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The Scottish Parliament is in recess until 4 September 2023.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Ukrainian Refugees

Miles Briggs (Conservative) [S6W-19378] To ask the Scottish Government what information it has on how many Ukrainian refugees, who initially settled in Scotland after 24 February 2022, have relocated to England.

Reply from Emma Roddick: Under the current constitutional arrangements in the United Kingdom the application process for all immigration routes is fully reserved to the UK Government and is dealt with by the Home Office. If a displaced person from Ukraine has been issued a visa, including under the Scottish Super Sponsor Scheme, they are free to travel anywhere within the UK or to leave and re-enter the

UK when they wish, as long as they are meeting the conditions within their visa. The cross border geographical movement, within the UK, which includes that between Scotland and England is not monitored and the data requested is therefore not available.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-19378>

UK Parliament Debate

Windrush Generation: 75th Anniversary

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-07-07/debates/906E510D-D78C-4A99-8477-EF72F05C5806/WindrushGeneration75ThAnniversary>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Net Migration

Sarah Atherton (Conservative) [905731] What steps is [the Minister] taking to reduce net migration.

James Daly (Conservative) [905750] What steps is [the Minister] taking to reduce net migration.

Reply from the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Suella Braverman): Net migration is too high, and this Government are determined to bring it down. Indeed, that was one of the reasons why I voted and campaigned to leave the European Union in 2016. Last month, I announced measures to reduce the number of student dependants coming to the UK, which has soared by 35%, and to stop people transferring from student visas to work visas. We expect net migration to return to sustainable levels over time, and immigration policy is under constant review.

Sarah Atherton: The Labour-Plaid coalition in Cardiff has declared Wales a “sanctuary for all.” The world is welcome. However, its Ukrainian super-sponsor scheme fell apart due to a lack of accommodation and planning, with families still crammed into single rooms. What discussions has the Secretary of State had with the Welsh Labour Government about the collapse of their super-sponsor scheme? Does she know how many families are still inappropriately placed?

Reply from Suella Braverman: We are very proud of this country’s track record on providing sanctuary to people in need, and I am very proud of the support that the Government have given to Ukrainians fleeing Putin’s barbaric war. But when it comes to broader accommodation costs relating to asylum seekers, it is clear that we are spending far too much—£6 million a day, or £3 billion a year—on housing asylum seekers in hotels. ...

James Daly: Do the Government have any plans to amend the minimum salary requirement for the skilled worker visa scheme?

Reply from Suella Braverman: We always keep the salary threshold under review but, as I said, net migration is too high and we need to get overall numbers down. How do we do that? Well, employers need to recruit more people who are already here, rather than advertising abroad so much. We also need to get more people off welfare and back into economic activity, and our welfare reforms will help with that objective. We cannot ignore the pressure that record levels of people coming to the UK puts on housing supply, public services and community relations. That is why we need to focus on lowering net migration.

Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat): Of course, net emigration is the problem in some parts

of the UK. ... I have been speaking to the Minister for Immigration about a youth mobility visa scheme, negotiated bilaterally with other countries in Europe, to solve our economic needs so that our hospitality and tourism industries can survive. ...

Reply from Suella Braverman: Migration is a very complex issue, and of course we have to balance the needs of the labour market. That is why we are very pleased to support well-crafted youth mobility schemes. There is one with India, and I have just come back from New Zealand, where we have expanded our youth mobility scheme. They are great schemes that allow the exchange of young people, who can come here to serve and work in our economy.

Jim Shannon (DUP): It is very clear that the issue of migration must be settled and sorted out. At the same time, it is important to note that those who have come from eastern Europe, the middle east and Africa are contributing to the economy of my Strangford constituency. I think the Secretary of State is committed to ensuring that continues, but what discussions has she had with the Northern Ireland Assembly to ensure that we continue to have the workers we need?

Reply from Suella Braverman: No single measure can control net migration, but as the Prime Minister has been clear, net migration is too high. That is why I recently announced a series of measures aimed at reducing the number of student dependants, which has risen exponentially over the past few years, and ensuring that students come here in a more proportionate and balanced way.

Yvette Cooper (Labour): ... Does [the Minister] agree with [the deputy chairman of the Conservative Party] that social care visas should be cancelled—yes or no?

Reply from Suella Braverman: The sorry fact of the matter is that Labour wants open borders and unlimited migration. ...

Yvette Cooper: The Home Secretary could not answer the question: does she support her own social care visas or not? ...

This is total chaos. We have a Rwanda policy that is not removing anyone; an impact assessment that says her policies will not work and will cost much more; a 50% drop in removals of foreign criminals—the inspector says this is because the Home Office cannot even identify who can be removed; a record number of people in hotels; a record high asylum backlog ...

Reply from Suella Braverman: ... only the Conservative party and this Prime Minister have a serious plan to stop the boats and stop illegal migration, and that Labour stands for only one thing: open borders and unlimited migration. Labour Members would rather spend their time campaigning to block the deportation of foreign criminals than back our Illegal Migration Bill. They are on the side of the criminal gangs, not on the side of the British people.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-07-03/debates/21D10CAE-7D43-472A-A92D-C58EB9C43362/NetMigration>

Illegal Migration Bill: UN Refugee Convention

Anum Qaisar (SNP) [905736] What recent assessment [the Minister] has made of the compatibility of the Illegal Migration Bill with the 1951 UN refugee convention.

Reply from the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Suella Braverman): While I am pleased that the Court of Appeal found that the Government are not in breach of our obligations under the refugee convention, I fundamentally disagree with the judgment that Rwanda is not a safe place for refugees and we are seeking permission to appeal. The Government take our international obligations very seriously and we are satisfied that the provisions in the Illegal Migration Bill comply with the refugee convention. The fundamental principle remains, however, that those in need of protection should claim asylum at the earliest opportunity and in the first safe country that they reach.

Anum Qaisar: The Home Secretary and the Government website say that they are

satisfied that the provisions of the Illegal Migration Bill comply with the 1951 UN refugee convention. I am looking for clarity from the Home Secretary. What exactly is it about persecuting the most vulnerable groups, creating a hostile environment and stripping people of their right to seek safety that complies so well with the UN refugee convention?

Reply from Suella Braverman: As I have made clear, we take our international obligations very seriously, and we are satisfied that the Bill complies with the refugee convention. With respect to the hon. Lady, I will not take lectures from the SNP on this matter. ... They are happy to support asylum seekers as long as they are nowhere near Scotland. When they stop opposing the vessel in Leith, which will house more asylum seekers, then we can have a serious conversation.

Philip Hollobone (Conservative): The UN Refugee Agency has its own asylum seeker relocation programme: it flies asylum seekers from Libya to Rwanda in a scheme part-funded by the European Union. How on earth can Rwanda be deemed not to be a safe country if the UN Refugee Agency itself is using it as a safe haven?

Reply from Suella Braverman: As always, my hon. Friend makes a powerful point, and I could not agree with him more. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees runs an extensive scheme in Rwanda, and supports the resettlement of many thousands of migrants. I met some of them in my recent visit to Rwanda. They are happy and grateful for the generosity and welcome that Rwanda has offered them, which has allowed them to restart their lives. I am frankly very disappointed by the constant smears and assumptions, which are based on outdated and ignorant views, denigrating our allies in Rwanda. I am nothing but grateful to our partners in Rwanda for the continued co-operation.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-07-03/debates/F4BA312E-16A3-485B-A005-5B211976E261/IllegalMigrationBillUNRefugeeConvention>

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

<https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/AAA-v-SSHD-summary-290623.pdf>

Illegal Migration Bill

Chris Stephens (SNP) [905802] What discussions [the Minister] has had with Cabinet colleagues on the compatibility of the Illegal Migration Bill with the European convention on human rights.

Reply from the Attorney General (Victoria Prentis): As the hon. Gentleman knows, I am bound by the Law Officers' convention not only to not talk about advice that I give to Cabinet colleagues, but to not even reveal whether such advice has been given.

Chris Stephens: The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees gave evidence to the Court of Appeal, advising the court on matters concerning international refugee law. That ultimately contributed to the Bill being found unlawful. The recommendations included co-operation with EU neighbours and fair and fast asylum procedures that are more humane, efficient and cost-effective. Will the Attorney General ensure that the Cabinet listens and enacts those recommendations?

Reply from the Attorney General: The Government are disappointed by the recent outcome of the case before the Court of Appeal and will seek permission to appeal to the Supreme Court. The Court of Appeal did say that the policy of removal to a safe third country could be compatible, and it did not disturb the finding of the High Court that Rwanda is safe, though the majority was concerned about the possibility of onward removal from Rwanda. The Government will make robust arguments before the Supreme Court and will be applying for permission later today. ...

Andy Slaughter (Labour): The former Lord Chancellor, the right hon. Member for Esher and Walton (Dominic Raab), when told of the demise of his Bill of Rights, said: "All the wrong people will celebrate."

Was the Attorney General celebrating the defeat of that attack on our European convention rights? Will she now stand up to other of her Cabinet colleagues who repeatedly transgress international law? ...

Reply from the Attorney General: I absolutely can and do stand up for the rule of law. The Government are committed to the rule of law domestically and committed to maintaining and upholding our obligations under international law. That is made quite clear to all Ministers. ...

Angela Crawley (SNP): The Rwanda asylum plan was declared so poor that it threatened the rights of asylum seekers not to be tortured or subjected to inhumane treatment, and it was found incompatible with a host of international conventions. Those were the findings of the Court of Appeal, and the Supreme Court will inevitably reach the same conclusion. How much taxpayers' money does the Attorney General estimate the Government will spend appealing this illegal plan?

Reply from the Attorney General: I absolutely do not accept the premise of the hon. Lady's question. The divisional court was a strong win for the Government. At the Court of Appeal, the majority found against us, but we also had a strong judgment from the Lord Chief Justice. We believe that the assurances we have had from Rwanda regarding asylum protections there are robust, and we intend to make those arguments strongly in the Supreme Court.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-07-06/debates/ACE754EB-43C8-44B1-B7A7-767AA3B228AF/IllegalMigrationBill>

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

<https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/AAA-v-SSHD-summary-290623.pdf>

Illegal Migration Bill: Devolved Administrations

Chris Stephens (SNP) [905735] Whether [the Minister] has had recent discussions with the devolved Administrations on the Illegal Migration Bill.

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Robert Jenrick): I have engaged regularly with the devolved Administrations on the Illegal Migration Bill since its introduction in March, in addition to my periodic meetings with my ministerial counterparts on a variety of immigration issues. Most recently, I met the Scottish Minister for Equalities, Migration and Refugees in May. Looking ahead, the Bill is on the agenda for the inter-ministerial group for safety, security and migration, which my right hon. and learned Friend the Home Secretary will chair later this month.

Chris Stephens: The Bill will place restrictions on the powers of Scottish Ministers, removing the entitlement for victims of human trafficking and exploitation to access Scottish Government-funded support services, and will undermine the Scottish Government's ability to deliver on their trafficking and exploitation strategy. We know what route the Government's damaging ideology is dragging them down, but why should Scotland's elected Parliament and the devolved Administrations be dragged down the same route, when it is abundantly clear that we want no part of the hostile environment ideology?

Reply from Robert Jenrick: If the Scottish Government cared so deeply about this issue, they would accommodate more asylum seekers. The SNP Government are accommodating just 4.5% of the total asylum population being accommodated in the UK, when Scotland makes up 8.1% of the UK population. I took the time to look at some of the statistics for those local authorities in Scotland where the SNP is the largest party: Clackmannanshire, zero asylum seekers; Dundee, zero asylum seekers; East Ayrshire, zero; East Dunbartonshire, zero; Midlothian, zero; North Ayrshire—want to take a guess, Mr Speaker?—zero; North Lanarkshire, six ...

Patrick Grady (SNP): The Minister clearly thinks that that is a very clever line, but he knows well that Glasgow takes more refugees per head of population than any other local

authority in the United Kingdom. The line he is trotting out is simply wrong and it is insulting to all those in Scotland who have opened their homes to Ukrainians, the communities across the country who have welcomed Syrians and the volunteers in the big cities who work with asylum seekers every day, helping them to overcome trauma. If he wants Scotland to do more to welcome refugees, when is he going to devolve the power and the financial levers that would allow us to do so?

Reply from Robert Jenrick: For good reason, immigration is a reserved matter, but the statistics I have just read out make the point as clear as can be. The SNP tries its very best to undermine the Government's work to stop the boats, but it refuses to accommodate these people when they arrive, and the costs of its fake humanitarianism are borne by everyone but itself. That is not just hypocrisy; it is deeply irresponsible, and the public have had enough.

Patrick Grady: It is not the Scottish Government's policy towards immigration, refugees and asylum seekers that has been ruled unlawful by the Court of Appeal. If the Minister wants the system to work and he wants the Scottish Government to do their part, he must take more action to clear the backlog, as we have heard; there must be proper safe and legal rights for people to arrive; and they must be given the right to work when they get here, because then they can pay for their own accommodation and they will not cost the taxpayer money.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Just the other day, the Home Office suggested to the Scottish Government that a vessel that had been used to house Ukrainian refugees in Leith could be used for others who are asylum seekers—the same vessel, the same port, the same provider, the same package. What did the SNP say? No.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-07-03/debates/24811573-F921-4803-98B9-95F050D40652/IllegalMigrationBillDevolvedAdministrations>

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

<https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/AAA-v-SSHD-summary-290623.pdf>

Asylum Application Backlog

Chi Onwurah (Labour) [905734] What recent progress [the Minister's] Department has made on reducing the backlog of asylum applications.

Kevin Brennan (Labour) [905752] What recent progress [the Minister's] Department has made on reducing the backlog of asylum applications.

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Robert Jenrick): We are making good progress, and the latest Home Office statistics show that asylum decisions are up, with a 35% increase since last year in the number made. Productivity has increased, and we are on track to have 2,500 decision makers by September, which represents a quadrupling of the number of case workers.

Chi Onwurah: Like many Members from all parties, I am constantly contacted by refugees who are desperate to know what is happening to their asylum claim after years of waiting, so I asked the Home Office how many refugees in Newcastle had been waiting for one, two, three, four and five years. The answer came back that the Home Office does not know—it does not even record the data. Instead of indulging in unworkable, unethical, illegal and unaffordable flights of Rwandan fantasy, why does the Home Secretary not focus on her day job and fix the asylum backlog?

Reply from Robert Jenrick: As I just said, we are making good progress on reducing the asylum backlog. Important though the reducing the backlog is, however, it cannot be the totality of a plan. This is the point that the Labour party does not seem to understand: we have to stop the boats coming in the first place. That is the only sustainable way to tackle the issue. Even if we grant our way out of this problem, as the shadow Home Secretary seems to propose, the pressures on the state still remain; they are simply transferred to local authorities and the benefits system, and the British taxpayer continues to pick up the bill.

Kevin Brennan: The Minister has an interesting definition of being “on track”; did the number of decision makers not fall between January and May this year, from 1,333 to 1,280?

A constituent recently passed on to me a letter from a firm of local solicitors that said: “All possible avenues have been considered to avoid this situation but regrettably, the Home Office’s long term failure to progress asylum claims, and current Government immigration policy, has made it financially unsustainable for” these solicitors “to continue Legally Aided work.”

How does it help us as MPs on both sides of the House in our constituency offices, and how does it help with the backlog that the Home Office says it wants to reduce, to make sure that people do not have the legal representation they need to unblock the system and allow progress in asylum cases?

Reply from Robert Jenrick: I can assure the hon. Gentleman that the problem with our asylum system is not a lack of lawyers; there are plenty of legal representatives around. We have had strong overall progress on the backlog, and I am pleased to say that the early data that I have received suggests that last week saw the best performance in four years.

Tim Loughton (Conservative): I know how seriously the Minister takes dealing with the legacy backlog, but, as the Home Secretary showed at the recent Home Affairs Committee, in order to deal with that backlog in the timeframe that the Government have set themselves it would require at least a quadrupling of the number of cases being dealt with as from 1 June. Even with the extra 500 staff appointed at Stoke, that will be challenging. Will the Minister give me an assurance that, if we have not managed to clear the backlog before the end of the year, it will not be done by a blanket amnesty?

Reply from Robert Jenrick: My hon. Friend makes an important point. The Home Secretary, the Prime Minister and I explicitly chose not to pursue the blanket amnesty approach that the previous Labour Government pursued. Instead, we put in the hard yards to improve productivity by streamlining processes, reducing unnecessary bureaucracy, ensuring that, where appropriate, interviews were conducted in a timely fashion, and recruiting more decision makers. Since my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary appeared before the Committee, I am pleased to say that the data coming out of our caseworking team is very strong. We are seeing significant progress. As I just said, early indication suggests that last week was the best for over four years.

Edward Leigh (Conservative): I am a bit mystified. Given that 95% of these applications are successful, is it not the case that, if we speed up the process and make it easier and easier, more and more people will come? Is not the only solution to detain people and to deport them—offshore them? Those who suggest anything else are living in cloud cuckoo land and every single county will face what we face in Lincolnshire with thousands of illegal migrants having to be housed in unsuitable places. Let us have an answer for once.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The approach that the Home Secretary and I have taken has been both to ensure that, where there are high grant rate nationalities, cases are pursued swiftly, and where there are low grant rate nationalities, such as Albanians—individuals from a safe European country—who can and should be returned as quickly as possible, we do just that. At this point last year, 30% of those arriving on small boats were coming from Albania; today, it is less than 2%. That arrangement is clearly making good progress. None the less, my right hon. Friend makes an important point: those who suggest that we can simply grant our way out of this problem are, I am afraid, hopelessly naive. The idea that the individuals coming across on small boats will, in most cases, make a significant net contribution to our economy is wrong. The costs to the taxpayer are very significant. The ongoing costs of education, access to welfare and community cohesion are very significant, which is why we need to stop the boats in the first place.

Stephen Kinnock (Labour): ... the Court of Appeal ruling has revealed that Rwanda is able to process only 100 claims per year—around 0.3% of those who arrived on small boats last year. Can the Minister tell me what he is planning to do with the remaining 99.7%, and does he therefore agree that the prospect of the Rwanda plan actually deterring any migrant from crossing the channel is close to zero?

Reply from Robert Jenrick: I used to say that the Labour party does not have a plan, but the truth is that it does have a plan ... It is a plan that would ensure more granting of cases; more safe and legal routes, so even more individuals would come here; more hotels; and more cost to the British taxpayer. ...

To read the question and answer session in full see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-07-03/debates/9BAF80D9-A467-4DB4-99E3-56E238DC2C54/AsylumApplicationBacklog>

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

<https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/AAA-v-SSHD-summary-290623.pdf>

Asylum Accommodation: Hotels

Paulette Hamilton (Labour) [905740] What recent progress [the Minister's] Department has made on reducing the use of hotels as contingency asylum accommodation.

Jeff Smith (Labour) [905746] What recent progress [the Minister's] Department has made on reducing the use of hotels as contingency asylum accommodation.

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Robert Jenrick): The Home Office seeks to end the use of hotels and to move asylum seekers to less expensive, more suitable accommodation. To support that, we are bringing into use large, disused military sites and vessels, which will provide adequate, safe, secure, non-detained accommodation for asylum seekers and also reduce the pull factor to the United Kingdom.

Paulette Hamilton: I recently received an email from the Home Office that said that the use of hotels to house asylum seekers is “inappropriate”, and that reliance on them must be reduced. In the same email, the Home Office informed me that it planned to increase the use of hotel accommodation for asylum seekers in my constituency of Erdington by 159 ...

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The policy that we have adopted is one of maximising the capacity of the hotels that we have for as long as we have them. That is saving the taxpayer at least a quarter of a billion pounds and reducing reliance on hotels elsewhere in the country. I do appreciate that there are pressures on the hon. Lady's local authority, and I also appreciate that some Labour local authorities, such as Westminster City Council, say that asylum seekers must be housed in individual, ensuite bedrooms. We do not agree with that: it is a gross waste of taxpayers' money that would make the UK a soft touch.

Jeff Smith: ... The Home Office still has not explained how it is going to find the children missing from asylum accommodation, so will it set out the plans to do that and find these vulnerable people?

Reply from Robert Jenrick: We have been very clear that we and the police take extremely seriously any young person who goes missing from a hotel or any other form of accommodation. Local police forces and Home Office personnel treat that exactly as they would any other child going missing and they conduct a full missing person inquiry. However, the only sustainable answer to young people living in hotels is to stop the boats in the first place. Doing nothing is not an option. Doing nothing will lead to more young people living in those hotels and being exposed to human traffickers.

James Gray (Conservative): While I do very much welcome the Minister's determination to move away from hotels and towards other accommodation, will he give particular attention to the Wiltshire hotel and golf club in my constituency? The number there has

gone up: there are now 120 people there, and they are all crammed into very small accommodation. It is not only bad from the point of view of the golf club members and neighbouring long-term residents with them in housing next door, but it is an extremely bad place from the point of view of the asylum seekers. They have nowhere to go and nothing to do. They have no education facilities and no religious facilities. They are stuck in the middle of the countryside with no transport, and it is quite the wrong place for them to be. Will the Minister please give particular attention to the Wiltshire hotel?

Reply from Robert Jenrick: I am familiar with the hotel in my hon. Friend's constituency and the concerns he has raised. I will take a look at that, but as I have said previously, the answer to this challenge is to stop the boats coming in the first place. That is why we all need to support the Illegal Migration Bill. ...

Richard Fuller (Conservative): ... All Members would like to see a reduction in the number of hotels used for asylum accommodation—I am sure that is true—but ... there are signs across the country that communities do come together in these difficult circumstances to achieve an outcome that is beneficial for everyone.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: ... He is right to say that there are voluntary and community groups, charities and churches right across the country that support asylum seekers while they are in this form of accommodation, and we and our providers facilitate that wherever possible.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-07-03/debates/982F001D-C31A-42EA-A06B-6CC1E81A5601/AsylumAccommodationHotels>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer: Channel Migrants

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Chris Clarkson (Conservative) [905741] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to reduce the number of small boat crossings of the English Channel.

Reply from Suella Braverman: We have to stop these dangerous, illegal, and unnecessary crossings and are investing £480m with our French partners on additional personnel, facilities and technology.

Our Illegal Migration Bill will do more to remove those with no right to be here, deter migrants from crossing, and reduce the intolerable cost to the taxpayer. We will also seek permission to appeal the recent judgment about our partnership with Rwanda from the Court of Appeal.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-27/905741>

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

<https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/AAA-v-SSHD-summary-290623.pdf>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Afghanistan

Refugees: Afghanistan

Munira Wilson (Liberal Democrat) [191428] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when the second stage of Pathway 3 of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme will open for referrals.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Government is committed to the resettlement of eligible Afghans. As of the end of March 2023, around 24,600 vulnerable people have been brought to the UK. This includes 21,004 individuals resettled under the

Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy and Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme.

In the second stage of Pathway 3 of the ACRS, the UK government will work with international partners and NGOs to welcome wider groups of Afghans at risk. Further information will be published in due course.

Our immediate focus is ensuring the resettlement of those eligible in the first stage of Pathway 3, which includes individuals who directly supported the UK and international community's efforts in Afghanistan.

We recognise there are many vulnerable individuals who remain in Afghanistan and the region. Unfortunately, the capacity of the UK to resettle people is not unlimited and difficult decisions about who will be prioritised have to be made.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-27/191428>

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

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

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

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

Afghanistan: Refugees

Gregory Campbell (DUP) [191516] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many and what proportion of Afghan interpreters who requested resettlement have been accommodated in the UK.

Reply from James Heapey: Since the launch of the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) scheme in April 2021, we have received over 141,000 applications, and have relocated over 12,200 eligible individuals and their family members to safety in the UK.

We are unable to breakdown our figures by specific job role.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-28/191516>

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

Refugees: Afghanistan

Munira Wilson (Liberal Democrat) [191429] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Afghan citizens have been resettled under the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme in (a) its first year up to 6 January 2023 and (b) the first half of its second year up to 6 June 2023.

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

The latest [Immigration system statistics, year ending March 2023](#) (published on 25 May 2023), show that since their first arrivals in 2021, the Afghan schemes – the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) and the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) - have resettled a total of 21,004 people.

More information on the number of grants of Indefinite Leave to Remain issued to Afghans resettling under the ARAP or ACRS can be viewed at:

[Afghan Resettlement Programme: operational data](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-27/191429>

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

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

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

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

British Nationality: Children

Stephen Farry (Alliance) [191424] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of children applying for British citizenship had their application fees waived since (a) June 2022 and (b) June 2021.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office monitors the number of fee waiver applications for children registering for British citizenship. However, management information in this area is currently being collated, reviewed and assured, and we are therefore not in a position to share figures at this time. We are however considering the best mechanism for updating Parliament with this information when available and will do so at the earliest appropriate opportunity.

Prior to 16 June 2022, an application to register as a British citizen as a child, required the appropriate application fee to be paid and there was no discretion to waive the citizenship application fee.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-27/191424>

Migrants and Refugees: Resettlement

John Howell (Conservative) [901037] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the implications for her policies of the debate on the Integration of migrants and refugees at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on 21 June 2023.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The UK has a proud history of providing protection to those that need it. Since 2015, over half a million people have been offered safe and legal routes into the UK. This includes those from Hong Kong, Syria, Afghanistan, and Ukraine, as well as family members of refugees.

This Government is committed to ensuring that refugees arriving through safe and legal routes can take positive steps towards integration as they rebuild their lives in the UK.

All refugees and those granted protection in the UK have immediate access to the labour market and to mainstream benefits and services that support their integration. We are already working successfully with local authorities, strategic migration partners and community sponsors to implement measures that assist integration and enable self-sufficiency. The Home Office provides local authorities with funding to cover resettlement and integration costs for those who arrive through the UK Resettlement Scheme, the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme or the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy.

We are further delivering on our commitment to strengthen support for refugees through our Refugee Transitions Outcomes Fund (RTOF) and Refugee Employability Programme (REP) helping them to move into work, learn English, access housing and build links in their local communities.

We monitor and evaluate our programmes of support, to better understand refugee needs and integration outcomes.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-26/191037>

The debate referred to above can be read at

<https://pace.coe.int/en/verbatim/2023-06-21/pm/en#theme-1621>

Information about the UK Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1011824/Resettlement Policy Guidance 2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1011824/Resettlement_Policy_Guidance_2021.pdf)

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

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 Refugee Employability Programme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/refugee-employability-programme/refugee-employability-programme-policy-statement>

Undocumented Migrants

Anna Firth (Conservative) [905747] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to reduce illegal migration.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Prime Minister and I have a clear plan to reduce illegal migration.

Alongside our landmark Illegal Migration Bill, we are working more closely with international partners, including France; dismantling Organised Immigration Crime gangs; ending spurious modern slavery claims; and reforming our asylum system.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-27/905747>

Asylum: Applications

Peter Gibson (Conservative) [191372] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent steps she has taken to prevent asylum applications being awarded to individuals who support proscribed terror groups.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: All asylum seekers undergo security checks against immigration and police databases to identify those who may have been involved in criminality both in the UK or abroad – including war crimes, crimes against humanity and terrorism.

All foreign nationals, including asylum seekers and refugees, can and will face prosecution for criminal offences in the same way as any other individual in the UK, and will have their immigration status reviewed if convicted.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-27/191372>

Asylum: Employment

Matthew Offord (Conservative) [905748] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of allowing all asylum seekers to work.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Asylum seekers can work in the UK in occupations from the Shortage Occupation List if their claim has been outstanding for 12 months or more, through no fault of their own.

Asylum seekers can volunteer, so long as it does not amount to unpaid work. There are safe & legal routes to work in the UK under the Points Based System.

- The Home Office deployed over 300 immigration officers on a record breaking 140 enforcement visits in one day, resulting in 95 arrests.

- In the first quarter of 2023, Immigration Enforcement teams delivered 1,303 enforcement visits, a 57% increase on the same period last year

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-27/905748>

Asylum: Children

Caroline Lucas (Green) [191104] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 8 March 2023 to Question 149437 on Asylum: Children, for what reason she has not provided the specific information requested with reference to page 10 of the National Transfer Scheme Protocol for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children, Version 4.0, asking what proportion of transfers under the National Transfer Scheme for unaccompanied asylum seeking children not in the care of a local authority are taking place within five working days of a referral; if she will provide a response to that question; and if she will make a statement.

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

As set out in the National Transfer Scheme (NTS) protocol on 24 August 2022 the transfer timeframe was reduced to five working days for all unaccompanied asylum-seeking children transferring from interim hotels not currently in the care of a local authority. Based on local management information, approximately half of all children transfer within 5 days.

The NTS has seen 4,875 children transferred to local authorities with children's services between 1 July 2021 and 31 March 2023, which is over six times the number of transfers in the same time frame in previous years. (October 2019 – June 2021 there were 793 transfers). The time it takes for a local authority to identify a placement varies and has meant some children experience delays in transferring. Where there are significant delays we will look to move the child to Kent County Council's Reception and Safe Care Service or reallocate the child to a different local authority. Delays may also occur where a child refuses to transfer to the placement. Social workers from the emergency hotels and local authorities work close with the children to encourage them to take the offered placement.

The safety and wellbeing of those in our care is our primary concern. Robust safeguarding and welfare procedures are in place to ensure all children are safe and supported as we seek urgent placements with a local authority. This includes support workers being onsite in the hotels 24 hours a day, supported by nurses and social workers. UASC are not detained and are free to leave the accommodation. All contingency sites have security staff and providers liaise closely with local police to ensure the welfare and safety of vulnerable residents.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-26/191104>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-21/149437>

The National Transfer Scheme Protocol, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1167561/National_Transfer_Scheme_NTS_Protocol_for_unaccompanied_a_sylum_seeking_children_UASC_.pdf

Asylum: Children

Caroline Lucas (Green) [191105] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 3 February 2023 to Question 132332 on Asylum: Children, whether each unaccompanied asylum seeking child on arrival at their accommodation will be explicitly informed (a) that they will not be sent to Rwanda, (b) of their rights as a child seeking asylum in the UK, (c) of the risks to them of people seeking to exploit children staying in asylum hotels, (d) of advice to stay safe and (e) about how to seek help if in difficulty; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Hotel accommodation is only ever a temporary means to accommodate the increased number of arriving unaccompanied children, in advance of them entering local authority care. Unaccompanied children are accommodated in hotels for the shortest time possible. No decisions on their immigration status or asylum claims are taken until they are in local authority care. We take the welfare of those in our care extremely seriously. We have robust safeguarding procedures in place to ensure all unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) temporarily accommodated in hotels are safe and supported whilst we seek urgent placements with a local authority. The young people are given briefings on a range of issues around how to stay safe including (but not limited to), knife crime, drugs and alcohol and water safety.

All contingency sites have security staff on site 24/7 and providers liaise closely with local police to ensure the welfare and safety of vulnerable residents.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-26/191105>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-25/132332>

Asylum: Children

Caroline Lucas (Green) [191106] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent discussions she has had with (a) the Secretary of State for Education and (b) the Chief Inspector of Ofsted about implementing an inspection framework for hotels used by the Home Office to house unaccompanied asylum seeking children; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The role of the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration (ICIBI) (until 2012, the Chief Inspector of the UK Border Agency) was established by the UK Borders Act 2007. Sections 48–56 of the UK Borders Act 2007 (as amended) provide the legislative framework for the inspection of the efficiency and effectiveness of the performance of functions relating to immigration, asylum, nationality and customs by the Home Secretary and by any person exercising such functions on her behalf.

In October 2022, the ICIBI published a report into his inspection between March – May 2022 on the use of hotels for housing unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC). The report can be found on gov.uk:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/an-inspection-of-the-use-of-hotels-for-housing-unaccompanied-asylum-seeking-children-uasc-march-may-2022>

The ICIBI was assisted in the inspection by Ofsted, acting in an advisory capacity. The ICIBI's inspection found that 'unanimously' the young people accommodated at the interim hotels reported feeling 'happy and safe'.

We are taking a new power in the Illegal Migration Bill to provide or arrange for the provision of accommodation for unaccompanied children. Our policy intention is to ensure that whilst time in this accommodation is expected to be short, we will be seeking to meet standards which are appropriate for the accommodation so that children are sufficiently supported and safeguarded. We are working closely with the Department for Education and relevant stakeholders on the appropriate standards which should apply. With regards to inspection, we expect to be transparent in allowing appropriate scrutiny of our accommodation linked to any agreed appropriate standards.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-26/191106>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Children

Caroline Lucas (Green) [191107] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reasons the decision to make the National Transfer Scheme for unaccompanied

asylum seeking children mandatory for all local authorities has not resulted in the elimination of the use of hotel accommodation for unaccompanied asylum seeking children; and if she will make a statement.

Caroline Lucas (Green) [191108] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to end the practice of placing unaccompanied asylum seeking children in hotels.

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

Since 15 February 2022, all local authorities with children's services in the UK have been directed to participate in the National Transfer Scheme (NTS) to ensure UASC receive the critical care they need.

Between 1 July 2021 and 31 March 2023, the NTS transferred 4,875 children to local authorities with children's services which is over six times the number of transfers in the same time frame in previous years (between October 2019 – June 2021 there were 793 transfers).

It remains our intention to end the use of hotels for UASC and we have offered incentivised funding to local authorities to move these young people in the care system. However, the continuing numbers of unaccompanied children arriving in the UK by small boat means we have had no choice but to maintain the use of hotels to temporarily accommodate UASC.

We are taking a new power in the Illegal Migration Bill to provide or arrange for the provision of accommodation for unaccompanied children. We are also taking a power to direct a local authority in England to provide accommodation to an unaccompanied child, reflecting our position that any time spent in Home Office accommodation should be temporary.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-26/191107>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-26/191108>

Asylum: Children

Caroline Lucas (Green) [191275] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the adequacy of the (a) capacity to inspect hotels housing unaccompanied children and (b) child safeguarding expertise of (i) Ofsted and (ii) the independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Ofsted assisted the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration (ICIBI) in the inspection on the use of hotels for housing unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) due to their expertise in child safeguarding. The inspection found that 'unanimously' the young people accommodated at the interim hotels reported feeling 'happy and safe'.

We are taking a new power in the Illegal Migration Bill to provide or arrange for the provision of accommodation for unaccompanied children. Our policy intention is to ensure that whilst time in this accommodation is expected to be short, we will be seeking to meet standards which are appropriate for the accommodation so that children are sufficiently supported and safeguarded.

We are working closely with the Department for Education and relevant stakeholders on the appropriate standards which should apply. With regards to inspection, we expect to be transparent in allowing scrutiny of our accommodation linked to any agreed appropriate standards.

Children: Asylum

Alison Thewliss (SNP) [191174] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many and what proportion of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children have gone missing from (a) local authority and (b) foster care in each month in each of the last 10 years.

Reply from Claire Coutinho: Education is a devolved matter, and the response outlines the information for England only

The department takes the issue of any child going missing, either from home or from local authority care, extremely seriously. Local authorities are legally responsible for protecting all children, regardless of where they go missing from.

When a child is found, they must be offered an independent return interview and local authorities, police, and voluntary services should work together to build a comprehensive picture of why the child went missing and to understand what support they may need in the future to prevent them from going missing again.

The latest available information on children missing from care relates to the year ending 31 March 2022 and is available in the 'Children looked after in England (including adoption): 2021 to 2022' statistical release, at:

<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/data-tables/permalink/d3f7d671-6341-4294-fa64-08db73cb8f1d>

This data has been collected since 2014/15. The vast majority (90%) of missing incidents for all looked after children last for two days or less.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-26/191174>

Asylum: Children

Alison Thewliss (SNP) [191311] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 20 June to Question 189803 on Asylum: Children and with reference to oral evidence given by ECPAT UK and Barnardos to the Home Affairs Select Committee on 21 June 2023, how many unaccompanied asylum seeking children (a) were being accommodated in Home Office hotels and (b) remained missing from Home Office hotels on 26 June.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: We take the safety of those in our care seriously. We have robust safeguarding procedures in place to ensure all young people in hotels are safe and supported as we seek urgent placements with a local authority.

Young people are supported by team leaders and support workers who are on site 24 hours a day. Further care is provided in hotels by teams of social workers and nurses. All contingency sites have security staff on site 24/7 and providers liaise closely with local police to ensure the welfare and safety of vulnerable residents.

There were 154 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) missing as of 8 June 2023. The further data requested cannot be provided as it is from live operational databases, not published data.

If any child goes missing, including an accompanied asylum seeking child, the MARS (Missing After Reasonable Steps) protocol is followed. A multi-agency, missing persons meeting is chaired by the local authority to establish the young person's whereabouts and to ensure that they are safe. Similar protocols within police forces have safely reduced the number of missing episodes from placements by 36%.

The Home Office continue to work with the police and local authorities to ensure the children in our care are safe. The police are responsible for locating any missing children.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-27/191311>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-15/189803>

The evidence to the Home Affairs Committee referred to above can be read at <https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/13369/html/>

Asylum: Leith

Deidre Brock (SNP) [191812] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has held recent discussions with (a) City of Edinburgh Council, (b) the Scottish Government, (c) Forth Ports Ltd and (d) any other stakeholders on proposals to accommodate asylum seekers on the MS Victoria cruise ship in Leith.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office met with representatives of Scottish government and Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) on several occasions in May to discuss the possibility of placing a vessel in Leith to accommodate asylum seekers.

In addition, the Home Office established a Multi-Agency Forum (MAF), involving the Council, Health, Police and other public agencies, as a structured forum for discussion with statutory bodies and key stakeholders.

The City of Edinburgh Council opposed the use of this site.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-29/191812>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Falmouth

Luke Pollard (Labour Co-op) [191654] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the potential cost to the public purse of refitting the Bibby Stockholm barge in Falmouth Docks to accommodate asylum seekers; and whether this cost has increased since work began.

Luke Pollard (Labour Co-op) [191656] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the potential cost to the public purse of housing asylum seekers on the Bibby Stockholm barge; and whether this cost can be broken down per asylum seeker.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Cost information is prospective and commercially sensitive, and as such is not available to be released. The pressure on the asylum system from small boat arrivals has continued to grow and requires us to look at a range of accommodation options which are more appropriate and offer better value for the taxpayer than expensive hotels.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-28/191654>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-28/191656>

Asylum: Falmouth

Luke Pollard (Labour Co-op) [191655] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her original timescale was for refitting the Bibby Stockholm barge in Falmouth Docks to accommodate asylum seekers; and whether this timescale has changed since work began.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Bibby Stockholm will arrive in Portland in early July and asylum seekers are expected to be moved onto the Bibby Stockholm from mid-July onwards.

It will be in place initially for 18 months but kept under review. The Bibby Stockholm is now in Falmouth where it is undergoing a statutory inspection along with any necessary refurbishment and general maintenance ahead of its berthing in Portland in the coming weeks. It will not be used to house asylum seekers whilst in Falmouth.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-28/191655>

Asylum: Falmouth

Luke Pollard (Labour Co-op) [191657] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, whether she plans to use Falmouth Docks to refit more barges to house asylum seekers.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: We do not comment on individual sites. The Home Office are assessing all suitable options for accommodation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-28/191657>

Asylum: Falmouth

Luke Pollard (Labour Co-op) [191863] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department conducted a structural survey of the Bibby Stockholm before it underwent refitting in Falmouth Docks.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Bibby Stockholm is now in Falmouth where it is undergoing a statutory inspection along with any necessary refurbishment and general maintenance ahead of its berthing in Portland in the coming weeks. It will not be used to house asylum seekers whilst in Falmouth.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-29/191863>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Asylum: River Tees

Alex Cunningham (Labour) [191916] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether it is her Department's policy to site an accommodation barge on the River Tees to accommodate asylum seekers.

Alex Cunningham (Labour) [191917] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether existing statutory powers are in place to direct the Tees Port Authority to site an accommodation barge on the River Tees.

Alex Cunningham (Labour) [191918] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has made assessment of the potential impact of accommodating additional asylum seekers on an accommodation barge in Teesside on (a) hospitals, (b) GPs, (c) dentists and (d) other local services.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office has a statutory obligation to provide accommodation and other support to asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute while their application for asylum is being considered.

We do not publicly comment on individual sites which may or may not be utilised. When a site becomes available and meets the requirements of our accommodation contract, we will follow our engagement process and notify local authority officials and other stakeholders in advance of using the location.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-30/191916>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-30/191917>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-30/191918>

Asylum: MOD Wethersfield

Priti Patel (Conservative) [191113] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has for undertaking age verification checks for asylum seekers to be accommodated at the MOD Wethersfield site; and if she will publish details of the age verification process.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: There is already an established procedure in place at Western Jet Foil for performing age assessment on all new arrivals as part of screening.

The initial age decision, based on physical appearance and demeanour, is conducted as soon as practicable. It serves as a first step to ensure individuals are routed into the correct process and avoids unnecessarily subjecting individuals who are clearly adults or clearly children to a comprehensive Merton-compliant age

assessment. The threshold is set deliberately high in recognition of the difficulty in assessing an individual's age based on physical appearance and demeanour. If doubt remains about whether the claimant is an adult or a child, they are referred for further consideration of their age and treated as a child for immigration purposes until further assessment of their age has been completed. We have placed specific mitigations for large sites which sets the threshold deliberately higher than for other contingency accommodation to ensure the impact on the local community is as minimal as possible

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-26/191113>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Heathrow Immigration Removal Centre

Nadia Whittome (Labour) [191388] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment her Department has made of the adequacy of detainees' access to medical services in the Heathrow Immigration Removal Centre.

Nadia Whittome (Labour) [191389] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many incidents of (a) self-harm, (b) suicide and (c) attempted suicide have been recorded at Heathrow Immigration Removal Centre in each of the last two years.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: In relation to the provision of healthcare in immigration removal centres (IRC), we take our responsibilities towards detained individuals' health and welfare seriously. All IRCs have dedicated health facilities run by doctors and nurses commissioned by NHS England and delivered to the equivalent quality standards as services are in the community.

Every detained individual arriving at an IRC receives an initial healthcare screening within 2 hours of their arrival which identifies any immediate or long-term healthcare risks. Unless they decline, detained individuals in IRCs are given an appointment with a doctor within 24 hours. Clinical pathways into other healthcare services are initiated at this point depending on the outcomes of the reception screen, for example into mental health services. Detained individuals have full access to the 24-hour on-site healthcare team during their stay in the IRC. Continuation of healthcare provision is included in contingency planning to ensure access to healthcare in unexpected incidents or circumstances.

All incidents of self-harm are treated very seriously, and every step is taken to prevent incidents of this nature. The Home Office requires IRC service providers to record management information on the number of incidents of self-harm that have required medical treatment. Information on incidents of self-harm which do not require medical treatment, or specifically, where the intent of the self-harm attempt is suicide, is not readily available from central statistical records.

The Home Office publishes data on the number of deaths of people detained under immigration powers. Data for each year from 2017, are published in Migration Statistics [Det_05 of the Detention summary tables](#). In the period 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2021 (the latest two-year period for which published information is available), there were no deaths of individuals detained in the Heathrow IRCs. The next annual data set regarding deaths of people detained under immigration powers, covering 2022, will be published later this year.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-27/191388>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-27/191389>

Offenders: Deportation

Laura Farris (Conservative) [905742] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to deport foreign national offenders.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: We are committed to protecting the public by removing foreign criminals and will do all we can to ensure that they cannot frustrate the removal process. There were several measures in our Nationality and Borders Act and further ones in the Illegal Migration Bill.

We removed more than 13,000 foreign national offenders between January 2019 and September 2022.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-27/905742>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Asylum: Children

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL8723] To ask His Majesty's Government what action they are taking to locate unaccompanied children who arrived in the UK since July 2021 who were placed in hotels in Kent and Sussex who have subsequently gone missing.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: Police forces are responsible for locating missing children, in their region, in line with standard processes for any missing child in the UK.

We take the safety of those in our care seriously. We have robust safeguarding procedures in place to ensure all young people in hotels are safe and supported as we seek urgent placements with a local authority.

Young people are supported by team leaders and support workers who are on site 24 hours a day. Further care is provided in hotels by teams of social workers and nurses. All contingency sites have security staff on site 24/7 and providers liaise closely with local police to ensure the welfare and safety of vulnerable residents.

If any child including unaccompanied asylum seeking children, goes missing the MARS (Missing After Reasonable Steps) protocol is followed. The local authority will work with multiple agencies to establish the young person's whereabouts and to ensure that they are safe. Similar protocols within police forces have safely reduced the number of missing episodes from placements by 36%.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-22/hl8723>

Asylum: Boats

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL8619] To ask His Majesty's Government where the barges that will be used to house asylum seekers will be located.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The Home Office has leased a vessel to accommodate in Portland Port, Dorset.

The locations where further vessels will be berthed will be released in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-19/hl8619>

Asylum: Boats

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL8621] To ask His Majesty's Government whether the barges that will be used to house asylum seekers will be seaborne; and if so, what arrangements they will put in place to enable those accommodated to visit (1) shops, (2) banks, and (3) other facilities.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: Vessels accommodating asylum seekers will be docked. Vessels are non-detained and transport will be provided.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-19/hl8621>

Asylum: Boats

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL8622] To ask His Majesty's Government when they will bring the barges that will be used to house asylum seekers into service.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The Bibby Stockholm will arrive in Portland shortly.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-19/hl8622>

Asylum: Boats

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL8623] To ask His Majesty's Government how many staff will be needed to service the barges that will be used to house asylum seekers; and how those staff will be (1) recruited, (2) trained, and (3) accommodated.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: Vessels will be managed by an experienced accommodation provider under contractual terms agreed with the Home Office. The same supplier has safely and successfully managed two vessels for Ukrainian refugees for the Scottish Government over the past year.

The provider is responsible for managing the services on the barge, including staff recruitment, training and accommodation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-19/hl8623>

New Publications

House of Commons Library Briefing: Asylum accommodation: hotels, vessels and large-scale sites

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9831/CBP-9831.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 Family Scheme, Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme (Homes for Ukraine) and Ukraine Extension Scheme visa data

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ukraine-family-scheme-application-data/ukraine-family-scheme-and-ukraine-sponsorship-scheme-homes-for-ukraine-visa-data--2>

Visa holders entering the UK under the Ukraine Humanitarian Schemes: 27 April to 15 May 2023

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/visaholdersenteringtheukundertheukrainehumanitarianschemes27aprilto15may2023>

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

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

News

Migration Bill: Lords back Archbishop's plan for refugee strategy

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-66113300>

Religious leaders join Welby to condemn migration bill

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/religious-leaders-join-welby-to-condemn-migration-bill-pmsb6z3t7>

Defeats for small boats bill in the Lords as Channel crossings set new record
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/jul/03/defeats-for-small-boats-bill-in-house-of-lords-as-channel-crossings-set-new-record>

Small boats bill ripped apart in Lords as peers say government living ‘in cloud cuckoo land’
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/rwanda-migrants-unlawful-small-boats-bill-b2368668.html>

Migration Bill: Lords vote to keep child migrant detention limits
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-66089663>

Ministers approve using force against child migrants
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/ministers-approve-using-force-against-child-refugees-30b98nxpp>

Sunak doubles down on controversial Rwanda plan and vows ‘vigorous’ fight ahead
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/rishi-sunak-rwanda-plan-vigorous-b2369291.html>

Channel migrant crossings hit new daily record for 2023
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/07/08/migrants-nearly-700-crossed-english-channel-uk-friday/>

Rishi Sunak’s ‘stop the boats’ pledge on Channel migrants heading for failure
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/rishi-sunak-channel-migrants-small-boats-r55qlnct0>

Minister Robert Jenrick ordered painting over of child asylum unit murals
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-66132158>

Staff at asylum reception centre ‘ordered to paint over welcoming pictures for children’
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/jenrick-braverman-small-boats-b2368990.html>

Home Office has painted over Mickey Mouse murals at asylum centre for lone children
https://inews.co.uk/news/politics/home-office-painted-mickey-mouse-murals-children-asylum-centre-2461147?ico=in-line_link

Stradey Park Hotel: Llanelli MP urges asylum seeker calm
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-66148545>

Refugees ‘hidden in plain sight’ aided by rural locals
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/refugees-hidden-in-plain-sight-aided-by-rural-locals-2g3zgvlr8>

Nearly two thirds of modern slavery claims by Albanians rejected after Government crackdown
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/07/03/modern-slavery-claims-by-albanians-rejected-after-crackdown/>

It's wrong that UK immigration and asylum systems make people destitute
<https://www.jrf.org.uk/blog/its-wrong-uk-immigration-and-asylum-systems-make-people-destitute>

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Equality

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Clinical Trials: Ethnicity

Sandesh Gulhane (Conservative) [S6W-19344] To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on what action it is taking to improve recruitment rates for clinical trials, especially among ethnically diverse communities.

Reply from Michael Matheson: The Scottish Government's Chief Scientist Office invests through NHS Research Scotland in the Scottish Health Research Register and Biobank (SHARE) to support the recruitment of people into health research studies and clinical trials. SHARE is an expanding register of over 300,000 people who have expressed an interest in participating in health research and have agreed to be contacted about studies to which they might be suited.

Data produced by SHARE shows ethnic and socioeconomic distributions supportive of inclusive recruitment to health research studies. CSO is also funding an ongoing project by the University of Aberdeen looking at ways to improve ethnic diversity in clinical trials and to help trial teams recruit and retain ethnic groups in studies.

In addition, In February 2023, the Scottish Government published an independent report on Equity of Access to Cancer Clinical Trials in Scotland. The report contains 51 recommendations, with an Implementation Board established to prioritise these and develop an implementation strategy. While the report focuses on cancer clinical trials, many of the recommendations are relevant across the clinical spectrum.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-19344>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/improving-equity-access-cancer-clinical-trials-scotland/>

News

The NHS at 75: Racial disparities and reliance

<https://www.runnymedetrust.org/blog/the-nhs-at-75-reliance-and-racial-inequities>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Missing Persons: Racial Discrimination

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour) [191370] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the extent of racial disparities in investigations of missing person cases.

Reply from Sarah Dines: People that go missing include some of the most vulnerable in our society. The Government is determined that missing people and their families receive the best possible protection and support from statutory agencies, including law enforcement, Government, and the voluntary sector.

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

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

This aligns with the findings from The Ethnicity of Missing People report, which also indicates the over-representation of Black children in care in missing reports. The National Police Chiefs' Council is leading work with police forces across England and Wales, the charity 'Missing People' and the NCA Missing Persons Unit on the issue of racial disparity in relation to missing people. They are looking at local force data to identify any possible racial disparity issues and what action is needed to address these.

This Government is focused on improving the police response to missing people from all backgrounds and on addressing racial and ethnic disparities, wherever these exist.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-27/191370>

The report referred to above can be read at

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

Cricket: Discrimination

Navendu Mishra (Labour) [191213] To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what discussion her Department has had with Sport England on racism and discrimination in cricket.

Reply from Stuart Andrew: The Government is clear that there is absolutely no place for racism, discrimination, bullying or harassment in sport or society. The government will review the findings of the Independent Commission for Equity in Cricket report, and we welcome the ECB's commitment to bring forward a plan to tackle these serious issues, which must be addressed fully.

The Government works closely with the sector, particularly its arm's length bodies Sport England and UK Sport, and national governing bodies of sport, to tackle racism and discrimination. As a funding partner, Sport England will continue to work with the ECB to ensure that progress is made in tackling discrimination and increasing diversity in cricket.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-26/191213>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://theicec.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/HOLDING-UP-A-MIRROR-TO-CRICKET-REPORT-ICEC.pdf>

New Publication

House of Commons Library Briefing: Metropolitan Police investigation into the murder of Stephen Lawrence

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cdp-2023-0160/>

News

Rishi Sunak condemns n-word slur found in official DWP document

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/n-word-racist-dwp-sunak-b2369097.html>

No 10 rejects investigation into n-word row

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/government-racist-slur-investigation-refuse-b2370597.html>

Post Office head of legal services apologises to inquiry for racist document

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/post-office-pol-horizon-one-high-court-b2369288.html>

Post Office says sorry for failure to hand over racist files

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/post-office-says-sorry-for-failure-to-hand-over-racist-files-sbw7stq6k>

White pupils excluded from extra Saturday literacy lessons

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/07/07/london-white-pupils-excluded-saturday-literacy-lessons/>

The school with extra lessons for black pupils only

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/the-school-with-extra-lessons-for-black-pupils-only-k6lwg58cq>

Walsall girl's isolation for hairstyle is 'discrimination'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-birmingham-66109146>

Police watchdog forced to apologise after court overturns clearance of officer who punched Black pensioner

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/errol-dixon-iopc-police-punch-b2369813.html>

Stephen Lawrence case: Retired detectives will not face prosecution over inquiry

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-66118651>

Stephen Lawrence case: Disgrace that detectives will not be charged - mother

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-66127025>

Former soldier wins appeal after facing religious discrimination, with help of equalities watchdog

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/former-soldier-wins-appeal-after-facing-religious-discrimination-help-equalities>

Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson: Yorkshire paying price for handling of racism case

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/cricket/azeem-rafiq-yorkshire-lord-labour-b2369853.html>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Debates

Ethnic Minority and Migrant Victims of Violence Against Women and Girls

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-07-05/debates/4817CC65-217B-49F0-9355-B5A3E0EBFC84/EthnicMinorityAndMigrantVictimsOfViolenceAgainstWomenAndGirls>

Winnie Ewing

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-07-04/debates/50FAF8F8-7709-4B56-A439-7186C88F9A9D/WinnieEwing>

New Publication

Criminalisation of victims of violence against women from ethnic minority and migrant communities

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CDP-2023-0149/CDP-2023-0149.pdf>

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Cost of Living

Scottish Government Website

Help during the cost of living crisis

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

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

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

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

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

News

Energy bill support: More than 700,000 households miss out

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-66124201>

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Other New Publications

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator: Sector Overview Report

<https://tinyurl.com/yckyy57>

Ethnic group differences in health, housing, education and economic status in Wales

<https://www.gov.wales/ethnic-group-differences-health-housing-education-and-economic-status-wales-census-2021-html>

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Other News

Scotland not fully part of Covid talks, inquiry told

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-66109077>

UK Covid Inquiry: Scotland did not implement recommendations and was 'late and slow' due to poor planning, says Dr Catherine Calderwood

<https://www.scotsman.com/health/uk-covid-inquiry-scotland-did-not-implement-recommendations-and-was-late-and-slow-due-to-poor-planning-says-dr-catherine-calderwood-4208500>

King Charles III: Special Edinburgh day ends with gun salute and flypast

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-66098124>

King Charles III: Oldest Honours bestowed on sovereign

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/23636489.king-charles-iii-oldest-honours-bestowed-soverign/>

King Charles Coronation service: Deep elements of Scottishness stir at St Giles' Cathedral as King Charles presented with Honours

<https://www.scotsman.com/heritage-and-retro/heritage/king-charles-coronation-service-deep-elements-of-scottishness-stir-at-st-giles-cathedral-as-king-charles-presented-with-honours-4208992>

King Charles receives Scottish crown jewels

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-scotland-66114446>

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Bill

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

Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill

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

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

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

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>

Report Stage, House of Lords

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-07-03/debates/CD2B0C3D-EBC6-4127-B718-2DA4491FC04C/IllegalMigrationBill>

and

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-07-03/debates/8A80CE96-4C16-4978-A7B9-E8389D71F2AB/IllegalMigrationBill>

and

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-07-05/debates/70F8E98D-5B16-480D-B881-CC1D2CAFBB09/IllegalMigrationBill>

Bill as amended on Report

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/52136/documents/3782>

Child's Rights Impact Assessment

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1167869/IMB - Child s Rights IA - v10 - FINAL.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1167869/IMB_-_Child_s_Rights_IA_-_v10_-_FINAL.pdf)

House of Commons Library Briefing: Lords stages and amendments

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9832/CBP-9832.pdf>

Immigration and Nationality Fees (Exemption for NHS Clinical Staff)

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

**** Online Safety Bill**

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

Report Stage, House of Lords

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-07-06/debates/7722BAA6-C15A-4413-8758-2AF0927061BF/OnlineSafetyBill>

and

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-07-06/debates/A3CD7080-9B88-4F19-A7A7-D81E1739B887/OnlineSafetyBill>

and

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-07-06/debates/35CCD184-5828-4C47-AA19-D19D8AF44938/OnlineSafetyBill>

Notice of amendments

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/52119/documents/3778>

and

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/52137/documents/3783>

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

Legal aid fees in the Illegal Migration Bill (closing date 24 July 2023)

<https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/legal-aid-fees-in-the-illegal-migration-bill/>

Victims, Witnesses, and Justice Reform (Scotland) Bill (closing date 8 September 2023)

<https://yourviews.parliament.scot/justice/victims-witnesses-justice-reform-bill/>

A Human Rights Bill for Scotland (closing date 5 October 2023)

<https://consult.gov.scot/equality-and-human-rights/a-human-rights-bill-for-scotland-consultation/>

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>

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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

People's Postcode Trust

Note that this application will only be open for 24 hours. Applications can be submitted from 10 am on 2 October 2023

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

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

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

and

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

Cost-of-Living Support Scotland

Application deadline not stated

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

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

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Scotland's New Human Rights Bill - Have Your Say

11 July 2023 (Glasgow, 12.30–4.30)

CEMVO consultation event to discuss what human rights look like and feel like to you including the right to healthy environment, access to justice, adequate standard of living, and wellbeing. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/mtwf86sc>

**** this week!**

Crossroads: which way now for the human rights system in Scotland?

13 July 2023 (venue not stated, 6.00–7.00)

Scottish Human Rights Commission roundtables to discuss a SHRC discussion paper [Exploring the experience of human rights protection for the people of Scotland](#) and potential ways forward. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/4sernjt>

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>

A Human Rights Bill for Scotland

27 July 2023 (online, 10.00–12.00)

15 August 2023 (Dumfries, 10.00–12.00)

22 August 2023 (Glasgow (10.00–12.00)

28 August 2023 (Inverness (2.00–4.00)

5 September 2023 (online, 6.00–8.00)

11 September 2023 (Portree, 10.00–12.00)

19 September 2023 (Dundee, 10.00–12.00)

Scottish Government consultation on proposals for a new Human Rights Bill, including information about the proposals, and an opportunity to tell the Scottish Government your views in order to inform development of the Bill. For information about each event see:

Online (July) <https://tinyurl.com/46n5ed5a>

Dumfries <https://tinyurl.com/3tbj54a3>

Glasgow <https://tinyurl.com/2jmfp49z>

Inverness <https://tinyurl.com/yckx35jz>

Online (September) <https://tinyurl.com/9ss2hnpm>

Portree <https://tinyurl.com/3kny2u5j>

Dundee <https://tinyurl.com/yckunjtjv>

How to disagree agreeably

9 August 2023 (Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh, 1.45–3.15)

Festival of Politics event. In an age where conflict culture and manufactured dissent seems to be actively encouraged in politics, the art of debating, listening and learning from the other side has been overshadowed by rancour and adamant polarisation. So, how do we revive the art of critical thinking, recognise the value of the 'grey area', and the goal of both parties making a discovery, rather than being right? For information see <https://tinyurl.com/24f28ahx>

Volunteers and the state

9 August 2023 (Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh, 2.00–3.30)

Festival of Politics event. Volunteers contribute an estimated £5.5 billion to the Scottish economy each year with over 2 million people giving their time freely. Are volunteers vital for the delivery of public services in Scotland or is there a concern in the current financial climate that volunteers are contributing to the erosion of the state by enabling cuts to services and undercutting paid jobs? For information see <https://tinyurl.com/37epmut7>

Women of colour in politics and challenging racism

9 August 2023 (Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh, 6.15–7.45)

Festival of Politics event. What has inspired women of colour to enter politics and/or be activists? And how has this intersected with their experiences as black and minority ethnic women? Join the panel to discuss the routes into the conventional political system and activism, whether the Black Lives Matter movement played a part in inspiring activism, and how can effective change be made both inside and outside the political system. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/mw6zt3cd>

Talking to boys and men about gender-based violence

10 August 2023 (Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh, 3.00–4.30)

Festival of Politics event. How do we talk to boys and men in ways that will engage them and stop gender-based violence? What is being done in the legal world, in schools, with public education campaigns and with perpetrators to understand, challenge and change male attitudes and behaviour on harassment, assault and abuse? For information see <https://tinyurl.com/5t5frkwf>

Navigating migration

11 August 2023 (Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh, 11.00–12.30)

Festival of Politics event. For people arriving in the UK as migrants and asylum seekers, the requirement to navigate the legalities of employment, education, housing, and detention are both monumental and vital to survival and settlement in the UK. Join the panel to discuss the realities of migrants and asylum seekers as they negotiate their rights to work, study, and live in the country. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2b3x44xj>

Scotland's poverty problem

11 August 2023 (Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh, 11.00–12.30)

Festival of Politics event. With nearly a quarter of children in Scotland growing up in poverty, we are storing up mental, physical and emotional health problems for our future. All political parties are committed to tackling the issue, so why has more progress not been made? Does stigma hold back the debate? How can we build a healthier and fairer society for everyone in Scotland? For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2p8f3emk>

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>

New Scots <https://newscots.scot/>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services

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

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

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SCoJeC
Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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

BEMIS
Empowering Scotland's Ethnic and
Cultural Minority Communities

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



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

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