



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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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](mailto:MEMO@scojec.org) and [click here](#) to be added to the mailing list.

**The UK Parliament is in recess until 16 October 2023, and the Scottish Parliament will be in recess from 7 to 22 October 2023. The next issue of MEMO will be published on 16 October 2023.**

## Immigration and Asylum

### Scottish Parliament Written Answer

#### English as a Second Language

**Willie Rennie (Liberal Democrat)** [S6W-20901] To ask the Scottish Government whether it will make pupils who speak English as a second language eligible within the criteria for Pupil Equity Funding.

**Reply from Jenny Gilruth:** Although Pupil Equity Funding is allocated directly to schools on the basis of the estimated number of children and young people in P1-

S3 registered for free school meals, headteachers can use their professional judgement to identify any children in their school who may benefit from the targeted interventions and approaches, with the aim of closing the poverty-related attainment gap. Pupils who speak English as a second language are therefore already eligible to benefit from Pupil Equity Funding under the existing allocation criteria, with headteachers having discretion to make decisions about which children and young people would benefit most from any particular intervention or approach, whilst keeping a clear focus on delivering equity through improving outcomes for learners impacted by poverty.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-20901>

## Scottish Parliament Petition

**PE2049: Introduce buffer zones outside migrant accommodation**

<https://petitions.parliament.scot/petitions/PE2049>

## UK Parliament Debate

**Family Migration (Justice and Home Affairs Committee Report)**

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-09-20/debates/6B5CB4CA-84D0-40CF-BACF-E3508C1EA513/FamilyMigration\(JusticeAndHomeAffairsCommitteeReport\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-09-20/debates/6B5CB4CA-84D0-40CF-BACF-E3508C1EA513/FamilyMigration(JusticeAndHomeAffairsCommitteeReport))

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

### **Irregular Migration: Channel Crossings**

**Andrea Leadsom (Conservative)** [906426] What steps her Department is taking to reduce the number of small boats transporting irregular migrants across the English channel.

**Reply from the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Suella Braverman):** We remain determined to stop the boats and deter people from making these dangerous journeys to the UK, and we are making progress. We have by no means reached the finishing line, but the number of arrivals is 20% down, the legacy backlog has nearly halved, and the number of Albanian arrivals has fallen by 90% this year. ...

**Andrea Leadsom:** A hotel in my constituency is housing illegal migrants. They receive local NHS dentistry services and hospital access, and, of course, their living costs are met. Constituents write to me pointing out that they do not have access to all those services. What can my right hon. and learned Friend tell them about how soon the use of hotels for illegal migrants will end?

**Reply from Suella Braverman:** It is totally unacceptable that too many towns and cities around the country now house the 45,000 asylum seekers who are in hotels, costing the British taxpayer £6 million a day. That is why we are standing up large sites and vessels around the country. We are also maximising the use of hotels, so that we can open fewer hotels. It is not right that the British taxpayer is forking out the cost. ...

**Dan Jarvis (Labour):** ... The number of people arriving on dangerous small boats is now 150 times higher than it was five years ago. Meanwhile, convictions of people smugglers are 30% down. Our border security is not working. The Home Office has already spent £140 million on a flawed Rwanda scheme, but would not taxpayers' money be better spent

recruiting hundreds more police and investigators to defeat the criminal gang networks and prevent the dangerous boat crossings?

**Reply from Suella Braverman:** The reality is that we need a robust and honest approach to dealing with this problem. Opening our doors to thousands of migrants from the EU is not the solution. We need a deterrent, and that is why our agreement with Rwanda will work. It is based on what has worked in other countries such as Australia, and I am confident that we will be able to deliver our Rwanda plan as soon as possible.

**To read this question and answer session in full see**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-09-18/debates/5CA4E8A3-6959-401F-AA91-18A3E4F60A4B/IrregularMigrationChannelCrossings>

### **Refugee and Asylum Seeker Accommodation**

**Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) 906413]** What steps she is taking with Cabinet colleagues to ensure an adequate standard of accommodation for refugees and asylum seekers.

**Reply from the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Suella Braverman):** The asylum accommodation support contracts ensure the provision of safe, habitable, fit-for-purpose and correctly equipped accommodation for destitute asylum seekers. The contracts also require compliance with the law, local authority licensing and best practice guidance. We have been working with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to minimise the potential impact on homelessness, and have agreed an asylum placement funding for local authorities.

**Kate Osamor:** We hear the Government talking about £6 million per day being wasted on hotels, but we do not hear about the billions being forked out on private companies such as Serco and Clearsprings Ready Homes, both of which have seen scores of complaints, including about unsanitary conditions, a lack of safeguarding, and sexual abuse. Does the Home Secretary think that it is appropriate to entrust those companies with taxpayers' money to run asylum accommodation in hotels and former Ministry of Defence sites?

**Reply from Suella Braverman:** The safety and wellbeing of asylum seekers in our care is of paramount importance at the Home Office. We expect high standards from all our providers, and we have robust governance frameworks in place to manage the service delivery of asylum accommodation. What we definitely do not do, and do not propose to do, is willingly accept thousands more illegal migrants into the UK from the EU, housed presumably in more hotels across the country ...

**Edward Leigh (Conservative):** One of the justifications for using service accommodation such as RAF Scampton was that it was supposed to be cheaper, but we now know the figures: it is more expensive over two years, and over three years the savings are absolutely derisory. The figures are, frankly, being fiddled by overcapitalising the value of the base, and are not based on surveys. The Home Secretary's officials are now ripping out services. The council has issued a stop order on it. I give notice that I will report the Home Office to the Comptroller and Auditor General for misapplying and wasting public money, because using the base will cost more than hotels. The base is Crown land, so the local authority cannot enter it. Does she accept that she would be acting illegally and is liable to be sued if her officials disobey the stop order?

**Reply from Suella Braverman:** ... I very much appreciate the challenges that this nationwide mission poses for us all. I do not agree with his assessment; we have assessed the proposal at Scampton to be value for money. Ultimately, it is not right that we continue to house tens of thousands of migrants in hotels, in towns and cities across the country, costing the taxpayer £6 million a day. That is why our work to roll out large sites is moving swiftly, and we propose to move asylum seekers on to them as soon as possible. ...

**Stephen Kinnock (Labour):** It has been more than a month since all 39 asylum seekers

were hauled off the 500-capacity Bibby Stockholm because of the detection of legionella, but the Home Secretary is yet to give a date for when the barge will actually be ready for use. We still do not know why she chose not to wait for the legionella results before ploughing ahead, and why her Minister was so slow to act once the results came in. We are still yet to hear a denial from the Home Secretary that it is one of the most lethal strains of the bacteria, as reported in the media. Today, will she set out her responses to those questions and confirm the exact cost of the barge? Half a million pounds per month to house zero asylum seekers on this floating symbol of failure feels utterly extortionate. Why is it that the only boat this Government have managed to stop is their own?

**Reply from Suella Braverman:** ... We have assessed the barge—it has been under constant scrutiny—and we will be re-embarking people on to that barge as soon as is practical and possible. ...

**Alison Thewliss (SNP):** OpenDemocracy recently revealed the extent of self-harm and suicide in immigration removal centres—in particular, Harmondsworth and Colnbrook, where 24 self-harm incidents occurred in March, which is more than over the three previous months combined. Emma Ginn, director of Medical Justice, has said: “We are not confident that the Home Office considers the value of the lives of those in its care in detention as fully human.”

What is the Home Secretary doing to ensure that those in Home Office immigration removal centres do not face such desperate circumstances that they seek to take their own lives?

**Reply from Suella Braverman:** As I said, the safety of all of those in our care is a priority for the Home Office, and the standard of habitation—whether that is in our asylum accommodation estate more broadly, or specifically in our immigration removal centres—is one that always, as far as the law requires, meets high standards. Those standards are rigorously scrutinised and monitored, and those who have concerns have avenues to make complaints via the migrant helpline.

**To read this question and answer session in full see**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-09-18/debates/CC9D23D4-6460-4BC0-A225-B32D8B2D0DC3/RefugeeAndAsylumSeekerAccommodation>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Channel Migrants

### Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

**Andrea Jenkyns (Conservative)** [199757] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has had recent discussions with her French counterpart on the potential merits of preventing small boats from crossing the Channel by intercepting them mid-journey.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The Home Secretary and I engage regularly with our French counterparts on the issue of small boat crossings.

Our joint work with France saw nearly 33,000 crossings prevented in 2022, 40% more than in 2021, and so far in 2023 a further 15,000 migrants have failed to reach our shores on small boats. Alongside this, since July 2020, the UK-France Joint Intelligence Cell (JIC) and French law enforcement partners have dismantled 82 organised crime groups linked to small boats. In 2022 alone, the JIC and French law enforcement partners secured the arrest of around 400 people smugglers.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-15/199757>

### Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

**Matt Vickers (Conservative)** [198872] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure support from the French authorities in

preventing small boats from crossing the Channel.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** Home Office officials regularly meet with French counterparts to exchange information so that operational activity against these dangerous, illegal and unnecessary crossings is optimised. As a result of those joint efforts nearly 33,000 crossing attempts were prevented in 2022, an increase of over 40% on 2021 and over 16,000 more have been prevented so far this year.

Measures introduced to tackle illegal migration since the Prime Minister took office include a package of measures agreed with France which will see the deployment of more than double the number of French personnel and enhanced technology to patrol beaches.

A strengthened partnership with Turkey which includes UK and Turkish law enforcement officers stepping up joint operations to tackle Organised Immigration Crime and disrupt the supply chain of boat parts and other materials used as part of illegal migration journeys.

A new partnership between social media companies and government to tackle people smuggling content online. Backed by a new Online Capability Centre, it will undermine and disrupt organised crime groups using the internet to facilitate these journeys

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-11/198872>

### **Undocumented Migrants: English Channel**

**David Evennett (Conservative)** [199288] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of asylum seekers that have entered the UK via small boats in each of the last five years.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The Home Office publishes statistics on small boat arrivals to the UK in the '[Irregular migration to the UK statistics](#)' release. Data on asylum applications from small boat arrivals is published in table Irr\_D02 of the '[Irregular migration to the UK detailed dataset](#)' with the latest data up to the end of June 2023.

Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-13/199288>

### **Undocumented Migrants: English Channel**

**Tom Hunt (Conservative)** [199266] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether it is her Department's policy to assess the age of every person that arrives in the UK illegally on a small boat.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The Home Office will only conduct an age assessment in circumstances where an individual who arrives does not have genuine documentary evidence of their age and where there is doubt about their claimed age.

An initial age assessment is conducted as a first step to prevent individuals who are clearly an adult or child from being subjected unnecessarily to a more substantive age assessment and ensure that new arrivals are routed into the correct accommodation and processes for assessing their asylum or immigration claim.

The Home Office will only treat an individual claiming to be a child as an adult, without conducting further enquiries, if two Home Office members of staff independently determine that the individual's physical appearance and demeanour very strongly suggests they are significantly over 18 years of age. The lawfulness of this process was endorsed by the Supreme Court in the case of R (on the application of BF (Eritrea)) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2021] UKSC 38.

Where doubt remains and an individual cannot be assessed to be significantly over



18, they will be treated as a child for immigration purposes until further assessment of their age by a local authority or the National Age Assessment Board (NAAB) which launched in March 2023. This will usually entail a careful, holistic age assessment, known as a 'Merton compliant age assessment', which are undertaken by social workers and must adhere to principles set out in case law by the Courts.

Separately, secondary legislation laid by the Ministry of Justice will, once approved by Parliament, authorise the use of x-rays in scientific age assessments, paving the way for the Home Office to improve their ability to effectively determine the age of illegal entrants making disputed claims to be children. Age assessment is an important process to help to prevent asylum seeking adults posing as children as a way of accessing support they are not entitled to, and allow genuine children to access age-appropriate services.

Legislation will then be laid by the Home Office, taking forward powers under the Nationality and Borders Act 2022, which will specify that x-rays of teeth and bones of the hands and wrist and MRIs of knees and collar bones can be used as part of the age assessment process.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-12/199266>

*The judgement referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.supremecourt.uk/cases/docs/uksc-2019-0147-judgment.pdf>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Afghanistan

### Afghanistan: Refugees

**Jonathan Lord (Conservative)** [199357] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what steps his Department is taking to ensure the effectiveness of the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy.

**Reply from James Heapey:** I said to the House in May that we aimed to process all outstanding initial ARAP applications by the end of August. We now have just over 1,800 complex cases remaining from more than 93,000 principal applications received. We have issued over 58,000 decisions to applicants in the past three months alone, giving them the clarity they deserve. We continue to move at best pace to process the remaining applications.

We also continue to move eligible Afghans from Afghanistan to the safety of third countries at best pace and have relocated over an estimated 12,200 people to the United Kingdom.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-13/199357>

*The Minister's statement referred to above can be read at*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-05-15/debates/4EE7C24C-AC9F-4F67-B414-B231F1CB0C47/AfghanRelocationsAndAssistancePolicy#contribution-CBCF6A51-2EA2-421D-A0E0-552E8157684F>

*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>

### Visas: Afghanistan

**Caroline Lucas (Green)** [199550] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, Pursuant to the Answer of 11 September 2023 to Question 195848 on Visas: Afghanistan, what approach she is taking to reviewing processes to streamline decision making for family reunion visa applications; whether she plans to consult MPs; and if she will make a statement.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The Government's refugee family reunion policy provides a safe and legal route to bring families together.

We are committed to improving and speeding up processing times for family reunion applications to reduce the time separated families wait for a decision. This includes determining cases more swiftly where they are straightforward and meet the requirements of the Immigration Rules. We are also increasing decision making and other resource to support family reunion case processing. This is in addition to looking more broadly at how the end-to-end decision-making process can be simplified and streamlined.

Since 2015, 46,511 family reunion visas have been granted to family members of refugees as of the end of June 2023.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-14/199550>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-01/195848>

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

### Immigration: EU Nationals

**Martyn Day (SNP) [196457]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many British citizens were wrongly assigned pre settled status in each of the last five years; how many and what proportion of these people subsequently requested to have their pre settled status removed; and how many and what proportion of those requests were successful.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** If a British citizen mistakenly applies to the EU Settlement Scheme, the Home Office will void their application as they have a right of abode in the UK. Status under the scheme would only be granted in circumstances where, based on the information and evidence submitted in the application, it was not clear that the applicant was a British citizen.

The requested data on the number of British citizens wrongly assigned pre-settled status is not available. Where pre-settled status is granted to a British citizen, it has no legal effect.

The Home Office strives to make the correct decision for applicants first time in every case.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-01/196457>

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

### Windrush Compensation Scheme: Veterans

**Vicky Foxcroft (Labour) [198932]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the adequacy of compensation payments made under the Windrush scheme to former armed forces personnel.

**Vicky Foxcroft (Labour) [198933]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the adequacy of compensation payments made under the Windrush Compensation Scheme for people who experienced discrimination from public services because they could not prove their right to stay in the UK.

**Vicky Foxcroft (Labour) [198934]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the adequacy of compensation payments made under the Windrush Compensation Scheme to people experiencing psychological trauma resulting from discrimination because they could not prove their right to stay in the UK.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The Windrush Compensation Scheme is designed to compensate members of the Windrush generation and their families for the losses and impacts they have suffered because they were unable to demonstrate their lawful immigration status.

The scheme acts as a single gateway for compensation in fourteen categories covering a broad range of impacts, including denial of access to services and a deterioration in mental or physical health. There is no cap on the amount of compensation we will pay. This is in recognition of the wide-reaching ways people have been affected.

Since its launch, the Home Office has continued to listen and respond to feedback from affected individuals and stakeholders about the scheme, expanding and amending it as our understanding of the way people have been affected has improved. In August 2022 we expanded the homelessness category and introduced a completely new 'Living Costs' category for close family members.

Compensation payments are made as quickly as possible. Decision makers draw upon all the evidence that has been provided and gathered, to make a holistic assessment of the effect on an individual's life. Each person's claim is deeply personal and requires careful and detailed consideration to understand their individual circumstances and experiences. All claims are processed with the utmost care and sensitivity.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-11/198932>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-11/198933>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-11/198934>

*Information about the Windrush Compensation Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-windrush-compensation-scheme>

### **British Nationality**

**Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour)** [199818] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether new British citizens receive a letter congratulating them on obtaining British citizenship.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** All individuals who attend a citizenship ceremony to become a British Citizen receive a welcome pack which includes a letter from the Secretary of State for the Home Department welcoming them into our national community.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-15/199818>

### **Short-term Holding Facilities: Paintings**

**Stephanie Peacock (Labour)** [197904] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, which immigration centres have painted over murals welcoming lone child refugees.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The murals in question were painted over in the Kent Intake Unit at Dover.

The overwhelming majority of unaccompanied children who passed through the location last year were largely teenagers. It was not felt that the murals were age appropriate. We provide high-quality facilities at the Kent Intake Unit, which is fully equipped to meet all the needs of unaccompanied children upon arrival in the UK. Our priority is to move children on from the facility as quickly as possible, into a suitable Local Authority placement.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-05/197904>



### Asylum: Applications

**Caroline Lucas (Green)** [198491] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to recommendation 1 of the policy paper entitled The Home Office response to the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration's report: An inspection of asylum casework (August 2020 to May 2021), published 18 November 2021, when she plans to publish a service standard.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** Reducing the backlog in asylum cases and establishing a more efficient and robust decision-making system is not in and of itself a strategy to stop illegal migration, but it is important for taxpayer value and we have prioritised it. We have transformed the productivity of asylum decision making by streamlining processes, creating focused interviews and instilling true accountability for performance. As of 1 September, we have met our commitment to have 2,500 decision makers, an increase of 174% from the same point last year. As a result, I am pleased to report to the House that we are on track to clear the legacy backlog by the end of the year, and that recently published provisional figures for July show that the overall backlog fell.

On 13 December 2022, the Prime Minister pledged to clear the backlog of the 92,601 initial asylum decisions relating to claims made before 28 June 2022 ("legacy claims") by the end of 2023.

We have taken immediate action to accelerate decision-making and rapidly speed up processing times by streamlining guidance, accelerating decision-making procedures, including more focused and fewer interviews, as well as enhancing the use of technology.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-08/198491>

*The Government response referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/response-to-an-inspection-of-asylum-casework/the-home-office-response-to-the-independent-chief-inspector-of-borders-and-immigrations-report-an-inspection-of-asylum-casework-august-2020-to-may>

*The Prime Minister's statement referred to above can be read at*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-12-13/debates/DB61C374-16B5-411C-9A29-CC3DCA119EB3/IllegalImmigration#contribution-0956F9E3-33B1-435A-B085-6B124DAD75AD>

### Asylum: Applications

**Jessica Morden (Labour)** [199071] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for asylum submitted before 28 June 2022 are awaiting processing.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The Home Office publishes data on asylum in the '[Immigration System Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on applications awaiting an initial decision that were raised before 28 June 2022 can be found in table Asy\_10a of the '[asylum and resettlement summary tables](#)'. The latest data relate to 30 June 2023. Data for 30 September 2023 will be published on 23 November 2023. Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the '[Research and statistics calendar](#)'.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-12/199071>

### Asylum: Interviews

**Angela Crawley (SNP)** [199749] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 8 September 2023 to Question 195180 on asylum applications, what assessment her Department has made of the potential implications of (a) conducting shorter asylum interviews and (b) removing asylum interviews on the accuracy of decision making.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** Once a claimant has been interviewed, asylum decision-makers carefully consider their protection needs by assessing all the evidence provided, in light of published country information guidance.

We have taken immediate action to speed up asylum processing whilst maintaining the integrity of the system. This includes simplifying guidance and streamlining processes. We have also introduced shorter, focussed interviews, making the interview process more efficient.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-15/199749>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-19/195180>

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

### **Asylum: Housing**

**Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [199153]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that basic standards of safety are met in accommodation provided to refugees and asylum seekers.

**Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [199154]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of trends in the (a) number of people waiting in the asylum system and (b) levels of profit generated by private providers contracted to run asylum accommodation.

**Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [199155]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential impact of contracting private providers to supply asylum accommodation on (a) standards and (b) value for money of that accommodation.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The safety and wellbeing of asylum seekers in our care is of paramount importance to the Home Office. We expect high standards from all of our providers, and we have a robust governance framework in place to manage service delivery of the Asylum Accommodation Support Contracts (AASC). Details of the AASC can be found at:

New asylum accommodation contracts awarded

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-asylum-accommodation-contracts-awarded>

The Home Office publishes data on asylum in the '[Immigration System Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on people awaiting an initial decision can be found in table Asy\_D03 of the '[asylum and resettlement detailed datasets](#)'. Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbooks. The Home Office also publishes data on the total number of outstanding cases in the asylum system ('asylum work in progress') in table ASY\_03 the '[Immigration and Protection](#)' part of the [Migration Transparency Data](#) collection. The latest data relates to the end of June 2023.

Accommodation costs are subject to change depending on numbers being accommodated within the asylum system. Accommodation costs are considered to be commercially confidential, therefore the Home Office does not publish this information. Total expenditure on asylum is published in the Home Office Annual Report and Accounts, available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/ho-annual-reports-and-accounts>

It would be inappropriate to comment on commercial arrangements with suppliers. All Home Office commercial contracts are designed to ensure the best value for tax payers and the Home Office closely monitors its contractors performance, including financial results. Any profits above the agreed contractual margins comes back to the Home Office.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-12/199153>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-12/199154>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-12/199155>

### **Bibby Stockholm**

**Matthew Offord (Conservative)** [199303] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many accommodation places there are on the Bibby Stockholm barge.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The capacity of the Bibby Stockholm remains 504. The number of asylum seekers onboard the vessel at any one time is likely to vary due to a number of factors.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-13/199303>

### **Asylum: Boats**

**Zarah Sultana (Labour)** [197264] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to her Department's factsheet: asylum accommodation on a vessel in Portland Port, updated on 25 August 2023, what fire safety standards she has applied to the Bibby Stockholm; and to which industry standards the factsheet refers.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** Under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, the Home Office has a legal obligation to support asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute.

In the Netherlands and Belgium, the authorities have delivered accommodation for asylum seekers on vessels in a safe and secure manner.

The Bibby Stockholm vessel has been used for decades to provide safe and decent accommodation to oil rig workers and was used between 1995 to 1998 to accommodate refugees in Germany.

Corporate Travel Management (CTM) are responsible for managing the services on the barge. CTM managed two Scottish vessels housing refugees and have a strong track record of providing this kind of accommodation. We are confident that it will continue to manage the vessel and its supporting services. CTM has worked closely and successfully with local authorities and other public and voluntary organisations in Scotland.

The Bibby Stockholm adheres to the Regulatory Reform Order (Fire Safety) 2005 and has an appropriate fire risk assessment that complies to those regulations including safety features such as fire doors, fire detection systems and firefighting equipment at strategic locations.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-01/197264>

*The factsheet referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-accommodation-factsheets/factsheet-asylum-accommodation-on-a-vessel-in-portland-port>

### **Bibby Stockholm: Fire Extinguishers**

**Zarah Sultana (Labour)** [197265] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether there is a functioning sprinkler system on the Bibby Stockholm.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** Under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, the Home Office has a legal obligation to support asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute.

In the Netherlands and Belgium, the authorities have delivered accommodation for asylum seekers on vessels in a safe and secure manner.

The Bibby Stockholm vessel has been used for decades to provide safe and decent accommodation to oil rig workers and was used between 1995 to 1998 to accommodate refugees in Germany.

Corporate Travel Management (CTM) are responsible for managing the services on the barge. CTM, who managed two Scottish vessels housing refugees in

Edinburgh, has a strong track record of providing this kind of accommodation, and we are confident that it can manage the vessel and its supporting services. CTM has worked closely and successfully with local authorities and other public and voluntary organisations in Scotland.

The Bibby Stockholm adheres to the Regulatory Reform Order (Fire Safety) 2005 and has an appropriate fire risk assessment that complies to those regulations including safety features such as fire doors, fire detection systems and firefighting equipment at strategic locations.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-01/197265>

*Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1999/33/part/VI/enacted>

*The Regulatory Reform Order (Fire Safety) 2005, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2005/1541/contents/made>

### **Undocumented Migrants: Deportation**

**Diana Johnson (Labour)** [199320] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when section 2 of the Illegal Migration Act 2023 will come into force.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The Illegal Migration Act received Royal Assent on 20 July 2023.

As is standard practice for any legislation, commencement of wider measures in the Act will take place over the coming months.

We have to take away the incentive for people to jump the queue by coming here illegally – and that is what we are focused on delivering through the Illegal Migration Act to break the cycle and stop people-smuggling gangs.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-13/199320>

*The Illegal Migration Act 2023, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2023/37/contents>

### **Undocumented Migrants: Deportation**

**John Hayes (Conservative)** [199538] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people without the legal right to remain in the UK have been removed in 2023.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The Home Office publishes data on numbers of returns in the '[Immigration System Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on returns are published in table Ret\_D01 of the '[Returns detailed datasets](#)'. Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data relates to end March 2023.

Provisional data on returns up to the end of August 2023 are also published in table IMB\_05 of the '[Statistics relating to the Illegal Migration Act data tables](#)'.

Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the '[Research and statistics calendar](#)'.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-14/199538>

## **UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers**

### **Afghan Resettlement**

**The Minister of State, Cabinet Office (Baroness Neville-Rolfe):** ... around 24,600 people from Afghanistan have been safely relocated to the United Kingdom. We owe them a debt of gratitude— and, in return, our offer has been generous. The UK Government have granted all Afghans relocated through safe and legal routes indefinite leave to remain, including the immediate right to work, alongside access to the benefits system and

vital health, education, and employment support. Given the unprecedented speed and scale of the 2021 evacuation, we warmly welcomed our Afghan friends into temporary hotel accommodation until settled accommodation could be found. However, bridging hotels are not—and were never designed to be—a permanent solution.

Indeed, in a Statement to this House in March, I made it clear that it was unjustifiable for around a third of those relocated from Afghanistan to still be living in costly bridging accommodation up to 18 months after arriving to safety in the United Kingdom. Long-term residency in hotels prevented some families from properly putting down roots and was costing UK taxpayers £1 million a day. This was not sustainable. That is why, at the end of April, we began issuing notices to quit to the 8,000 individuals who remained in bridging accommodation, making clear that access to costly hotels would end following a minimum three-month notice period, and encouraging moves into settled accommodation.

I am pleased to confirm that, as of 31 August, the Government have successfully ended the use of bridging hotels for legally resettled Afghans. We estimate that over 85 per cent of those who were in bridging accommodation at the end of March 2023 have been helped into homes or pre-matched into settled accommodation. Ending the provision of bridging accommodation was the right thing to do for our Afghan friends, who can now get on with rebuilding their lives, and represents a fairer deal for the British taxpayer. Indeed, it was not right to continue to ask taxpayers to foot the bill for costly bridging hotels when—as we have demonstrated—settled accommodation could be found for the overwhelming majority of guests. This required a considerable national effort and represents a significant national achievement. ...

Not only are we on track to deliver 1,200 homes for Afghans through the local authority housing fund, which will help to build a sustainable stock of affordable accommodation for the future, but we have mobilised the generosity of the Great British public by creating an innovative new Afghan housing portal, which enabled conscientious landlords to offer their rental properties directly to families. Furthermore, each local authority that receives an Afghan family can access £20,500 per person over three years to provide wraparound integration support, as well as additional funding for English language classes. ...

As I told the House in July, the Government have made time-limited interim accommodation available to a minority of families. This is available only to those for whom a move would disrupt ongoing medical treatment at a specific hospital, and those who have been pre-matched to a property that will be available before the end of December. As of 31 August, over 80% of those in time-limited interim accommodation were already matched to a property. We have already seen over 200 people move out of interim accommodation and into settled accommodation since, with more leaving every week.

As I have set out, the overwhelming majority of Afghans have now moved into settled accommodation or been pre-matched to a property. This is a testament to the significant central government support that has been put in place. Despite this support, however, some families have moved into temporary accommodation under local authority homelessness provision. This is less than 5% of the 24,600 people who have relocated from Afghanistan, and of those families in temporary accommodation around a quarter have a property to move into over the coming weeks.

Others in temporary accommodation have, regrettably, turned down suitable offers of accommodation, and I have been clear and honest from the outset that, where this happens, another government offer will not be forthcoming. At a time when there are many pressures on the taxpayer and on the housing market, it is not right that people can reject perfectly suitable offers of accommodation and expect to remain in taxpayer-funded hotels. However, in recognition of the pressures that councils may face as a result of housing Afghans in temporary accommodation, an additional £9,150 per household has been made available to councils by central government. This is in addition to the wider £2 billion available over three years to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping.

Let me be clear: we have not left Afghan families without a roof over their heads. I continue



to work closely with central and local government partners to help the small minority of families in local authority-provided temporary accommodation to find settled accommodation across the UK. But we must all continue to play our part in delivering a helping hand to our Afghan friends, to whom we owe so much. I encourage those who can to offer private rented accommodation, or to speak to their local council, or list their property on the Government's Afghan housing portal, which remains operational.

We also take seriously our commitment to resettling Afghans yet to arrive in the UK, including those eligible for our schemes who are still in Afghanistan. But our efforts to move people out of hotels has shown how vital it is that they are moved directly into long-term, settled accommodation, where they can put down roots in the community. That is why we are taking forward plans to source suitable accommodation ahead of facilitating new arrivals.

Welcoming people who come to the UK through safe and legal routes has always been, and will always be, a vital way in which our country helps those in need. In this spirit, I look forward to welcoming more of those who loyally served alongside the UK's Armed Forces in Afghanistan, as well as those who stood up for British values, often at great personal risk, in the months ahead. ...

**Baroness Chapman of Darlington (Labour):** ... Our nation promised those who put their lives at risk to serve alongside our Armed Forces in Afghanistan that we would relocate and settle them, give their families safety and help them to rebuild their lives. Now it seems the Government want a pat on the back for what they have done, at a time when we still have thousands of people stuck in limbo in Pakistan, some of whose documents will expire in the coming months, who will then risk being returned to Afghanistan or making treacherous and illegal journeys to safety.

Here in the UK, there are families with children who have been stuck in hotels for 18 months. This is not helping them rebuild their lives; this is neglect. Can the Minister tell us whether any more new arrivals will continue to be placed in this bridging accommodation? If so, how long will that be allowed to happen for?

Ministers have acknowledged that serving notices to quit in the way that they have has put Afghans at risk of homelessness, so can the Minister tell us how many Afghans in the UK are now accessing homelessness services from local authorities as a result of the Government's approach? How many of them are children? ...

Can the Minister tell us why, after two years, there are still 600 people who are eligible for ARAP in Afghanistan, waiting for their applications to be processed? What are the Government doing to make sure these people get to safety and out of reach of the Taliban? It is all too easy to forget the horror of what happened in Afghanistan and what is still happening to those who risked their lives to serve alongside us. ...

**Baroness Smith of Newnham (Liberal Democrat):** ... I pay tribute to the Government for relocating 24,600 people, but that has to be the start. While it is clearly right that we are not using bridging accommodation for anything other than very temporary care, what accommodation will be available for those many people who are in Pakistan awaiting moves to the United Kingdom—a safe and legal route, in the Government's language? What is being done to support those people who are still in Afghanistan? ...

In terms of accommodation, clearly it is right to move families into permanent accommodation. But there are cases of young people who have been out of school. Part of the pledge to our Afghan friends is that there will be education. Can the Minister tell us how many Afghans under the age of 19 are out of school and how far the relocation from temporary accommodation to permanent accommodation in other parts of the country is impacting on the education of young people, particularly young women?

I would also like to know whether those Afghans who have allegedly rejected "suitable" accommodation have really understood that the accommodation is suitable. Is it affordable? Does the Government's offer really enable them to take up those offers? ...

It is good that we have rehoused 24,600 people. It would be better if we had a clear road

map for others who would be ARAP-eligible. My final question is: can the Minister tell us how many Afghans are homeless in the United Kingdom and how many of those are vulnerable and on the streets today?

**Reply from Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** ... We are united in our vision here and a lot of the things we are discussing today have very wide support. ...

We have been clear ... that we need to solve the problem here, so that those from overseas can go straight into settled accommodation, with all its advantages. We will be making further announcements in due course about this, but I emphasise that our policy is to house Afghans in settled accommodation so they can work—they have the right to work—so they can integrate into communities, so they can send their children to local schools and embed them, and so they can become rooted in their new homes and communities.

In relation to homelessness, our promise was to ensure that no Afghans were sleeping rough, and as a result of our efforts the vast majority are now settled in permanent accommodation, with fewer than 5% of families receiving homelessness support. The noble Baroness asked for a specific figure. It is 188 households; I do not have a breakdown by adults and children. The homelessness system also acts as a safety net and no family will be left without a roof over their heads. There is funding of £9,150 per family available to support councils with homelessness costs, as well as £28 per person per day for up to six months if they are placed in temporary accommodation. Of course, that is on top of the £2 billion towards dealing with homelessness and rough sleeping, which is not the subject of this Statement but is a very important priority as well. ...

Although I do not have the numbers of underage Afghan children out of school, I can tell the noble Baroness that the system we have initiated had a special focus at a time when children could move into new schools in the new autumn term, which I thought was very good. There is also an educational rule that local area school places have to be found within 20 days. So we are aware of the needs of education. I should also say that in every hotel there has been help from the DWP, the Home Office and so on because we understand the importance of these issues. ...

In addition to the £250 million expansion of the local authority housing fund, which I think is a game-changer, we have also found £32.5 million—that is £7,100 per person—for the flexible housing fund. ...

**To read this question and answer session in full see**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-09-19/debates/2A0C3EB2-9449-41D2-989F-59CC2EE1227D/AfghanResettlement>

*The Ministerial Statement in March referred to above can be read at*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-03-28/debates/E45C9029-4DF0-4B5A-996D-59DDF0728050/AfghanResettlementUpdate>

### **Migrants: Barges**

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat):** To ask His Majesty's Government whether adequate provisions have been implemented to prevent the spread of infections on barges used to house migrants. ...

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Migration and Borders (Lord Murray of Blidworth):** ... the health and welfare of individuals in asylum accommodation, including vessels, is our utmost priority. The Home Office has worked throughout with the UK Health Security Agency on the management of contagious diseases and the policies relating to that, particularly in respect of vessels. Medical facilities and isolation rooms on board have been designed by local NHS services, with UKHSA input.

**Baroness Brinton (Liberal Democrat):** My Lords, the data from Dorset Council discovered that the legionella strain found on the "Bibby Stockholm" was the most deadly.

Public health officials remain concerned that the Government, by doubling the number of asylum seekers on the boat, put them at risk of infectious diseases that spread very fast in overcrowded places, such as diphtheria, scabies and gastroenteritis, all issues that have been found at Manston and other places. Can the Minister confirm that the legionella was successfully removed and that the Home Office will follow public health advice about the number of people kept in places to reduce disease spread caused by overcrowding?

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** I can confirm that the Home Office went above and beyond the UKHSA's initial advice in managing the legionella situation, which was to have no new arrivals to the "Bibby Stockholm", and decided to evacuate the barge immediately. We have robust and well-rehearsed processes in place across the government estate to test for legionella bacteria and it is not unusual to identify it in water systems, which is why they are subject to regular testing. ...

**Lord Dubbs (Labour):** My Lords, if, as the Minister says, there are robust measures to ensure the health and well-being of people put on barges, why were a number of refugees and asylum seekers put on the barges before the health measures were in place?

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** The health measures were in place, and it was only at a very late stage that the Home Office was made aware of the findings of Dorset Council. At that time, as I say, the Home Office decided to go beyond the recommended position from the UKHSA, which was not to put any more migrants on the barge, and instead to evacuate it, which was surely the responsible thing to do.

**Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat):** My Lords, will the Minister take on board—no pun intended—the concern for not only the asylum seekers who were subjected to this but Home Office officials, and presumably contractors, who must also have been exposed to the legionella?

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** ...one of our paramount concerns is the health and welfare of migrants and our staff. I can reassure the House that no one has contracted legionnaires' disease as a result of the finding of this presence in the water supply.

**The Lord Bishop of Durham:** My Lords, the barge is only one solution to the growing numbers who need to be accommodated. What provision of healthcare is being considered at MoD sites such as Wethersfield and, potentially, Scampton? Will GPs be on site and what all-round healthcare will there be to ensure that those resident there are kept safe?

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** ... One of the great advantages of the utilisation of large sites and barges for the housing of migrants is that specific contracting can be provided for the provision of healthcare for migrants. I can reassure him that there is a GP service available to all the residents of the large sites. A nurse is present routinely throughout the week at various times. The health of the migrants is, as I say, something the Home Office takes very seriously. Furthermore, the provision by contract on these large sites prevents the utilisation of local GP resources in the environs of the large sites, either at Wethersfield or for the barge in Dorset. ...

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

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-09-20/debates/37F0436B-1780-4959-8092-1052DA150CE2/MigrantsBarges>

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

### Asylum: Rwanda

**Earl Russell (Liberal Democrat)** [HL9835] To ask His Majesty's Government what is the total cost payable to the government of Rwanda under the agreement with that country in the event that no migrants are sent there from the UK.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** The UK has provided Rwanda with an initial investment of £120m into its economic development and growth as part of the Economic Transformation and Integration Fund (ETIF). Investment has been focused in areas such as education, healthcare, agriculture, infrastructure, and job creation. A separate advance payment of £20m was also paid last year to support initial set up costs for the relocation of individuals.

Funding will also be provided to support the delivery of asylum operations, accommodation, and integration in Rwanda. Costs and payments will depend on the number of individuals relocated, the timing of when this happens, and the outcomes of individual cases. We will not enter into speculation as to what the final costs of the partnership may be nor provide a running commentary.

Legal proceedings are ongoing, and we have been granted permission to appeal to the Supreme Court with a hearing scheduled to take place in October. We always knew that our policy was ambitious and novel, and that it would be tested in the courts, but we have also been clear we are committed to this partnership and will continue to robustly defend this policy so we can make it a reality.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-04/hl9835>

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

### Migrant Workers: Visas

**Lord Knight of Weymouth (Labour)** [HL9792] To ask His Majesty's Government what proportion of shortage occupation skilled worker visa applicants have passed the English language test requirements in the last six months broken down by occupation type.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** The requirement to speak English is a core principle of the points-based immigration system – including for occupations on the Shortage Occupation List. All successful applicants for the Skilled Worker visa will have demonstrated they can read, write, speak, and understand English to at least level B1 on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) scale.

Further information on the English language requirement can be found on the .gov webpage overview of the Skilled Worker route, accessible here:

[www.gov.uk/skilled-worker-visa/knowledge-of-english](http://www.gov.uk/skilled-worker-visa/knowledge-of-english)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-04/hl9792>

### Asylum

**The Lord Bishop of Leicester** [HL9986] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the National Audit Office's report on the Government's Asylum and Protection Transformation Programme.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** The NAO report into the Asylum & Protection Transformation Programme fully recognises the significance of the transformation programme, and the efforts of the Home Office to reform the asylum and protection system.

The report acknowledges the key work the programme has done to date to tackle the challenges facing the asylum system, but notes concern around securing dispersal accommodation, and the ability of decision makers to clear the backlog. The report suggested three recommendations for the programme to increase its chances of success, all of which are accepted and embedded within our programme approach going forward.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-07/hl9986>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/the-asylum-and-protection-transformation-programme.pdf>

### **Asylum and Visas: China**

**The Lord Bishop of St Albans [HL9903]** To ask His Majesty's Government how many (1) asylum, or (2) humanitarian protection, visas were granted to people from China in (a) 2019, (b) 2020, (c) 2021, and (d) 2022.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** The Home Office publishes data on asylum in the 'Immigration System Statistics Quarterly Release'. Data on initial decisions made on asylum applications, including grants of refugee permission and humanitarian protection by nationality, can be found in table Asy\_D02 of the 'asylum and resettlement detailed datasets'.

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

[table Asy\\_D02](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-05/hl9903>

### **Asylum: Finance**

**Lord Robert of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL9832]** To ask His Majesty's Government what arrangements they will put in place to ensure Aspen card holding asylum seekers can exchange a payment from their cards for any goods they require.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** Arrangements are already in place to ensure destitute asylum seekers can buy goods that they require to meet their essential living needs. Asylum seekers who are assessed as destitute under Section 95 are provided with a weekly allowance which is loaded on to a debit card (ASPEN card). ASPEN cards can be used to pay for retail transactions at most shops displaying the Mastercard logo, up to the value of the available balance. They can also be used to check available balances at cash machines, to withdraw cash from cash machines and to get cash back when purchasing items at Mastercard participating shops. ASPEN cards cannot be used to make contactless, telephone or internet payments and the card cannot be used overseas.

Failed Asylum Seekers who are assessed as destitute under Section 4 will not be able use their card to withdraw cash from a machine or get cashback from shops.

As part of normal service, anyone experiencing issues in relation to their ASPEN payment card can report them to our Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility (AIRE) provider, Migrant Help, 24 hours a day on the freephone number.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-04/hl9832>

### **Asylum: Children**

**Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat) [HL9905]** To ask His Majesty's Government whether it is their current policy to place unaccompanied children seeking asylum, who are waiting for placement with a local authority, in hotels; and, if so, how many are placed in hotels.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** Hotel accommodation is a temporary means to accommodate the increased number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) arriving and is only ever a contingency option, not a long-term



solution.

The high number of UASC arrivals, particularly as a result of small boat crossings, has placed unprecedented pressure on the National Transfer Scheme. Out of necessity we accommodated UASC on an emergency and temporary basis in hotels while placements with local authorities have been vigorously pursued. The High Court recently ruled that the routine and systematic use of hotels to accommodate UASC is unlawful, and we are working at pace with Kent County Council, other government departments and local authorities across the UK to ensure suitable local authority placements are provided for unaccompanied children urgently and sustainably.

We provided local authorities with children's services £15,000 for every eligible young person taken into their care from a Home Office-run hotel dedicated to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children or the Kent Reception and Safe Care Service by the end of February 2023. As a result of incentivised funding, we were able to temporarily reduce the number of unaccompanied children accommodated in hotels to zero. This was the second funding pilot run by the Home Office in 2022/23 to help local authorities invest in longer term infrastructure for accommodating and supporting unaccompanied children. Ending the use of hotels for UASC is an absolute priority and we will continue to work around the clock with councils to increase the number of care placements available.

The data requested cannot be provided as it comes from live operational databases that have not been quality assured.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-05/hl9905>

### **Asylum: Children**

**Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat)** [HL9906] To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Murray of Blidworth on 20 July (HL9141), why they do not hold records that would enable them to answer parliamentary questions on the age of the youngest unaccompanied child seeking asylum that has been placed in a hotel.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** We take the safety and welfare of those in our care, including unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, extremely 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. No individuals, apart from the unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, are residing at any of the hotels ring-fenced for children.

Children 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.

All individuals working directly with the young people accommodated at the hotels have Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service checks, and all those working and operating on the hotel sites have DBS clearance. The Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration (ICIBI) found that the young people accommodated at the hotels unanimously reported feeling happy and safe.

We do hold records however, the data requested cannot be provided as it comes from live operational databases that have not been quality assured.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-05/hl9906>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-06/hl9141>

### **Asylum: Children**

**Earl Russell (Liberal Democrat)** [HL9992] To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that unaccompanied child asylum seekers arriving in the UK are

not placed in adult prisons.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** Determining the age of a young person is a difficult task and therefore, the age assessment process for immigration purposes contains safeguards.

Where a new arrival does not have genuine documentary evidence of their age and their claimed age is doubted, an initial age decision is conducted as a first step to prevent individuals who are clearly an adult or minor from being subjected unnecessarily to a more substantive age assessment and ensure that new arrivals are routed into the correct accommodation and processes for assessing their asylum or immigration claim. The lawfulness of the initial decision on age process was endorsed by the Supreme Court in the case of R (on the application of BF (Eritrea)) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2021] UKSC 38.

Where doubt remains and an individual cannot be assessed to be significantly over 18, they will be treated as a minor for immigration purposes until further assessment of their age by a local authority.

The Home Office initial decision on age is not binding on the courts, and where the Court has doubt whether the individual is a minor or not, the courts will take a decision on the age of an individual before them based on the available evidence. This decision would then determine the type of detention estate someone is sent to if given a custodial sentence or remanded in custody. If an individual is sent to an adult prison and is later found to be a child, they can be moved to the youth custody estate if there continues to be a need to detain them.

The recent legislative reforms introduced by this government will improve the accuracy of the scientific age assessment outcomes, minimising the risk that a person will be incorrectly treated as either an adult or a minor and ensure that age-appropriate services and care are reserved for genuine minors.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-07/hl9992>

*The judgement referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.supremecourt.uk/cases/docs/uksc-2019-0147-judgment.pdf>

### **Asylum: Boats**

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL9831] To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to ensure that asylum seekers housed on a waterborne barge are able to access necessary help in any emergency, including a medical emergency or fire.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** In the Netherlands and Belgium, the authorities have delivered accommodation for asylum seekers on vessels in a safe and secure manner. The Scottish Government have successfully done so for Ukrainian refugees.

The welfare of those in our care is of the utmost priority. The Bibby Stockholm successfully completed all fire and safety checks ahead the first individuals boarding. The vessel completed a statutory inspection and refurbishment before undergoing final preparations to accommodate asylum seekers.

We have been in liaison with Dorset & Wiltshire Fire Service to ensure that the safety of the vessel and its occupants are being appropriately managed in line with relevant legislation. Tactical plans, including arrangements for evacuation of residents to assembly areas away from the quayside and outside the gated area, have been developed.

The fire safety standards on the Bibby Stockholm are the same as any other berthed vessel and meets the industry standard.

In the case of the Bibby Stockholm, there is a log of who is on and off the vessel. During an emergency, our supplier would know who was/was not aboard and would contact any affected individuals. Our supplier would stay in constant touch with local

law enforcement. In the event of a prolonged incident, and if there was a requirement to provide emergency accommodation, the supplier would find a room and direct the person to the accommodation, arranging local taxi transport if required.

Facilities onboard the vessel will be designed to provide for the essential needs of those accommodated in order to minimise the impact on local communities and local services. This includes the provision of primary healthcare, catering facilities and 24/7 security. The vessel's 24/7 security team have established procedures for working with local police and emergency services.

The medical facility on the barge will be staffed 5 days a week to provide an onsite primary healthcare service with which the asylum seekers will register; this means individuals will not need to register with a local GP practice. The medical team has previous experience of working with asylum seekers.

This team will provide care to the asylum seekers either on the vessel itself between the hours of 9am-5pm, or remotely (including outside of these hours).

Medical provision will include:

- a qualified senior health professional, such as an advanced nurse practitioner or a paramedic on site 5 days per week - 9am-5pm
- a GP onsite (one day per week) 9am-5pm
- remote access to GP consultations when onsite care is unavailable or needs additional support
- access to translation services is in place and this has been shared with local services
- any prescribed medicines will be transported to the vessel for the asylum seekers

Home Office is providing funding to the NHS to support on-site primary health service, to help reduce the impact on NHS services.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-04/hl9831>

### **Asylum: Boats**

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL9833] To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that families of asylum seekers housed on a waterborne barge will be kept together.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** The Bibby Stockholm will provide non-detained accommodation for single adult male asylum seekers aged 18 to 65 who would otherwise be destitute. No families will be housed aboard.

The cohort of single adult males has been agreed with local authorities and health partners to mitigate the burden on local public services, for example local schools and health services.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-04/hl9833>

## **UK Parliament Early Day Motion**

**Anne McLaughlin (SNP)** [1621] **Migrants in Scotland** – That this House notes the publication of new research on public attitudes to immigration in Scotland from Migration Policy Scotland, the first of its kind since 2014; welcomes the news that people in Scotland have become more positive towards immigration since then; acknowledges that more people in Scotland would like to see immigration go up than down and that the number who would like a reduction in immigration has dropped by 30 percentage points; celebrates the findings that nearly 60 per cent of Scots see immigration as having a positive impact on Scotland and that 74 per cent believe diversity is good for Scotland; understands Scotland's need for increased levels of immigration to bolster its population and to grow

the economy; and recognises the important part migrants have played and continue to play in Scotland's success as a nation.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/61362>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

[https://migrationpolicyscotland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Attitudes\\_Scotland\\_Sept23.pdf](https://migrationpolicyscotland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Attitudes_Scotland_Sept23.pdf)

## Press Releases

**Home Secretary pays tribute to the Windrush Working Group**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-pays-tribute-to-the-windrush-working-group>

**15,000 Afghans housed or matched to a property**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/15000-afghans-housed-or-matched-to-a-property>

## New Publications

**Attitudes to Immigration: A view from Scotland**

[https://migrationpolicyscotland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Attitudes\\_Scotland\\_Sept23.pdf](https://migrationpolicyscotland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Attitudes_Scotland_Sept23.pdf)

**Looked after children who are not in school**

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/media-centre/>

**House of Commons Library Briefing: Immigration Fees**

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

**The Brook House Inquiry Report**

**Volume 1**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1185926/11199-HHG-BHI-Vol I Brook House Inquiry Vol I ACCESSIBLE 1 .pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1185926/11199-HHG-BHI-Vol I Brook House Inquiry Vol I ACCESSIBLE 1 .pdf)

**Volume 2**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1185928/11199-HHG-BHI-Vol2 Brook House Inquiry Vol II-ACCESSIBLE.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1185928/11199-HHG-BHI-Vol2 Brook House Inquiry Vol II-ACCESSIBLE.pdf)

**Volume 3**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1185929/11199-HHG-BHI-V3 Brook House Inquiry Vol III accessible.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1185929/11199-HHG-BHI-V3 Brook House Inquiry Vol III accessible.pdf)

**Guidance: Refugee Employability Programme**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/refugee-employability-programme>

**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: Afghan Resettlement Programme: operational data**

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

**Updated: Afghan bridging hotel exit operational data**

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

**Updated: Ukraine Family Scheme, Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme (Homes for Ukraine) and Ukraine Extension Scheme visa data**

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

## News

**Home Office Windrush ‘transformation team’ formally disbanded**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/sep/19/home-office-post-windrush-transformation-team-formally-disbanded>

**Afghans in Scotland: “Life here is not getting better for us”**

<https://scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/afghans-in-scotland-life-here-is-not-getting-better-for-us/>

**How Ukrainian refugee families hosted by Times readers are taking their next steps**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/how-ukrainian-refugee-families-hosted-by-times-readers-are-taking-their-next-steps-nm6nrfz85>

**Anti-gay discrimination not qualification for asylum, says Suella Braverman**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-66919416>

**Braverman to question basis for international refugee treaties in Washington speech**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/suella-braverman-migration-speech-us-b2417431.html>

**Suella Braverman makes fresh attack on European court of human rights**

<https://www.theguardian.com/law/2023/sep/24/suella-braverman-makes-fresh-attack-on-european-court-of-human-rights>

**Home Office used Gillette shaving report to assess migrants’ ages**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/home-office-used-gillette-report-to-assess-migrants-ages-57qzpbpqm>

**RAF Scampton: Home Office ordered to stop work on asylum centre**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-lincolnshire-66888927>

**Council orders Home Office to stop work on asylum centre at Dambusters base**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/council-slaps-new-stop-order-on-home-office-plans-for-dambusters-base-htng3smnn>

**Immigration detention centres need time limit on holding migrants, Home Office told by inquiry**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world-news/2023/09/20/immigration-removal-centre-time-limit-home-office-brook/>

**Brook House: ‘verbal and physical abuse at immigration centre’**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/brook-house-abuse-panorama-bbc-qjfxtt6dq>



**Guards at UK detention centre choked, abused and forced migrants naked from cells**  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/migrants-inhumane-brook-house-degrading-b2414195.html>

**Asylum seekers 'degraded' at detention centre: key points from Brook House inquiry**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/sep/19/migrants-humiliated-and-degraded-at-detention-centre-inquiry-reveals>

**Braverman stopped immigration centre inspections despite safeguarding warnings**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/sep/19/suella-braverman-stopped-immigration-centre-inspections-despite-safeguarding-warnings>

**I warned ministers about our disgraceful UK detention centres. Their solution? Stop the inspections**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/sep/19/ministers-detention-centres-inspections-brook-house-suella-braverman-home-office>

**Seven days to find a new home: unreasonable, unfair and completely unrealistic**  
<https://scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/seven-days-to-find-a-new-home-unreasonable-unfair-and-completely-unrealistic/>

**Migrant hotel costs rise to £8m a day, Home Office figures show**  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-66855830>

**UK now spending £8m a day housing migrants in hotels**  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/cost-hotels-migrants-small-boats-home-office-b2414237.html>

**Cost of housing asylum seekers in hotels rises to £8m a day, says Home Office**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/sep/19/cost-housing-asylum-seekers-hotels-rise-home-office>

**Cost of housing migrants in hotels reaches £8m a day**  
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/cost-of-housing-migrants-in-hotels-reaches-8m-a-day-z9lw5m3m5>

**Migrants must get at least three-star hotels, says Home Office contract**  
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/09/22/migrants-three-star-hotels-home-office/>

**Cartoonists create colouring book for refugees in rebuff to UK government**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/sep/22/cartoonists-colouring-book-refugees-welcome-to-britain>

**Asylum seeker on hunger strike 'denied' emergency help at migrant centre**  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-seeker-hunger-strike-raf-wethersfield-b2414608.html>

**Pope Francis says migration is a reality in call for action during France visit**  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-66900525>

**Footnote x Counterpoints Writing Prize for writers from refugee or migrant backgrounds**  
<https://counterpoints.org.uk/judges-announced-for-footnote-x-counterpoints-writing-prize/>

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## Equality

### Scottish Parliament Written Answers

#### Long COVID

**Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat)** [S6W-21153] To ask the Scottish Government how it is engaging with people from BAME backgrounds who are affected by long COVID, and how it is assessing, monitoring and addressing their needs.

**Reply from Jenni Minto:** We have commissioned NHS National Services Scotland to establish a National Strategic Network to ensure the development of our approach to supporting people living with long COVID is informed by evidence and expertise. As part of this activity, NHS National Services Scotland has commissioned the Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE) to facilitate a long COVID Lived Experience Network to support people affected by long COVID to engage with and inform the activity of the Strategic Network.

An Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) has been conducted for the Lived Experience Network to inform its approach and identify issues impacting on people with protected characteristics, including those from minority ethnic communities. When individuals join the network, they are asked to complete a voluntary equalities monitoring form to support with monitoring representation. Regular audits of the membership of the network are conducted to highlight any gaps in representation. This informs where further targeted outreach is needed and to identify areas for improvement.

NHS Boards' use of the C-19 YRS digital screening tool will provide disaggregated data on who is accessing services, including by ethnicity and other protected characteristics. The collection of health data through the tool will be used to map the provision and effectiveness of long COVID services.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-21153>

Information about the C-19 YRS digital screening tool, referred to above, can be read at <https://c19-yrs.com/the-c19-yrs/>

#### Housing

**Miles Briggs (Conservative)** [S6W-21171] To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it has made of the report by Shelter Scotland, *Minoritised ethnic access to social housing in Scotland at key transition points*.

**Reply from Paul McLennan:** We welcome the report by Shelter Scotland. The Scottish Government is committed to including ongoing consideration of what more can be done to improve outcomes for BAME people within social housing.

Our Housing to 2040 strategy continues to provide the frame for our work to advance equality of outcomes in housing, with our vision for what we want homes and communities to look and feel like for the people of Scotland. In this we have recognised and committed to address the housing challenges faced by minority ethnic communities and highlighted that we must act on what we already know, as well as taking steps to improve our evidence base.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-21171>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://assets.ctfassets.net/6sqgfrl11sfi/3ypzDIXpbw2FwA18uHHGk3/6ce9a624625fd2bbca12b739b3de7982/Minority-Ethnic-Housing-report-WEB.pdf>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

### Energy Bills Rebate: Travellers

**Mary Kelly Foy (Labour)** [198571] To ask the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, whether his Department plans to take steps to (a) provide Gypsies and Travellers living on roadside encampments with support through Energy Bills Support Scheme Alternative Funding and (b) work with (i) Traveller Liaison Officers and (ii) other Local Authorities Officers to confirm the eligibility of those people for that scheme.

**Reply from Amanda Solloway:** After stakeholder engagement sessions and research exercises, the government has been unable to establish a robust method for households in caravans not on permanent sites to prove that their caravan is their main or sole residence, whilst protecting public funds against fraud.

We recommend that these households should contact their local authority to apply for the Housing Support Fund and also visit the 'Help for Households' webpage to view what other support they may be eligible to receive

<https://helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-08/198571>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

### Minoritised Women: Pay Inequality

**Baroness Thornton (Labour):** To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they plan to take to address the pay inequality experienced by Black, Asian and other minoritised women as identified in a report by the Fawcett Society, *Ethnicity Motherhood Pay Penalty*, published on 31 July.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** ... We are taking a number of steps to tackle unjust disparities in the workplace. We published new guidance in April to help employers measure, report and address unfair ethnicity pay differences. We are taking forward measures to improve access to flexible working, including our commitment to make the right to request flexible working apply from day one of employment. We have also launched an inclusion at work panel to develop resources to help employers achieve fairness and inclusion in the workplace more effectively and efficiently.

**Baroness Thornton:** ... This Question concerns three-way discrimination at play, which this report reveals. Black and minority ethnic women face a gender pay gap, an ethnicity pay gap and, on top of that, a clear motherhood pay penalty. This is particularly so for women of Pakistani heritage. I would like to know how this can be built into the kind of review that the Minister mentioned in the last part of her Answer.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** I would agree with the noble Baroness on all fronts of her analysis. I will home in on Pakistani women in particular, who seem to have the worst effects of this—there are of course other ethnic minorities who fare better than their white British counterparts—we do a number of things, including outreach work, linking up with organisations that help women furthest from the labour market that we are talking about to move closer to employment. We have developed a proof of concept that targets Pakistani and Bangladeshi women, among others, who for mainly cultural and traditional reasons have struggled to engage with the labour market. We also have support available in jobcentres to that end.

**Baroness Hussein-Ece (Liberal Democrat):** My Lords, the Minister mentioned flexible working and the right of women returning to work to request it—but it is only a request, and it is in the hands of the employer. Given that over double the proportion of women from black and other ethnic minorities reported that they had no access to flexible working,

compared with white mothers, this makes them more likely to drop out of the labour market or even stay locked in very low-paid work. So will she say whether the Government will commit to a duty for employers to include reasonable flexible working options in job advertisements, and to push it through?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** ... Not only will we make it a duty but we are intending to bring it into force soon, because the Employment Relations (Flexible Working) Act 2023 received Royal Assent in July of this year. It makes changes to the right to request flexible working, to better support those employers and employees that the noble Baroness is talking about.

**Baroness Watkins of Tavistock (Crossbench):** My Lords, does the Minister agree that some pay and equality are associated with barriers to promotion, particularly in our public services? If so, what plans do His Majesty's Government have to address improving promotion equity for women from black, Asian and other minority backgrounds?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** ... large organisations in particular do not want a homogenous workforce; they want a diverse workforce that actually represents this country and the various people who live in it. ...

**Lord Shinkwin (Conservative):** My Lords, when, at the current rate of progress, do His Majesty's Government envisage that the ethnicity pay gap will be closed?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** My noble friend might be interested to know that the ethnicity pay gap between white and ethnic minority employees in England and Wales is actually only 2.3%. ...

**Lord Bird (Crossbench):** We always leave class out of this issue. I hate this idea of turning white against black by talking about doing something for black people when there are so many white people who are also left behind because of the nature of their class and where they come from.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** ... I agree with the noble Lord.

**Lord Sahota (Labour):** My Lords, some of the recently arrived women care workers from Asian and African countries are being exploited by their employers because they have limited negotiating power. They are not fully aware of their rights, are less likely to join a union and are less assertive of their rights due to the fear of job insecurity and their immigration status. They are verging on modern slavery. Are the Government aware of their plight?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** I think the Government are aware of the plight of anyone who might be in danger of slavery, exploitation and all the things the noble Lord talks about. I do not think that it is necessary to belong to a union to be protected from such exploitation.

**Baroness Manzoor (Conservative):** I very much value what my noble friend said regarding the 2% ethnicity pay gap compared with white counterparts, but, once again, we must not treat all ethnic minority people as a homogenous group. That figure will be better for men, in terms of the differentials in pay gap, and worse for ethnic minority women. So, although I understand that there is variation and that there are lots of groups of ethnic minority women, nevertheless I think that there is merit in having a statutory requirement for businesses to say what those pay gaps are. That would be a start.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We do not intend to go down that route, for all the reasons I outlined earlier, but my noble friend is absolutely right that there is a big disparity within ethnic minority groups, with some people earning more than their ethnic white counterparts and others earning less. ...

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

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-09-19/debates/2AC24D46-9FD7-45FE-BD99-7095F85B2DFE/MinoritisedWomenPayInequality>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.fawcettsociety.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=2700108d-d095-4ba6-8830-48f4abcb9785>

The guidance referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ethnicity-pay-reporting-guidance-for-employers>

## Press Release

**Equality and Human Rights Commission: Technical guidance for schools updated**

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/technical-guidance-schools-updated>

## New Publications

**Equality and Human Rights Commission: Updated Technical guidance for schools in Scotland**

[https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/technical\\_guidance\\_for\\_schools\\_scotland\\_updated\\_september\\_2023\\_0.docx](https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/technical_guidance_for_schools_scotland_updated_september_2023_0.docx)

**Access to Justice for Everyone: How might a new Human Rights legal framework improve access to justice in Scotland today?**

<https://www.scottishhumanrights.com/media/2496/access-to-justice-for-everyone-a-discussion-paper.pdf>

## News

**Data reveals worrying rates of financial hardship for people from ethnic minority backgrounds**

<https://www.manchester.ac.uk/discover/news/financial-hardship-for-people-from-ethnic-minority-backgrounds/>

**Royal Society aims to boost number of black scientists**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-66825633>

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## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

#### Hate Crime Strategy

**Foysoil Choudhury (Labour) [S6O-02534]** To ask the Scottish Government whether it can provide an update on how it plans to regularly monitor and evaluate the implementation of its hate crime strategy for Scotland, in the lead-up to the review that is planned for 2028.

**Reply from the Minister for Victims and Community Safety (Siobhian Brown):** The hate crime strategy makes a number of commitments, including improved support for victims, improving data and evidence and developing effective approaches to prevention. We will shortly publish a delivery plan to set out our activity over the next two years. One of the key priorities will be to improve hate crime data. We are also committed to on-going lived experience engagement, to help us to understand if our interventions are working. The hate crime strategic partnership group will oversee the progress of the delivery plan.



**Foyso! Choudhury:** Last week, I asked the First Minister how the Scottish Government ensures that demand for police officers is being suitably met after the number of police officers in Scotland was reduced due to the funding cuts. However, calls to Police Scotland are only increasing. Can the Scottish Government advise what talks it is having with Police Scotland in order to ensure that its officers will be able to fully investigate all reported hate crimes, given the reduction in the number of police officers?

**Reply from Siobhian Brown:** I assure the member that we are in constant talks with Police Scotland regarding the delivery plan for the hate crime strategy. The strategy will set out the strategic priorities for tackling and preventing hate crime and has been informed by individuals who have lived experience of hate crime. Police Scotland is on board and we engage with it at every meeting.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=15446&i=131796#ScotParlOR>

*The hate Crime Strategy referred to above can be read at*  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/hate-crime-strategy-scotland/>

*Foyso! Choudhury's question to the First Minister, referred to above, can be read at*  
<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=15434&i=131701#ScotParlOR>

## Scottish Parliament Written Answer

### Anti-Racism Observatory for Scotland

**Stephen Kerr (Conservative)** [S6W-21297] To ask the Scottish Government, in light of its Programme for Government 2023-24 commitment to "Invest in a new Anti-Racism Observatory which will provide oversight and support for the Scottish Government and the public sector to develop anti-racism approaches" so that it can "continue to eradicate racism in Scotland", how it will evaluate whether it has successfully eradicated racism in Scotland.

**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.

A key part of the work being done is to develop governance and oversight of the work being done to tackle racism in Scotland, as per the recommendation of the Expert Group on Ethnicity and Covid-19 (ERG). This will include consideration of how to measure, track and evaluate progress made in eradicating racism in Scotland.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-21297>

*The Programme for Government 2023-24, referred to above, can be read at*  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/programme-government-2023-24/pages/13/>

*The recommendations referred to above can be read at*  
<https://tinyurl.com/yv64yd6f>

and

<https://tinyurl.com/yv64yd6f>

## News

**Diane Abbott claims she won't get fair hearing over 'antisemitic' letter because she is a Black woman**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/diane-abbott-antisemitism-labour-starmer-racism-b2414417.html>

**Police Scotland prepares dedicated hate crime unit for new laws**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/police-scotland-prepares-dedicated-hate-crime-unit-for-new-laws-gnzgwgqcg>

**One in seven councils adopts Islamophobia definition rejected over free speech fears**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/09/18/councils-islamophobia-definition-government-free-speech/>

**Edinburgh Botanic Garden orders anti-racism training for staff**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/edinburgh-s-botanic-garden-to-introduce-anti-racism-training-for-staff-8mc556wb7>

**Anonymity removed for teenager who defaced Windrush mural with Nazi symbols**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/windrush-nazi-anonymity-port-talbot-south-wales-b2415965.html>

**Schoolboy who called himself 'Hitler's strongest soldier' sentenced**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/school-boy-who-called-himself-hitler-s-soldier-sentenced-hgghrcbv2>

**Solicitor accused of antisemitic tweets about Times writer**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/solicitor-accused-over-antisemitic-tweets-about-times-writer-5bv0bk8w2>

**Islamists are 'weaponising' claims of Islamophobia to shut down debate on hijabs, report finds**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/09/22/islamists-weaponising-claims-islamophobia-debate-hijabs/>

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## Other Scottish Parliament and Government

### Press Release

**Recorded Crime in Scotland: year ending June 2023**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/recorded-crime-in-scotland-year-ending-june-2023/>

### New Publication

**Recorded Crime in Scotland: year ending June 2023**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/recorded-crime-scotland-year-ending-june-2023/>

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## Other UK Parliament and Government

### UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

#### Female Genital Mutilation Protection Orders

**Baroness Jenkin of Kennington (Conservative)** [HL10037] To ask His Majesty's Government how many female genital mutilation protection orders were issued in (1) 2019, (2) 2020, (3) 2021, and (4) 2022.

**Reply from Lord Bellamy:** Data on the number of female genital mutilation protection orders issued for the period 2019-2022 is routinely published and can be found in the Family Court Statistics Quarterly series available on gov.uk.

The data for the period requested is as follows:

2019	2020	2021	2022
199	136	54	71

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-11/hl10037>

#### Female Genital Mutilation: Prosecutions

**Baroness Jenkin of Kennington (Conservative)** [HL10038] To ask His Majesty's Government whether there have been any more female genital prosecutions in the UK since the first conviction in February 2019.

**Reply from Lord Bellamy:** The Ministry of Justice publishes information on prosecutions and convictions for female genital mutilation (FGM) in the Outcomes by Offence data tool using the following HO code:

00852 - Offences under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003

Since the first conviction in February 2019, there was one prosecution in 2022, and no convictions for the offence of FGM.

The data tool can be accessed via the following link: [Criminal Justice System statistics quarterly: December 2022](#).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-11/hl10038>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### Forced Marriage: Children

**Baroness Jenkin of Kennington (Conservative)** [HL10039] To ask His Majesty's Government how many child marriage protection orders were issued in (1) 2019, (2) 2020, (3) 2021, and (4) 2022.

**Baroness Jenkin of Kennington (Conservative)** [HL10040] To ask His Majesty's Government whether there have been any child marriage convictions in the UK since the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022 came into effect in February 2023.

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** The UK is a world leader in the fight to stamp out the practice of forced marriage, with our dedicated Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) leading efforts to combat it both at home and abroad.

The new legislation which came into force in February this year is intended to proactively close potential loopholes and make prosecution under the existing law easier by removing the need to prove the use of coercion, which may require evidence from the victim. The FMU has undertaken a range of activity to raise awareness of the extended offence.

Data on convictions for criminal offences is published by the Ministry of Justice. The latest publication is to December 2022, before the extended offence came into force.

Additionally, we protect both adults and children with our Forced Marriage Protection Orders (FMPOs) and have criminalised the breach of FMPOs once in place. The number of forced marriage protection orders made in (1) 2019, (2) 2020,

(3) 2021 and (4) 2022 can be found in the table attached.

[Table](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-11/hl10039>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-11/hl10040>

## New Publications

**House of Commons Library Briefing: Who can vote in UK elections?**

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-8985/CBP-8985.pdf>

**Female Genital Mutilation, Female Genital Mutilation - April -June 2023**

<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/female-genital-mutilation/april-2023---june-2023>

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## Cost of Living

### Scottish Government Website

#### Help during the cost of living crisis

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

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

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

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

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

### Publication

**House of Commons Library Briefing: Rising cost of living in the UK**

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9428/CBP-9428.pdf>

### News

**Cost-of-living payments don't last - food bank**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-66705305>

### **Cost of living: Inflation 'like Covid' for premature deaths**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/23812033.cost-living-inflation-like-covid-premature-deaths/>

### **Brits struggle with mental health due to cost of living crisis**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/cost-of-living-london-mental-health-b2414376.html>

### **Young people ditching ambitions over UK cost of living crisis, research finds**

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2023/sep/19/young-people-ditching-ambitions-over-uk-cost-of-living-crisis-research-finds>

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## **Other New Publications**

### **How does the Scottish Charity Regulator handle concerns about Scottish charities?**

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/news/video-how-does-oscr-handle-concerns-about-scottish-charities/>

### **The Symbolic Power of the Veil**

<https://policyexchange.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/The-Symbolic-Power-of-the-Veil.pdf>

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## **Other News**

### **Become a member of the Scottish Third Sector Tracker**

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/news/become-a-member-of-the-scottish-third-sector-tracker/>

### **Breast cancer: The Asian survivors tackling taboo in the community**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/newsbeat-66846008>

### **'I wanted to fit in': inside the world of illegal skin-lightening creams**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/i-wanted-to-fit-in-inside-the-world-of-illegal-skin-lightening-creams-p8ff5g8lr>

### **Government needs to prevent dress code imposition on Muslim women, says think tank**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/muslim-women-uk-dress-code-islamophobia-b2416372.html>

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## **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>



## **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>

House of Lords consideration of House of Commons amendments

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-09-19/debates/076ACAC5-EBD0-46ED-A8F4-755C0811968E/OnlineSafetyBill>

### **Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill**

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

### **Scotland (Self-Determination) Bill**

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

### **Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Draft Bill**

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

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## Consultations

\*\* new or updated this week

**\*\* closes next week!**

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

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

**\*\* closes next week!**

**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/>

**\*\* closes next week!**

**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>

**\*\* Drug Use in Ethnic Minority Groups Review** (closing date 27 October 2023)

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

**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/>

**\*\* Police (Ethics, Conduct and Scrutiny) (Scotland) Bill** (closing date 8 December 2023)

<https://yourviews.parliament.scot/justice/police-ethics-conduct-and-scrutiny-bill/>

**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/bSFFBVBiHi>

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## **Job Opportunities**

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

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## **Funding Opportunities**

\*\* new or updated this week

**\*\* closes next 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](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>

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## Events, Conferences, and Training

\*\* new or updated this week

**\*\* this week!**

### **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>

**\*\* this week!**

### **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>

**\*\* this week!**

### **George Square Walking Tour**

30 September 2023 (Glasgow, 10.00–12.30)

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>

**\*\* next week!**

### **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>

**\*\* next week!**

**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>

**\*\* next week!**

**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>

**\*\* next week!**

**Launch of Resources for Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD)**

5 October 2023 (Online, 4.00–5.00)

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust event to launch resources to help mark HMD in new and innovative ways. Holocaust survivor Yvonne Bernstein will speak about the importance of sharing survivor testimony, and HMD activity organisers will share their experiences. To book see <https://tinyurl.com/49eykbck>

**\*\* next week!**

**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>

**\*\* next week!**

**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](mailto:graham.campbell@glasgow.gov)

**\*\* in two weeks!**

**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/2c2fcj2>

**\*\* in two weeks!**

**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>



**\*\* in two weeks!**

**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>

**\*\* in two weeks!**

**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>

**\*\* in two weeks!**

**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>

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## **Useful Links**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services**

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

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

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**SCoJeC**  
Scottish Council of  
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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



**BEMIS** 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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