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Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Debates

Refugee Integration

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2024-01-18/debates/058656B5-8E32-41E7-ABE9-30BE1F1BE489/RefugeeIntegration>

Draft Immigration Act 2014 (Residential Accommodation) (Maximum Penalty) Order 2023
and

Draft Immigration (Employment of Adults Subject to Immigration Control) (Maximum Penalty) (Amendment) Order 2023

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-01-15/debates/97606fa9-7b7c-42ae-87eb-4aac07c7f193/DraftImmigrationAct2014\(ResidentialAccommodation\)\(MaximumPenalty\)Order2023DraftImmigration\(EmploymentOfAdultsSubjectToImmigrationControl\)\(MaximumPenal](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-01-15/debates/97606fa9-7b7c-42ae-87eb-4aac07c7f193/DraftImmigrationAct2014(ResidentialAccommodation)(MaximumPenalty)Order2023DraftImmigration(EmploymentOfAdultsSubjectToImmigrationControl)(MaximumPenal)

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Reducing Migration

Martin Vickers (Conservative) [900919] What steps [the Minister] is taking to reduce legal migration.

David Evennett (Conservative) [900923] What steps [the Minister] is taking to reduce net migration.

Stephen Crabb (Conservative) [900935] What steps [the Minister] is taking to reduce net migration.

Reply from the Secretary of State for the Home Department (James Cleverly):

On 4 December, I announced a new package of measures to further reduce legal net migration, including limitations on family dependants being brought in by workers and students, creating a salary threshold and raising the minimum income requirement progressively over the next few years.

Martin Vickers: My right hon. Friend will know that the net migration figure of over 700,000 is completely unsustainable. Were it to continue, that would represent the creation of 10 new parliamentary constituencies each year. What co-operation does his Department have with the public services that have to meet the demands from the newcomers?

Reply from James Cleverly: My hon. Friend is absolutely right that we must be conscious of the impact of the level of net migration on local populations and local authorities. We recognise that the figure is too high and we are taking action to bring it down. We work closely with other Government Departments to deliver on that, but while Opposition Front Benchers criticise the headline figures, they also oppose every single step we take to bring that figure down.

David Evennett: ... Will the Home Secretary outline how his new legal migration package will make the most of our post-Brexit points-based immigration system?

Reply from James Cleverly: This country has always had a global outlook: the ethnic composition of the Government at the most senior levels is a direct reflection of our global connectivity and those human bridges across the world. We want to ensure this country is able to benefit from the expertise, knowledge and work of the brightest and best from around the whole world in a manner that is controlled, fair, predictable and well enforced.

Stephen Crabb: It is good that the Government want to ensure that the brightest and best can continue to come to the UK to study, but does my right hon. Friend recognise that the changes to the family dependant rules for students risk causing enormous damage to some of our elite business schools, which compete in the global marketplace for experienced, outstanding professionals? What work is he doing with the sector to try to overcome some of those challenges?

Reply from James Cleverly: My right hon. Friend is right to highlight the fact that we are in a globally competitive environment when it comes to this country's quality higher education postgraduate offer. I have no doubt that we are still highly competitive. We will continue to work with the university sector on this and ensure that the people we bring to the UK are here to study and add value, and that no institution in our higher education sector mistakes its role—they are educators, not a back-door visa system.

Barry Sheerman (Labour Co-op): I beg the Home Secretary to spread those more enlightened views to some of his colleagues. Migration should not be a dirty word. I am the son of a migrant. I migrated myself to the United States at one stage. My DNA tells me

that I am 34% Irish and 32% Swedish. Can every Member of this Parliament have their DNA published so that we can bring some sense to this discussion about migration?

Reply from James Cleverly: I am not sure that the Government are able to compel such widespread disclosure—perhaps the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority might have a view on such things. Both sides of my family are of immigrant stock: my mother came to the UK in the 1960s, and my father’s family in 1066. This country has benefited from controlled immigration in a fair system, where people who play by the rules are rewarded and we say no to those who refuse to play by the rules.

Wera Hobhouse (Liberal Democrat): I am a legal migrant, too. Bath has a vibrant hospitality industry that caters for local people and tourists from all over the world, but many of our hotels, restaurants, bars and pubs are already struggling to find enough staff or are under threat of reduced working hours and closure. How will the Home Secretary ensure that the proposed new salary thresholds and measures to reduce legal migration do not worsen those staff shortages?

Reply from James Cleverly: We liaise very closely with other Government Departments to ensure that our system, which is transparent and fair, also supports the British economy. We work particularly closely with the Department for Work and Pensions to ensure that those who have talent and ambition but who, for whatever reason, are currently unable to fully engage in the job market are enabled to do so. I myself have a background in the hospitality industry, and we want that industry to continue to thrive. It is not the case that we should automatically rely on overseas labour for that; we can have home-grown talent as well.

Kerry McCarthy (Labour): The Home Secretary talked about people coming to UK universities to study. Many people also come to our universities to carry out ground-breaking and economically important research, and they are worried about the rise in the minimum income thresholds, because that means they will be unable to bring their families with them. What assessment has he made of the impact of the new changes on our universities’ important research work?

Reply from James Cleverly: We recognise the contribution of the international pool of talent. Indeed, when I was Foreign Secretary I signed up to a deal with India for talented postgraduates to exchange experience in our respective countries. We will always look to support the genuine draw on talent, but we will also ensure that the higher education system is not used as a back-door means of immigration. The system is about research and education, not a back-door means of getting permanent residence in this country.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-01-15/debates/F6936629-EFF0-4560-9A1E-1FEAD9267C73/ReducingMigration>

The Home Secretary’s announcement referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-12-04/debates/921A08A2-F615-48F2-8C56-423A29556F9F/LegalMigration>

Legal Migration Rules

Steven Bonnar (SNP) [900915] What discussions [the Minister] has had with the Scottish Government on recent changes to legal migration rules.

Reply from the Minister for Legal Migration and the Border (Tom Pursglove): The Home Office engages with the devolved nations through the inter-ministerial group and recognises that each of the nations of the UK has varying immigration needs, reflected in the varied shortage occupation lists for each nation. Immigration will, however, remain reserved. It is not possible to operate distinct systems without effectively creating an internal UK migration border system.

Steven Bonnar: Figures from the Office for National Statistics have revealed that the changes to the minimum income threshold for family and skilled workers disproportionately

impact Scotland. Median earnings on the west coast of Scotland are £24,700 a year, which is far short even of the climbdown figure of £29,000. Did the Home Secretary even consider that this policy would effectively cut off migration to parts of Scotland that need and would benefit from inward migration?

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The Government's position is clear: the changes that we are introducing are the right thing. The numbers of dependents we are seeing coming is disproportionate. There will be an opportunity, through the review of the composition of the immigration salary list in the second phase, and through the call for evidence, for exactly those debates to be had and for those views to be made known. ...

Alison Thewliss (SNP): The Home Office's knee-jerk policy to raise the threshold and its sudden partial reverse ferret to bring it slightly back down again caused a huge amount of distress to people up and down these islands who now do not know what the future holds for them and their families. What equality impact assessment has been carried out on the policy which, as well as affecting Scotland, will disproportionately affect women?

Reply from Tom Pursglove: When he announced the changes, the Home Secretary made a commitment to lay the information on the projected volumes in the House Library. ... Ultimately, we need to get net migration under control and we think it is a pragmatic and sensible package to take forward.

Alison Thewliss: That does not answer the question that I put to the Minister at all. What equality impact assessment has been carried out on this policy? What recognition of wage levels in Scotland has there been in relation to the policy? He cannot tell me.

One of my constituents tells me that they are worried about their spouse, who works as a legal administrator, coming over from Australia. Also, a man is worried about his nephew and partner who will never be able to return from Canada if they want to come back to live in Scotland, and there are many more who are guilty only of falling in love with somebody of what the Government consider to be the wrong nationality. Will the Minister apologise to them for the chaos that these policies have caused?

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The position is as I have set out. We think the number of people coming to the country in this way is not sustainable and that we are taking forward a pragmatic, balanced package. As I have said, the measures will not be applied retrospectively, so they will not affect existing applications that have been lodged.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-01-15/debates/910C2108-F87B-49C8-BD13-9A022FCC0CF9/LegalMigrationRules>

Visa Income Thresholds: Universities

Richard Thomson (SNP) [900921] What assessment [the Minister] has made of the potential impact of proposed changes to visa income thresholds on the university sector.

Reply from the Minister for Legal Migration and the Border (Tom Pursglove): We have been mindful of the need to balance the impacts on individual sectors with economic growth, and the needs of the labour market with the need to reduce levels of immigration. As part of our policy development, we undertook analytical work across Government that supports our decisions. A regulatory impact assessment will be developed in due course.

Richard Thomson: The director of Universities Scotland, Alastair Sim, has expressed concern that changes to the Government's visa income threshold could affect universities' ability to attract global talent. International students and academics make a contribution in excess of £5 billion annually to the Scottish economy. If the Government recognise the contribution of international students and academics, as they say they do, why are they introducing a policy that threatens to prevent future cohorts of them from making a similar contribution?

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Individuals will still be able to make a valid

contribution in the years ahead, but in a sustainable and managed way. There are no immediate plans to introduce further exemptions to the increased salary threshold, but the salary discounts remain in place. We will continue to engage as the measures are introduced. There are also opportunities domestically for recruitment. At every opportunity, we should be trying to support domestic recruitment wherever we can.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-01-15/debates/319937D4-4301-4E42-8FEE-404CCBC2FF62/VisaIncomeThresholdsUniversities>

Asylum Application Backlog

Andy Carter (Conservative) [900913] What recent progress [the Minister] has made on reducing the backlog of asylum applications. (900913)

Wendy Chamberlain (Liberal Democrat) [900927] What steps [the Minister] is taking to reduce the backlog of asylum applications. (900927)

Reply from the Secretary of State for the Home Department (James Cleverly):

Last year we cleared the equivalent of 90,000 legacy claims and processed a total of more than 112,000 claims—the largest volume in two decades. The total asylum backlog is now at its lowest point since December 2022. The improvement of processes continues, and we will continue to review and improve them to accelerate the decision making from hereon in.

Andy Carter: I am grateful to the Home Secretary for that update, but there are still four hotels in and around Warrington housing asylum seekers. Will he give us an update on the closing of hotels, and will he also tell us what steps he is taking to speed up the processing of refugees when they are in hotels awaiting the outcome of their claims?

Reply from James Cleverly: My hon. Friend made an important link between the speed of asylum processing and the need for asylum accommodation in various forms, including hotels. We are moving away from using hotels as that type of accommodation, thus reducing the cost to the public purse, and we will maintain recruitment levels and improve processes so that the speed of processing that we are seeing now can be continued. Although I cannot make commitments about the specific hotels in my hon. Friend's constituency, he should rest assured that we are seeking to drive down the number of hotels on which we rely.

Wendy Chamberlain: My constituent arrived in the UK 15 months ago and was interviewed, but has been waiting for more than a year to receive a final response. He is not alone: according to the Refugee Council, 33,085 asylum cases have been lodged in the last six months alone, putting ever more strain on a broken system. The Home Secretary said that the legacy backlog was going down, but what about those more recent cases? What is being done to deal with them?

Reply from James Cleverly: The improved processes and the increased number of Home Office officials working on this issue mean that not only the legacy cases but the current ones will be dealt with more quickly, which will reduce the need for asylum accommodation of all types. I cannot comment on individual cases because the circumstances are different in each one, but the hon. Lady should rest assured that the lessons we have learned about the increased speed of processing will benefit those who are already in the system. Of course, we are also determined to drive down the number of people who come here in the first place, reducing the pressure on our asylum processing system in doing so. ...

Stephen Kinnock (Labour): The shambolic incompetence of this Government across every aspect of its disgraceful mismanagement of our country's asylum system knows no bounds, but today I will highlight a particularly egregious example. We already knew that the number of removals of asylum seekers whose claims had been rejected had collapsed by 50% since Labour left office in 2010, but over the weekend it emerged that the Home Office had lost contact with an astonishing 85% of the 5,000 people who have been

identified for removal to Rwanda. Where on earth are those 4,250 asylum seekers who have gone missing?

Will the Home Secretary drop all the smoke and mirrors and acknowledge that the Rwanda plan is just an extortionately expensive and unworkable distraction? When will he adopt Labour's plan to recruit 1,000 additional immigration enforcement officers to a new returns unit, so that we can have a system that is based on common sense ...

Reply from James Cleverly: The mask has slipped. The Labour party has said that even if the Rwanda scheme were to be successful, it would not keep it. That shows what Labour Members really think about this. They have no plan, they have no commitment, and they have even said that if something was working they would scrap it.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-01-15/debates/3FA1A382-9C8F-459F-868E-F8AFE7101901/AsylumApplicationBacklog>

Asylum Seekers: Hotels

... **Alexander Stafford (Conservative):** My constituents and I were delighted at the end of last year to see the end of the Ibis hotel in Bramley being used to house illegal immigrants and its return to normal service. Will the Minister reassure me that any forthcoming immigration legislation passed in this House will make sure that this situation will never happen again, by banning the use of hotels outright and making sure that illegal immigrants are sent to Rwanda for processing?

Reply from the Minister for Legal Migration and the Border (Tom Pursglove): As I have said, the key principle behind the Bill is to help us to bring to an end the egregious crossings of the channel organised by evil criminal gangs. It will help us to ensure that there is greater control of our borders and that there are not these in-flows into the system, which have undoubtedly had the consequence of our needing to respond to that challenge through the opening of hotels. That is precisely what we are trying to put a stop to. ...

Diana Johnson (Labour): Last week, *The Times* reported that there are 10,000 hotel beds going unused, at a cost of £1.5 million a day—that is in addition to the 3,500 buffer of empty beds held as a contingency in case of Manston being overwhelmed. Are those figures actually correct?

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The right hon. Lady will recognise that it is of course important for there to be a buffer, to make sure that operationally we have the bed spaces required in a contingency situation to be able to respond to any surges and particular challenges. That is a difficult area but one that we are looking at carefully. Within the hotel estate, we are of course maximising the use of bed spaces wherever possible, which again helps us to get on and close the hotels, in a way that I think she would like to see.

Clive Betts (Labour): The downside of the volume of asylum applications being granted is the pressure that that is putting on the local authority homeless sections. Will the Minister have another look at the time given to asylum seekers from the date on which their application is accepted to the date on which they have to move out of Home Office accommodation? Will he consider the issue of 28 days versus 56 days, which is the recognised limit under the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017? Otherwise, all we are going to do is transfer people from Home Office-funded hotels to local authority-funded ones, with all the extra pressure of financial problems that that creates for local authorities.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: On the dates, we are working with local authorities to give them as early visibility as possible about the anticipated number of people with decisions that have been granted that they should expect to see. That helps to forward-plan and we are mindful of those points. As things stand, there is no intention to change that 28-day period. Clearly, planning and working with local authorities is critical, but in many cases people have more than 28 days within

which to vacate.

Jim McMahon (Labour Co-op): ... As of March last year, our town is home to 910 asylum seekers, 145 of whom are in hotel accommodation, but there the housing crisis meets the homelessness crisis: 1,000 people in temporary accommodation, including 500 children. Is it not time that the Government reviewed the dispersal policy, to ensure that every part of England plays its fair share? ...

Reply from Tom Pursglove: I can reassure the hon. Gentleman that I and my officials are carefully considering what more can be done to ensure that there is equitability in the approach to dispersal. That is critical, and we need to work carefully through some of the pressures and challenges that these issues present, but I gently say to those on the Opposition Benches that a key part of the response is to get the flows into the system down ...

Clive Efford (Labour): There are currently 56,000 asylum seekers in hotels. The Prime Minister promised to close those hotels some time last year, but since then the figures have gone up by 10,000. Can the Minister confirm that that figure is correct?

Reply from Tom Pursglove: I am clear in my mind that the figure that the hon. Gentleman has cited, and that the shadow Home Secretary used last week, does not represent the picture as it stands today. They will recognise that there is periodic reporting on statistical releases, but the figures they cite are not representative of the position on the ground today.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-01-15/debates/05F2C859-31D1-49D3-8682-D7042238FFB9/AsylumSeekersHotels>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Afghanistan

Refugees: Afghanistan

Alistair Strathern (Labour) [9123] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, if he will make an assessment of the potential merits of providing financial support to people that host Afghan refugees in their homes.

Reply from Felicity Buchan: The UK has a long history of supporting refugees in need of protection. Our resettlement schemes have provided thousands of people the chance to start new lives in the UK.

As set out previously, the Department of Levelling UP, Housing and Communities is exploring a range of other accommodation options to support ACRS households, whilst recognising the specific needs of Afghan families.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-10/9123>

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

The following three questions all received the same answer

Refugees: Afghanistan

Imran Hussain (Labour) [8448] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Afghan refugees were housed in interim hotel accommodation as of (a) 5 December 2023, (b) 12 December 2023, (c) 19 December 2023, (d) 26 December 2023 and (e) 31 December 2023.

Imran Hussain (Labour) [8449] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Afghan refugees housed in interim hotel accommodation were aged (a) zero to three, (b) three to five, (c) five to ten, (d) 10 to 15 and (e) 15 to 18 years old as of 26 December 2023.

Imran Hussain (Labour) [8450] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Afghan refugees who left hotel accommodation between 1 and 31 December 2023 have found permanent accommodation in the same local authority area.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The UK made an ambitious and generous commitment to help resettle Afghans fleeing persecution and those who served in the UK. Since June 2021, we have brought 24,500 people to safety to the UK. 1,674 people, around half of whom are children, were living in interim accommodation (i.e., hotels/serviced accommodation) at the end of September 2023.

For information on individuals within interim accommodation, including nationality, age, and sex breakdowns, see table Asy_D02 of the asylum and resettlement detailed datasets: [Immigration system statistics quarterly release](#)

For data on those in accommodation by location, see the [regional and local authority immigration groups data tables](#).

We are unable to provide a running commentary on interim accommodation and settled accommodation occupation. The next release of [Afghan Operational Data](#) is due for release around 22 February 2024.

Local authorities receive integration tariff funding of £20,520 per person, over three years, for each Afghan family they resettle and provide full integration support for this duration. They have the flexibility to use this funding to contribute towards renting accommodation, including deposit, letting fees and necessary furnishings.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-08/8448>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-08/8449>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-08/8450>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Refugees: Afghanistan

Imran Hussain (Labour) [8452] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, how many Afghan refugees previously housed in interim hotel accommodation have been made homeless since leaving that accommodation.

Imran Hussain (Labour) [8453] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what estimate he has made of the number of Afghan refugees previously housed in interim hotel accommodation have spent one or more nights sleeping rough since leaving that accommodation.

Reply from Felicity Buchan: On the number of Afghan households previously housed in Home Office interim hotel accommodation who have since become homeless, please refer to our response from 20 December 2023 to Question [UIN 6726](#).

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities does not collect data on the number of Afghan households previously housed in Home Office provided interim hotel accommodation who have slept rough since leaving that accommodation.

The Department does not regularly publish data on Afghan homelessness.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-08/8452>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-08/8453>

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

Windrush Compensation Scheme

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [9349] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Answer of 29 April 2021 to Question 183169 on Windrush

Compensation Scheme, how many and what proportion of applicants to the Windrush Compensation Scheme have died in the period between applying for and receiving compensation.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: As at the end of November 2023, in line with the latest published Transparency data, out of the 7,534 claims received by the Windrush Compensation Scheme, we are aware of 53 claimants* who have unfortunately passed away after having submitted a claim.

The Windrush Compensation Scheme staff are working hard to ensure claims are prioritised for claimants with critical or life-limiting illnesses.

In the unfortunate circumstances where a claimant has passed away after submitting a compensation claim, before the claim is fully resolved, the team continues to work closely with the appointed representative, usually members of the family, to ensure the compensation payment is made as quickly as possible to the family member.

Our priority is to ensure people receive the maximum compensation as quickly as possible. We have reduced the time to allocate a claim for a substantive casework consideration, from 18 months to under 4 months. The 4-month period includes all essential eligibility checks, together with a Preliminary Assessment to make an initial payment of £10k wherever possible.

*Please note that this data is manually recorded and is reliant on the person receiving the information on a claimant's death, notifying the Windrush Compensation Scheme to record this information.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-12/9349>

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

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-19/183169>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Marsha De Cordova (Labour) [8172] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if his Department will provide EU citizens with (a) pre-settled and (b) settled status (i) a stamp in their passport, (ii) a biometric card and (iii) other physical proof of their legal right of residence.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: As part of our move to a “digital by default” border and immigration system, physical documents such as Biometric Residence Permits (BRPs) and passports with vignette stickers or ‘wet ink stamps’ are being replaced by fully digital eVisas (an online record of the person's immigration status).

All EU, EEA and Swiss citizens granted pre-settled or settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme are now able to prove their rights in the UK digitally, by using the View and Prove service on GOV.UK, instead of using physical documents. Non-EU, EEA or Swiss citizen family members who have a UKVI account can also use the View and Prove service.

There are no plans to provide EU citizens granted under the EUSS with stamps in passports, biometric cards, or other physical proof of rights of residence.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-05/8172>

The View and Prove service, referred to above, is available at

<https://www.gov.uk/view-prove-immigration-status>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Migrant Workers: Visas

Alison Thewliss (SNP) [9539] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his Department carried out an equality impact assessment on the recent proposed

changes to visa salary thresholds.

Alison Thewliss (SNP) [9540] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he has made an assessment of the potential impact of the proposed changes to visa salary thresholds on individuals living in (a) Scotland, (b) England, (c) Wales and (d) Northern Ireland.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Analytical work has been undertaken across Government to support decision making in this process. A fact sheet and an initial assessment on the impact of the changes on immigration can be found on GOV.UK at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/fact-sheet-on-net-migration-measures-further-detail>

and

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/legal-migration-statement-estimated-immigration-impacts/legal-migration-statement-estimated-immigration-impacts-accessible>

A full Regulatory Impact Assessment on these changes will be developed and the Government will publish an Equality Impact Assessment on this change, both in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-15/9539>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-15/9540>

Visas: Charities

Stephen Farry (Alliance) [8614] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether there is a cap on weekly working hours for charity worker visas.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: There is no cap on weekly working hours for those with permission on the Charity Worker visa route. However, visa holders must be undertaking voluntary fieldwork that does not fill a permanent position, even if this is on a temporary basis.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-08/8614>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Visas: British National (Overseas)

Neil Coyle (Labour) [8997] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans his Department has to consider mitigating factors such as imprisonment under the National Security Law for Hong Kong citizens applying for British National (Overseas) visas.

Asylum: Hong Kong

Neil Coyle (Labour) [8999] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he plans to allow Hong Kongers who are being processed as asylum seekers to apply for BNO visas at the same time.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Applicants to the British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) route must have no serious criminal convictions, have not otherwise engaged in behaviour which the UK Government deems not conducive to the public good, or be subject to other general grounds for refusal set out in the Immigration Rules. However, we recognise that every case has its individual circumstances therefore caseworkers have flexibility to ensure that those who have custodial sentences for crimes which are not recognised as such in the UK are not automatically refused on the BN(O) route.

In most cases, a person with a pending asylum claim can make an application to the BN(O) route. Recent changes ensure that a person who has been placed on immigration bail due to a pending asylum claim will not have their application to the BN(O) route refused solely for that reason. To make a successful application,

applicants will need to meet all the other requirements of the route.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-10/8997>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-10/8999>

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

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

Visas: Gaza

Kirsten Oswald (SNP) [8033] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether it is his Department's policy to waive the visa fee for children leaving Gaza who are non-British citizens with family residing in the UK.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Applicants outside of the UK wishing to apply to join/accompany a family member who is a British national; or a person present and settled in the UK, with a view to residing in the UK, may apply for a fee waiver if they consider they cannot afford the fee.

There is no fee attached to applications submitted under Appendix Family Reunion to the Immigration Rules.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-05/8033>

Asylum

Charlotte Nichols (Labour) [8219] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the definition is of the asylum legacy backlog.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The legacy backlog is made up of 92,601 asylum claims lodged before the 28 June 2022 which is when provisions within the Nationality and Borders Act came into force. The commitment made by the Prime Minister on 13 December 2022 was to clear this backlog by the end of 2023.

All cases in the legacy backlog have now been reviewed, with 86,800 decisions made. An additional 25,300 Flow cases (claims made on and after 28 June 2022) were decided in 2023.

Every single case was reviewed and all those that could be concluded were. Around 4,500 claims require further investigation. We will never compromise the integrity of the UK immigration system and will ensure that rigorous checks are made on these claims before decisions are made.

Increased efficiency and capacity has seen the Home Office not just clear the equivalent 92,000 legacy asylum backlog, but exceed it, processing over 112,000 cases.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-05/8219>

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

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-12-13/debates/DB61C374-16B5-411C-9A29-CC3DCA119EB3/IllegalImmigration#contribution-BF7BB5C3-DEFD-415B-9052-6A32B8AD8509>

Council Tax: Asylum

Mike Penning (Conservative) [9461] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, pursuant to the Answer of 15 January 2024 to Question 8376 on Council Tax: Asylum, if he will take steps to ensure that (a) refugees and (b) asylum seekers who do not hold a Homes for Ukraine immigration permission are disregarded when determining whether a discount should be applied to the council tax for their accommodation.

Reply from Simon Hoare: The council tax disregard is one part of a bespoke package of support for those arriving on the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, and their sponsors, following the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The Government does not plan to extend the council tax disregard to refugees or asylum seekers who do not

hold a Homes for Ukraine immigration permission living in England.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-15/9461>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-08/8376>

Asylum: Children

Stephen Kinnock (Labour) [7334] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to paragraph 56(d) of the judgement of 28 November 2023 of Mr. Justice Chamberlain, in the case of R (on the application of Kent County Council) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2023], whether he plans to commence the provisions of the 2023 Act.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The Illegal Migration Act received Royal Assent on 20 July 2023. The Act seeks to ensure the only way to come to the UK for protection will be through safe and legal routes and will take power out of the hands of the criminal gangs and protect vulnerable people, including children.

Following the High Court ECPAT judgment and Supreme Court judgment on Rwanda, the Government is carefully reflecting on commencement of the powers in the Act, including those relating to the accommodation and transfer of unaccompanied children.

These powers have not yet been commenced and a decision will be made in due course. The Act does not change a local authority's statutory obligations to children from the date of arrival and that the best place for an unaccompanied child is in the care of a local authority. This is something the Government was consistently clear about during the Illegal Migration Act's passage through Parliament.

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 asylum seeking children urgently and sustainably.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-12-18/7334>

The High Court judgement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/kent-cc-judgment.pdf>

The Supreme Court judgement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.supremecourt.uk/cases/docs/uksc-2023-0093-etc-judgment.pdf>

Schools: Asylum

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [8772] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if she will make an assessment with Cabinet colleagues of the potential impact of moving schools more than once within each Key Stage on the (a) short-term and (b) long-term mental wellbeing of asylum-seeking children.

Reply from David Johnston: This government knows that regular school attendance is vital for children's attainment, mental wellbeing and long-term development.

The government is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all asylum-seeking children, who can be some of the most vulnerable in our society.

The department's mental health and behaviour guidance supports education staff to identify children in need of extra mental health support.

The department currently has no plans to assess the potential impact of moving schools more than once within each key stage on pupils.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-09/8772>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Bibby Stockholm

Lloyd Russell-Moyle (Labour Co-op) [8806] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, pursuant to the Answer of 19 December 2023 to Question 6871 on Bibby Stockholm, what certification was issued for the Bibby Stockholm by the (a) Maritime and Coastguard Agency and (b) Barbados Maritime Ship Registry since 1 January 2023.

Lloyd Russell-Moyle (Labour Co-op) [8807] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 19 December 2023 to Question 6871 on Bibby Stockholm, if he will publish the Maritime and Coastguard Agency inspection report; and when this inspection took place.

Lloyd Russell-Moyle (Labour Co-op) [8808] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the promotional material entitled Portland Port: Factsheet, published on 29 December 2023, how many staff work in the medical facility on the Bibby Stockholm.

Reply from Michael Tomlinson: Appropriate inspections have been conducted by Plymouth Marine Office on behalf of Maritime & Coastguard Agency (PSC Inspection) and report issued on the 8th July 2023. In accordance with sec 197 of the Shipping Act 1994, Barbados Maritime Ship Registry duly inspected the vessel and found it to comply with the provisions of the said Act, Certificate of Inspection (03 Flag Safety Inspection) was issued on the 1st September 2023, and is valid for 12 months.

We have no plans to publish the inspection reports and the documents are used and held for internal purposes only.

The medical facility on the barge is 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
- Outside of these hours of operation Service Users can use 111 and 999 telephone services

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-09/8806>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-09/8807>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-09/8808>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-12-13/6871>

The factsheet referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-accommodation-portland-port/portland-port-factsheet>

Bibby Stockholm

Kim Johnson (Labour) [9106] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers were being accommodated on the Bibby Stockholm barge in Portland on 8 December 2023.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The Bibby Stockholm can accommodate around 500 people. The number of asylum seekers onboard the vessel at any one time is likely to vary due to a number of factors.

Leonard Farruku

Kim Johnson (Labour) [9101] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, which public authorities are responsible for investigating the death of Leonard Farruku on the Bibby Stockholm barge on 12 December 2023.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: This tragic incident is subject to an ongoing investigation by the police and the Coroner. It is right that the facts surrounding this are established in the appropriate legal manner.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-10/9101>

Asylum: Temporary Accommodation

John Hayes (Conservative) [8656] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers awaiting their claims to be processed were housed in (a) hotels and (b) other locations at public expense as of 1 January 2024.

Reply from tom Pursglove: Data on the number of supported asylum seekers in accommodation (including in contingency hotels and other contingency accommodation) is published in table Asy_D11 here: [Asylum and resettlement datasets](#). Data is published on a quarterly basis.

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. However, 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>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-09/8656>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Temporary Accommodation

Eliot Colburn (Conservative) [8199] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his Department provides (a) training and (b) guidance to accommodation providers on how to assess suitability for room sharing between unrelated adults in addition to that which is required by the Asylum Accommodation and Support contracts.

Eliot Colburn (Conservative) [8200] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what guidance his Department provides to asylum accommodation providers on how to respond to incidents of harassment in asylum accommodation.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The safety and wellbeing of asylum seekers in our care is of paramount importance to the Home Office. The Asylum Accommodation Support Contract (AASC) Statement of Requirements below gives a detailed breakdown of all of the services to be undertaken by our accommodation providers and to the standards we expect. This includes training requirements for provider staff, room sharing guidance and suitability requirements, and guidance on incidents of harassment. Full details of our policies: [AASC - Schedule 2 - Statement of Requirements](#)

When considering room sharing facilities, we will ensure that rooms are an appropriate size for the number of occupants and the occupancy in each bedroom shall not exceed that specified in the appropriate space standard, as defined in relevant legislation and/or in local authority licensing requirements, as well as ensuring that we are adhering to [UK Health Security Agency \(UKHSA\) guidance](#) where applicable. Room sharing with friends is encouraged and the Home Office encourage individuals to speak to their housing officer if they know someone that they would like to share a room with. Every effort will be made for room sharing with

a friend or family member, if they are the same gender. All personal circumstances will be considered before deciding if room sharing is suitable.

The Home Office has published the Asylum Support Contracts Safeguarding Framework at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-support-contracts-safeguarding-framework>

This framework sets out a joint, overarching approach, as well as the key controls and reporting mechanisms in place, across the AASC contracts, for safeguarding arrangements.

All asylum seekers have access to a 24/7 AIRE (Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility) service provided for the Home Office by Migrant Help where they can raise any concerns regarding accommodation or support services, and they can get information about how to obtain further support.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-05/8199>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-05/8200>

Asylum: Temporary Accommodation

Kim Johnson (Labour) [8228] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to section 4 of the Asylum accommodation support transformation: policy equality statement, updated by his Department on 8 September 2020, when the Asylum Accommodation and Support Transformation project was established; and what monitoring mechanisms are in place to help ensure accommodation providers are considering and understanding the (a) protected characteristics and (b) other specific needs of people in their accommodation.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The Asylum Accommodation and Support Services Contracts (AASC) Statement of Requirements below gives a detailed breakdown of all of the services to be undertaken by our accommodation providers and to the standards we expect. This includes expectations on accommodation providers, recognising protected characteristics and ensuring individual's specific needs are met. Full details of our policies:

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

The AIRE (Advice, Issue Reporting & Eligibility) service has also introduced more independent and transparent oversight of standards through clearer complaints mechanisms for asylum seekers and supporting data that allows more intelligent targeting of performance improvement. The Home Office also employ a dedicated contract assurance team whose core activity scrutinising the providers' monthly performance is one of three main strands of work, the other two being property inspections and assurance reviews.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-05/8228>

The policy equality statement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-accommodation-support-transformation-policy-equality-statement/asylum-accommodation-support-transformation-policy-equality-statement>

Asylum: Temporary Accommodation

Ronnie Cowan (SNP) [9006] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to help ensure that local authorities are not adversely affected by the increase in the number of dispersal beds procured for asylum seekers; and whether his Department (a) is providing and (b) plans to provide additional financial support to local authorities to assist with associated costs.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Full dispersal is a key priority for the Home Office, as well as the Government and aims to achieve a more fair and equitable

accommodation spread of asylum seekers across the UK. We are committed to working closely with communities and stakeholders to ensure destitute asylum seekers are housed in safe, secure and suitable accommodation, and that they are treated with dignity while their asylum claim is considered.

There are monthly regional governance meetings, which offer an avenue for collaboration and opportunities for the Home Office, Accommodation providers, and local authorities to engage, drive progress and monitor the procurement of dispersed accommodation.

The Home Office agreed Full Dispersal Allocation Plans for every local authority and region in the UK, including Scotland and Wales, for 2023. The Home Office is exploring how to improve plans for 2024 and beyond, and local authorities will be contacted as soon as possible to discuss this in more detail.

It is recognised that housing asylum seekers, alongside the challenges of domestic homelessness, has further stretched local council services. In recognition of these pressures the Government has a significant funding package for local authorities who help to support asylum seekers in their area.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-10/9006>

Asylum: Temporary Accommodation

Lloyd Russell-Moyle (Labour Co-op) [9035] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will have discussions with local authorities on the potential for greater council control of asylum accommodation.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Full dispersal is built upon a culture of shared accountability and collective delivery between accommodation providers, the Home Office and local authorities. There are monthly regional governance meetings, which offer an avenue for collaboration and opportunities for the Home Office, accommodation providers, and local authorities to engage, drive progress and monitor the procurement of dispersed accommodation. It is imperative that we work together on asylum accommodation.

The Home Office agreed Full Dispersal Allocation Plans for every local authority and region in the UK, including Scotland and Wales for 2023. The Home Office is exploring how to improve plans for 2024 and beyond and local authorities will be contacted as soon as possible to discuss this in more detail.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-10/9035>

Asylum: Hotels

Robias Ellwood (Conservative) [7858] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress he has made on ending the use of hotels for asylum seekers.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Hotel closures will be phased on a monthly basis. Timings will be informed by operational requirements and contractual notice periods. We plan to exit at least 50 hotels used for asylum seekers by the end of January 2024.

We keep our asylum accommodation estate under constant review and will close additional hotels whenever possible, ensuring that it does not impact our statutory obligation to accommodate otherwise destitute asylum seekers.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-05/7858>

Asylum: Hotels

Sarah Owen (Labour) [9667] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what alternative accommodation his Department is providing for asylum seekers being moved out of hotels.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: We are making significant progress in closing hotels,

with 50 due to be closed by the end of January and many more in the coming months.

The programme of closures will be managed carefully to ensure all supported asylum seekers are provided with suitable alternative accommodation elsewhere in the estate. Dispersal accommodation and large disused military sites are cheaper for the taxpayer and less impactful on the communities.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-15/9667>

Refugees: Homelessness

Sarah Olney (Liberal Democrat) [8081] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will publish the most recent figures for the number of refugees who have been assessed as homeless after being ordered to leave asylum support and housing to find their own accommodation.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The Home Office does not hold the information you have requested. All individuals who receive a positive decision on their asylum claim are eligible to receive support and accommodation for at least 28 days from when their decision is served.

We offer move on support to all individuals through Migrant Help or their partner organisation in doing this. This includes providing advice on accessing the labour market, on applying for Universal Credit and signposting to local authorities for assistance with housing. Individuals do not need to wait for their BRP to make a claim for benefits and are encouraged to do so as early as possible if they require them.

We work closely with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to ensure the right asylum decision data is being shared with local authorities to enable effective planning and to lessen the impact on existing homelessness and rough sleeping pressures. Our accommodation providers are directly working with local authorities to notify them when an individual is due to have their asylum support ended.

We are working with our partners, including local authorities, to provide timely notification of key events that impact them. We are working with our SMP [Strategic Migration Partnership] to facilitate regional sessions with councils and to share data.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-05/8081>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Undocumented Migrants: Employment

Alison Thewliss (SNP) [9229] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what data his Department holds on the number of people fined under article 2 of the Immigration (Employment of Adults Subject to Immigration Control) Order 2008 for each year since it came into force.

Undocumented Migrants: Private Rented Housing

Alison Thewliss (SNP) [9230] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what data his Department holds on the number of people fined under section (a) 23(2) and (b) 25(4) of the Immigration Act 2014 for each year since the Act came into force.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The link to the transparency data can be found here, and covers the period 2016 to September 2023: [Immigration Enforcement data: Q3 2023](#)

Right to Work statistics can be found on tab CP02 and Right to Rent statistics can be found on tab CP03.

The data for 2023 only includes the published data covering the period January to September.

The information within the transparency data refers to the total numbers of entities

who have received a civil penalty, rather than “the number of people fined”. For employment, this could mean a limited company, a sole trader, or a franchise. For renting, an entity could include a landlord or a letting agency.

It is possible that some entities have been fined on more than one occasion.

Data prior to 2016 does not exist in the same reportable format.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-11/9229>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-11/9230>

The the Immigration (Employment of Adults Subject to Immigration Control) Order 2008, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2008/132/contents/made>

The sections of the Immigration Act 2014 referred to above can be read at

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/22/section/23/enacted>

and

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/22/section/25/enacted>

Migrants: Detainees

Olivia Blake (Labour) [8872] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the (a) planned timetable and (b) scope is for the review of his Department's Adults at Risk in Immigration Detention policy; and whether he has plans to consult outside of his Department as part of that review.

Reply from Michael Tomlinson: The Home Office is currently undertaking a review of the Adults at Risk in Immigration Detention Policy. The policy aims to safeguard vulnerable individuals in immigration detention by providing a framework to assess if their detention or continued detention is appropriate.

The scope of the review includes the Adults at Risk in Immigration Detention policy and Detention Centre Rules 34 and 35. The review is ongoing and the timetable for completion will become clearer as the review progresses.

Engagement outside of the Department will form part of this review and the process for this engagement is currently being considered.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-09/8872>

The Adults at Risk in Immigration Detention policy, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/64425cd122ef3b000f66f66f/Adults_at_risk_in_immigration_detention_GOV.pdf

Detention Centre Rules 34 and 35, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2001/238/article/34/made>

and

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2001/238/article/35/made>

Undocumented Migrants: Deportation

Julian Knight (Independent) [7969] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many illegal migrants his Department deported in 2023.

Reply from Michael Tomlinson: The Home Office published provisional data on returns of migrants who do not have a legal right to stay in the UK in the ad-hoc ‘[Statistics relating to Illegal Migration](#)’ release. Total numbers of returns by month and return type (including enforced returns of which ‘deportations’ are a subset) are published in table IMB_05 of the accompanying data tables. The latest data relates to 27 December 2023.

The term ‘deportations’ refers to a legally defined subset of returns, which are enforced either following a criminal conviction, or when it is judged that a person’s removal from the UK is beneficial to the public good. The published statistics refer to enforced returns which include deportations, as well as cases where a person

has breached UK immigration laws, and those removed under other administrative and illegal entry powers that have declined to leave voluntarily. Figures on deportations, which are a subset of enforced returns, are not separately available. Alongside the above ad-hoc statistical release, the Home Office publishes quarterly data on returns in the '[Immigration System Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. The latest data go up to the end of September 2023. Data to end December will be published in the next release on 29 February.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-05/7969>

UK Parliament Joint Committee on Human Rights

Evidence session: Safety in Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Bill

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/14081/html/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat) [294] Minimum salary threshold for skilled worker visa – That this House notes with concern that increasing the skilled worker visa salary thresholds for chefs to £38,700 will have a detrimental impact on the hospitality industry and local economy of rural tourist destinations on top of the lasting effects of covid-19; and calls on the Government to ensure that any salary threshold increase for chefs reflects the needs of the rural tourism economy.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/61777>

New Publications

Letter from Tom Pursglove MP to Meg Hillier MP regarding the Immigration Health Surcharge increase (Draft Immigration (Health Charge) (Amendment) Order 2023 (First sitting): recap of IHS rates after the increase, private health insurance, Home Office administrative costs, and impact assessment

<https://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2024-0041/Surcharge.pdf>

Civil Service Guidance - Safety of Rwanda Bill

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/civil-service-guidance-safety-of-rwanda-bill>

International Agreements Committee Report: Scrutiny of international agreements: UK–Rwanda Agreement on an Asylum Partnership

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/42927/documents/213461/default/>

House of Lords Library Briefing: International Agreements Committee report on the UK-Rwanda treaty

<https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/international-agreements-committee-report-on-the-uk-rwanda-treaty/>

House of Lords Library Briefing: Integration of newly recognised refugees

<https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/integration-of-newly-recognised-refugees/>

Factsheet: Derwentside immigration removal centre

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/derwentside-immigration-removal-centre-factsheet/derwentside-immigration-removal-centre-factsheet>

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

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

News: Rwanda Refugee Policy

Home Office hires hangar to practise forcing migrants on to Rwanda flights
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/home-office-rwanda-flights-aircraft-hangar-practice-migrants-b2lljdt0p>

Rishi Sunak urges Lords to back Rwanda bill
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-68017310>

Rishi Sunak sees off Conservative rebels as MPs back Rwanda bill
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-68009249>

Rwanda deportation bill passes as Tory rebellion collapses
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/rwanda-deportation-bill-passes-as-tory-rebellion-collapses-4482668>

Scottish MPs urged to reject controversial Rwanda Bill
<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/articles/scottish-mps-urged-to-reject-controversial-rwanda-bill>

Tory deputy chairmen back move to 'beef up' Rwanda bill
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-67982650>

Peer warns Rwanda Bill marks 'step towards totalitarianism'
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/rwanda-jenny-jones-british-suella-braverman-government-b2480808.html>

Lords demand to delay Rwanda law led by Labour peer
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/01/18/do-not-frustrate-will-of-people-rwanda-rishi-sunak-lords/>

There is only one realistic way to reduce the number of Channel deaths
<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/rwanda-bill-immigrants-channel-stop-the-boats-third-reading-b2478812.html>

Can the new Rwanda bill work and what could stop it?
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-67643900>

What's next for the Rwanda bill?
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/rwanda-bill-what-next-flights-plan-pt6660389>

The small boats crisis: Return of Rwanda

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/the-times-view-on-the-small-boats-crisis-return-of-rwanda-n5zzc0cvq>

'We are just being used': asylum seekers react to passing of Rwanda bill

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/jan/18/asylum-seekers-react-to-passing-of-rwanda-bill>

News: Channel Migrants

Channel migrants given right to work in UK

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/01/19/channel-migrants-given-right-to-work/>

News: Ukraine

Disbanding of Glasgow team supporting Ukrainian refugees 'forced through'

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/24046983.disbanding-glasgow-team-supporting-ukrainian-refugees-forced-through/>

News: Other Immigration and Asylum

Rishi Sunak rebuked by stats watchdog over asylum backlog claim

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-68017887>

Rishi Sunak rapped by watchdog over claim to have 'cleared' asylum backlog

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/rishi-sunak-asylum-backlog-watchdog-b2480789.html>

Chief justice speaks out about plans to recruit 150 judges to deal with asylum cases

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/jan/16/chief-justice-criticises-plans-to-recruit-150-judges-to-deal-with-asylum-cases>

Man convicted for running illegal financial service for people smugglers

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/cps/news/man-convicted-running-illegal-financial-service-people-smugglers>

Dame Stephanie Shirley: Refugees always have 'just in case' cash

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/dame-stephanie-shirley-interview-what-did-she-do-net-worth-interview-nlp0z0883>

Home Office admits 6,000 failed asylum seekers are missing in UK

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/01/18/asylum-seekers-missing-home-office-admits/>

'Inhumane' Home Office denying visas to children of migrant health workers

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/jan/20/inhumane-home-office-denying-visas-to-children-of-migrant-health-workers>

Time for change: Move-on period should be extended to 56 days

<https://scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/uk-government-housing-refugees-asylum/>

Asylum seekers in Erskine to be moved out of Muthu hotel

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/westminster/24053029.asylum-seekers-erskine-moved-muthu-hotel/>

What the UK's 184,000 new Hongkongers really think about life here

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/what-the-uks-184000-new-hong-kongers-really-think-about-life-here-pm95lhjt>

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer

Equal Pay: Ethnic Groups

Taiwo Owatemi (Labour) [9303] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what steps she is taking to close the ethnicity pay gap beyond issuing guidance on ethnicity pay gap reporting.

Caroline Lucas (Green) [9206] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what progress she has made on tackling the ethnicity pay gap.

Reply from Maria Caulfield: Our comprehensive guidance for employers on ethnicity pay reporting, published in April 2023, sets out best practice on measuring, analysing and reporting ethnicity pay gaps. Since publication, we have engaged with employers and employer representative bodies to promote the guidance and provide support. We are seeking case studies in order to identify and highlight examples of good practice.

This work is part of our ambitious Inclusive Britain strategy, published in March 2022, which set out 74 bold actions to tackle entrenched ethnic disparities in employment, education, health and criminal justice. We also launched an Inclusion at Work Panel last year aimed at helping employers achieve fairness and inclusion in the workplace.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-11/9303>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-11/9206>

The guidance referred to above can be read at

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

Inclusive Britain, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inclusive-britain-action-plan-government-response-to-the-commission-on-race-and-ethnic-disparities/inclusive-britain-government-response-to-the-commission-on-race-and-ethnic-disparities>

Diabetes: Ethnic Groups

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour) [9052] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to help reduce the prevalence of type 2 diabetes in Black and South Asian communities.

Reply from Andrew Stephenson: Given the inequalities in who develops Type 2 diabetes and the poorer outcomes for those of south Asian and black ethnicity, the National Health Service has established a focused engagement campaign, using social media and more traditional approaches, to raise awareness and boost uptake from these groups. A Quality and Outcomes Framework also includes an indicator

for annual review of those at risk of Type 2 diabetes in general practice. The NHS Long Term plan has committed to providing a targeted support offer and access to weight management services in primary care is available for people with a diagnosis of Type 2 diabetes and/or hypertension, with a body mass index over 30, which is adjusted appropriately for ethnicity.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-10/9052>

The NHS Long Term plan, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.longtermplan.nhs.uk/>

Foster Care: Ethnic Groups

Kim Johnson (Labour) [8232] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if she will meet with Barnardo's to discuss developing a Black Foster Care Network to improve the experiences of Black children in care.

Reply from David Johnston: The government would like to see people from all backgrounds feel able to come forward to foster, whatever their ethnicity, sexuality, gender or relationship status.

Children should be cared for in a way that recognises and respects their identity and carers should be given the training and support they need to meet the child's needs.

The department considers charity sector colleagues to be key stakeholders in work taking place across the department, including on children's social care reform as outlined in 'Stable Homes, Built on Love'. The department regularly engage the Chief Executive and Policy Leads from Barnardo's on children's social care policy (as well as their counterparts at Action for Children, The Children's Society, National Children's Bureau and NSPCC). The charity sector is also represented in a variety of reference groups on specific aspects of children's social care policy.

The department will engage with foster carer representative bodies to see how black foster carers can be further supported, including considering developing a Black Foster Care Network.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-05/8232>

"Stable Homes, Built on Love", referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/650966a322a783001343e844/Children_s_Social_Care_Stable_Homes_Built_on_Love_consultation_response.pdf

News

Understanding unemployment: what role does ethnicity and disability play?

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/dvc2281/>

Inequality costing UK economy £34bn a year, says Labour

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/labour-uk-economy-inequality-budget-hunt-b2481960.html>

Black staff 'less likely' to view NHS as an inclusive place to work, study finds

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/nhs-inclusion-study-staff-racism-b2479619.html>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Hate Crime

Lee Anderson (Conservative) [8181] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what rehabilitative programmes are provided by the Probation Service to help tackle hate crime; and whether his Department has made a recent assessment of the impact of these programmes on levels of recidivism.

Reply from Edward Argar: There are no rehabilitative programmes or interventions designed specifically to address hate crime. Hate crime offences are typically driven by a range of underlying factors that are shared with other types of offending for which there are a range of programmes and interventions available that may be suitable. What programme(s) or intervention(s) may be most suitable for someone convicted of hate crime offences is determined based on the nature of the offence and an assessment to determine eligibility and the specific rehabilitative needs of the offender.

A number of studies and evaluations have been carried out in recent years on HMPPS rehabilitative programmes and interventions, and can be found by visiting https://www.gov.uk/crime-justice-and-law#research_and_statistics

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-05/8181>

Hate Crime: Police Cautions

Lee Anderson (Conservative) [8182] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, whether he plans to issue guidance to the police on requirements to refer to the Crown Prosecution Service when using the new diversionary caution for hate crime offences.

Reply from Gareth Bacon: As set out in the Police, Crime, Sentencing, and Courts Act 2022, the Government legislated for a reformed two-tier cautions framework in England and Wales.

We have consulted on a draft Code of Practice to support future implementation. This covers the use, administration, and scrutiny of Diversionary and Community Cautions. The draft Code of Practice stipulates that a Diversionary or Community Caution may be given for a hate crime case but only once authorisation has been obtained from the Crown Prosecution Service. The draft Code of Practice was put to public consultation from 2 August to 13 October 2023 and invited views on the operational impact of the draft Code, including the approach to excluded offences. Currently, we are analysing the consultation responses received to inform any necessary revisions to the draft Code of Practice and we will publish a Government response to the consultation in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-05/8182>

The draft Code of Practice referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/diversionary-and-community-cautions-draft-code-of-practice/diversionary-and-community-cautions-draft-code-of-practice>

The following seven questions all received the same answer

Non-crime Hate Incidents

Rachel Maclean (Conservative) [8817] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he has made an estimate of the number of non-crime hate incidents recorded by police forces for each month since May 2023.

Rachel Maclean (Conservative) [8818] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many non-crime hate incidents have been recorded by each police force in each year of this Parliament.

Rachel Maclean (Conservative) [8819] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many non-crime hate incidents have been recorded for each of the protected characteristics of the Equality Act 2010 by each police force in each year of this Parliament.

Rachel Maclean (Conservative) [8821] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many non-crime hate incidents related to a different characteristic that is not covered by hate crime legislation have been recorded by each police force in England and Wales in the last five years.

Rachel Maclean (Conservative) [8830] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many reports of non-crime hate incidents have led to (a) arrests, (b) charges and (c) prosecutions for serious crimes related to the non-crime hate incident in the last five years.

Rachel Maclean (Conservative) [8832] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many non-crime hate incidents have been recorded under the Additional Threshold Test as of 9 January 2023.

Rachel Maclean (Conservative) [8834] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the cost to the public purse has been to record and process non-crime hate incidents for each police force in England and Wales this Parliament.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office's Non-Crime Hate Incidents Code of Practice on the Recording and Retention of Personal Data came into effect in June 2023 and applies to police forces across England and Wales. The code includes safeguards better to protect the fundamental right to freedom of expression and stipulates that police should only record NCHIs when it is necessary and proportionate to do so, and not simply because someone is offended. Incidents that are irrational, malicious, or trivial should not be recorded as NCHIs.

To address concerns about the recording of personal data, the code introduced an additional threshold to ensure that personal data may only be included in an NCHI record if the event is motivated by intentional hostility or prejudice and where the police judge that there is a real risk of escalation causing significant harm or a criminal offence.

The College of Policing publishes operational guidance for the police, known as 'Authorised Professional Practice' (APP), on how to deal with different types of crimes and incidents, including NCHIs. The College updated its APP so that it aligns with the Government's code. The College is responsible for determining police training requirements, and has developed an e-briefing pack on NCHIs which is available to forces.

The code specifically covers characteristics that are protected under hate crime legislation in England and Wales – race, religion, sexual orientation, transgender identity and disability. It defines transgender identity or perceived transgender identity by setting out that "references to being transgender include references to being transsexual, or undergoing, proposing to undergo or having undergone a process or part of a process of gender reassignment." This aligns with the definition set out in section 66(6)(e) of the Sentencing Act 2020.

The Home Office does not collect data from forces on the number of NCHIs recorded by the police, nor do we collect data relating to the personal characteristics of those involved in incidents. We similarly do not collect information on police spending relating to the investigation of NCHIs. The data collected from the police balances policy needs and the burden on forces.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-09/8817>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-09/8818>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-09/8819>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-09/8821>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-09/8830>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-09/8832>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-09/8834>

The Code of Practice referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/non-crime-hate-incidents-code-of-practice/non-crime-hate-incidents-code-of-practice-on-the-recording-and-retention-of-personal-data-accessible>

The APP Guidance referred to above can be read at

<https://www.college.police.uk/app/major-investigation-and-public-protection/hate-crime/responding-non-crime-hate-incidents>

Section 66(6)(e) of the Sentencing Act 2020, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2020/17/section/66>

Religious Hatred: Hinduism

Eliot Colburn (Conservative) [8589] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what steps his Department is taking to help reduce incidents of Hinduphobia.

Reply from Lee Rowley: Hatred towards Hindus is completely abhorrent and has no place in our communities. The Government continues to work with police and community partners to monitor and combat it. In 2023/24, the Home Office is providing £3.5 million for protecting places of worship, including for Hindu temples.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-08/8589>

Antisemitism

Jack Lopresti (Conservative) [900931] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to help support victims of antisemitism.

Reply from Tom Tugendhat: We're committed to tackling the scourge of antisemitism and are providing £18m for protective security funding for the Jewish community in 2023/24 – this figure will be maintained in 2024/25.

The Government is providing £7m to support schools and universities to tackle antisemitism, and funds both an online reporting portal to make it easier for victims to report crimes and a hub which supports local forces in tackling online hate crime.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-09/900931>

Antisemitism

Gregory Campbell (DUP) [8932] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much funding his Department plans to allocate to the Jewish Community Police, Crime and Security Taskforce in 2024.

Reply from Tom Tugendhat: The Government continues to provide protective security funding to the Jewish community through the Jewish Community Protective Security (JCPS) Grant. This includes £3 million of funding announced by the Prime Minister in October for the Community Security Trust (CST) to provide additional security at Jewish schools, synagogues and other Jewish community sites. This brings total funding for CST, through the Grant, to £18 million in 2023/24, and this will remain at £18 million in 2024/25.

The Taskforce does not have a specific budget allocation and does not currently have any specific costs associated with its work.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-10/8932>

Children in Care: Racial Discrimination

Bambos Charalambous (Independent) [8094] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if she will meet with the hon. Member for Enfield, Southgate and Barnardo's to discuss how local authorities can work with partners to prevent the over-criminalisation of Black children in the care system.

Reply from David Johnston: We recognise that children in care are more likely than their peers in the general population to have contact with the criminal justice system. That is why we published a joint national protocol with the Home Office and the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) in 2018 on reducing the unnecessary criminalisation of looked after children and care leavers:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-protocol-on-reducing-criminalisation-of-looked-after-children>

The protocol was produced with the input of local authority representatives, and other partners. Since the publication of the protocol, the proportion of children in care aged 10-17 who are charged with an offence or receive a caution has reduced from 3% in 2019 to 2% in 2023. Latest data for year ending March 2023 also show that 3% of care leavers age 19-21 were in custody. This figure has remained the same for the last 5 years.

We are also taking action on risk factors that can lead to criminal behaviour including through our work to improve school attendance.

Through the care leaver Ministerial Board, we are working closely with MoJ to improve support and outcomes of care-experienced people in the criminal justice system.

The MoJ is currently updating its strategy for people with care experience in the criminal justice system, to ensure that their time in the criminal justice system is used to support them to lead crime-free lives. The strategy will include a focus on race and its role in shaping the experiences and outcomes of those with care experience, and will link to wider departmental efforts to address racial disproportionality in the criminal justice system. The MoJ are aiming to publish this strategy in 2024.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-05/8094>

New Publication

House of Commons Library Briefing: Hate Crime Statistics

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-8537/CBP-8537.pdf>

News

Far-right organiser 'used sticker campaign to spread race hate'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/far-right-organiser-used-sticker-campaign-to-spread-race-hate-q9d58hrjv>

Black teacher who 'relentlessly' rowed about racism with colleagues wins discrimination payout

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/01/16/black-teacher-who-relentlessly-rowed-about-racism/>

TOP

Other UK Parliament and Government

Debate

Religious Education in Schools

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2024-01-18/debates/AA74B35D-579A-4814-9363-ADF5056B5831/ReligiousEducationInSchools>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Pupils: Ethnic Groups

Neil O'Brien (Conservative) [9632] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many and what proportion of state school pupils in each local authority (a) belonged to each ethnic group, (b) had English as their first language, (c) did not have English as their first language and (d) had their first language recorded as unknown in each year since 1998.

Reply from Damian Hinds: Figures for ethnicity at local authority level for the 2015/16 academic year are available at:

<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/data-tables/permalink/94f677ea-a7ea-4157-4649-08dc15e274f3>

Figures for English as an additional language for the 2015/16 academic year are available at:

<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/data-tables/permalink/6ff8c047-798c-45c6-aaab-08dc15deba2a>

Figures from the 2009/10 to 2014/15 academic years are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-school-and-pupil-numbers>

Archived figures for academic years before 2009/10 are available in the following published sources:

2009

<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20130323071655/http://www.education.gov.uk/researchandstatistics/statistics/statistics-by-topic/schoolpupilcharacteristics/a00196015/schools-pupils-and-their-characteristics>

Ethnicity tables 12a and 12b

EAL tables 13a and 13b

2008:

<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20130323071719/http://www.education.gov.uk/researchandstatistics/statistics/statistics-by-topic/schoolpupilcharacteristics/a00195968/pupil-absence>

Ethnicity not published at local authority (LA) level

EAL not published at LA level

2007:

<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20130323071912/http://www.education.gov.uk/researchandstatistics/statistics/statistics-by-topic/schoolpupilcharacteristics/a00195601/dcsf-schools-and-pupils-in-england-january-2007-f>

Ethnicity tables 32 and 33

EAL tables 34 and 35

2006:

[https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20130323072019/http://www.education.gov.uk/researchandstatistics/statistics/statistics-by-topic/schoolpupilcharacteristics/a00195302/schools-and-pupils-in-england-january-2006-\(final\)](https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20130323072019/http://www.education.gov.uk/researchandstatistics/statistics/statistics-by-topic/schoolpupilcharacteristics/a00195302/schools-and-pupils-in-england-january-2006-(final))

Ethnicity table 33

EAL 34

2005:

[https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20130323072209/http://www.education.gov.uk/researchandstatistics/statistics/statistics-by-topic/schoolpupilcharacteristics/a00194892/schools-and-pupils-in-england-january-2005-\(final\)](https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20130323072209/http://www.education.gov.uk/researchandstatistics/statistics/statistics-by-topic/schoolpupilcharacteristics/a00194892/schools-and-pupils-in-england-january-2005-(final))

Ethnicity table 33

EAL table 34

2004:

<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20130104091248/http://education.gov.uk/researchandstatistics/statistics/statistics-by-topic/schoolpupilcharacteristics/a00194445/statistics-of-education-schools-in-england-2004-ed>

Ethnicity tables 47a and 47b

EAL tables 51a and 51b

2003:

<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20130104091256/http://education.gov.uk/researchandstatistics/statistics/statistics-by-topic/schoolpupilcharacteristics/a00194094/statistics-of-education-schools-in-england-2003-ed>

Ethnicity tables 47a and 47b

EAL tables 51

2002

<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20130104091304/http://education.gov.uk/researchandstatistics/statistics/statistics-by-topic/schoolpupilcharacteristics/a00193886/statistics-of-education-schools-in-england-2002-ed>

Ethnicity tables 47a and 47b

EAL not published at LA level

2001:

<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20130113104450/https://www.education.gov.uk/researchandstatistics/statistics/statistics-by-topic/schoolpupilcharacteristics/a00193690/schools-in-england-2001>

Ethnicity not published at LA level

EAL not published at LA level

2000

<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20130113104731/https://www.education.gov.uk/researchandstatistics/statistics/statistics-by-topic/schoolpupilcharacteristics/a00193434/schools-in-england-2000> .

Ethnicity not published at LA level

EAL not published at LA level

1999

<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20130103145428/http://www.education.gov.uk/researchandstatistics/statistics/statistics-by-topic/schoolpupilcharacteristics/a00193237/schools-in-england-1999>

Ethnicity not published at LA level

EAL not published at LA level

1998

<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20130113104903/https://www.education.gov.uk/researchandstatistics/statistics/statistics-by-topic/schoolpupilcharacteristics/a00193283/schools-in-england-1998> .

Ethnicity tables 49a and 49b of pdf document

EAL table 50 of pdf document

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-15/9632>

News

Government plans to stop funding faith charity that failed to condemn Hamas' attacks

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/01/20/government-withdraws-funding-charity-failed-condemn-hamas/>

TOP

Cost of Living

Scottish Government Website

Help during the cost of living crisis

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

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

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

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

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

Publication

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

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

News

Millions 'putting their lives on hold' as UK sees record rent rises

<https://www.independent.co.uk/business/millions-putting-their-lives-on-hold-as-uk-sees-record-rent-rises-b2480022.html>

Eight in 10 think this January will be toughest yet financially, survey says

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/finance-concerns-january-cost-of-living-b2478506.html>

I'm cutting my maternity leave because of rising costs

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-67997480>

TOP

Other New Publication

The economic contribution of the third sector in Scotland

<https://rse.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/RSE-AP-The-economic-contribution-of-the-third-sector-2023.pdf>

TOP

Other News

UK Covid Inquiry comes to Scotland

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/viewpoint/24046991.uk-covid-inquiry-comes-scotland/>

Culturally Sensitive Support: Sahara's Response to Domestic Violence

<https://www.greatergovanhill.com/latest/culturally-sensitive-support-sahas-response-to-domestic-violence>

Death threats won't stop me: the head teacher who banned prayer

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/katharine-birbalsingh-head-teacher-strictest-school-britain-uk-39lb7gpkx>

School prayer ban came amid backdrop of violence and intimidation – Headteacher

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/katharine-birbalsingh-michaela-community-school-muslim-london-brent-b2480188.html>

Pupil taking Katharine Birbalsingh to court over Muslim prayer ban funded by legal aid

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/01/19/muslim-pupil-taking-school-to-court-prayer-ban-on-legal-aid/>

This ban on Muslims praying in school is a dystopian, sinister vision of Britishness

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2024/jan/19/ban-muslims-praying-school-britain-multiculturalism>

TOP

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 Application (Entry to the United Kingdom) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3530>

Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3627>

The Equality Act 2010 (Amendment) Regulations 2023 [Draft]

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2023/9780348253191/contents>

Housing Standards (Refugees and Asylum Seekers) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3618/stages>

Illegal Immigration (Offences) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3649>

**** Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3540>

Committee Stage, House of Commons

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-01-16/debates/6EF16CCA-91F1-469C-BC41-1D01B1FD888D/SafetyOfRwanda\(AsylumAndImmigration\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-01-16/debates/6EF16CCA-91F1-469C-BC41-1D01B1FD888D/SafetyOfRwanda(AsylumAndImmigration)Bill)

and

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-01-17/debates/5D699C11-620A-4804-97A6-E49E3F870A23/SafetyOfRwanda\(AsylumAndImmigration\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-01-17/debates/5D699C11-620A-4804-97A6-E49E3F870A23/SafetyOfRwanda(AsylumAndImmigration)Bill)

Third Reading, House of Commons

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-01-17/debates/87C04B7F-2159-4F09-8825-3FC68BE13256/SafetyOfRwanda\(AsylumAndImmigration\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-01-17/debates/87C04B7F-2159-4F09-8825-3FC68BE13256/SafetyOfRwanda(AsylumAndImmigration)Bill)

Amendment papers

https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-04/0038/amend/rwanda_daily_cwh_0116.pdf

and

https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-04/0038/amend/rwanda_daily_cwh_0117.pdf

Bill as brought to the House of Lords

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/53802/documents/4312>

First Reading, House of Lords

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2024-01-18/debates/EEF9B56E-FF65-4572-A74F-B26AE98D31A1/SafetyOfRwanda\(AsylumAndImmigration\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2024-01-18/debates/EEF9B56E-FF65-4572-A74F-B26AE98D31A1/SafetyOfRwanda(AsylumAndImmigration)Bill)

Joint Committee on Human Rights evidence session

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/14081/html/>

Civil Service Guidance - Safety of Rwanda Bill

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/civil-service-guidance-safety-of-rwanda-bill>

Immigration and Nationality Fees (Exemption for NHS Clinical Staff) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3660>

Scottish Law Officers (Devolution) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3665>

Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Draft Bill

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

Workforce Information (Ethnicity) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3522>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

** Health and Social Care Workforce – Help Us to Tackle Racism

(closing date 19 February 2024)

<https://uk.surveymonkey.com/r/7K3359S>

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 2024)

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

Ending conversion practices in Scotland (closing date 2 April 2024)

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/ending-conversion-practices-scotland-scottish-government-consultation/>

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

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

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Job Opportunities

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

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Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

** closes this week!

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>

Alwaleed Community Grant Scheme

Closing date: 11 March 2024

Alwaleed Centre for the Study of Islam in the Contemporary World funding of up to £5,000 for projects which engage with the following themes: Interfaith and intra-faith relations, Islam and the environment, Education and skills development, and Digital Islam. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/4atszf5m>

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!**

Edinburgh Reads multi-access audiobook for Holocaust Memorial Day

22-31 January 2024 (online for all Edinburgh Libraries membership card holders)

Edinburgh Libraries will have an "Edinburgh Reads" unlimited access audiobook, "Night", by Elie Wiesel, available on their Libby platform (www.edinburgh.gov.uk/libby) to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/mttw68md>

**** this week!**

Scottish Jewish Heritage Centre School's Holocaust Memorial Day Event 2024

23 January 2024 (Glasgow, 10.00–1.30)

Scottish Jewish Heritage Centre event for secondary school pupils, providing an opportunity to hear people whose parents were survivors of the Holocaust, and who made a life in Scotland. For information see <https://sjhc.org.uk/news/hmd2024/>

**** this week!**

Book Discussion for Holocaust Memorial Day 2024

23 January 2024 (online, 7.00–9.00)

Aberdeen Interfaith Association book discussion to mark Holocaust Memorial Day – "Jane Haining, A life of love and courage" by Mary Miller. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/adt2t95j>

**** this week!**

Holocaust Memorial Day 2024 UK Ceremony Curated Moments

27 January 2024 (online, 7.30)

UK National commemoration for Holocaust Memorial Day. To register see <https://tinyurl.com/2yu8wmjx>

**** Police Scotland Police Officer - Ethnic Minorities Online Recruitment Event**

1 February 2024 (online, 6.30–8.30)

The event will cover the operational duties of a police officer, the recruitment process, and the benefits of joining Police Scotland. Police Scotland is committed to increasing the number of officers and staff from under-represented groups. There are well documented barriers to some people applying to join the police service, and this event is intended to answer specific questions from people from diverse communities to make sure everyone has fair access. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/ypfwkzfd>

**** Pass the Mic Women of Colour Experts in Scotland**

Apply by 10 February 2024

Programme runs from March to November 2024

The 2024 women of colour writers group is now open for applications. The programme includes allocation to a media partner (The Scotsman, The Courier, Press and Journal, The National, or The Herald), with payment of £100 for your article, and online development sessions with editors and guest speakers. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/mt9mkpc6>

Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals

14 February 2024 (online, 10.00–12.30)

15 May 2024 (Glasgow, 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)

13 May 2024 (Glasgow, 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)

22 May 2024 (Glasgow (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>

**** How To Be a Political Commentator - Broadcast Media Training for Women of Colour**

8 March 2024 (Glasgow. 10.30–5.30)

Pass the Mic and Women in Journalism Scotland are working together to host a media commentator training day exclusively for women of colour who are based in Scotland. The purpose of the day is to give you a chance to experience giving interviews on radio and TV. You will meet journalists and presenters, and lunch will be provided. For information see <https://passthemiscotland.org/2024/01/20/media-commentator-training/>

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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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