186800>

The Illegal Migration Bill, referred to above, can be read at

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

Illegal Migration Bill

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [186619] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the evidential basis is for her Department's statement in the Equality Impact Assessment for the Illegal Migration Bill, published on 26 April 2023, that the Bill should have a deterrent effect which can result in fewer unaccompanied children arriving in the UK by dangerous and unlawful means.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The purpose of the Illegal Migration Bill is to prevent and deter all unlawful migration, and in particular migration by unsafe and illegal routes. Those who arrive illegally will be liable to detention and will be swiftly removed to their home country or to a safe third country. The duty to make arrangements for removal will apply to unaccompanied children once they turn 18 and there is a power to remove them in limited circumstances prior to them reaching adulthood. The organised people smuggling criminal gangs can be expected to exploit any exceptions or loopholes in the scheme provided for in the Bill.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-24/186619>

The Equality Impact Assessment referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1155534/2023-05-03_Illegal_Migration_Bill_-_Overarching_EIA_FINAL.pdf

Visas: Applications

Virendra Sharma (Labour) [187615] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of applications for UK visas have been rejected in each of the last five years.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Data on the number of applications that have been rejected is published as part of the Home Office Migration Transparency data. For 2019-2022, the information can be viewed here [Visas and citizenship data: Q1 2023](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-05/187615>

Migration

Lee Anderson (Conservative) [186988] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to reduce net migration figures.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: On 23 May, the Government announced a package of measures to tackle the substantial rise in the number of student dependants coming to the UK. This package includes:

- Removing the right for international students to bring dependants unless they are on postgraduate courses currently designated as research programmes.
- Removing students' right to switch into a work route before their studies are complete.
- Reviewing maintenance requirements for those applying for student and dependant visas.
- Clamping down on unscrupulous education agents selling inappropriate applications.
- Improving communications about visa rules to universities and international students.
- Improved and more targeted enforcement activity.

We expect this package to have a tangible impact on net migration. Taken together with the easing of temporary factors, like our exceptional humanitarian offers, we expect net migration to fall to pre-pandemic levels in the medium term.

We keep all our immigration policies under constant review to ensure they best serve the UK and reflect the public's priorities.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-25/186988>

Immigration: Overseas Students

Alison Thewliss (SNP) [186648] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what recent assessment he has made of the potential merits of removing international students from immigration statistics.

Reply from Jeremy Quin: The information requested falls under the remit of the UK Statistics Authority. ...

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) are responsible for Long Term International Migration statistics. The ONS follows international standards, classifying anyone as a long-term migrant on the basis of whether they arrive or leave the UK for 12 months or more. International students typically fulfil this definition and, therefore, are included in the ONS' headline measures of long-term immigration and net migration.

Nonetheless, the ONS recognise that users of international migration statistics may require alternative definitions of migration to satisfy their specific needs. For this reason, on 25 May the ONS published *Population and migration estimates - exploring alternative definitions*¹ which considers new ways of estimating the population that enhance their existing statistics. The ONS are asking for feedback from users to support the forthcoming consultation on population statistics that is being launched in late June 2023, including the possibility of isolating estimates of international students from other types of estimates. We also welcome any feedback from yourself regarding this subject.

The article outlines some of the challenges with removing students from immigration statistics. For instance, while some students will leave after their courses conclude, others will stay for longer on different types of visa, such as work visas. Latest evidence² suggests that around a third of students apply for new visas (for work or further study) – some may study for a short period and work for much longer. Any method would need to account for these movements, so that their contribution to population change is recorded.

Population and migration estimates - exploring alternative definitions therefore invites feedback on some possible ways to quantify students in the net migration estimates, with the aim of meeting user needs in the future.

¹ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/articles/populationandmigrationestimatesexploringalternativedefinitions/may2023>

² <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/articles/visajourneysandstudentoutcomes/2021-11-29>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-24/186648>

Immigration: Overseas Students

Lee Anderson (Conservative) [186989] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if her Department will make an assessment of the potential merits of allowing all international students to bring dependents to the UK with them.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: As set out in the Home Secretary's written statement made on 23 May 2023, the Government remains committed to bringing down net migration to sustainable levels. The immigration statistics highlighted an unexpected rise in the number of dependants coming to the UK alongside international students which the system was not intended for. We are therefore taking steps to remove the right for international students to bring dependants unless they are on postgraduate courses currently designated as research programmes. Those affected by this package will predominantly be dependants of students who make a more limited contribution to the economy than students or those coming under the Skilled Worker route. Restricting the ability to bring dependants under the Student route to the aforementioned cohort of international students also ensures we continue to attract the brightest and best talent the world

has to offer.

We keep all our immigration policies under constant review to ensure they best serve the UK and reflect the public's priorities.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-25/186989>

The statement referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2023-05-23/hcws800>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Overseas Students: Visas

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [186669] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what recent assessment he has made of the potential impact student visa restrictions will have on international students studying in the UK.

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [186670] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment she has made of the potential impact of proposals for changes to visa rules for international students on the impact of international students and their dependants on (a) research, (b) science and (C) the arts in the UK.

Reply from Robert Halfon: The UK has been successful in delivering the government's International Education Strategy ambition of hosting at least 600,000 students per year by 2030, for two years running, and we expect that universities will be able to adapt to reduced dependant numbers.

Our offer to international students remains extremely competitive and we are committed to ensuring the UK remains a destination of choice for international students from across the globe. International students make a significant economic and cultural contribution to the UK's higher education sector, which is good for our universities and delivers growth at home. Those affected by these changes will predominantly be dependants of international students. Students coming to the UK to undertake postgraduate research courses will not be affected by the new restriction on dependents.

The Department for Education will work closely with the Home Office, the Department for Business and Trade, and across other government departments, to assess the impact of these changes on research, science and arts in the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-24/186669>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-24/186670>

The 2022 Update on the International Education Strategy referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/international-education-strategy-2022-update/international-education-strategy-2022-progress-update>

Pension Credit: Windrush Generation

Jonathan Ashworth (Labour Co-op) [187664] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what guidance his Department has issued on backdating pension credit for those who have received a naturalisation certificate through the Windrush Scheme.

Reply from Laura Trott: Claims from customers identified as being part of the Windrush scheme are referred to a specialist team for action, who will consider and apply all agreed easements in Policy regarding the usual 13-month time limit for backdating.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-05/187664>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Sudan

Kirsten Oswald (SNP) [186652] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to provide safe and legal routes of entry to the UK for

people displaced from Sudan who have dependents that are British Citizens.

Apsana Begum (Labour) [186724] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has made an assessment of the potential merits of implementing a scheme to enable family members of Sudanese nationals who reside in the UK to come to the UK.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Over 2,000 people have been evacuated to safety in the longest and largest airlift of any western nation during the crisis in Sudan. As well as British nationals, the UK has also evacuated Sudanese clinicians who work in the NHS.

The UK Government is monitoring the situation in Sudan closely to ensure that it is able to respond appropriately. We recognise that some people displaced by the fighting may wish to join family in the UK, and where those family members do not have a current UK visa, they can apply for one via one of our standard visa routes, which remain available, and applications can be submitted at the nearest Visa Application Centre (VAC).

The UK continues to welcome refugees through our existing resettlement schemes which include the global UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS), Community Sponsorship and the Mandate Resettlement Scheme. While our safe and legal routes are some of the most generous anywhere, we cannot accommodate everyone who wants to come to the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-24/186652>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-24/186724>

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 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

Asylum: Sudan

Neil Coyle (Independent) [186519] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to establish a Sudanese resettlement scheme to provide a safe and legal route for Sudanese citizens seeking asylum in the UK.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The UK has a proud history of supporting refugees and providing protection to those in need. Since 2015, we have offered a place to over half a million individuals seeking safety in the UK.

The UK continues to welcome refugees through our existing resettlement schemes which include the global UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS), Community Sponsorship and the Mandate Resettlement Scheme. While our safe and legal routes are some of the most generous anywhere, we cannot accommodate everyone who wants to come to the UK.

The UK has no plans to establish a designated resettlement scheme for Sudanese refugees. We will however continue to provide safe and legal routes to the UK for those that require it.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-23/186519>

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 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

Refugees: Sudan

Neil Coyle (Independent) [186523] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to support Sudanese (a) refugees arriving in the UK and (b) students and other visitors in the UK at the onset of the crisis.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: We are proud of our long-standing tradition of welcoming refugees and individuals in need through resettlement schemes and have welcomed over half a million people through safe and legal routes since 2015. The UK currently operates several resettlement schemes which Sudanese nationals may be eligible for, including the UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS) and the Community Sponsorship Scheme. However, the UK had finite resources and is so not able to provide tailored humanitarian routes in every circumstance.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-23/186523>

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 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: Sudan

Kirsten Oswald (SNP) [186651] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum applications have been received from displaced Sudanese citizens in the last three months.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office publishes data on asylum in the '[Immigration System Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on asylum applications raised by nationality can be found in table Asy_D01 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 March 2023. Data for the year ending June 2023 will be published on 24 August 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/2023-05-24/186651>

Asylum: Hong Kong

Neil Coyle (Independent) [186408] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the adequacy of the asylum processing system for Hong Kong citizens.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The UK has a proud history of providing protection to those who need it. There have been a total of 139,144 grants of out of country BN(O) visas and a total of 27,276 grants of in country BN(O) visas since its introduction on 31 January 2021 up to the end of March 2023.

All asylum claims are considered on a case-by-case basis in line with published policy including those raised by Hong Kong nationals.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-23/186408>

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

Asylum: Children

Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op) [186685] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the safeguarding implications of children asylum seekers being housed in homes of multiple occupancy.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: House in Multiple Occupancy (HMO) properties will be used mainly for single adults but in some cases for families. Families will not, however, share properties with single male adults. No unaccompanied minors will be placed in an HMO property by the Home Office. The Home Office accommodation contracts set out clear minimum standards for all asylum accommodation. This is to ensure compliance with standards similar to those used in local authority licensing.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-24/186685>

Asylum: Children

Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op) [186686] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether unaccompanied asylum-seeking children will be housed in homes of multiple occupancy.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office will not accommodate Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) in an Asylum Accommodation and Support Contract (AASC) Houses in Multiple Occupancy (HMO) properties.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-24/186686>

Asylum: Housing

Angela Eagle (Labour) [186301] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what guidance her Department issues on local (a) consent and (b) support as factors that may be considered when making decisions about where vessels for housing asylum seekers should be berthed.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: We engage with local authorities and other key local stakeholders before making a decision whether to stand up asylum accommodation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-23/186301>

Asylum: Housing

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [186414] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has made an assessment of the potential merits of setting a time limit for how long asylum seekers can be housed at former Ministry of Defence sites.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The maximum length of stay for former Ministry of Defence Sites is currently under review. We will continually monitor those accommodated to ensure that the length of stay is appropriate for the individuals accommodated.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-23/186414>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Hotels

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [186430] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has made an assessment of the potential impact of moving asylum seekers to different hotels on the disruption to an individual's or family's daily routine; and if she will make a statement.

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [186431] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether it is her Department's policy to take steps to avoid moving asylum seekers from a specific hotel or location where a (a) health professional, (b) teacher and

(c) other service providers supports an individual remaining at an existing location.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The overriding principle when allocating accommodation is that it is offered on a 'no choice basis', in line with our Allocation of Accommodation policy.

Caseworkers may receive requests to provide accommodation in a particular location due to exceptional circumstances. The Home Office's policy in dealing with such requests is set out in the Allocation of Accommodation policy - [Allocation of accommodation](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-23/186430>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-23/186431>

Asylum: Housing

Richard Drax (Conservative) [181801] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether it is her Department's policy that asylum seekers accommodated on asylum vessels will be able to move freely or have restrictions on their movements.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: As with all asylum accommodation, asylum seekers accommodated on vessels will be non-detained. If someone is late returning from a visit off the site, they will be contacted to ascertain their whereabouts. Those accommodated will be required to sign in and out of the site. Individuals will be subjected to security checks when they re-enter the vessel.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-19/181801>

Asylum: Hotels

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [187747] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department is taking steps to help ensure asylum seekers accommodated in hotels are not unnecessarily relocated to hotels where an individual or family has reason to remain in an existing location because they have (a) have settled in an area, (b) have children in a local school, (c) are in receipt of healthcare and (d) are in receipt of maternity care.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Relocations between asylum accommodation are kept to a minimum, but may be needed for operational reasons. Under the Immigration & Asylum Act 1999, the Government is required to provide accommodation to asylum seekers that would otherwise be destitute. It is Home Office policy to offer accommodation on a no choice basis except in exceptional circumstances: [Allocation of asylum accommodation policy](#).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-05/187747>

Pupils: Refugees

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [186832] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps her Department is taking to provide additional support for students who have entered UK schools through the (a) Ukrainian, (b) Hong Kong and (c) Afghanistan resettlement schemes.

Reply from Nick Gibb: All pupils, regardless of immigration status, are entitled to education between the ages of 5 to 16, and are free to apply for a school place at any time.

The Department is clear that the best place for all children to be educated is in school, and that attending school is vital to help newly arrived children integrate as quickly as possible into the communities in which they are living.

The Department has supported arrivals via humanitarian and resettlement schemes through the provision of funding to Local Authorities for all arrivals aged 2 to 18.

This funding was paid in the 2022/23 financial year for those who arrived via the Homes for Ukraine scheme and in both the 2021/22 and 2022/23 financial years

for those who arrived from Afghanistan and lived in bridging accommodation. Further details are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/homes-for-ukraine-education-and-childcare-funding>

and:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghanistan-resettlement-education-grant>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-25/186832>

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

Asylum: Rwanda

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL8020] To ask His Majesty's Government what arrangements they will make with the government of Rwanda to ensure that the families of asylum seekers who are deported to that country are kept together.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: Everyone considered for relocation to Rwanda will be screened and have access to legal advice. Decisions will be taken on a case-by-case basis and nobody will be removed if it is unsafe or inappropriate for them. Suitable accommodation will be provided for all those relocated to Rwanda.

We will thoroughly consider the circumstances of cases involving families with children according to our policy, statutory and international obligations. A full equality impact assessment has been published on gov.uk.

For those with family links in the UK who want to be considered for entry to the UK, they should seek to do so via legal and safe routes.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-22/hl8020>

The equality impact assessment referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1094019/Equalities_Impact_Assessment_MEDP_Rwanda_July_2022.pdf

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

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Lord German (Liberal Democrat) [HL8135] To ask His Majesty's Government how many people have arrived in small boats across the English Channel since 7 March; and how many people crossed during each month from March 2022 to March 2023.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: Statistics releases about irregular migration, including arrivals in small boats, are published regularly.

The latest statistics, to the end of March 2023, may be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/irregular-migration-to-the-uk-year-ending-march-2023>

The next quarter of statistics is due to be published on 24 August 2023. The Home Office needs to ensure that information intended for publication meets the standards and requirements set for departmental publications. It would not be in the public interest for the Home Office to release this information prior to meeting such standards.

[irregular migration - Stats - March 2023](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-25/hl8135>

Asylum: Housing

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL8019] To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they take to ensure that acceptable standards are maintained at the accommodation used for asylum seekers and refugees.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The United Kingdom has a statutory obligation to provide destitute asylum seekers with accommodation and other support whilst their application for asylum is being considered as set out in the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. The Act also sets out the need to meet essential living needs. The support package provided usually consists of accommodation and a weekly cash allowance to meet other essential living needs such as food, toiletries, travel and clothing. The support rate for those in contingency accommodation is intended to cover essential living items that are not met by the accommodation provider such as clothing, non-prescription medicine and travel.

The Asylum Accommodation service providers identify suitable accommodation and ensure that it conforms to the accommodation standards and provision set out in Schedule 2 of the Asylum Accommodation and Support Contracts (AASC).

The Statement of Requirements, available via the link below, sets out the full details of the contractual obligations of our accommodation providers

[http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2018-1112/AASC -
Schedule 2 - Statement of Requirements.pdf](http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2018-1112/AASC_-_Schedule_2_-_Statement_of_Requirements.pdf)

All asylum properties are also inspected by our accommodation providers at least monthly. Additionally, our contract assurance team carries out targeted inspections, for example, targeting for inspection properties about which issues have been raised via Migrant Help. Our inspectors have procedures and tools to focus inspections on all relevant aspects of contract compliance.

If accommodation providers have been found to have fallen short of the required standards then we can take action, including but not limited to the application of financial remedies.

[AASC - Schedule 2 - Statement of Requirements](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-22/hl8019>

The Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1999/33/contents>

Press Releases

Ukrainian families supported into own homes with £150m funding

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukrainian-families-supported-into-own-homes-with-150m-funding>

Prime Minister: Our plan to stop the boats is starting to work

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-our-plan-to-stop-the-boats-is-starting-to-work>

Thousands of asylum seekers to be moved out of hotels

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/thousands-of-asylum-seekers-to-be-moved-out-of-hotels>

Widespread human rights failings must be addressed in Illegal Migration Bill, Human Rights Committee finds

<https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/93/human-rights-joint-committee/news/195605/widespread-human-rights-failings-must-be-addressed-in-illegal-migration-bill-human-rights-committee-finds/>

New Publications

Prime Minister's statement on illegal migration delivery update: 5 June 2023

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-on-illegal-migration-delivery-update-5-june-2023>

Joint Committee on Human Rights Report: Legislative Scrutiny: Illegal Migration Bill

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/40298/documents/196781/default/>

Letter from Suella Braverman to Diana Johnson regarding the restart of Section 94B 'deport first, appeal later' appeal certification

https://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2023-0470/Restart_of_Section_94B.pdf

Updated: Afghanistan housing portal - offer accommodation and other support

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghanistan-housing-portal-offers-of-support>

Updated Guidance: Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme Pathway 3: eligibility for British Council and GardaWorld contractors and Chevening Alumni

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme-pathway-3-eligibility-for-british-council-and-gardaworld-contractors-and-chevening-alumni>

Individuals who have submitted an expression of interest to sponsor under the Homes for Ukraine scheme via gov.uk

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/homes-for-ukraine-sponsorship-scheme-individuals-who-have-submitted-an-expression-of-interest-to-sponsor-via-govuk/individuals-who-have-submitted-an-expression-of-interest-to-sponsor-under-the-homes-for-ukraine-scheme-via-govuk>

Homes for Ukraine: Updated Guidance for sponsors (children and minors applying without parents or legal guardians)

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-guidance-for-sponsors-children-and-minors-applying-without-parents-or-legal-guardians>

Homes for Ukraine: Updated Guidance for parents or legal guardians (children and minors applying without parents)

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-guidance-for-parents-or-legal-guardians-children-and-minors-applying-without-parents>

Homes for Ukraine: updated Guidance for councils (children and minors applying without parents or legal guardians)

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-guidance-for-councils-children-and-minors-applying-without-parents-or-legal-guardians>

Ukraine driving licence exchange government response to consultation

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/ukraine-driving-licence-exchange/outcome/ukraine-driving-licence-exchange-government-response-to-consultation>

Statistics relating to the Illegal Migration Bill: data tables to May 2023

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1160634/statistics-relating-to-the-illegal-migration-bill-data-tables-to-may-2023.ods

NHS Scotland overseas recruitment

<https://www.gov.scot/news/nhs-scotland-overseas-recruitment/>

Report on an unannounced inspection of short-term holding facilities at Western Jet Foil, Manston and Kent Intake Unit, 30 January – 17 February 2023

<https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmiprisons/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2023/06/WJF-Manston-and-KIU-web-2023.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>

News: Rwanda Refugee Policy

UK may not have to comply with European Court injunctions blocking Rwanda flights

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/06/05/uk-european-court-injunctions-rwanda-flights-not-comply/>

News: Channel Migrants

Rishi Sunak: It's not compassionate to let the small boats tragedy continue

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/06/05/rishi-sunak-hmc-seeker-trip-small-boats-crossings>

Rishi Sunak hints he could overrule Lords on small boats bill

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/sunak-small-boats-asylum-seekers-b2352193.html>

Rishi Sunak's migration plan 'based on demented assumptions'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/rishi-sunaks-migration-plan-based-on-demented-assumptions-n2qlhxbkp>

French stopping half of boat migrants after £480m deal

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/french-stopping-half-of-boat-migrants-after-480m-deal-9wd9r8887>

News: Afghanistan

Thousands of Afghan refugees in UK set to be made homeless

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/jun/11/thousands-afghan-refugees-uk-homeless-crisis-operation-warm-welcome>

Afghan refugee waiting 82 weeks for a home' in Scottish bridging hotel

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/23566914.afghan-refugee-waiting-82-weeks-home-scottish-bridging-hotel/>

News: Ukraine

UK launches £150m fund to help Ukrainians into their own homes

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/jun/10/uk-launches-150m-fund-help-ukrainians-into-own-homes>

News: Other Immigration and Asylum

Sunak gives striking prominence to migration challenge

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-65814270>

Illegal Migration Bill breaches human rights obligations, MPs and peers warn

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-65869514>

Key plank of new UK asylum law dropped to cut backlog

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/jun/08/key-plank-of-new-uk-asylum-law-dropped-to-cut-backlog>

UK Government to remove two-tier asylum system

<https://scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/uk-government-reveals-plans-to-remove-two-tier-asylum-system/>

Home Office backs down on plan for asylum seekers to sleep four to a room

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2023/jun/09/home-office-backs-down-on-plan-for-asylum-seekers-to-sleep-four-in-a-room>

Asylum seekers will be expected to share hotel rooms

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/23566553.asylum-seekers-will-expected-share-hotel-rooms/>

Asylum seekers will be told to share hotel rooms, says Tory minister

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/asylum-seekers-hotels-home-office-b2351144.html>

Two new barges to house migrants announced

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-65810728>

Government looking at four more sites for asylum vessels

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2023/jun/05/uk-secures-two-more-barges-to-house-asylum-seekers-says-sunak>

Giant vessel housing asylum seekers could be docked in Plymouth

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/jun/08/giant-vessel-housing-asylum-seekers-could-docked-plymouth-devon-port-home-office-legal-challenge>

'Cruel' asylum barge plan rejected in London, Sadiq Khan tells Braverman

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/asylum-seekers-berge-london-khan-b2354020.html>

Cruise ships to house Channel migrants

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/06/06/cruise-ships-berge-migrants-english-channel-rishi-sunak/>

Migrants housed on barges face 'code of conduct' and will be kicked out if they break rules

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/06/08/migrants-on-barges-face-code-of-conduct/>

Faith leaders call for asylum seekers to be given free bus passes

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2023/articles/faith-leaders-call-for-asylum-seekers-to-be-given-free-bus-passes>

Guardianship Scotland to reach more at-risk children

<https://scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/guardianship-scotland-to-reach-more-at-risk-children/>

Secret Home Office policy to detain people with NHS debt at airport found unlawful

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2023/may/26/secret-home-office-policy-to-detain-people-with-right-to-live-in-uk-found-unlawful>

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Venture Capital: Ethnic Groups

Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op) [186703] To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what steps her Department is taking to encourage company founders from BAME backgrounds to secure venture capital funding.

Reply from Kevin Hollinrake: I meet the Ethnic Minority Business Group regularly to understand the challenges and opportunities faced by ethnic minority entrepreneurs across the UK, including access to finance. Better data collection is key and the British Business Bank has piloted ethnicity data collection from venture capital firms, the findings from which will be published later this year.

To help founders from ethnic minority backgrounds secure venture capital funding, the British Business Bank's Finance Hub offers impartial information to help businesses get 'investor ready' including articles on how businesses can identify and access the finance they need to realise their growth ambitions.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-24/186703>

Maternal Mortality: Ethnic Groups

Rupa Huq (Labour) [186135] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to end the Black maternal mortality gap.

Reply from Maria Caulfield: While births in England are among the safest globally, we must do more to ensure maternity care is consistent regardless of ethnicity. 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.

NHS England have developed fourteen Maternal Medicine Networks across England, to ensure that all women with chronic and acute medical problems around pregnancy have access to specialist management and care from physicians and obstetrics, tackling the biggest contributors to maternal mortality. Knowing that black women are more likely to suffer with a pre-existing condition, they should be a key group for whom the networks provide benefit.

Further to this, the Maternity Disparities Taskforce, who last held a meeting in 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/2023-05-22/186135>

Mental Health Services: Travellers

Rosena Allin-Khan (Labour) [187562] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of mental health support available for people from the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community.

Reply from Maria Caulfield: We have not made such an assessment. Integrated care boards are responsible for the provision of mental health services and whether they are adequate to meet the mental health needs of people from the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community in their local populations.

We are also expanding and transforming National Health Service mental health services in England, backed by additional funding of £2.3 billion a year by March 2024. This will allow an extra two million people, including people from the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community, to get the mental health support that they need.

Through its mental health equalities strategy, NHS England is working closely with patients, carers, health system leaders and other key stakeholders to bridge the gaps for communities, such the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community, fairing worse than others in mental health services.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-02/187562>

Prisoners: Travellers

Kim Johnson (Labour) [186742] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, if he will make an assessment of the implications for his policies of the report by the Traveller Movement entitled Available but not Accessible, published on 27 March 2023; and whether he plans to take steps to help tackle issues described in that report affecting Gypsy, Roma, Traveller people on the prison estate.

Reply from Damian Hinds: We recently launched a Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Strategy which sets out our approach to improve outcomes for GRT people in prison or on probation. It identifies the work being undertaken across His Majesty's Prison & Probation Service to support GRT people, and focuses on how we can make improvements.

The strategy has six key areas of focus. These include improving the data we capture; improving access to culturally appropriate services and purposeful activity; and strengthening our relationships with specialist third-sector organisations.

A governance framework will be established to monitor progress.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-24/186742>

The report referred to above can be read at

https://wp-main.travellermovement.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/TTM-Available-but-not-Accessible_web-1.pdf

The Strategy referred to above is not currently available online.

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Ethnic Groups: Equality

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL8063] To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to (1) encourage, and (2) normalise, racial equality by the end of 2023.

Reply from Baroness Scott of Bybrook: The Inclusive Britain action plan, published in March 2022, sets out the UK Government's most comprehensive

strategy ever to tackle unjust ethnic disparities across education, employment, health and criminal justice.

In April, we published a report to Parliament on the substantial progress we have made in delivering this action plan, with 32 of the 74 actions now completed just one year into the strategy. The report documents how this work is making a real difference to people's lives and reducing unfair racial disparities.

We intend to deliver the remaining actions over the course of the next year and will update Parliament next spring on the progress we have made with this.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-23/hl8063>

The action plan 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>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inclusive-britain-update-report/inclusive-britain-update-report>

New Publications

Why the Windrush matters today

https://www.britishfuture.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Why-the-Windrush-matters-today.Report.Final_.pdf

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights: Fundamental Rights Report 2023

https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2023-fundamental-rights-report-2023_en.pdf

News

Windrush report: Britain has made progress on race but more must be done

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/britain-government-asian-france-germany-b2352736.html>

One year on: Equality and Human Rights Commission inquiry into the experiences of lower-paid ethnic minority workers in health and social care

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/blogs/one-year-our-inquiry-experiences-lower-paid-ethnic-minority-workers-health-and-social>

Stormzy at Hay literary festival: 'Black people are not monolithic'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-65783985>

'A relentless chipping away'

<https://www.runnymedetrust.org/blog/a-relentless-chipping-away>

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) [187002] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what recent discussions he has had with the Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group about trends in Islamophobic hate crime.

Afzal Khan (Labour) [187005] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what recent discussions he has had with Cabinet colleagues on changes in the levels of Islamophobic attitudes in society.

Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group

Afzal Khan (Labour) [187003] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, when officials in his Department last met with the Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group.

Reply from Dehenna Davison: This Government is committed to tackling the scourge of anti-Muslim hatred head-on through a coordinated cross-departmental effort. From ensuring the safety of worshippers in mosques to community engagement and supporting the victims, swift action has been taken to address anti-Muslim hatred and institute safeguards. For example, Tell MAMA has been provided with nearly £5m between 2016 and 2023 to monitor and combat anti-Muslim hatred.

We are taking a broad approach to religious hatred which will develop on the work of the previous Working Groups; seeking the views and perspectives of British and international experts in this field to explore how religious hatred is experienced by British communities, and how it affects different faiths and individuals. This engagement will explore the breadth and depth of religious hatred and will consider the question of terminology and definitions for hatred across and within religious communities, including anti-Muslim hatred. In line with the practice of successive administrations, details of internal discussions are not normally disclosed.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-25/187002>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-25/187005>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-25/187003>

Press Release

Marking International Day for Countering Hate Speech, Secretary-General Calls for Renewed Efforts Promoting Peaceful, Just Societies

<https://press.un.org/en/2023/sgsm21828.doc.htm>

News

Bob Stewart: Conservative MP charged with racially aggravated abuse

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-65814126>

Patients may be guilty of discrimination if they refuse care of transgender medic, NHS bosses told

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/06/09/nhs-patients-discrimination-transgender-staff/>

Patients have no right to know if their doctor is trans, says NHS guide

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/patients-have-no-right-to-know-if-their-doctor-is-trans-says-nhs-guide-h3dld0kfq>

Why is the UK one of the only Western countries with no ban on Nazi symbols?

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/why-is-the-uk-one-of-the-only-western-countries-with-no-ban-on-nazi-symbols-4176939>

TOP

Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Legal Minimum Age of Marriage (UNCRC)

Claire Baker (Labour) [S6F-02208]: To ask the First Minister what the Scottish Government's response is to the position set out by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, in its concluding observations on the combined sixth and seventh reports of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland regarding the legal minimum age of marriage in Scotland.

Reply from the First Minister (Humza Yousaf): We recognise and pay close attention to the comments that have been made by the UN committee, as well as recognising that young people in Scotland acquire a number of important rights at the age of 16. All marriages and civil partnerships must be entered into with the full consent of both parties, and there is existing legislative provision against forced marriage. We hope that, with the Parliament's approval, protections will also fully extend to forced civil partnerships later this year.

We would want to balance any concerns that 16 and 17-year-olds may need more protection in relation to marriage with concerns that are related to the removal of the current rights that they have. I know that Claire Baker is aware of that balance. We are gathering views from stakeholders on the minimum age of marriage and are actively considering our next steps in that area. The UN's comments will be taken into account as part of that process.

Claire Baker: The UN's observations make it clear that the prohibition of marriage for children under the age of 18 is part of ensuring that 16 and 17-year-olds receive protection as children in practice. It strongly recommends that the Scottish Government prohibit all marriages for those under the age of 18, without exception. I recently met Scottish Women's Aid on this. The Scottish Government has previously stated that there would have to be a full public consultation before taking any steps to raise the minimum age for marriage, either through legislation or by supporting it. I urge the First Minister to bring that consultation forward so that we can have a public discussion about the appropriate age of marriage and can take the UN's recommendation into serious consideration.

Reply from the First Minister: A consultation and discussion is under way, and I welcome Claire Baker's comments on that. Rightly, it is often the case in this Parliament that, when considering matters such as this, we are pressed to talk to the people who are the most directly affected and impacted by them. We are making sure that we are talking to children and young people, such as members of the Scottish Youth Parliament as well as many others, to gather their views. As I

have said, I would welcome Claire Baker's thoughts on the issue in more detail. We know that only around 0.1 per cent of marriages involve young people who are 16 and 17 years old. Records from the National Records of Scotland show that fewer than 30 people who were aged 16 and 17 entered into a registered marriage in 2019, which was pre-pandemic, and that there were fewer than that during the years of the pandemic. Nonetheless, I recognise the issues that have been raised by a number of stakeholders regarding concerns about forced marriage. We are undertaking the consultation, and, if we believe that there is a requirement to change the law, there will be a full public consultation on the issue. In the meantime, I would be more than happy to hear from Claire Baker with her thoughts.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=15358&i=131017#ScotParlOR>

Press Release

Scotland marks Coronation of The King and Queen

<https://www.gov.scot/news/scotland-marks-coronation-of-the-king-and-queen/>

News

Nicola Sturgeon: Former first minister arrested in SNP finances inquiry

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-65871857>

Why was Nicola Sturgeon arrested and what happens next?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-65323861>

Police release Nicola Sturgeon without charge

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-65873423>

TOP

Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Schools: Religious Freedom

Jim Shannon (DUP) [186797] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps she is taking to help promote awareness of freedom of religion and belief in schools.

Reply from Nick Gibb: Education is a devolved matter, and the response outlines the information for England only.

All schools in England must offer a curriculum that is balanced and broad and that promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental, and physical development of pupils. Pupils should be taught about different societies and how different groups have contributed to the development of Britain. This can include the experiences and voices of people from all backgrounds. The curriculum offers many opportunities for schools to do this, notably through citizenship education and relationships, sex and health education.

Within the citizenship curriculum, pupils should be taught about the diverse national, regional, religious and ethnic identities in the United Kingdom, and the need for mutual respect and understanding.

In delivering the curriculum, schools should be aware of their duties relating to political impartiality as set out under the Education Act 1996. Schools must ensure that, where political issues are discussed in the classroom, they are presented in a balanced way.

Schools also have a duty to promote the fundamental British values, including the mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. Developing and deepening pupils' understanding of these values is part of the Ofsted inspection framework, alongside expectations that schools develop responsible and active citizens and promote an inclusive environment that meets the needs of all pupils, irrespective of their characteristics.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-24/186797>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Schools: Christianity

Lord Pearson of Rannoch (Non-affiliated) [HL8106] To ask His Majesty's Government whether they encourage Christian teaching in schools.

Reply from Baroness Barran: The government's policy is to allow religious education (RE) curricula to be designed at a local level, whether that is through a locally agreed syllabus or by individual schools and academy trusts developing their own curricula.

The government does not specify what the content of a school's RE curriculum should be, nor does it actively promote the teaching of any particular religion.

Legislation does include the following requirement: a locally agreed syllabus must 'reflect that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain'. This requirement is replicated in the funding agreements that academies have with the Secretary of State for Education.

Exceptions to this include schools and academies with a religious designation, who are permitted by legislation and funding agreements to provide an RE curriculum in accordance with their trust deeds and tenets of their faith.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-24/hl8106>

News

Resignation statement in full as Boris Johnson steps down

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-65863336>

Why did Boris Johnson resign?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-65863730>

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/>

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Food Insecurity: Food Banks

Collette Stevenson (SNP) [S6W-18889] To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on its draft plan on ending the need for food banks.

Reply from Shirley-Anne Somerville: The Scottish Government has today published [Cash-First: Towards Ending the Need for Food Banks in Scotland](#). This sets out our human rights approach to tackling food insecurity and details nine actions that we will take in collaboration with partners over the next three years to improve the response to financial hardship and reduce the need for emergency food parcels.

Scotland is the first nation in the UK to have such a plan and the actions will help to identify measures that move us closer towards our longer term ambition of a Scotland without the need for food banks.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-18889>

Publications

Cash-First - towards ending the need for food banks in Scotland: plan

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/cash-first-towards-ending-need-food-banks-scotland/>

Framing of poverty in the UK

<https://www.jrf.org.uk/file/59917/download?token=K1TRuaqi&filetype=briefing>

Unpaid care and poverty: unpaid carers' priorities for change through participatory co-design

<https://www.jrf.org.uk/file/59929/download?token=hsNyVUq-&filetype=full-report>

News

Cost of household debt will triple this year as UK mortgage rates soar

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/mortgage-rates-uk-household-debt-vk00gv96q>

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>

**** Police (Ethics, Conduct and Scrutiny) (Scotland) Bill**

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/police-ethics-conduct-and-scrutiny-scotland-bill>

Bill as introduced

<https://www.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/s6-bills/police-ethics-conduct-and-scrutiny-scotland-bill/bill-as-introduced.pdf>

Explanatory Notes

<https://www.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/s6-bills/police-ethics-conduct-and-scrutiny-scotland-bill/explanatory-notes-accessible.pdf>

Financial Memorandum

<https://www.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/s6-bills/police-ethics-conduct-and-scrutiny-scotland-bill/financial-memorandum-accessible.pdf>

Delegated Powers Memorandum

<https://www.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/s6-bills/police-ethics-conduct-and-scrutiny-scotland-bill/delegated-powers-memorandum-accessible.pdf>

Statements on Legislative Competence

<https://www.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/s6-bills/police-ethics-conduct-and-scrutiny-scotland-bill/legislative-competence-accessible.pdf>

Equality impact assessment

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/police-ethics-conduct-scrutiny-scotland-bill-equality-impact-assessment-results/>

Island communities impact assessment screening

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/police-ethics-conduct-scrutiny-scotland-bill-island-communities-impact-assessment/>

Business and regulatory impact assessment

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/business-regulatory-impact-assessment-police-ethics-conduct-scrutiny-scotland-bill/>

Data protection impact assessment

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/data-protection-impact-assessment-police-ethics-conduct-scrutiny-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>

**** British Nationality (Regularisation of Past Practice) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3465/publications>

Second Reading, House of Commons

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-06-06/debates/AFD0EE38-9490-4361-A8F0-3C288F6CA900/BritishNationality\(RegularisationOfPastPractice\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-06-06/debates/AFD0EE38-9490-4361-A8F0-3C288F6CA900/BritishNationality(RegularisationOfPastPractice)Bill)

Committee Stage, House of Commons

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-06-06/debates/770E3622-587A-4460-8A37-43DECF346A98/BritishNationality\(RegularisationOfPastPractice\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-06-06/debates/770E3622-587A-4460-8A37-43DECF346A98/BritishNationality(RegularisationOfPastPractice)Bill)

Third Reading, House of Commons

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-06-06/debates/770E3622-587A-4460-8A37-43DECF346A98/BritishNationality\(RegularisationOfPastPractice\)Bill#contribution-2312ADC4-6405-4BD9-AE8F-339D26F32A3A](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-06-06/debates/770E3622-587A-4460-8A37-43DECF346A98/BritishNationality(RegularisationOfPastPractice)Bill#contribution-2312ADC4-6405-4BD9-AE8F-339D26F32A3A)

First Reading, House of Lords

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-06-07/debates/23E35218-2FC2-492A-82C3-FDA565175A61/BritishNationality\(RegularisationOfPastPractice\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-06-07/debates/23E35218-2FC2-492A-82C3-FDA565175A61/BritishNationality(RegularisationOfPastPractice)Bill)

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>

Committee Stage, House of Lords

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-06-05/debates/54F0BEF4-9FE4-4B2F-B28B-8993772EDFDD/IllegalMigrationBill>

and

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-06-05/debates/EECF2424-D2AA-453A-AF1B-0A8EF2AA88F2/IllegalMigrationBill>

and

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-06-07/debates/3EF70719-DAFA-443F-BB92-AE91C0516121/IllegalMigrationBill>

and

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-06-07/debates/41061D9F-F385-4CF5-9B77-8EB8852381A3/IllegalMigrationBill>

Notice of amendments

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/51431/documents/3516>

and

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/51447/documents/3519>

and

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/51508/documents/3544>

and

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/51532/documents/3549>

Joint Committee on Human Rights Report: Legislative Scrutiny: Illegal Migration Bill

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/40298/documents/196781/default/>

Statistics relating to the Illegal Migration Bill: data tables to May 2023

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1160634/statistics-relating-to-the-illegal-migration-bill-data-tables-to-may-2023.ods

Immigration and Nationality Fees (Exemption for NHS Clinical Staff)

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

Online Safety Bill

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

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

**** closes this week!**

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>

Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Draft Bill (closing date 23 June 2023)

<https://committees.parliament.uk/call-for-evidence/3146/>

Let's Be Heard – Sharing Scotland's COVID Experience (closing date not stated)

<https://lbh.covid19inquiry.scot/>

Experiences of Racism in Scotland's Night-Time Economy (closing date not stated)

<https://t.co/IUabNPI1nK>

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

Creative Communities Glasgow

Closing date for applications 30 June 2023

Glasgow Communities and Place Fund / UK Shared Prosperity Fund grants of up to £80,000 to support and empower communities to develop cultural activities. Projects must be led by their community, and applicants must demonstrate how the project will address priorities in their community, and help overcome the barriers the community faces to creative and cultural engagement. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yc8yf4c8>

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

Big Give: The Christmas Challenge

Closing date for applications: 7 July 2023

When someone donates to a charity through a Big Give campaign, funders are asked to match that donation, so, for example, £50 from a member of the public becomes £100 for a good cause. Charities must secure a minimum of £1k in pledges to be eligible for Champion funding. For information see <https://biggive.org/christmas-challenge/>

Cost-of-Living Support Scotland

Application deadline not stated

National Lottery funding from £10,001 to £75,000 for projects to help support individuals, families and communities currently experiencing hardship as a result of the cost-of-living increases. The programme aims to fund activity that reduces the impact of, or prevents

financial insecurity so that people have more resilience and are more able to identify ways to deal with the impact of increased cost of living in their lives, are able to shape activity in their community to address the increased cost-of-living, and have more access to support and services that will help them to deal with the increased cost of living. For information and to apply see

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

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** *this week!***

Refugee Festival Scotland

16-25 June 2023 (Scotland-wide)

People from refugee backgrounds make a huge contribution to life in Scotland and that's worth celebrating. The Scottish Refugee Council's unique festival brings people together to meet, mix share art, culture and ideas, and get to know each other better. For information and a full programme of events see <https://tinyurl.com/ubajubzi>

**** The Suffolk Windrush Lecture 2023**

16 June 2023 (online, 7.00–8.30)

Suffolk Windrush Select Committee lecture to raise awareness of the contributions the Windrush generation, and the generations taking on the baton, have made to UK life. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/52v8kyt4>

Walking Tour: Refugee Histories of Glasgow

17 June 2023 (Glasgow, 10.00–12.00)

Walking tour to explore some of Glasgow's refugee histories, across the world and around the city. From international solidarity campaigns to grassroots community action, refugees and asylum seekers have played key roles in the city's cultural and political life in recent years. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/wby6j57s>

Glasgow Black History Walking Tour

18 June 2023 (Glasgow, 1.00)

21 June 2023 (Glasgow, 1.00)

CRER walking tours taking participants on a historical journey through Glasgow's mercantile past and examine the city's connections with tobacco, slavery and the abolition movement. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/mryxxtky>

Our Stories, Our Voices

19 June 2023 (Glasgow, 10.30–12.30)

Glasgow Life Adult Learning Services reading of stories, poems, and reflections as part of Refugee Festival Scotland inspired by the theme of hope. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/4jhzpx9t>

Sharing Stories of Hope and Courage (women-only event)

19 June 2023 (Glasgow, 10.30–1.30)

Interfaith Glasgow Weekend Club event to learn about and celebrate refugee histories in Scotland. Includes a guided tour of Garnethill Synagogue, the Scottish Jewish Archive Centre, and the Scottish Jewish Holocaust Era Study Centre, and in particular the event will hear the story of a woman artist who fled the Nazis in her home in Austria and came

to Scotland, and do a craft activity around what gives them hope in challenging times. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yvjmut4t>

**** Archives Live: Windrush 75**

19 June 2023 (online, 2.00–2.40)

National Archives event for schoolchildren in which presenter Floella Benjamin will explore the uniquely personal document that records her arrival as a ten-year-old in 1960, and explain the history of Caribbean arrival to Britain through important documents. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/3wctjzyd>

#CompassionIntoAction: Embracing Collective Action to Support Refugees Seeking Sanctuary

20 June 2023 (online, 6.00–7.00)

Glasgow University 'World Changing Glasgow Conversation' focussing on the importance of collaboration and connectivity, and exploring how through collective action we can work together to ensure that we support those who are seeking sanctuary. For information see <https://hopin.com/events/uog-compassionintoaction>

Countering Online Hate: Tactics and Strategies for Media Activism

21 June 2023 (online and in Keele, 9.30–4.30)

Keele University event to explore the possibilities and limitations of online counternarratives to online hate speech, particularly on Twitter and other public facing platforms, and share findings from the project 'Contesting Islamophobia: Representation and Appropriation in Mediated Activism'. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2apxk3ej>

**** Life after Windrush**

21 June 2023 (online, 6.00–7.15)

Black History Year Steering Group in-depth discussion about first hand experiences of the Windrush. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/3z7xzycb>

**** Windrush 75: The History & Legacy of the Windrush Generation**

21 June 2023 (7.00–9.00)

Black History Studies webinar to uncover the history of the African presence in Britain before 1948, the history and legacy of race relations legislation in the UK, activists and organisations who challenged discriminatory behaviour before and since the arrival of the Windrush Generations in 1948 and the ongoing challenges faced by Black people in the UK. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2nb3yr9s>

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>

Learn about the Hostile Environment & How to be a Good Ally

22 June 2023 (Glasgow, 6.00–8.30)

24 June 2023 (Glasgow, 3.00–5.30)

Workshop for those who want to learn more about the asylum process in the UK, co-created with people who have direct experience of the UK's Hostile Environment policies. This session will breakdown the reality beyond the headlines and the political rhetoric. We aim to answer questions such as: What does it mean to be a refugee? Is an asylum seeker

different? Why are people paying smugglers to get in small boats? For information about the 22 June event see <https://tinyurl.com/bdduprh2>, and for 24 June see <https://tinyurl.com/35sj5yte>

Working with and against race

22 June 2023 (online and in Manchester, 2.00–5.00)

CODE ECR seminar about how to conceptualise race as a technology of power via Cedric Robinson's idea of the racial regime, in order to help us think about how race is recursively enacted, and to explore the ways in which racial capitalism can be used as a methodology. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yck7zfhj>

Scholarship Event

24 June 2023 (Glasgow, 3.00–7.00)

Africa Future event focusing on scholarship opportunities. This discussion will help asylum seekers find out about how to access scholarships from different universities in Scotland. Participants will be able to ask questions and have responses at the event. Different MPs, MSPs, councillors and Police Scotland will be at the event as well and available to answer questions. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/msxxdtk3>

**** A Conversation on Windrush**

28 June 2023 (online, 7.00–8.15)

Welsh People's History Society conversation on the lives and legacy of the Windrush generation. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/3734ahek>

**** The story of Empire Windrush in ten documents**

21 July 2023 (online, 2.00–3.00)

National Archives event to explore what government records can tell us about migration from the Caribbean in the post-war era, and the experiences of people who settled. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/mr22nu2m>

Developing a Volunteer Strategy

19 September 2023 (Stirling, 10.00–4.00)

Volunteer Scotland course to discuss the purpose of developing a strategy for volunteering, the benefits of a volunteering strategy for the wider organisation, and steps to develop a strategy. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/mu3dkx53>

Supporting Volunteers

4 October 2023 (Stirling, 10.00–4.00)

Volunteer Scotland course to discuss building a positive relationship with volunteers, plan and deliver a suitable induction process, identify and apply different support methods, and manage some of the challenges of supporting volunteers. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2nbpr7se>

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Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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SCoJeC
Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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



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



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

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