



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

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The Scottish Parliament is in recess until 4 September 2023.

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Refugees

Kerry McCarthy (Labour) [192037] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many people have been evacuated from Afghanistan following applications by family members for leave outside the rules through the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy.

Reply from James Heappey: As of 4 July 2023, 853 Additional Family Members have been approved for relocation under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy. Due to current data constraints, we are unable to breakdown this number by location.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-03/192037>

The following four questions all received the same answer

Refugees: Afghanistan

Jessica Morden (Labour) [192501] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been resettled in the UK under the Afghan citizens resettlement scheme Pathway 2.

Jessica Morden (Labour) [192505] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Afghan nationals have been resettled in the UK under the Afghan citizens resettlement scheme Pathway 3.

Jessica Morden (Labour) [192508] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Afghan refugees were living in bridging hotels in July 2023.

Jessica Morden (Labour) [192509] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average time is for Afghan refugees to be held in bridging hotels in the UK before being permanently resettled.

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 quarterly release](#), published on 25 May 2023, shows 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.

As of 25 May 2023, we were providing temporary accommodation for around 8,799 individuals resettled in the UK under the ARAP or ACRS, whilst they await permanent accommodation. More information on those that we are temporarily accommodating in hotels can be viewed at: [Afghan Resettlement Programme: operational data](#)

It is not accurate to describe Afghan families as being ‘held’ in bridging accommodation. They are living there temporarily, and we don’t want to see them in bridging accommodation for any longer than is necessary. We continue to work at pace to support Afghan families into homes of their own, so that they can settle into their local communities, feel safe and independent, pursue education, and rebuild their lives in the UK.

The government is providing £285 million of new funding to local authorities supporting the Afghan resettlement schemes. This includes £35 million in new cash for local authorities, which will go towards increasing the level of support available and overcoming key barriers in accessing the housing system and employment and a £250 million expansion of the Local Authority Housing Fund to help councils to source homes to house Afghans currently in bridging accommodation.

This new, generous package of support comes in addition to the existing support available for people on the ACRS and ARAP schemes, including access to welfare and the right to work, as well as access to public services. A dedicated cross-government casework team, made up of Home Office Liaison Officers and DWP staff, are based in hotels and work alongside local authority officials to provide advice to Afghans, including information on how to rent in the private sector, support people find jobs and English language training.

The move from hotels into settled accommodation is in the best interests of families and individuals and will enable them to benefit from the security of housing and long-term consistency of public services. This includes schooling, and the freedoms of independent living that only suitable non-hotel accommodation can provide

Data on the average length of stay in bridging accommodation is not available for publication.

Afghan operational data is released quarterly with the next release due for publication in August 2023.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-05/192501>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-05/192505>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-05/192508>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-05/192509>

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 2 and 3, referred to above, can be read at

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

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

Refugees: Afghanistan

Jessica Morden (Labour) [192502] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Afghan nationals are eligible for relocation in the UK under the Afghan citizens resettlement scheme.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: 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 ACRS and the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) - have resettled a total of 21,004 people.

The UK has made one of the largest commitments of any country to support those impacted by events in Afghanistan. The Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme will see up to 20,000 eligible individuals from Afghanistan and the region resettled to the UK over the coming years.

There is no application process for the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS). Instead, those who are eligible will be prioritised and referred for resettlement to the UK through one of the scheme's three referral pathways. Further information on the ACRS can be found on the gov.uk website at:

[Afghan citizens resettlement scheme](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-05/192502>

Afghanistan: Refugees

Jessica Morden (Labour) [192503] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many eligible principle Afghan nationals were relocated through the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy scheme from December 2022 to May 2023; and how many applications were received in that time period.

Reply from James Heapey: Between December 2022 and May 2023, 15 Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP) eligible principals and 49 of their family members were relocated to the UK. Over this same period 4,129 unique ARAP applications were received.

The ARAP scheme is not, and never was, intended as a general resettlement scheme for all Afghans. As such the vast majority of the applications received between the above dates will be ineligible. In total, we have received over 141,000 applications, of which 3,511 have been granted eligibility.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-05/192503>

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

Afghanistan: Refugees

Jessica Morden (Labour) [192506] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many eligible principals under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy has his Department lost contact with; and how many of these people are in Afghanistan.

Reply from James Heapey: The number of ARAP eligible principals who have failed to respond to contact is currently 70. Of these, our records show that 37 were in Afghanistan at the time of their last contact with the Ministry of Defence.

Applicants may fall out of contact with us for a variety of reasons: they may have changed their contact details and not informed us or have decided to relocate elsewhere. We continue to use a range of means to re-establish contact with these applicants in order to continue their relocation to the UK, should they wish to proceed.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-05/192506>

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

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

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

Illegal Migration Bill

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [192571] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what discussions (a) he and (b) Ministers in his Department have had with the (i) Scottish Government and (ii) the Scottish Legal Aid Board on potential implications for legal aid of the Illegal Migration Bill.

Reply from Mike Freer: The Government has engaged with the Scottish Government regarding legal aid in connection with the Illegal Migration Bill. Officials in the Ministry of Justice have confirmed with Scottish Government officials that no legislative changes are required in Scotland to ensure equivalent provision of legal aid for individuals in receipt of a removal notice, in relation to that removal notice, will be available as will be in England and Wales. We will continue to engage with our Scottish counterparts as necessary.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-05/192571>

Visas: British National (Overseas)

Gregory Campbell (DUP) [192483] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have settled in the UK with a British Nationals (Overseas) visa in each of the last three years.

The Home Office publishes data on the number of applications and grants of leave of people from Hong Kong on the British National Overseas (BN(O)) route in the "How many people come to the UK each year (including visitors)?" topic and underlying datasets of the ['Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release'](#).

The latest data for the BN(O) route relates to the year ending March 2023. These statistics include data on main applicants and dependants.

The Home Office publishes data on the number of grants of settlement, broken down by category of leave, in table Se_D02 in the [Settlement datasets](#). The latest data relates to the year ending March 2023.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-05/192483>

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

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

Employment: British National (Overseas)

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [192189] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, whether his Department is taking steps to support those on a British National (Overseas) Visa to enter work.

Reply from Guy Opperman: Individuals who have a British National (Overseas) visa have the right to work and study in the UK, but in most circumstances would have a No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) condition attached to their visa. DWP has no powers to award Universal Credit to those with NRPF.

They can apply to have their NRPF condition lifted by making a 'change of condition' application if they are destitute or at risk of destitution, if the welfare of their child is at risk due to their low income, or where there are other exceptional financial circumstances. If this application is successful then they can apply for Universal Credit and access the full range of DWP employment services.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-03/192189>

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

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

Refugees: Sudan

Stephen Farry (Alliance) [191981] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of establishing a family reunification scheme for Sudan that is similar to the Ukraine Family Scheme.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: We recognise that some people displaced may wish to join family in the UK, and where those family members do not have a current UK visa, they can apply for one via one of our standard visa routes, which remain available, and applications can be submitted at the nearest Visa Application Centre. Guidance on how to apply for a family visa can be found at: [Family visas: apply, extend or switch: Overview](#).

In addition, close family members of individuals who are in the UK with permission to stay as a refugee may be eligible to apply under the family reunion arrangements. Details can be found at: [Application for UK visa \(family joining refugee\): appendix 4 VAF4A](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-30/191981>

Asylum: Equality

Chris Stephens (SNP) [905960] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether she has had recent discussions with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on support for asylum seekers with protected characteristics.

Reply from Sarah Dines: Everybody has a protected characteristic.

In supporting individuals and where it is required, we have an obligation to provide accommodation which is adequate to their needs, which may or may not be on account of protected characteristics.

Accommodation providers are required to take account of specific requirements from individuals who have specific characteristics including sexual and gender identity.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-06/905960>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Religion

Afzal Khan (Labour) [192427] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what data her Department collects on the religious affiliations of asylum seekers.

Asylum: Applications

Afzal Khan (Labour) [192428] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum applications have been submitted by people identifying as Muslim; and

if she will provide a breakdown of those figures by sect.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office publishes data on asylum in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on asylum applications can be found in table Asy_D01 of the '[asylum and resettlement detailed datasets](#)'.

The Home Office does not publish asylum applicants by religion. Whilst we hold information regarding the religion of asylum claimants, this information could only be obtained at disproportionate cost as it would require a manual trawl of case records to retrieve.

A claimant's religion will be established during the asylum registration process. Depending on the nature of the claim, further information regarding a claimant's religion may be requested during a substantive asylum interview.

For further information, please see: [Screening and routing.docx](#) and [Asylum interview.docx](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-04/192427>
and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-04/192428>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Asylum: Finance

Stephen Morgan (Labour) [192179] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will make an assessment of the potential impact of eligibility criteria for legal claims relating to section 95 claims on asylum seekers.

Stephen Morgan (Labour) [192180] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has made an assessment of the potential merits of automatic renewal of Section 95 asylum support applications on six monthly basis while an individual's asylum claim is being determined.

Stephen Morgan (Labour) [192181] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she has make an assessment of the potential merits of automatic renewal of Section 95 asylum support applications in the context of the volume of pending asylum claims.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Legal aid has been and will continue to be available for asylum cases, for victims of domestic abuse and modern slavery, for separated migrant children and for immigration cases where someone is challenging a detention decision.

Where asylum support is granted, that individual will remain in receipt of asylum support until a decision is taken to discontinue the support. This could be where the person is no longer destitute, their asylum claim has been determined or where they no longer meet the conditions of support. There is no time limit or renewal period.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-03/192179>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-03/192180>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-03/192181>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Immigration Bail: Migrant Workers

Stephen Farry (Alliance) [192232] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether restrictions on the right to work can be lifted while an individual is on immigration detention bail.

Stephen Farry (Alliance) [192233] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether people on immigration detention bail can request restrictions on their right to work be lifted.

Stephen Farry (Alliance) [192234] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether financial support is available for the dependents of an individual on immigration detention bail whose right to work has been withdrawn.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The number and type of immigration bail conditions to impose will vary depending on the circumstances of the individual case. If the person being granted immigration bail does not have any leave to enter or remain in the UK, it will be appropriate to impose a bail condition restricting work in the majority of cases.

An asylum seeker, or failed asylum seeker with outstanding protection-based further submissions, whose claim has been outstanding for more than 12 months through no fault of their own, may be granted permission to work. Those who are allowed to work are restricted to jobs on the Shortage Occupation list. Further information is set out in the published HO guidance - Permission to work and volunteering for asylum seekers.

Asylum seekers and failed asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute are eligible for support under section 95 or section 4 of the Immigration & Asylum 1999 Act. This would also include dependents of an asylum seeker or a failed asylum seeker on immigration bail.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-03/192232>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-03/192233>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-03/192234>

Asylum: Children

Alison Thewliss (SNP) [191330] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will publish weekly statistics on the number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children accommodated in hotels.

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.

We do not plan to publish weekly statistics on the number of children accommodated in hotels.

The National Transfer Scheme 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).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-27/191330>

Asylum: Children

Caroline Lucas (Green) [192817] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 4 July 2023 to Question 191108 on Asylum: Children, whether she made an assessment before November 2021 of the potential merits of introducing legislation to give Ministers power to direct a local authority in England to provide accommodation to an unaccompanied child; and if she will make a statement.

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. We have also offered incentivised funding to local authorities to move these young people in the care system.

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).

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.

Responsibilities under the Children Act 1989 which apply to local authorities in England with respect to unaccompanied children in their area applied before November 2021 and continue to apply.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-06/192817>

The answer referred to above can be read at

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

Asylum: Children

Caroline Lucas (Green) [192061] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many children under (a) 18, (b) 16, (c) 14 and (d) 11 years old have been placed in Home Office arranged hotel accommodation for unaccompanied asylum seeking children (i) in Brighton and Hove (ii) in the UK since July 2021.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: There has been a significant increase in the numbers of young people making unnecessary and dangerous journeys to the UK and the Home Office has had no alternative but to temporarily use hotels in order to give some unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) emergency accommodation and support while permanent accommodation with a local authority is identified. We are determined to end the use of hotels for these young people and Home Office officials are working tirelessly with local authorities to move children into care placements through the National Transfer Scheme (NTS).

We take the safety of those in our care seriously. We have robust safeguarding procedures in place to ensure all young people in emergency interim 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.

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).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-03/192061>

Asylum: Mental Health Services

Alison McGovern (Labour) [192552] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what mental health support is available to asylum seekers who are awaiting results of their asylum claim.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Government is under a legal obligation to provide

support to all asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute.

Asylum seekers have access to free NHS care, which includes mental health services. In addition, asylum seekers can access Migrant Help, who the Home Office contract to provide advice and guidance to asylum seekers, should they have an issue.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-05/192552>

Asylum: Housing

Hywel Williams (Plaid Cymru) [192012] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department plans to introduce a quota to determine the number of adult asylum seekers placed in each (a) local authority area and (b) parliamentary constituency.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: From 13 April 2022, all local authorities in England, Scotland and Wales are considered a dispersal area and will need to take part in asylum dispersal. This is to ensure a fair and equitable accommodation spread of asylum seekers across the UK.

We have asked local authorities across the United Kingdom to provide the Home Office with plans for dispersal within their nation or region and have agreed targets, based on those plans, for every local authority and region in the UK to deliver by the end of 2023.

As of March 31st 2023, there are no supported asylum seekers being accommodated in Arfon, Wales.

The latest Home Office figures show that Wales holds 2.6% of supported asylum seekers when Wales makes up 5.2% of the UK's population. The current number of asylum seekers being accommodated in Wales is lower than it was in June 2020, despite the significant increase in asylum claims. Currently, Wales is considerably off track meeting their dispersal target.

The Standard Operating Procedure sets out that when a site is identified for use on the Asylum Support Contracts, the Deputy Director of Asylum Support will initially notify the Chief Executive of the relevant local authority and the Member of Parliament.

If you would like to put forward specific proposals, please do contact the Home Office at:

rasengagementhubregionalconsultation@homeoffice.gov.uk

and officials will happily discuss this in greater detail with you.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-03/192012>

Asylum: Housing

Hywel Williams (Plaid Cymru) [192264] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what guidance is issued by her Department on the weight expected to be given to (a) family ties, (b) culture and (c) language when deciding where asylum seekers should be accommodated.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Under the Immigration & Asylum Act 1999, the Government is required to provide accommodation to asylum seekers that would otherwise be destitute.

It is Home Office policy to offer accommodation on a no choice basis except in exceptional circumstances:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-accommodation-requests-policy/allocation-of-asylum-accommodation-policy-accessible

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-04/192264>

Asylum: Housing

Hywel Williams (Plaid Cymru) [192267] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, whether her Department has made a comparative assessment of the potential merits of housing asylum seekers in (a) dispersal and (b) contingency accommodation; and if she make will make a statement.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Contingency Accommodation is accommodation that the Home Office has to use in order to continue to meet our statutory obligations. It is not a long-term solution to housing destitute asylum seekers and the Home Office is committed to moving away from contingency accommodation to more suitable forms of accommodation, including Dispersed Accommodation.

From 13 April 2022, all local authorities in England, Scotland and Wales are considered a dispersal area and will need to take part in asylum dispersal. This is to ensure a fair and equitable accommodation spread of asylum seekers across the UK. We have agreed targets for every local authority and region in the UK to deliver by the end of 2023.

Currently Arfon does not have any dispersal accommodation. If you would like to put forward specific proposals, please do contact the Home Office at: rasienagementhubregionalconsultation@homeoffice.gov.uk and officials will happily discuss this in greater detail with you.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-04/192267>

Asylum: MOD Wethersfield

Priti Patel (Conservative) [187949] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what detailed (a) health and (b) security checks and screening processes will be in place before persons are located to the Wethersfield site.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Those arriving in small boats are first taken to facilities in Dover where searches and medical checks are undertaken.

Full border security checks are later completed at Manston before anyone leaves the site. We capture biometric data which is checked and compared against relevant Home Office systems and police databases, including international databases, so we can establish whether the person is a threat to public safety. If they fail, nobody proceeds further.

At Manston, all asylum seekers are offered diphtheria vaccines and antibiotics upon arrival. The Home Office provides 24/7 health facilities at Manston, including trained medical staff and a doctor for all those on site. All asylum seekers undergo a health check upon arrival and, if needed, people are taken to hospital for further care.

A specialist and experienced security provider will be working on site 24/7, with provisions such as mobile CCTV units. We have worked closely with local police forces and MoD teams to ensure appropriate security arrangements are in place.

The Home Office has committed substantial funding to help minimise the impact on local communities and services. This includes 24/7 security, on-site catering, basic healthcare and transport provision for those accommodated on site. The government currently provides £3,500 to local authorities for new and occupied dispersal beds. This £3,500 funding for local authorities will be extended to the sites at Wethersfield. The safety and security of the local communities, the staff and those accommodated on the site are of the utmost importance.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-06/187949>

Asylum: Leith

Deidre Brock (SNP) [191811] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment her Department has made of the (a) estimated cost and (b) suitability of accommodating asylum seekers on the MS Victoria cruise ship in Leith.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Cost information is prospective and commercially sensitive, and as such is not available to be released. Our proposal was to use the same berth, the same quayside infrastructure and the same principal contractor

that was put in place by Scottish Government officials. Furthermore, this is the same vessel used by the Scottish Government. The Home Office also proposed introducing new financial incentives for local authorities to encourage the uptake of dispersal accommodation and delivering large accommodation sites that will produce safe and secure accommodation for thousands of asylum seekers. 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. The last Multi-Agency Forums (MAF) were held on the 22nd June. We are committed to work closely with all local authorities and stakeholders through MAF meetings to address any concerns of the local community and reduce the impact on local services.

If you would like to put forward specific proposals, please do contact the Home Office at: rasengagementhubregionalconsultation@homeoffice.gov.uk and officials will happily discuss this in greater detail with you.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-29/191811>

Offenders: Deportation

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour) [191939] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how her Department decides when to action deportation orders to remove foreign criminals from the UK.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Under the UK Borders Act 2007, a deportation order must be made where a foreign national has been convicted of an offence and received a custodial sentence of 12 months or more.

In addition, a foreign national who has been convicted of an offence that has caused serious harm, who is a persistent offender or who represents a threat to national security may be considered for deportation under the Immigration Act 1971, where it is conducive to the public good.

This is subject to several exceptions, including where to do so would be a breach of a person's ECHR rights or the UK's obligations under the Refugee Convention.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-30/191939>

Offenders: Deportation

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour) [191940] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average waiting time is to return foreign offenders to their country of origin under the Facilitated Return Scheme; and whether there is a target time for such cases.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Facilitated Return Scheme (FRS) offers all foreign national offenders (FNOs) with a determinate prison sentence the opportunity to volunteer to return to their country of origin.

The average waiting time to return foreign offenders to their country of origin under FRS is not obtainable from our current database. Whilst we aim to consider or decide all applications within 20 days, there is no specific target for removal.

This is a practical solution which saves the taxpayer considerable amount of money in the long run and means FNOs can be removed as soon as possible, denying them the opportunity to re-offend.

While we make every effort to ensure that a foreign national offender's removal by deportation coincides, as far as possible, with their release from prison on completion of sentence, we can face significant and complex challenges when seeking to deport them to their country of origin, including obtaining valid travel documents. Published information on FRS was published in December 2021 and is available from [The Facilitated Return Scheme \(FRS\)](#).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-30/191940>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Support for Migrant Victims

Baroness Gale (Labour): To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord Sharpe of Epsom on 1 December 2022 (HL Deb col 1869), what progress they have made in evaluating the pilot of the Support for Migrant Victims scheme; and when, if at all, they intend to rescind their reservation on Article 59 of the European Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention).

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Sharpe of Epsom): My Lords, we are carefully considering the findings of the support for migrant victims scheme pilot evaluation to inform any future policy decisions. Once we have considered all the evidence in the round, we will communicate our decision on the Article 59 reservation.

Baroness Gale: While I thank the Minister for his reply, it is practically identical to the one that he gave me on 1 December last year. How long does it take to evaluate a pilot scheme? This has been going on now for more than two years. How much longer is it going to take and, when it is accepted, will he report back to the House so that the Government can then consider removing the reservation on Article 59?

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: ... I do not know when the consideration will be completed but, as soon as it is, I shall of course report back to the House on all the matters that she has raised.

Baroness Hussein-Ece (Liberal Democrat): For as long as the Government take to come to a view on this, there will be thousands of women—mainly women—living in desperate situations and forced to live with their abusers. The Domestic Abuse Commissioner's report and the feedback have been very thorough and the recommendations are very clear—and, as the noble Baroness said, this has been going on for some time now. As the commissioner said: "We urgently need to put safety before immigration status when it comes to domestic abuse victims". Do the Government now agree?

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: My Lords, the first thing that I would say is that the pilot may have concluded but the scheme is still in operation and is continuing to be funded. We are providing a further £1.4 million a year until 2024-25 to continue to support the migrant victims scheme, so the circumstances that the noble Baroness describes are certainly not the case. We have read and, obviously, published the Domestic Abuse Commissioner's report, and we will respond to that in full very soon.

Lord Kamall (Conservative): My Lords, noble Lords will know that sometimes the evaluation of schemes takes a long time and there has to be not only an evaluation but a consultation. Could my noble friend the Minister go into a bit more detail on who has to be consulted and what particular issues there are, and why it is taking so long to be evaluated?

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: Yes, I can. The experts have given evidence from within the sector, and we have also looked at evidence from police representatives and a variety of others. As I say, I cannot answer the question as to why it has taken so long, but it is good that the evidence is being considered in full and, as I say, I shall follow up with a full report as soon as we have a response to publish.

Baroness Chakrabarti (Labour): My Lords, which aspect of Article 59 do the Government have a concern about? Noble Lords will remember that this is about migrant women who are victims of violence, but it is not carte blanche to give them all residence; it is very carefully caveated. I remind noble Lords that it is where the competent authority considers that it is necessary in order to get them to co-operate with law enforcement. ...

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: In response to the noble Baroness's question, it is important to note that we are far from alone in this. As noble Lords will be aware, the majority of countries that have ratified the Istanbul convention have reservations on one or more of the 81 clauses. In the case of Article 59, I think there are 12 other countries that still have reservations. We have made it very clear that our compliance position on Article 59 is under review, pending the support for migrant victims scheme evaluation. Our reservation is without prejudice to the policy conclusions that we reach in the light of this evaluation. I cannot really go further than that at the moment, but I will come back to the noble Baroness and the rest of the House as soon as I possibly can.

Baroness Bryan of Partick (Labour): Does the Minister accept that in the current hostile environment towards migration, women whose immigration status depends on their husband are under even greater pressure to remain in possibly violent relationships?

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: I am afraid I do not accept the hostile environment remark. What I should say with regard to the situation the noble Baroness describes, which I think comes down to data sharing and the firewall situation that often gets raised here, is that both the police and immigration enforcement share a commitment to safeguard individuals they encounter. We acknowledge that data sharing between the police and the Home Office can be a contributing factor that can influence the decisions of migrant victims not to report a crime and that perpetrators can sometimes use the victim's immigration status to exert fear or control, but that will inform the migrant victims protocol which is due to be published at the end of this year.

The Earl of Sandwich (Crossbench): My Lords, was this not meant to be one of the flagships of the Conservative Government? Tackling violence against women is claimed by a lot of people to be a really important theme of Conservative policy, and I would like to know why the noble Baroness, Lady Gale, is not getting an answer sooner. Could not the Minister at least give us some reasons? He says he does not know the reasons: could he not look into this so that we do not have to have another Question about this next week? The International Agreements Committee was very concerned about this. The case of migrant workers has been made: they are in a very vulnerable position.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: My Lords, I say to the noble Earl that we ratified the convention and that was the point behind the reservation: we would have been unable to ratify if we had not laid a reservation against Article 59. I also say that in most respects we go further than, or are at least fully compliant with, all the other aspects of the Istanbul convention. We go further, for example, on issues like FGM and stalking protection orders. So I do not really accept the noble Earl's premise, I am afraid.

Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede (Labour): My Lords, last year the Domestic Abuse Commissioner stated that it is likely that 32,000 victims who have no recourse to public funds will require support each year. As the noble Lord has just said, the Government announced a further £1.4 million to extend support for migrant victims in the coming year. How many people does the Minister think that will support? For his information, I will be seeing the Domestic Abuse Commissioner next Tuesday, so it would be very good to be able to supply her with the answer to my question.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: I know that the pilot helped 425 victims and, since the ongoing scheme has been extended, 950 in total—including those 425—have been helped. Those are the main figures that I have at the moment. The “no recourse to public funds” policy is based on the principle that access to state support should reflect a migrant's strength of connection to the UK. Immigration policy is clear that migrants coming to the UK should be able to provide for themselves financially without relying on benefits from the state. Access to public funds is normally granted only to those who have been given indefinite leave to

remain. However, other support is available to migrants who have suffered domestic abuse through destitute domestic violence concessions—three months' crisis support through which individuals can access safe accommodation and public funds—and through the domestic violence indefinite leave to remain route. ...

Lord Foulkes of Cumnock (Labour Co-op): ... My noble friend Lady Gale raised this six months ago. What representations or pressure has the Minister made to or put on the various Home Secretaries we have had in that period, and their officials, about the views of the House of Lords? After today, will he go back and say, "Baroness Gale has raised this again; she has the support of the House and something should be done about it"?

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: Noble Lords can rest assured that I will take this back. However, I have heard in many debates in the House in recent weeks calls for more evidence. The fact is that we have evidence and we are considering it carefully. Noble Lords should applaud that.

Lord Kerr of Kinlochard (Crossbench): There is a degree of urgency in this that the Minister is not acknowledging. We do not ratify Article 59 because it is still the Government's policy that, other than those who benefit from the little pilot scheme, local authorities are not allowed to permit migrant women who are subject to domestic abuse to access shelters. This disgrace is going on and we should stop it as soon as possible.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: My Lords, I have just outlined some of the other options available to the migrant women the noble Lord describes. They are far from without support. As I have alluded to, there is also a migrant victims protocol detailing other aspects of the work being done that will be published towards the end of this year.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-07-12/debates/33A20589-4B40-4F8C-A4ED-073A9D5F1269/SupportForMigrantVictims>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-12-01/debates/8A11A89D-845B-4A9D-8037-C114393B6D89/ViolenceAgainstWomenAndDomesticViolence>

The European Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/gender-matters/council-of-europe-convention-on-preventing-and-combating-violence-against-women-and-domestic-violence>

Missing Asylum Seeking Unaccompanied Children

Baroness Chakrabarti (Labour): To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to find all the asylum seeking unaccompanied children who have gone missing from Home Office care.

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Migration and Borders (Lord Murray of Blidworth): While the responsibility for locating missing children is ultimately for the police, the Home Office works closely with local authorities and other partners to try to locate missing unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and ensure that they are safe. As part of this, the Home Office continues to collaborate with the National Police Chiefs' Council and the National Crime Agency to ensure consistency in our national approach and response.

Baroness Chakrabarti: ... Could the Minister help the House with the number of those who were lost and the number who have been found to date, and whether photographs have been passed to the police for a national campaign? What about the ongoing safeguarding issue? Recent court proceedings reveal that 40% of those now in unregulated hotels are under 16, including some as young as nine. Is that not a grave and dangerous dereliction of duty?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The noble Baroness would not expect me to comment on ongoing litigation. I can provide her with the statistics: there are

presently 154 unaccompanied children who are currently missing. Of that 154, 100 have since turned 18, and 25 of the 154 currently missing were age-disputed individuals.

Lord Laming (Crossbench): My Lords, the Minister will agree that these children are especially at risk, having come to a strange country and not understanding the language, of being easily picked up in cars and taken off, never to be seen again. Would the Minister be willing to explore the possibility of introducing stronger safeguards, so that we can be reassured that fewer of these children will be lost in the future?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: I can reassure the noble Lord that we take the welfare of these vulnerable children extremely seriously. We have had no alternative but to temporarily use hotels to give children in this situation an immediate roof over their heads while local authority accommodation is found. I can confirm to the House that we have robust safeguarding procedures in place, to ensure that all unaccompanied asylum-seeking children are accommodated and supported as safely as possible while we seek urgent placements with a local authority—and I might add that we are determined to stop the use of hotels as soon as possible.

Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, the judgment in the High Court in June of the Article 39 case shows that these children are indeed, as part of the Children Act, children in need, and covered by Sections 47 and 17 of the 1989 Act, and Section 11 of the 2004 Act. In light of that judgment, what changes are the Home Office going to make to ensure that local authorities can carry out their statutory duties, without hindrance, to those children who are placed in these hotels?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: As the noble Lord will be aware, and as the court made clear, the situation was that the local authority was unable to accommodate these children on arrival, so the Home Office was obliged to accommodate them in the interim. Steps were taken to ensure that that accommodation was appropriate and secure. I can assure the noble Lord that obviously we continue to review the need for hotels and, as I said a moment ago, it is our ambition to close them as soon as we can.

Lord Dubs (Labour): The Minister has just said that the Government take the welfare of unaccompanied children seriously. How does that relate to the arrivals centre in Dover, which had cartoons and welcoming signs for children removed on the orders of the Home Office Minister because it might make the children feel too welcome? Is that not a disgrace? Is it not time that Government Back-Benchers felt as embarrassed as we are that this is happening in our country?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The murals that the noble Lord refers to were provided by our detention contractors and were not commissioned or approved by the Home Office. It is clearly the correct decision that these facilities have the requisite decoration befitting their purpose.

The Lord Bishop of Chichester: My Lords, our duty of care in the welfare of children is provided for in a number of ways: the Children Act is one, as is the routine of Ofsted inspections of schools and children's care homes. Can the Minister confirm that, if an asylum-seeking unaccompanied child is found after going missing from Home Office accommodation, they will not be returned to hotel accommodation but instead will be returned to local authority care, where all their rights under the Children Act can be met and the quality of their accommodation will be subject to Ofsted regulation and inspection?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: Obviously, each case is different. If a child were to go missing from Home Office accommodation, depending on when and where they are located, they would be either returned to the local authority, if a space has become available in local authority accommodation, or relocated for a short period and returned to Home Office accommodation. In all circumstances, the child's needs and appropriate accommodation are paramount.

Lord Brownlow of Shurlock Row: My Lords, frankly, I am ashamed of the Minister's previous answer. I think people in this House and the wider community would have preferred his answer to be that it was a mistake to paint over those murals and that a contract will be commissioned to repaint them. We are a welcoming country. While I accept that the Government's Bill is needed to deter people, it is time we showed some compassion.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: As I say, the decoration of these facilities is a matter for the Home Office. It is a detention facility for those who have entered the country unlawfully and it is appropriate that it is decorated in a manner that reflects its purpose.

Lord Coaker (Labour): Can I ask the Minister to reflect again on what his noble friend and my noble friend Lord Dubs have just said? Is it really the Government's position that it was perfectly justified to paint over these murals in a detention centre for children? Can the Minister not see how frankly astonished and, to use the noble Lord's phrase, ashamed we are that this has happened? The least we would have expected is that the Government are sorry that it has happened, are looking into it and are going to make sure that it never happens again. Will the Minister reflect on his answer and see how appalled the Chamber was by what he said?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: I reassure the noble Lord that we take the welfare of children in our care very seriously. The point is that those children are held at the Kent intake unit for only as short a time as possible. Of course, the age of the children held at that unit can be anything up to 18 years old and, as this House knows from repeated answers, the majority of those passing through that unit are in the upper end of the available age bracket.

Lord German (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, in response to my noble friend's question earlier, the Minister said that local authorities could carry out their responsibilities under Section 17 of the 1989 Act—but how on earth can they do that if the Home Office does not tell them where these children are located?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The Home Office does of course notify local authorities of the arrival of children. We have something called the national transfer scheme, of which the noble Lord is no doubt aware, which has seen 4,875 children transferred to local authorities with children's services between 1 July 2021 and 31 March this year. That is over six times the number of transfers as in the same timeframe in previous years.

Baroness Meacher (Crossbench): My Lords, I think the Minister will be aware that we are at risk of losing our reputation as a country that upholds human rights, in particular those of children, because of the treatment of unaccompanied children under the Illegal Migration Bill. What plans does the Minister have to ensure that all unaccompanied children are cared for only under the auspices of local authorities and never under the Home Office in order to try to rescue the reputation of this country?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: As I say, it is the Home Office's intention to ensure that all unaccompanied asylum-seeking children are placed into local authority care as soon as it becomes available. That has been achieved with great success in recent times. Indeed, for a number of weeks recently there were no asylum-seeking children in hotels—although that is not the case at the moment.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-07-10/debates/A922720E-B390-4084-96FD-DE50DADFCFA4/MissingAsylumSeekingUnaccompaniedChildren>

Information about the court proceedings referred to above can be read at

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-66059398>

The High Court judgement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Article-39-v-Secretary-of-State-for-the-Home-Department-2023-EWHC-1398-Fam-9.6.2023-Lieven-J.pdf>

Section 17 of the Children Act 1989, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/41/part/III/crossheading/provision-of-services-for-children-and-their-families>

Section 47 of the Children Act 1989, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/41/section/47>

Section 11 of the Children Act 2004, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/31/section/11>

Information about painting over murals at the arrivals centre in Dover, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-66132158>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Immigration: Staff

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL8782] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of any increase in the number of immigration staff that are being investigated and suspended as a result of violence and racism towards the detainees.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: We expect all staff working in the immigration detention estate to behave in a professional and respectful manner. Where custodial staff are found not to have met the standards of behaviour and professionalism required they may face disciplinary action from their employer and may have their certification to work as a detainee custody officer reviewed by the Home Office.

We operate a comprehensive complaints process for detained individuals including complaints submitted on their behalf by third parties. As set out in published guidance, DSO - 03-2015 Handling complaints, complaints involving any allegation of misconduct are referred to the Home Office Professional Standard Unit and all allegations of a criminal nature must be reported to the police as soon as the allegation is made.

[DSO - Handling complaints](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-26/hl8782>

Immigration: Appeals

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL8950] To ask His Majesty's Government how many Home Office Immigration decisions were overturned on appeal in (1) 2000, (2) 2020, and (3) 2022.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The Home Office publishes data on asylum in the 'Immigration System Statistics Quarterly Release' (available on gov.uk). Data on asylum appeals determined can be found in table Asy_D07 of the 'Asylum and resettlement detailed datasets'. The latest data relate to the year ending March 2023 and covers the period 2010 to Q1 2023.

Historical asylum appeals determined data can be found in table as_14. The data covers the period 2007 to 2018.

Information on how to use the datasets can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbooks.

Additionally, statistics on appeals relating to all Immigration decisions are published by the Ministry of Justice in their 'Tribunal statistics' collection.

[Asy_D07](#)
[table as_14](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-29/hl8950>

Windrush Compensation Scheme

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Conservative) [HL8747] To ask His Majesty's Government what progress they have made in dealing with compensation claims by Windrush victims.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The victims of the Windrush scandal suffered terrible injustices, and this Government remains steadfast in our commitment to do everything in our power to right the wrongs. We are determined to ensure everyone who was affected receives every penny of the compensation to which they are entitled. We are making significant progress towards achieving this aim, and we have now paid or offered more than £75 million in compensation as at the end of May 2023. Over 66% of claims received by the end of May 2023 have had a final decision.

Since its launch, the Home Office has continued to listen and respond to feedback from affected communities and stakeholders about how the Scheme operates and its accessibility. The changes we made to the Scheme in December 2020 and August 2022, mean people receive significantly more money more quickly. Last year we published redesigned claim forms and refreshed casework guidance, with the aim of reducing the time taken to process claims and improving individuals' experiences of applying to the Scheme. We also made changes to the Homelessness category and created a new category, 'Living Costs', to compensate close family members for certain contributions to a primary claimant's living costs. These significant and positive policy changes were made following consultation with claimants and stakeholders.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-26/hl8747>

Information about the Windrush Compensation Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-windrush-compensation-scheme>

Asylum: Sudan

Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench) [HL8863] To ask His Majesty's Government how many Sudanese asylum seekers are awaiting a Home Office decision; and whether the Home Office considers Sudan a safe country to which asylum seekers will be returned if they fail to be given leave to remain.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The Home Office publishes data on asylum in the 'Immigration System Statistics Quarterly Release' ... Data on asylum applications awaiting initial decision by nationality can be found in table Asy_D03 of the 'Asylum and resettlement detailed datasets'.

Information on how to use the datasets can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbooks. The latest data relate to the year ending March 2023.

All asylum and human rights claims from Sudanese nationals are carefully considered on their individual merits in accordance with our international obligations, taking into account relevant refugee law and country information.

The Home Office's assessment of the general security situation in Sudan for the use of officials handling protection claims is set out in our country policy and information note on this subject of June 2023. This note is available on gov.uk.

[table Asy_D03](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-28/hl8863>

The information note referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sudan-country-policy-and-information-notes>

Asylum: Employment

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL8777] To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Murray of Blidworth on 22 June

(HL8363), which stated "There are various safe and legal routes for those seeking to work in the UK under the Points Based System", what are those legal routes.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: There is a wide variety of legal routes available to migrants seeking to work in the UK. We granted over 300,000 work visas to main applicants in year ending March 2023.

The full list of available routes, as well as guidance on each one, can be found on the government web site

<https://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/work-visas>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-26/hl8777>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-08/hl8363>

Asylum: Boats

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL8620] To ask His Majesty's Government what is the nature of the contract the Home Office has agreed for the barges that will be used to house asylum seekers; what period of time this will be for; and at what cost.

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 Bibby Stockholm vessel will be managed by our supplier, under contractual terms agreed with the Home Office.

The Bibby Stockholm barge and berth have been contracted for 18 months.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-19/hl8620>

Press Releases

Housing for displaced Ukrainians

<https://www.gov.scot/news/housing-for-displaced-ukrainians/>

Asylum seekers arrive at Wethersfield accommodation site

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/asylum-seekers-arrive-at-wethersfield-accommodation-site>

New Publications

Small-Boats Emergency: Fixing the UK's Broken Asylum System

<https://policyexchange.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Small-Boats-Emergency.pdf>

The Bibby Stockholm – at what cost?

https://www.reclaimthesea.org.uk/files/ugd/4e7ff9_b86b690af5b941fd9a01acb127497cba.pdf

Updated: Migrants detected crossing the English Channel in small boats – last 7 days

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

Updated: Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme: Visa data by country, upper and lower tier local authority

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ukraine-sponsorship-scheme-visa-data-by-country-upper-and-lower-tier-local-authority>

News: Rwanda Refugee Policy

Suella Braverman gets go-ahead for Supreme Court challenge to Rwanda ruling
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/07/13/government-given-permission-appeal-rwanda-decision/>

More than 10,000 migrants to be spared deportation to Rwanda
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/07/10/migrants-spared-rwanda-deportation-suella-braverman/>

Rwanda the only way to stop Channel migrant crossings, says Lord Clarke
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/07/10/rwanda-only-way-stop-channel-migrant-crossings-lord-clarke/>

Rwanda policy 'necessary evil', says Tory London mayor candidate
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/rwanda-sunak-braverman-tory-mayor-london-b2372685.html>

News: Ukraine

Ukrainian refugees: Scot Gov fund to help bring 1,200 homes into use
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/23652157.ukrainian-refugees-scot-gov-fund-help-bring-1-200-homes-use/>

Last Ukrainian refugees leave Edinburgh cruise ship
<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-scotland-66171006>

Ukrainian refugees leave Leith ship as accommodation contract ends
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/23646710.ukrainian-refuges-leave-leith-ship-accommodation-contract-ends/>

Scottish Government use of cruise ship MS Victoria in Leith for Ukrainian refugees ends
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/scottish-government-use-of-cruise-ship-ms-victoria-in-leith-for-ukrainian-refugees-ends-4214167>

News: Other Immigration and Asylum

Illegal Migration Bill: Jenrick sees no more compromises on migration bill
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-66197268>

'No more concessions' on illegal migration bill, says UK government
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/jul/13/no-more-concessions-on-migration-bill-says-uk-government>

Migration bill climbdown on detention limits for children
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-66157655>

Major government climbdown on small boats bill ahead of crucial vote
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/small-boats-bill-deportations-vote-amendments-b2372730.html>

Migration Bill: Lords reinsert child detention limits

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-66180897>

Senior Tories attack illegal migration bill as Lords amendments overturned

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/jul/11/senior-tories-attack-migration-bill-as-lords-amendments-overturned>

Senior Tories criticise Illegal Migration Bill but MPs reject Lords changes

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-66168280>

May leads small boats Bill revolt saying it will 'consign more people to slavery'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/07/11/theresa-may-leads-revolt-over-small-boats-bill/>

Theresa May: 'Stop the boats' migration bill undoes slavery law

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/theresa-may-stop-the-boats-migration-bill-undoes-slavery-law-2stc5t2fg>

Sunak claims small boats crackdown going 'much better than expected' – despite upturn in crossings

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/rishi-sunak-small-boats-asylum-seekers-b2373097.html>

Equality watchdog extends Home Office legal agreement to improve practices following Windrush

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/equality-watchdog-extends-home-office-legal-agreement-improve-practices-following>

Dowden refuses to condemn order to erase kids mural from asylum centre

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/23650923.dowden-refuses-condemn-order-erase-kids-mural-asylum-centre/>

Robert Jenrick claims cartoons mural removed from asylum centre were 'not age-appropriate'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/robert-jenrick-childrens-cartoons-asylum-kent-b2373374.html>

Asylum children were too old for mural, says Jenrick

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/asylum-children-were-too-old-for-mural-says-jenrick-bs06rmzt3>

Since when was Mickey Mouse an enemy of British state?

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/viewpoint/23656860.dani-garavelli-since-mickey-mouse-enemy-british-state/>

Airbase asylum plans: High Court gives permission to councils' challenge

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-essex-66200404>

Legal challenge to plan to house asylum seekers in airbases gets go-ahead

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/jul/14/legal-challenge-to-plan-to-house-asylum-seekers-in-airbases-gets-go-ahead>

First asylum seekers brought to military base as challenges reach high court
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/jul/12/first-asylum-seekers-brought-to-military-base-as-challenges-reach-high-court>

Asylum seekers moved to RAF base despite Home Office court battle over site
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/migrants-military-bases-wethersfield-court-b2373877.html>

Home Office is spending £500,000 a day on empty hotel beds for migrants
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/07/10/home-office-spend-500000-daily-empty-hotel-beds-migrants/>

Hotels given millions of pounds to reserve beds for migrants
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/hotels-given-millions-of-pounds-to-reserve-beds-for-migrants-l3739xfpn>

Bibby Stockholm: Portland asylum barge a devil's deal, says councillor
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-dorset-66196776>

Migrant barge: Portland is a dumping ground, residents say
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-dorset-66108599>

Housing asylum seekers on barge may only save £10 a person daily, report says
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/jul/11/housing-asylum-seekers-on-berge-may-only-save-10-a-person-daily-report-says>

Open your homes to asylum-seekers to help cut hotel bills, report urges Britons
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/07/11/open-homes-to-asylum-seekers-cut-hotel-bills-report-says/>

Scandal of refugee families separated by UK red tape
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/refugee-family-reunion-safe-route-backlog-b2369985.html>

Man jailed for manslaughter after 39 people died in back of lorry
<https://www.cps.gov.uk/cps/news/man-jailed-manslaughter-after-39-people-died-back-lorry>

Essex lorry deaths: Marius Draghici jailed for more than 12 years
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-essex-52206257>

People smugglers who brought in illegal migrants in car boots jailed
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/people-smugglers-who-brought-in-illegal-migrants-in-car-boots-jailed>

Stradey Park Hotel: Four charged after asylum seeker protest
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-politics-66168966>

'Camaraderie, love and affection': migration and the making of the NHS
<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2023/jul/14/camaraderie-love-affection-migration-making-of-nhs>

Student fears having to quit UK over uni marking boycott
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-66163344>

Glasgow charity Amma is working with asylum seekers

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/23658236.glasgow-charity-amma-working-asylum-seekers/>

My trafficker is behind bars, but if the UK's new migration bill passes, my story would have ended very differently

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/jul/11/trafficker-behind-bars-uk-migration-bill-modern-slavery>

TOP

Equality

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Adoption

Claire Baker (Labour) [S6W-19325] To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the recommendations in the Adoption UK report, *The Adoption Barometer: A stocktake of adoption in the UK*, which was published in May 2023, whether it has any plans to improve diversity amongst adoption and matching panels.

Reply from Natalie Don: Under the Adoption Agencies Regulations (Scotland) 2009, each local authority or adoption agency which is carrying out functions such as the assessment of prospective adopters must appoint an adoption panel.

The Scottish Government's 2011 Guidance on the Looked After Children (Scotland) Regulations 2009 and the Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007 sets out that the adoption panel should reflect the community from which children and families may come, as adopters are wide ranging and panels need to be informed and sensitive to issues around ethnicity, beliefs, sexuality and lifestyles.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-19325>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.adoptionuk.org/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=6501ceec-87a1-4f03-ab7a-a5b2bcd62edb>

The Guidance referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/guidance-looked-children-scotland-regulations-2009-adoption-children-scotland-act-2007/>

The Regulations referred to above can be read at

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2009/210/contents/made>

The Act referred to above can be read at

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2007/4/contents>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Maternal Mortality: Ethnic Groups

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour) [191945] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to reduce racial disparities in maternal deaths.

Reply from Maria Caulfield: While births in England are among the safest globally we must do more to ensure maternity care is consistent regardless of ethnicity. To address disparities within the maternity and neonatal system, each Local Maternity

and Neonatal System has produced an Equity and Equality Action Plan, shaped by Guidance set out by NHS England in 2022.

NHS England have developed 14 Maternal Medicine Networks across England, to ensure that all women with chronic and acute medical problems around pregnancy, such as diabetes and heart disease, have access to specialist management and care from physicians and obstetricians. We understand that co-morbidities are the biggest contributor to maternal mortality and knowing that black women are more likely to suffer from a pre-existing condition, they will be a key group for whom the networks provide benefit.

Further to this, in 2022, we established the Maternity Disparities Taskforce, bringing together experts from across the health system, Government departments and the voluntary sector to co-ordinate focus and deliver evidence-based interventions to address maternal disparities.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-30/191945>

The Guidance referred to above can be read at

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/equity-and-equality-guidance-for-local-maternity-systems/>

Treatment of, and Outcomes for, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Individuals in the Criminal Justice System Independent Review

Alex Cunningham (Labour) [193167] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, pursuant to the Answer of 12 June 2023 to Question 188259 on Treatment of, and Outcomes for, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Individuals in the Criminal Justice System Independent Review, what the average sentence was for people convicted of grievous bodily harm with intent by (a) Crown Court and (b) the defendant's (i) gender, (ii) ethnicity, and (iii) age in each of the last five years.

Reply from Edward Argar: The Ministry of Justice publishes information from 2010 to 2022 on the number of defendants prosecuted for offences under Section 18 of Offences Against the Person Act 1861 (offence code 00501), in the 'Outcomes by Offence' data tool.

The attached tables provide a breakdown of convictions for the offence contrary to Section 18 of the Offences Against Person Act 1861 (causing grievous bodily harm with intent) within the last three years, where it has been treated as a principal offence by Crown Court (table 1), and in all courts by information on gender (table 2), ethnicity (table 3), and age (table 4).

Detailed offence data at Crown Court are only available in the Court Proceedings Database from 2020 onwards. Therefore, figures for all tables have been limited to 2020 onwards in order to give a complete view of each year presented.

[Table](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-10/193167>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-07/188259>

Energy Bills Rebate: Travellers

Sarah Olney (Liberal Democrat) [192611] To ask the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, what steps he is taking to ensure that (a) Gypsies and Travellers living on roadside camps and (b) itinerant liveaboard Boaters can access the Energy Bills Support Scheme.

Reply from Amanda Solloway: Officials are still working to determine if there is a robust method for Gypsies and Travellers and itinerant liveaboard boaters to provide proof that their caravan or boat is their main or sole residence. This is necessary so they can receive the Energy Bills Support Scheme Alternative Funding support whilst protecting public funds from fraud. The Government is

working to resolve this issue and will communicate any decision with stakeholder associations who represent these households when it has been made.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-05/192611>

New Publications

Ethnicity Pay Reporting: UK Government Response

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1165466/ethnicity_pay_reporting_consultation_response.pdf

Review of neonatal assessment and practice in Black, Asian, and minority ethnic newborns

<https://www.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/RHO-Neonatal-Assessment-Report.pdf>

News

Concerns over focus on skin colour in newborn checks

<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-66122394>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Debate

Metropolitan Police: Stephen Lawrence Murder Investigation

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-07-12/debates/F7A4BB13-A74A-4859-B9F4-3AD5D3AE1C14/MetropolitanPoliceStephenLawrenceMurderInvestigation>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Antisemitism

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [905854] What recent assessment [the Minister] has made of the potential implications for his policies of levels of antisemitism in the last 12 months.

Reply from the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (Michael Gove): We have paid close attention to the concerning figures produced by the Home Office and the Community Security Trust, which have shown the continued prevalence of antisemitism in our society. We are considering Lord Mann's recent reports on the subject, which we will respond to in due course, and we have increased the annual Jewish community protective security grant to £15 million in 2023-24.

Alex Sobel: Did the Secretary of State see the research from King's College London, showing that those who believe in conspiracies are most likely to be antisemitic? Much of that antisemitism takes place online and is legal but harmful. What is he doing to tackle conspiracism, misinformation and fake news; why are the measures to tackle them in the Online Safety Bill so weak; and why have the Government removed the legal but harmful provision, which would protect so much of the Jewish community?

Reply from Michael Gove: The hon. Gentleman is right that there is a significant overlap between antisemitism and conspiracy theories, and many of the tropes that

conspiracists use are drawn from the antisemitic library. However, with the Online Safety Bill it is important to balance the right to free speech with vigilance in dealing with hate, and this Government are absolutely committed to combating antisemitism wherever it rears its head.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-07-10/debates/D5369023-D453-499F-B706-BA9254F9E9B6/Antisemitism>

The Home Office figures referred to above can be read at

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

The CST figures referred to above can be read at

<https://cst.org.uk/public/data/file/e/6/CST%20Incidents%20Report%202022.pdf>

and

<https://cst.org.uk/news/blog/2023/01/19/cst-report-shows-22-increase-in-campus-antisemitism>

Lord Mann's reports, referred to above, can be read at

<https://antisemitism.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Understanding-Jewish-Experience-in-Higher-Education.pdf>

and

<https://antisemitism.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/PDF-Antisemitism-Report-2023.pdf>

and

<https://antisemitism.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/A-Good-Practice-Guide.pdf>

The research referred to above can be read at

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41599-023-01624-y>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Schools: Islamophobia

Stephen Morgan (Labour) [192640] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps her Department is taking to tackle islamophobia in schools.

Reply from Nick Gibb: The Government condemns and strives to tackle all forms of discrimination, prejudice, and harassment.

Under the Equality Act 2010, schools have a duty to take steps to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations across all protected characteristics, including between people of different religions or beliefs. The Department has published advice to support schools to fulfil their duties under the Equality Act 2010, which is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/equality-act-2010-advice-for-schools?msckid=9ce22dddcc5d11ec9a0a2d6e2fd0a666>

As part of a broad and balanced curriculum, pupils should be introduced to different societies, and how different groups have contributed to the development of Britain. This can include experiences and voices of people from all backgrounds. The relationships, sex and health education (RSHE) curriculum has a focus on equality, respect, the harmful impact of stereotyping, as well as the importance of valuing difference. RSHE guidance is available at:

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

Schools are also required to actively promote fundamental British values, including mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs. Actively promoting these values means that any opinions or behaviours that contradict them need to be challenged. The Department publishes information, guidance and support for teachers and head teachers on how to challenge discriminatory beliefs on the Educate Against Hate website, accessible at:

<https://www.educateagainsthate.com>

This includes the 'Respectful School Communities' toolkit, a self review and signposting tool to support schools to develop a whole-school approach which promotes respect and discipline.

All schools are required by law to have a behaviour policy which outlines measures to encourage good behaviour and prevent all forms of bullying amongst pupils. To support schools tackle bullying, the Department is providing over £3 million of funding between August 2021 and March 2024 to five anti bullying organisations. The Department has deliberately focused this grant programme on preventing and tackling bullying of pupils with protected characteristics. This includes projects targeting the bullying of particular vulnerable groups, such as those who are victims of hate related bullying.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-05/192640>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Independent Review into Civil Unrest in Leicester

Claudia Webbe (Independent) [192879] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, if he will make an assessment of the adequacy of Lord Austin's leadership of the independent review launched into civil unrest in Leicester.

Independent Review into Civil Unrest in Leicester: Public Appointments

Claudia Webbe (Independent) [192880] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, for what reasons he appointed Lord Austin to be the Chair of the independent review launched into civil unrest in Leicester.

Lee Rowley: This government is committed to protecting all communities and will not tolerate attempts to foster division or violence among them.

Lord Austin was asked to deliver an independent, in-depth analysis of both Leicester-specific issues and wider factors which may have contributed to or exacerbated the recent tensions. The Review will seek to understand the origins of the unrest and how we can reduce the chances of similar events in the future.

Lord Austin has a long history of working against racism, prejudice and extremism and in trying to bring people together and build stronger and more united communities. His appointment is as chair of a panel of independent reviewers, consisting of a mixture of experts with experience in community engagement, social cohesion and counter extremism. I am confident this work will result in a rigorous, impartial, data-based assessment of the issues, which places significant importance on representing all sides throughout.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-06/192879>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-06/192880>

Press Release

High Commissioner for Human Rights Tells Urgent Debate of the Human Rights Council that Speech and Inflammatory Acts against Muslims and Others Are Offensive, Irresponsible and Wrong

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/news/2023/07/high-commissioner-human-rights-tells-urgent-debate-human-rights-council-speech-and>

News

Racism wrecks lives in NHS, warns senior doctor

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/racism-wrecks-lives-in-nhs-warns-senior-doctor-fz0tfq8wb>

Reports of discrimination reached record high last season, says Kick It Out
<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2023/jul/12/reports-of-discrimination-reached-record-high-last-season-says-kick-it-out>

MoD civil servant loses race case over diversity training
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/mod-worker-loses-ridiculous-discrimination-claims-5svxt3xnz>

Racism in Scottish cricket: The game's governing body needs to do more to tackle discrimination and prejudice – Foyso Choudhury
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/racism-in-scottish-cricket-the-games-governing-body-needs-to-do-more-to-tackle-discrimination-and-prejudice-foysol-choudhury-4214474>

TOP

Cost of Living

Scottish Government Website

Help during the cost of living crisis

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

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

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

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

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

Publication

Impact of increased cost of living on adults across Great Britain: February to May 2023
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/personalandhouseholdfinances/expenditure/articles/impactofincreasedcostoflivingonadultsacrossgreatbritain/februarytomay2023>

News

One in 20 adults run out of food as prices soar
<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-66199622>

Energy bill support: More than 700,000 households miss out
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-66124201>

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Other News

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator: Getting your online annual return right: trustee numbers

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/news/getting-your-online-annual-return-right-trustee-numbers/>

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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>

Third Reading, House of Lords

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-07-10/debates/735107A4-2AFD-4D82-A0D3-81FF5C960298/IllegalMigrationBill>

House of Commons consideration of House of Lords amendments

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-07-11/debates/5D96460C-A67B-4782-B74B-89BDD8ACE51A/IllegalMigrationBill>

and

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-07-11/debates/7568707E-1542-430C-BE00-2E55C0B37FEC/IllegalMigrationBill>

House of Lords consideration of House of Commons amendments

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-07-12/debates/459FB3DF-B741-4489-AD22-B8B6994FFA6A/IllegalMigrationBill>

Notice of amendments

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-03/0347/220347.pdf>

and

[https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-03/0347/amend/illegal migration day ccla 0711.pdf](https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-03/0347/amend/illegal%20migration%20day%20ccla%200711.pdf)

and

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/52204/documents/3802>

and

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-03/0353/220353.pdf>

and

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-03/0353/220353.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/2023-07-10/debates/049FB9B5-C87F-4750-8523-63A07315339D/OnlineSafetyBill>

and

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-07-10/debates/7D3B44D0-9B82-42EF-A426-133ED1AD872C/OnlineSafetyBill>

and

Report Stage, House of Lords

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-07-12/debates/166C8F0B-D314-4AF6-A7FB-341766931E1F/OnlineSafetyBill>

Notice of amendments

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/52169/documents/3793>

and

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/52233/documents/3808>

and

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/52268/documents/3817>

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>

TOP

Job Opportunities

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

TOP

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!**

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/yckunjt看>

**** Experiences of Racism in Scotland's Night-Time Economy**

31 July 2023 (online, 6.00–7.30)

2 August 2023 (online, 1.00–2.30)

CRER focus groups to gather evidence of people's experiences as victims and witnesses

of racism within bars, nightclubs and other nightlife environments in Scotland. All participants will be compensated with an e-gift card worth £25 for their time and contributions. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/mpn2wc4c>

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/5t5frkwt>

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



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



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

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