



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

Contents

Immigration and Asylum	Bills in Progress
Equality	Consultations
Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination	Job Opportunities
Other Scottish Parliament and Government	Funding Opportunities
Other UK Parliament and Government	Events, Conferences, and Training
Cost of Living	Useful Links
	Back issues

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

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

Due to the Jewish festival of Yom Kippur, the next issue of MEMO will be published on Wednesday 27 September.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

United Kingdom Immigration Policy

Audrey Nicoll (SNP): New data released this morning shows that the vast majority of Scots view immigration as a positive benefit that enriches Scotland culturally and economically. Can the First Minister update the chamber on his interactions with the United Kingdom Government about labour shortages in key sectors as a result of the UK's archaic immigration policies?

Reply from the First Minister (Humza Yousaf): Audrey Nicoll articulates very well the positive benefits of migration. In fact, virtually every study under the sun shows

that migrants who have come to the UK have contributed more than they have taken from it. I have to say that the hostile environment that has been created by successive UK Governments is woeful. The UK has become a pathetically insular country. ...

Not only is it morally wrong but, undoubtedly, it cuts our nose to spite our face in terms of the economic potential that migrants could bring to Scotland and, indeed, the rest of the UK. Frankly, I have lost hope for the Conservative UK Government when it comes to migration, but I would plead with Anas Sarwar to use any influence that he has with Keir Starmer in the UK Labour Party, as it seems to be engaged in a race to the bottom on the issue of migration. That will not help the UK and it certainly will not help Scotland.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=15434>

Scottish Parliament Motion

Kate Forbes (SNP) [S6M-10392] Rural Visa Pilot Scheme – That the Parliament recognises what it sees as the vital importance of seasonal and migrant workers to Scotland's £15 billion food and drink industry and the wider rural economy; appreciates the need for businesses to have access to the workforce that they require to carry out what it sees as their invaluable work in providing world-class produce; recognises the view expressed by NFU Scotland that, "The labour shortages encountered across the whole chain in 2021 – on farm, haulage, processing and packing – coupled with the Government's late delivery of the seasonal worker pilot scheme led to significant crop losses and millions of pounds of wastage"; understands that employers in the UK have found it difficult to source domestic labour to take up seasonal employment on farms, and that, in 2020, despite the widely publicised Pick for Britain campaign, UK residents made up only 11% of this workforce, and domestic recruitment in 2021 was at 5% for Scotland; notes previous reports that the East of Scotland Growers, the UK's biggest brassica producer, incurred losses of 3.5 million heads of broccoli and 1.5 million heads of cauliflower due to labour shortages; further notes that Seafood Scotland has stated that, within seafood processing, there was a considerable reliance on a predominantly Eastern European workforce; understands that these workers comprised 52% of the rural workforce across Scotland, 69% in the north east, and up to 92% in certain processing facilities; notes the recent reports of businesses in Fort William, Portree and elsewhere in Highlands struggling to find staff; welcomes what it sees as the invaluable contribution that seasonal and migrant workers make to Scotland's society and economy, and notes the calls for the UK Government to urgently review its position on the Scottish Government's proposal for a Rural Visa Pilot Scheme, and for an urgent reassessment of immigration policy to increase access to the labour that it considers Scotland needs for its economy and communities to prosper.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-10392>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy

David Simmonds (Conservative) [906303] What steps [is the Minister's] Department is taking to ensure that the Afghan relocations and assistance policy scheme is effective.

Reply from the Minister for Armed Forces (James Heappey): I said in May to the House that we aim to process all outstanding initial ARAP applications by the end of August. I can report that we have just 2,000 complex cases remaining from more than 93,000 principal applications that we received. We have issued over

58,000 decisions to applicants in the past three months, giving them the clarity they deserve, and we continue to move at best pace to process the remaining applications.

David Simmonds: ... In future, as Afghan bridging operations come to a close, can [the Minister] commit to work with local authorities to ensure that those who have put their lives on the line supporting our military operations continue to be supported in their new lives here in the UK?

Reply from James Heapey: I certainly can, Mr Speaker.

Kevan Jones (Labour): What liaising does the Minister do with the Home Office? I have an Afghan special forces interpreter who came here having done valiant work during Operation Pitting. His mother, father and siblings left Afghanistan and ended up in Ukraine of all places, and they moved to the UK last year. The Home Office gave them temporary leave to remain, only for them to receive a letter in the past couple of months saying that they would have to be deported back to either Afghanistan, Ukraine or Rwanda. In that case I interceded and the Minister's office helped, but what is going on between his Department and the Home Office?

Reply from James Heapey: From the question, I can see all sorts of ways in which that might present quite a confusing case to colleagues in the Home Office, especially if those in Ukraine proceeded to the UK under a mechanism other than the Afghan relocations and assistance policy. May I look at the detail of the case and come back to the right hon. Gentleman, rather than speculate?

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-09-11/debates/1A5F9EAD-1906-4255-BEE9-98031FAD88BA/AfghanRelocationsAndAssistancePolicy>

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>

Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy

Chi Onwurah (Labour) [906299] What steps [is the Minister] taking to help support Afghan nationals eligible for resettlement under the Afghan relocations and assistance policy scheme.

Matt Western (Labour) [906305] What steps [is the Minister] taking to help support Afghan nationals eligible for resettlement under the Afghan relocations and assistance policy scheme.

Janet Daby (Labour) [906311] What steps [is the Minister] taking to help support Afghan nationals eligible for resettlement under the Afghan relocations and assistance policy scheme.

Catherine West (Labour) [906312] What steps [is the Minister] taking to help support Afghan nationals eligible for resettlement under the Afghan relocations and assistance policy scheme.

Nia Griffith (Labour) [906315] What steps [is the Minister] taking to help support Afghan nationals eligible for resettlement under the Afghan relocations and assistance policy scheme.

Reply from the Minister for Armed Forces (James Heapey): The Ministry of Defence's priority remains the relocation of ARAP-eligible Afghans to the safety of third countries at best pace. His Majesty's Government continue to accommodate and support ARAP-eligible people in third countries while they await relocation to the United Kingdom.

Chi Onwurah: I am proud to have an Afghan interpreter for the British armed forces as a constituent, but I was ashamed to learn from him that his brother, who worked for six years directly for the Special Air Service in Helmand province, had applied under the ARAP scheme and been rejected without a proper explanation. He is now in hiding in Afghanistan. Will the Minister take up that case as a matter of urgency, and will he explain

to the House why his Government are still failing to support those Afghans who risked so much to support our armed forces?

Reply from James Heapey: The hon. Lady mentions a specific role about which it would be inappropriate to speculate on the Floor of the House. I will, of course, look at the particular case that she mentions. However, it is worth reminding right hon. and hon. colleagues that the ARAP scheme was intended for those who had been in direct support of the UK military—interpreters, most often—and, beyond that, there is a very narrow opportunity for those with special circumstances who have come through under category 4. When colleagues write to the Ministry of Defence to raise a case, they often do so on behalf of somebody who might have served in the Afghan national security forces, not necessarily in the direct employ of the UK military. That is not to cast any judgment on the case that she raises—I will look at that specifically and write to her.

Matt Western: There is a deep sense of injustice among former serving officers and other military personnel that we have forgotten the moral obligation to Afghan military personnel and others who served alongside us. Will the Minister confirm just how many Afghan former military personnel are currently presenting as homeless in the UK, and how many are currently in hotels in Pakistan?

Reply from James Heapey: ... ARAP is not explicitly for those who served in the Afghan armed forces alongside the British military; it is for those who served in the employ of the British military in all but a very narrow number of cases. I will write to him on his precise question about Afghan service personnel who are now homeless in the UK—I suspect that they are remarkably few—but Afghan service personnel are not the main target of ARAP. As someone who served in Afghanistan, I share the sense of many of my former colleagues who would have liked to have done more, but that is simply never what ARAP was designed to do. Neither is it credible that the hundreds of thousands of people who served in the Afghan national forces could all be relocated to the UK.

Janet Daby: In 2021, I held a public meeting shortly after the evacuation from Afghanistan. It was widely attended by worried and distressed residents, who all wanted help for their relatives' desperate situations in Afghanistan. Over two years have passed, and there are huge problems with ARAP. Can the Minister say why the Government are allowing people and their relatives to suffer for so long?

Reply from James Heapey: There is a known number of people who worked in the employ of the British military during our campaign in Afghanistan. Our priority has been to work through and match the lists of people we know have worked for us with those who are applicants. It is my understanding that only about 2,000 applications are outstanding, and that 58,000 decisions have been taken in the past two months alone. Overwhelmingly, those decisions are, I am afraid, to say no to people, but we are making good progress and are nearing the end of tracking down all those we know have worked for us.

Catherine West: ... how many applicants are still being kicked out of hotels in the UK, and how many are applying from Pakistan and in hiding?

Reply from James Heapey: ... The plan is to remove all ARAP applicants from hotels, because they are not here illegally; they have not arrived on boats across the channel. They are entitled to be here, they have access to full universal credit and housing benefit, and much more importantly, they have the right to work immediately on arrival. Our priority, unapologetically—I hope she agrees that this is the right approach—is to get people out of hotels and into houses where they can get on with the life that they so deserve here in the UK as legal citizens.

Nia Griffith: It is hardly in the spirit of Operation Warm Welcome that, as the second anniversary of the evacuation of Kabul passed, Afghans who supported our armed forces were still left crowded into hotels at the taxpayer's expense, or expected to move hundreds

of miles from where they have managed to find employment and their children have settled into schools. When does the Minister now expect all Afghans in the schemes to be moved out of hotels and given suitable offers of accommodation?

Reply from James Heapey: ... The Minister for Veterans' Affairs ... sees it as of huge importance that people are moved out of hotels and allowed to get on with their lives as quickly as possible. I will ask his office to write to the hon. Lady with the exact detail of when he hopes to see the job done.

Julian Lewis (Conservative): I commend to the Defence team and, indeed, the House the new book by Larisa Brown, "The Gardener of Lashkar Gah", which outlines in great detail the sort of debt we owe to the people who tried to help our forces. My specific question is not about people serving with the Afghan forces; it is about whether we have a proper database of all those who served with the British forces and are eligible under the scheme, and whether the Minister can guarantee that the scheme will not be closed while some of those people—probably a large number of them—are still in hiding in Afghanistan and thus unable to apply for it.

Reply from James Heapey: It will not surprise my right hon. Friend to know that the people who worked for the British armed forces over our extended period in Afghanistan appeared on many different lists, and part of the job of work over the past 18 months or so has been to consolidate those into an authoritative list of those whom we know to have worked for us. However, we do have very good records, as one would expect the military to have kept. That allows us to focus our search on people whom we know to be eligible within the pile of applications, and of late, to make rapid progress in informing those who are ineligible. We will, of course, keep the scheme open for as long as it takes to find all of those whom we know worked for us.

Priti Patel (Conservative): ... The councils have aided [Afghan nationals] to get into housing; however, we still have six families and 40 individuals who need to be supported in temporary accommodation. As such, can the Minister give assurances to the House about the cross-Government work that is taking place to ensure that those families come out of hotels and become settled, and in particular the work that his Department is leading on, helping to get Afghans into employment so that they can settle in the United Kingdom?

Reply from James Heapey: I can absolutely give my right hon. Friend the assurance she asks for. Given her previous role in Government, she knows better than anybody that those men and women who have come here have every legal right to start work and to settle in the UK. They deserve their journey here on the back of what they did in support of our armed forces, so we will support them while they are in hotels, and better still, once we have got them settled in more permanent accommodation, we will support them into employment. I will make sure that the Minister for Veterans' Affairs briefs my right hon. Friend on his work on that matter.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-09-11/debates/C2D4268D-5F8E-498C-8CBE-85548D45636A/AfghanRelocationsAndAssistancePolicy>

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: Offshoring Refugee Policy

The following four questions all received the same answer

Asylum: Ascension Island

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [194808] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what feasibility studies her Department has conducted on the viability of offshoring people seeking asylum to Ascension Island.

Asylum: British Overseas Territories

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [194809] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, which UK Overseas Territories her Department is considering for the offshoring of people seeking asylum.

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [194812] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much from the public purse her Department has spent on feasibility studies for the offshoring of people seeking asylum to UK Overseas Territories in each of the last three years.

Asylum

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [194813] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, which countries her Department is holding discussions with on the offshoring of people seeking asylum as of September 2023; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: While individuals are endangering lives making perilous journeys, every possible option must be considered to reduce the draw of the UK. We are always willing to work with partners around the world to tackle the joint challenge of illegal migration.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-01/195808>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-01/195809>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-01/195812>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-01/195813>

British Overseas Territories: Asylum

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [195817] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, how much from the public purse his Department has spent on feasibility studies for the offshoring of people seeking asylum to the UK Overseas Territories in each of the last three years.

Reply from David Rutley: The UK has not funded any such feasibility studies.

Responsibility for migration and Asylum claims in the British Overseas Territories lies with the elected Overseas Territories governments. The Territories face varying levels of Asylum claims and the UK Government is providing support where needed. The FCDO, in partnership with the Home Office, will continue to work with the Territories on asylum procedures.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-01/195817>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Channel Migrants

Undocumented Migrants: Turkey

Stephen Kinnock (Labour) [198345] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the press release, UK and Türkiye strengthen partnership

to help tackle illegal migration, published on 9 August 2023, what the total amount of financial support is which the Government plans to provide to Türkiye for the purposes of implementing any plans set out in an agreement between the UK and Türkiye.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The UK and Türkiye are close strategic partners and have agreed to enhance cooperation on tackling the illegal movement of migrants. This covers close engagement and support in numerous areas, and we are bolstering our resources, for example to enable collaboration on joint law enforcement operations to disrupt the criminal gangs who are facilitating and profiting from illegal journeys. As a cooperative initiative in development it is not possible to set out the parameters or extent of UK funding, but any financial support offered will be agreed with our partners, and focused in areas that will bolster our effectiveness in tackling this shared challenge.

Anyone with no right to be in the UK and whose appeal rights are exhausted is expected to leave the UK. Those who can return home but refuse to do so will face enforced removal, including Turkish nationals.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-07/198345>

The press release referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-turkiye-strengthen-partnership-to-help-tackle-illegal-migration>

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Julian Knight (Independent) [196290] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans her Department has for boats that are seized by the Border Force for trying to transport migrants over the English Channel.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: All small boats used for illegal crossings vessels are seized by Border Force, assessed for evidential value, and are held by Border Force until completion of any criminal investigation activities.

The boats are disposed of by Border Force's approved contractors and, where appropriate, any suitable materials are recycled. Although the Home Office does research the origins of migrant vessels it would be inappropriate to go into the findings of those enquiries.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-01/196920>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Afghanistan

Immigration: Afghanistan

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [198501] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have travelled to the UK from Afghanistan every month not through official schemes since the (a) Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy and (b) Afghan citizens resettlement schemes opened.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office publishes statistics on detected irregular arrivals to the UK in the '[Irregular Migration to the UK statistics](#)' release. Data on detected irregular arrivals, by method of entry and nationality, is published in table Irr_D01 of the '[Irregular migration to the UK detailed dataset](#)' with the latest data up to the end of June 2023.

These figures included detected irregular arrivals only, not those arriving on any regular routes. These statistics also should not be used to infer the size of the irregular population in the UK, nor the total number of people entering the UK irregularly. For a number of reasons, it is not possible to know the exact size of the irregular population, or the number entering irregularly, and so we have not produced any official estimates for this number.

The Home Office also publishes provisional data on small boat arrivals in the

[‘Statistics relating to the Illegal Migration Act’](#) release. Data on migrants detected crossing the English Channel in small boats, by nationality, can be found in table IMB_01b of the [‘Statistics relating to the Illegal Migration Act: data tables to August 2023’](#). The latest data relate to 31 July 2023.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-08/198501>

Afghanistan: Refugees

Dan Jarvis (Labour) [197785] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, how many eligible Afghan nationals under (a) Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy and (b) Afghan citizens resettlement scheme remained in (i) Afghanistan and (ii) Pakistan as of 4 September 2023.

Reply from Leo Docherty: Given the sensitivity of the security checks element of the process, we are unable to give precise numbers of individuals at each stage of the process.

We recognise there is a desire to give specific numbers and details of each cohort and their positions throughout the process of resettlement. This is a dynamic picture, which changes daily. It would not be helpful for those in Afghanistan for us to give a running commentary on numbers, which could draw attention to those preparing to cross the border.

For Pakistan, as of 4 September, there are circa 2030 ARAP eligible individuals, and circa 700 eligible individuals under ACRS Pathway 3.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-05/197785>

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

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

Afghanistan: Refugees

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [198400] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she is taking steps to ensure that people from Hazara communities are able to access the Afghan citizens resettlement scheme.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: As of June 2023, the UK has granted settled status to around 9,800 individuals under the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS). The ACRS is designed to support those who have assisted UK efforts in Afghanistan and stood up for UK values, as well as vulnerable people, including members of minority groups at risk. The ACRS is a bespoke scheme and is not open to applications. Instead, eligible individuals are prioritised and referred for resettlement to the UK through one of three referral pathways, which is a fair and equitable way to identify those in need.

The capacity of the UK to resettle people is not unlimited and difficult decisions have to be made on who will be prioritised for resettlement.

We continue to work with likeminded partners and countries neighbouring Afghanistan on resettlement issues, and to support safe passage for eligible Afghans.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-07/198400>

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

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer: Ukraine

Refugees: Ukraine

Wera Hobhouse (Liberal Democrat) [196355] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assessment he has made of the adequacy of current guidance for Job Centre staff on assessing the education status of Ukrainian refugees.

Reply from Guy Opperman: The Department for Work and Pensions has provided immediate access to Universal Credit, and jobs support, for those arriving in the UK from Ukraine because of the Russian invasion; individuals must still meet the eligibility criteria, in order to receive Universal Credit and other Social Security benefits.

There are some exceptions where students may be eligible for Universal Credit such as where they are responsible for a child or are enrolled on a part time course and are seeking employment.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-01/196355>

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

Migrants: Health Services and Visas

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [196223] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her Department's timescales are for introducing changes to the levels of (a) visa fees and (b) the Immigration Health Surcharge; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Regulations will be laid in the Autumn that will amend the Immigration and Nationality (Fees) Regulations 2018 and Immigration (Health Charge) Order 2015 to set new visa fee levels and increase the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) respectively. The exact date that visa fee and IHS increases will come into effect is subject to parliamentary process.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-01/196223>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Migrants: Health Services and Visas

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [196224] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an estimate of the number of (a) people already living in the UK, (b) women, (c) people with children who are British citizens and (d) people from ethnic minority backgrounds who are likely to be affected by her Department's planned increases in (i) visa fees and (ii) the Immigration Health Surcharge.

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [196225] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has undertaken an equalities impact assessment on the potential effects of the planned increases in (a) visa fees and (b) the Immigration Health Surcharge on those who will be expected to pay them.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office has undertaken equalities impact assessments for the visa fee and Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) increases. Application fees will increase across a range of immigration and nationality routes, including for people coming to live, work and study, and for applications to remain in the UK. The routes which are impacted, and the levels of increase will be set out within the regulations to be laid in Autumn and are subject to usual parliamentary process.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-01/196224>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-01/196225>

Migrants: Health Services and Visas

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [196226] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has made an assessment of the potential merits of providing support to migrants who may be unable to afford planned increases to the cost of (a) visa fees and (b) the Immigration Health Surcharge.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Where a person applying on a family and human rights immigration route is unable to afford the visa fee and the IHS and where this is backed by clear and compelling evidence provided by the individual, the fees may be waived if they are unaffordable.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-01/196226>

Migrant Workers

Dan Carden (Labour) [196918] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has a strategy for migrant worker welfare.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Migrant workers have the same employment rights and protections as resident workers, as supported by the relevant departments, agencies, regulatory bodies and trades unions. In addition, the Home Office ensures the design of immigration routes has regard to migrant welfare including by: requiring sponsors of migrant workers to keep records of pay and compliance with sponsorship obligations, alongside requiring people to have a specific job and be paid an appropriate salary; enabling migrants to apply for jobs with other sponsors, to ensure they are not trapped; and, applying an English language requirement to help workers to integrate, which provides assurance that they will not be overly-reliant on their sponsors, are able to seek help if needed and understand their rights.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-01/196918>

Immigration Bail: Electronic Tagging

Chi Onwurah (Labour) [197721] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people were electronically tagged as a condition of immigration bail as of 1 September 2023; and what was the cost to the public purse of electronic tagging in immigration cases in each of the last five years for which data is available.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Foreign nationals who commit crimes here in the UK will face the full force of the law, including deportation at the earliest opportunity for those eligible.

In some cases, where deportation is delayed, individuals may be released on electronic monitoring as a condition of immigration bail, pending deportation.

Since 14 June 2022, we have been piloting the use of EM with a small cohort of individuals who have arrived in the UK through illegal and dangerous routes.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-05/197721>

Immigration: Ethiopia

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [196312] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to support Ethiopian applicants for family reunion.

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/2023-09-01/196312>

Immigration: Hong Kong

Neil Coyle (Labour) [197878] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many of the 533,000 people offered a safe and legal route into the UK since 2015 were from Hong Kong.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office publishes data on the number of people offered entry to the UK on safe and legal routes in the "[How many people do we grant protection to](#)" section of the [Immigration system statistics release](#).

Further details on the British Nationals (Overseas) (BN(O)) visa route can be found in the "[How many people come to the UK each year \(including visitors\)?](#)" section of the release.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-05/197878>

Illegal Migration Act 2023

Alison Thewliss (SNP) [906347] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what recent discussions he has had with Cabinet colleagues on the potential effect of the Illegal Migration Act 2023 on access to justice for asylum seekers.

Reply from Mike Freer: The Illegal Migration Act will ensure that the only way to come to the UK for asylum will be through safe and legal routes, and we are working across Government to ensure access to justice for asylum seekers.

All individuals who receive a removal notice under the Illegal Migration Act will have access to legal aid, without facing a means or merits test, to help ensure access to justice.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-06/906347>

Refugees: Families

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [198399] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, whether he has had recent discussions with the UNHCR on the reunification of families in safe countries.

Reply from Andrew Mitchell: The FCDO engages systematically with partners, such as United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and regularly discusses treatment of refugees, including family reunification. The UK actively promotes the implementation of the 1951 UN Refugee Convention which asserts that a refugee should not be returned to a country where they face serious threats to their life or freedom. We also provide a safe and legal route to bring families together through its family reunion policy. This allows individuals with protection status in the UK to sponsor their partner or children to stay with or join them here.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-07/198399>

Asylum: Applications

Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat) [198387] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department have taken to (a) support people who have had their asylum claim withdrawn and (b) ensure that people who have had their asylum claims withdrawn do not become victims of (i) exploitation and (ii) modern slavery.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Asylum claims may be implicitly withdrawn for a variety of reasons, for example because the claimant fails to maintain contact with the Home Office or fails to attend an asylum interview or reporting event.

All withdrawals are administered on a case-by-case basis. Claimants are given the opportunity to explain their reasons for non-compliance before their claim is to be withdrawn implicitly. Where a reasonable explanation is provided, claims will not be

withdrawn.

Following withdrawal of an asylum claim, if the claimant does not otherwise have the legal right to remain in the UK, leave to remain on other grounds following a separate application or an outstanding application, they will be liable for removal. For those eligible, The Home Office Voluntary Returns Service can provide support for those required to return to their home country if they do not have permission to remain in the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-07/198387>

Asylum: Employment and Qualifications

George Howarth (Labour) [195674] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has made a recent assessment of the skills and qualifications of asylum seekers; and how many asylum seekers have been permitted to take up employment pending a decision on their asylum application in 2022 and 2023.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Those who have claimed asylum in the UK and have had their asylum claim outstanding for 12 months or more, through no fault of their own, are allowed to work. Those permitted to work are restricted to jobs on the Shortage Occupation List, which is based on expert advice from the independent Migration Advisory Committee.

There are also various legal routes for those seeking to work in the UK under the Points-Based System. These routes include Skilled Worker, Global Talent, and Health and Care routes, which are supporting UK businesses to recruit workers with the skills and talent they need from around the world.

The Home Office does not record data on the number of asylum seekers who have been permitted to work in a reportable format.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-01/195674>

Bank Services: Homelessness and Refugees

Navendu Mishra (Labour) [197308] To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what steps he is taking to help support (a) homeless people and (b) refugees obtain a bank account.

Reply from Andrew Griffith: The government is committed to improving access to financial services and recognises that access to a transactional bank account is key to enabling people to manage their money on a day-to-day basis effectively, securely and confidently. That is why the Payment Account Regulations 2015 require the largest UK banking providers to provide fee-free Basic Bank Accounts to anyone who doesn't already have a current account

These regulations explicitly include consumers with no fixed address and asylum seekers. Firms will still need to carry out checks to verify consumers' identities when they first open an account but are encouraged to be flexible regarding the types of documents they will accept, such as a referral letter from a homeless shelter.

The Government has also worked with the financial services industry to provide guidance to support firms to open basic bank accounts to refugees coming to the UK from specific countries, such as arrivals from Afghanistan and Ukraine. To date, over 75,000 basic bank accounts have been opened by Ukrainian nationals arriving in the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-01/197308>

Human Trafficking

Andrew Percy (Conservative) [197778] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to help prevent and protect against human trafficking and exploitation of vulnerable people in the short-term lettings and stays sector.

Reply from Sarah Dines: The Government is committed to tackling the heinous

crime of modern slavery. We are identifying more victims of modern slavery and doing more to bring perpetrators to justice than ever before.

We have also introduced several initiatives aimed at preventing human trafficking and exploitation, these include:

Supporting the police to tackle modern slavery, including dedicated funding totalling £17.8 million since 2016. This funding has supported the Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime Unit, run by Devon and Cornwall Police, to increase police awareness and ability to tackle modern slavery across England and Wales. Introducing training interventions for frontline services that might encounter victims of modern slavery, making sure operational colleagues such as Border Force can recognise the signs of modern slavery and are equipped to step in.

Between 2016 and March 2023, the Home Office spent over £37m through the Modern Slavery Fund, which has a strong focus on upstream prevention.

The government has not assessed the prevalence of exploitation of workers in the short-term holiday and short-term stays sector.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-05/197778>

Human Trafficking: Children

Julian Sturdy (Conservative) [197736] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government is taking to tackle child trafficking.

Reply from Sarah Dines: This Government is clear that targeting, grooming and the exploitation of children who are often the most vulnerable in our society is deplorable and is committed to tackling it. The Modern Slavery Act 2015 gives law enforcement agencies the tools to tackle modern slavery, including potential maximum sentences of life imprisonment for perpetrators and specific support and protection for victims, including children. £17.8 million of dedicated funding has been provided to the police since 2016, helping to improve the police's ability to identify victims and to investigate and prosecute the perpetrators and we are investing up to £145 million over three years to tackle drugs supply and county lines activity. The Prevention Programme in England and Wales also delivers tailored interventions, based on police intelligence, to improve multi-agency collaboration in prevention of all exploitation types and help identify hot spot locations, priority areas and specific threats in each region.

The identification of a child who is a potential victim of modern slavery, or is at risk of being a victim, should always trigger the agreed local child protection procedures to ensure the child's safety and welfare, and to enable the police to gather evidence about abusers and coercers. In addition to this statutory support, the Government has rolled out Independent Child Trafficking Guardians (ICTGs) who provide an additional source of advice and support for potentially trafficked children, irrespective of nationality, and is piloting their impact with sites covering two thirds of all local authorities across England and nationally in Wales.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-05/197736>

Tinsley House Immigration Removal Centre

Stephen Kinnock (Labour) [196240] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Report on an unannounced inspection of Tinsley House Immigration Removal Centre published by HMIP on 7 August 2023, how many detainees are currently held at Tinsley House; and when she plans to increase the number of staff at Tinsley House to the level at which the centre can operate at full capacity.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office publishes data on people in immigration detention in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release' at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>

The number of people in detention on the last day of each quarter are published in

table Det_D02 of the Detention detailed datasets at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/immigration-system-statistics-data-tables#detention>

The data can be broken down by nationality of detained person, and place of detention.

The latest data relate to the number of people in detention at the end of June 2023.

Tinsley House immigration removal centre (IRC) is operating at full capacity.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-01/196240>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmiprisons/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2023/08/Tinsley-House-IRC-web-2023-2.pdf>

Deportation: Offenders

Matt Vickers (Conservative) [197091] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that foreign nationals convicted of serious crimes are deported.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: We are absolutely committed to protecting the public by removing foreign criminals and are determined to do all we can to ensure that they cannot frustrate the removal process.

Last year, under the Nationality and Borders Act (NABA) 2022, we expanded the early removal scheme (ERS) for FNOs to allow them to be removed directly from prison from a maximum of 9 months to 12 months before the end of their custodial sentence.

Our new Prisoner Transfer Agreement with Albania came into force in May 2022, and we are working closely with other countries to speed up the removal of foreign national offenders, freeing up space in our prisons and reducing costs to the British taxpayer.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-01/197091>

Press Releases

New Illegal Migration Act measures and age dispute assessment tests

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-illegal-migration-act-measures-and-age-dispute-assessment-tests>

New visa fees set to come into effect next month

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-visa-fees-set-to-come-into-effect-next-month>

New Publications

House of Commons Library Briefing: UK Immigration Fees

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9859/CBP-9859.pdf>

House of Commons Library Briefing: Asylum Statistics:

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN01403/SN01403.pdf>

House of Lords Library Briefing: Family migration: Justice and Home Affairs Committee report

<https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/family-migration-justice-and-home-affairs-committee-report/>

Analysis of social characteristics of international migrants living in England and Wales: Census 2021

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/articles/analysisofsocialcharacteristicsofinternationalmigrantslivinginenglandandwales/census2021>

Updated: Homelessness management information - Ukrainian nationals: England

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1185173/Ukraine_Homelessness_Pressures_Publication_August_2023.ods

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: Channel Migrants

Stopping Channel migrants 'not possible without Rwanda-style scheme'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/09/12/channel-crossings-will-struggle-without-rwanda-nca/>

Channel migrants are stuck in hotels despite winning asylum

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/jenrick-s-migrant-evictions-will-leave-them-homeless-charities-say-rcnq7kq8p>

News: Other Immigration and Asylum

Keir Starmer vows to strike migrants return deal with EU

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/starmer-labour-brexiteu-migrants-returns-b2411296.html>

People trafficking should be treated on a par with terrorism, says Keir Starmer

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-66804798>

Migrant crisis UK: Would Sir Keir Starmer pledge to 'smash the gangs' stop illegal migration?

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/world/migrant-crisis-uk-would-sir-keir-starmer-pledge-to-smash-the-gangs-stop-illegal-migration-4336013>

Keir Starmer: Labour will smash Channel migrant gangs

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/keir-starmer-immigration-plan-channel-crossings-uk-2023-rv3gmgmp>

Labour would bring child refugees to be with family

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/labour-would-bring-child-refugees-to-be-with-family-7w8tgcf33>

Returns deal would focus on safe routes for children with family in UK – Labour
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/yvette-cooper-rishi-sunak-chris-philp-matt-wrack-europe-b2412159.html>

Poll: Two-fifths of Scots want to see an increase in immigration
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/westminster/23787966.poll-two-fifths-scots-want-see-increase-immigration/>

Two-thirds of UK public ‘dissatisfied with government’s approach to immigration’
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/sunak-immigration-small-boats-poll-b2409615.html>

Two thirds unhappy with government’s handling of immigration
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/two-thirds-unhappy-with-government-s-handling-of-immigration-7vtsv9mxq>

A welcome change in immigration attitudes
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/welcome-change-in-immigration-attitudes-88twzqxqml>

Home Office cuts number of migrants to be housed on Bibby Stockholm barge
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/bibby-stockholm-migrants-housing-cost-safety-lm3tgng6j>

We were held on Suella Braverman’s Bibby Stockholm barge – and we’re terrified of going back there
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/sep/12/suella-braverman-bibby-stockholm-terrified-asylum-seekers-ministers>

Traffickers teach migrants violence in gang recruitment racket
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/traffickers-teach-migrants-violence-in-gang-recruitment-racket-wqsr2ppdk>

Frank Ospina begged to be sent home - but died in UK detention
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-66791416>

TOP

Equality

News

Paying people to go to Holyrood and providing information in different languages 'key to getting public more involved in politics'
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/paying-people-to-go-to-holyrood-and-providing-information-in-different-languages-key-to-getting-public-more-involved-in-politics-4288835>

Voter ID: General election could face serious disruption - survey
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-66788130>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Anti-Racism Observatory for Scotland

Paul Sweeney (Labour) [S6W-20926] To ask the Scottish Government how the Anti-Racism Observatory for Scotland will align with the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which cover colour, nationality, ethnic and national origin.

Reply from Emma Roddick: We are currently developing detailed proposals for the Anti-Racism Observatory for Scotland (AROS). A formal remit will be drawn up (and published) in due course.

The work of the Observatory will align closely with our obligations under the Equality Act (2010) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and will inform and support implementation of the Convention in Scotland.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-20926>

The Convention referred to above can be read at

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-convention-elimination-all-forms-racial>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Hate Crime: Muslims

Sarah Owen (Labour) [197040] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, with reference to the report entitled A Decade of Anti-Muslim Hate published by TellMAMA on 20 July 2023, whether he has made an assessment of the implications for her policies of the finding that the number of cases of anti-Muslim hate crime doubled between 2012 and 2022.

Reply from Lee Rowley: All forms of racial and religious discrimination have no place in our communities. No one should ever be a victim of hatred because of their religion or belief and the Government continues to work with police and community partners to monitor and combat it.

Tell MAMA are a key partner in this work and the findings of the 10-year report will continue to help inform Government policy and support victims of anti-Muslim hatred. We have supported them since 2012 with nearly £5 million of funding.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-01/197040>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://tellmamauk.org/wp-content/uploads/pdf/A-Decade-of-Anti-Muslim-Hate-TellMAMAREport.pdf>

Universities: Antisemitism and Iran

Jim Shannon (DUP) [197782] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what recent discussions her Department has had with student bodies on tackling (a) anti-Semitic and (b) pro-Iranian messaging in universities.

Reply from Robert Halfon: The government is clear that antisemitism is abhorrent and has no place in higher education (HE), and our universities should be welcoming and inclusive environments.

HE providers have clear responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010, to adopt robust policies and procedures that enable them to investigate and swiftly address

reports of antisemitism. The Prevent duty requires relevant HE bodies, when exercising their functions, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

Department officials meet regularly with the Union of Jewish Students to discuss our collective efforts in the ongoing fight against antisemitism on university campuses.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-05/197782>

Hate Crime: Sikhs

Zarah Sultana (Labour) [197190] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what estimate he has made of the level of hate crime committed against the Sikh community; and what steps her Department is taking to tackle such crime.

Reply from Lee Rowley: All forms of racial and religious discrimination are abhorrent and have no place in our communities. The Government continues to work with police and community partners to monitor and combat crime.

The Home Office publishes statistics which can be found at: [Hate crime, England and Wales, 2021 to 2022](#).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-01/197190>

New Publications

Workplace Hair Acceptance

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1FXPIxEjD7hSe-y2XMogPeCKUI1rXKNIL>

On Antisemitism: A collection of short articles about anti-Jewish racism

<https://antisemitism.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/6831-Antisem-Op-ed-Doc-v10.pdf>

News

Voter ID in England led to racial and disability discrimination, report finds

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2023/sep/11/voter-id-in-england-led-to-racial-and-disability-discrimination-report-finds>

Black women are under attack. This is why there's uproar following the Peckham shop 'assault'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/peckham-hair-supply-shop-black-woman-protests-b2410626.html>

Afro hair discrimination could cost jobs due to 'hierarchy of hairstyles', report warns

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/hair-discrimination-world-afro-day-b2410984.html>

Lifetime ban for cricket fan who racially abused Majid Haq

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/lifetime-ban-for-cricket-fan-who-racially-abused-majid-haq-m0dl5nfgb>

TOP

Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Regulations: Religious Bodies

Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat) [S6W-20980] To ask the Scottish Government when it next plans to review regulations relating to the conduct of religious bodies.

Reply from Emma Roddick: There are no current regulations specifically aimed at the conduct of religious bodies, however, a number of areas of regulation may apply to religious bodies.

The Scottish Government is currently running a collection of four public consultations on different aspects of regulation of the funeral sector in Scotland. This may be of interest to religious bodies.

The collection of four consultations cover regulations on the following topics: alkaline hydrolysis ('water cremation'), burial, inspection of burial authorities, cremation authorities and funeral directors and licensing for funeral directors.

The consultations are all available on the Scottish Government's consultation hub, Citizen Space and will be live from 25 August – 17 November 2023.

Some religious bodies are registered charities in Scotland, and charity trustee duties are set out in the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice has committed to work with the third sector and partners to develop the scope for a wider review of charity regulation. Charity trustee duties may be considered as part of this scoping work.

The Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 and the Civil partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 contain provisions on qualifying requirements for religious and belief bodies to meet before they can solemnise marriage (or register a civil partnership). These provisions are not in force. The Scottish Government has committed to carrying out a full public consultation before making any regulations to introduce qualifying requirements. This consultation has not been a priority given other workload pressures.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-20980>

The consultations referred to above can be read in the Consultations section below

The Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2005/10/contents>

The Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2014/5/contents/enacted>

The Civil partnership (Scotland) Act 2020, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2020/15/enacted>

Scotland's Colonial History

Willie Rennie (Liberal Democrat) [S6W-20896] To ask the Scottish Government what consideration it has given to establishing a museum of slavery highlighting Scotland's colonial history.

Reply from Christina McKelvie: Following the motion passed by the Scottish Parliament showing solidarity with anti-racism in June 2020, funding was provided to Museums Galleries Scotland for the Empire, Slavery and Scotland's Museums project, which was run by an independent steering group, and included the largest ever national consultation on attitudes to Scotland's museums and racism.

The Scottish Government is carefully considering the response to the steering group's recommendations, including the one which focused on establishing a new

organisation to create a dedicated space to address the legacy of colonialism in Scotland. This is an important agenda and we will continue to seek ways of raising awareness of the role Scotland played in slavery and empire and how our museums and galleries can play their part in portraying an accurate story of Scotland's history.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-20896>

The anti-racism debate referred to above can be read at

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12685&i=114774>

Press Releases

First Minister's Rosh Hashanah Message

https://www.scojec.org/news/2023/23ix_rh/fm.html

Scotland's Census first results

<https://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/news-and-events/scotland-s-census-first-results/>

New Publications

Scotland's Census 2022 - Rounded population estimates

<https://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/2022-results/scotland-s-census-2022-rounded-population-estimates/>

Embedding Public Participation in the Work of the Parliament

<https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdnep.azureedge.net/published/CPPP/2023/9/12/0a600ee9-b1bc-4dd0-b7fb-120bfd06ffdd/CPPPS062023R02.pdf>

TOP

Other UK Parliament and Government

Press Releases

The Prime Minister's message for Rosh Hashanah

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-prime-ministers-message-for-rosh-hashanah>

Panel named for independent review into civil unrest in Leicester

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/panel-named-for-independent-review-into-civil-unrest-in-leicester>

New Publications

The UK Commission on Covid Commemoration: Final Report

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1183667/2023-03-28_-_Web_Accessible_-_UK_Commission_on_Covid_Commemoration_Final_Report.pdf

Cost of Living

Scottish Government Website

Help during the cost of living crisis

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

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

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

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

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

News

UK rent or mortgage to cost more than a third of income by 2030

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/uk-rent-or-mortgage-to-cost-more-than-a-third-of-income-by-2030-w9wdq932w>

Cost of living means parents have less time to play with children, according to poll

<https://www.independent.co.uk/tv/news/cost-living-parents-children-study-b2409272.html>

Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

** Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill

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

House of Commons Library Briefing: The Secretary of State's veto and the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9705/CBP-9705.pdf>

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>

Immigration and Nationality Fees (Exemption for NHS Clinical Staff)

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

**** Online Safety Bill**

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

Amendment paper

https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-03/0362/amend/online_day_ccla_0912.pdf

and

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/52620/documents/3938>

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>

TOP

Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

Drug Use in Ethnic Minority Groups Review (closing date 22 September 2023)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/calls-for-evidence/drug-use-in-ethnic-minority-groups/drug-use-in-ethnic-minority-groups-call-for-evidence>

**** Seasonal Worker visa** (closing date 2 October 2023)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/seasonal-worker-visa-inquiry-call-for-evidence>

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/>

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator: Improvements to the Annual Return (closing date 6 October 2023)

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/news/share-your-feedback-on-improvements-to-the-annual-return/>

The future of population and migration statistics in England and Wales (closing date 26 October 2023)

<https://consultations.ons.gov.uk/ons/futureofpopulationandmigrationstatistics/>

Experiences of people from ethnic minority backgrounds in community ownership of buildings and land (closing date 27 October 2023)

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

Let's Be Heard – Sharing Scotland's COVID Experience (closing date 31 October 2023)

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

Management of burial grounds, application for burial, exhumation, private burial and restoration of lairs: regulation in Scotland (closing date 17 November 2023)

<https://consult.gov.scot/burial-cremation/regulation-burial-scotland/>

Statutory inspection of burial authorities, cremation authorities and funeral directors (closing date 17 November 2023)

<https://consult.gov.scot/burial-cremation/statutory-inspection-burial-authorities/>

Funeral director licensing scheme for Scotland (closing date 17 November 2023)

<https://consult.gov.scot/burial-cremation/licensing-funeral-directors-scotland/>

Regulation of alkaline hydrolysis ('water cremation') in Scotland (closing date 17 November 2023)

<https://consult.gov.scot/burial-cremation/regulation-alkaline-hydrolysis/>

Democracy Matters (closing date 28 February 2024)

<https://consult.gov.scot/local-government-and-communities/democracy-matters/>

**** Your Police 2023-2024** (closing date 31 March 2023)

<https://consult.scotland.police.uk/strategy-insight-and-innovation/your-police-2023-2024/>

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

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

In-Law's Abuse (Women Only) Survey (closing date not stated)

Amina Muslim Women's Resource Centre survey to gather lived experience to understand how prevalent in-laws abuse is within BME communities living in Scotland.

<https://t.co/bSFFBVBHIh>

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 date and time 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

Democracy Matters Community Engagement Fund 2023/24

Closing date: 26 January 2024

Scottish Government funding of up to £300 (possibility of higher funding to assist with accessibility) to support organisations and groups to host conversations and gather the views of people across Scotland on how we can create a system of inclusive local democracy. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/4ds8r9h2>

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>

TOP

**** *this week!***

A Human Rights Bill for Scotland

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. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yckunjtv>

**** *this week!***

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>

**** Black History Month**

27 September to 31 October 2023 (Scotland-wide)

Black History Month encompasses the histories of African, Caribbean and Asian people in Scotland, people who often have a direct link with Scotland through slavery, colonialism and migration. Black History Month is a time to focus on the sacrifices, contributions and achievements of these communities, bringing people together to offer a space for reflection and learning. To read the full programme of events see <https://tinyurl.com/3e6nvvde>

**** Black History Walking Tour of Edinburgh**

30 September 2023 (Edinburgh, 10.00–12.00)

1 October 2023 (Edinburgh, 10.00–12.00)

6 October 2023 (Edinburgh, 2.00–4.00)

7 October 2023 (Edinburgh, 10.00–12.00)

8 October 2023 (Edinburgh, 2.00–4.00)

21 October 2023 (Edinburgh, 10.00–12.00)

29 October 2023 (Edinburgh, 2.00–4.00)

Edinburgh Caribbean Association walk to relate little-known stories of Edinburgh's many visitors and residents of African, African American and Caribbean heritage from the 16th century to the present day; with a focus on the Caribbean and Edinburgh's role in the Transatlantic Slave System. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/mry2rhbb>

**** George Square Walking Tour**

30 September 2023 (Glasgow, 10.00–2.30)

CRER walking tour to reveal a hidden history of Scotland's complicated involvement in slavery and abolition associated with the statues celebrating scientists, writers, military figures, politicians and royals. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/mww6e4fa>

**** Glasgow Black History Walking Tour**

1 October 2023 (Glasgow, 12.00–2.00)

8 October 2023 (Glasgow, 1.00–3.00)

11 October 2023 (Glasgow, 1.00–3.00)

15 October 2023 (Glasgow, 1.00–3.00)

22 October 2023 (Glasgow, 1.00–3.00)

29 October 2023 (Glasgow, 1.00–3.00)

CRER walking tour making a historical journey through Glasgow's mercantile past and examining the city's connections with tobacco, slavery and the abolition movement. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/3s58c2w7>

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>

**** From Waging War to Creating Refuge: Black Women and Scotland 1790-1990**

5 October 2023 (Glasgow, 2.00–3.00)

CRER talk to explore female resistance leaders in the Caribbean, trailblazers in the pan African movement and scholars and activists fighting for change in Edinburgh in the 20th and 21st centuries. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/c7vpetwa>

**** BBC and Black Britain: South Asians at the BBC 1930s - 1940s**

5 October 2023 (Glasgow, 5.30–7.00)

CRER talk on the the importance of radio in government politics and the role of South Asians in the BBC. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2a7cwu3e>

**** Glasgow – City Council’s Slavery Audit: Implications for reparatory justice and anti-racism in Scotland**

6 October 2023 (Glasgow, 6.00–8.00)

Updates will be given on the work of Glasgow City Council’s Slavery and Colonial Legacy Working Group and the progress of public consultation. Also, hear from University of Glasgow on the latest research and the new Reparatory Justice MSc course. For information contact graham.campbell@glasgow.gov

**** Why Anti-Racist Education in Scotland is Not to be Feared**

9 October 2023 (Glasgow, 6.00–7.30)

This event will explore the developments in Scotland's antiracism in education approaches over the last 3 years, including what antiracism in education means, how this impacts on the curriculum, student and teacher wellbeing, and developing an understanding of the impact of racism in wider society. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2c2fcpj2>

**** Creating positive images and combating negative stereotypes**

11 October 2023 (Glasgow, 6.00)

University of Glasgow talk about the book ‘Learning to Succeed in Science: Stories of south Asian Women in Britain’ which aims to create positive images of south Asian women in science to combat negative stereotypes associated with women of colour living in Britain. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/4m3wbxnc>

Maritime Leith's Black History

13 October 2023 (Edinburgh, 1.00–2.00 and 3.00–4.00)

20 October 2023 (Edinburgh, 1.00–2.00 and 3.00–4.00)

A tour of Trinity House to discover the stories that link their collections and maritime Leith with Black History. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/3bbkvkve>

**** Family Fun Black History Walk of Edinburgh**

15 October 2023 (Edinburgh, 10.00–11.30)

17 October 2023 (Edinburgh, 10.00–11.30)

19 October 2023 (Edinburgh, 10.00–11.30)

Edinburgh Caribbean Association walk to hear little-known stories of Edinburgh's many visitors and residents of African, African American and Caribbean heritage from the 16th century to the present day. The walk from the New Town to the Old Town will make you

see Edinburgh's statues and buildings in a whole new way! For information see <https://tinyurl.com/bs2ardva>

**** Black Scottish History: Exploring Your Family Archive Workshop**

15 October 2023 (Glasgow, 2.00–4.00)

CRER workshop to explore Black Scottish History through your family archives, be that your biological family or chosen family. Bring along an item to discuss with the group and also find out more about the archives in Scotland, where more can be found. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2s395amc>

**** After Abolition: Scottish Enslavers and the Persistence of Unfree Labour**

17 October 2023 (Glasgow, 2.00–3.00)

CRER presentation to examine the indentureship system and how Scottish investors and enslavers continued to profit from unfree forms of labour after 1834, allowing for a more capacious understanding of Scotland's imperial past. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y2xw2rmc>

**** Breaking the Chains – a Walking Tour exploring Dundee's Links to Slavery**

18 October 2023 (Dundee, 2.00–4.00)

University of Dundee Museums walking tour using a new illustrated map highlighting sites in Dundee associated with transatlantic and American slavery. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/46mfc8s>

**** From surface to deep diversity**

18 October 2023 (online, 5.00–6.30)

Edinburgh University Social Work Department lecture to explore the re-imagining of social work in the context of decolonial futures. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2af5dftk>

**** Black Sporting Histories: race, class and local league football**

19 October 2023 (Glasgow, 4.00–5.30)

University of Glasgow lecture drawing on research into local league football to reflect on the changing dynamics of race and anti-racist organisation in the context of sports. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yc759n7z>

**** Empire, The Clyde, and Glasgow- A People's Palace Walking Tour**

21 October 2023 (Glasgow, 2.00–4.00)

Glasgow Museums walking tour to explore the ways the People's Palace and Glasgow Green have been impacted by Glasgow's links to slavery and Empire. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2e5xzbpm>

**** People of colour in the 1921 Scotland Census**

26 October 2023 (Glasgow, 2.30–4.30)

Glasgow Museums event to celebrate some of the people of colour recorded in the 1921 census, discuss the snags of such research, and demonstrate how library resources can help. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2hwr8xf>

Scottish Interfaith Week

12–19 November 2023 (Scotland-wide)

Scottish Interfaith Week provides an opportunity for interfaith groups, faith communities, schools, organisations and local communities across the country to celebrate Scotland's religious diversity, bringing people together to promote dialogue, understanding and co-operation between Scotland's diverse religious communities and cultures. For information see <https://scottishinterfaithweek.org/>

Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals

14 February 2024 (online, 10.00–12.30)

PAIH course to find out about fundamental issues of housing, homelessness and welfare entitlements of EEA nationals and look at how service users might prepare themselves for an economy in recession and cost of living spiralling. For information see <https://www.paih.org/what-we-do/migrants-rights-courses>

Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

15 February 2024 (online, 10.00–12.30)

PAIH course explore how the asylum system works from the perspective of a claimant and the process involved in making a claim for asylum. The course also explores the journeys and barriers faced by both refugees and asylum seekers reaching and building a new life in Scotland and their respective entitlement to services. For information see <https://www.paih.org/what-we-do/migrants-rights-courses>

No Recourse To Public Funds

21 February 2024 (online, 10.00–12.30)

PAIH course to help frontline workers identify a tenant's current status, clarify what this means in terms of access to public funds and plan effective support where difficulties arise. For information see <https://www.paih.org/what-we-do/migrants-rights-courses>

TOP

Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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>

TOP

SCoJeC
Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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

BEMIS
Empowering Scotland's Ethnic and
Cultural Minority Communities

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



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

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