

Political Affairs Brief

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

Scottish Council of Jewish Communities

SCoJeC

Contents

[Home Affairs](#)

[Relevant Legislation](#)

[Israel](#)

[Consultations](#)

Home Affairs

UK Parliamentary Question

Schools: Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to prevent bullying and intimidation of Jewish children in schools; what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the Jewish community on this matter; and if he will make a statement. [5745]

Mr Gibb: The coalition Government have made tackling all forms of bullying, particularly bullying motivated by prejudice, one of its top priorities. It is not acceptable for a child to be victimised because of their race or religion.

The Government will bring forward measures to strengthen the authority of teachers to enforce discipline and promote good behaviour. The Government support head teachers in taking a zero-tolerance approach to bad behaviour and bullying.

The Secretary of State is due to meet the President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the Chief Rabbi on 15 July and the Community Security Trust on 22 July. These discussions will cover a range of issues including the safety and security of Jewish pupils.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100714/text/100714w0003.htm#10071452000014>

[TOP](#)

Israel

UK Parliamentary Questions

Israel and Palestine: Quartet

Lord Myners: To ask Her Majesty's Government what was their contribution to the costs of the Middle East Quartet in (a) 2005-06, (b) 2006-07, (c) 2007-08, (d) 2008-09, and (e) 2009-10. [HL956]

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford): UK support to Quartet Special Envoy James Wolfensohn began in 2005. We provided £70,000 to fund an aid management specialist. A further £28,000 for that position was provided in 2006. In addition, the Department for International Development (DfID) seconded a member of its own staff to the team from June 2005 to early 2006.

Since 2007 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has seconded one higher executive officer equivalent (HEO); one Grade 7 equivalent who retired in August 2009; and one senior civil servant (this position was regraded to G6 in April 2010) to work in the Office of the Quartet Representative (OQR). ...

The DfID secondment to the Office of the Quartet Representative in Jerusalem started in September 2007 to provide expert governance analysis (Grade 7). The secondee became Deputy Head of the OQR (Grade 6) in July 2009, leading on delivery against the OQR's key objectives through effective management of the team in the Jerusalem office, as well as continuing to provide expert governance analysis. ...

In 2007 the Department for International Development (DfID) made a £400,000 contribution to the UN development trust fund to support the setting up of the Office of the Quartet Representative in Jerusalem. This fund is administered by the United Nations Development Programme and its aim is to provide operational and logistical support to the representative (quartet) mission team and staff based in Jerusalem, so as to enable the effective and quick implementation of the quartet objectives.

We welcome the efforts of the quartet and the Quartet Representative-Tony Blair- and would particularly highlight recent efforts to help ease the border restrictions in Gaza. A great deal of progress has also been made on economic development in the West Bank, which shows that it is possible to have a functioning state, and which is a very important component of driving forward the Middle East peace process.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/100714w0001.htm#10071442000332>

Gaza

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the location and status of the humanitarian goods intended for Gaza which were taken into Israeli ports in May; and what representations they have made on the subject.[HL883]

Baroness Verma: Communication with relevant parties regarding the distribution of flotilla aid is taking place through the UN Special Representative, Robert Serry, who is keeping the international community informed of developments.

The UN has informed us that the first consignment of medicines and humanitarian aid, including blankets and generators, is now being distributed within Gaza.

We understand that the remaining materials are currently being stored in Israel and should enter Gaza in the following weeks.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/100714w0001.htm#10071442000321>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Jeremy Corbyn (508) Haneen Zoubi MK - That this House is concerned that Israeli Knesset member Haneen Zoubi has had a number of her parliamentary privileges withdrawn because she participated in the Freedom Flotilla which attempted to take aid to Gaza in May 2010; believes that the siege of Gaza is wrong; and applauds Haneen Zoubi for her courage in exposing this.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=41461&SESSION=905>

[TOP](#)

Relevant Legislation ** New or updated

UK Parliament

Academies Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/academieshl.html>

Daylight Saving Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/daylightsaving.html>

Face Coverings (Regulation) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/facecoveringsregulation.html>

Identity Documents Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/identitydocuments.html>

Scottish Parliament

End of Life Assistance Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/38-EndLifeAssist/index.htm>

[TOP](#)

Consultations ** new or updated

**** closes today**

Amendments to the Anti-Terrorism Crime and Security Act 2001 (closes 15 July 2010)

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/cons-2010-pathogens-toxins/consultation-paper2835.pdf?view=Binary>

**** closes tomorrow**

Welsh Assembly Review of Standing Orders (closes 16 July 2010)

http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-other-committees/bus-committees-third-bc-home/bus-committees-third-bc-comm/bc3_inq_so.htm

Data protection legislative framework (closes 6 October 2010)

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/dpa-call-evidence-02-07-2010.pdf>

Guidance on Concessionary Schemes for Surface Water Drainage Charges

Applies in England only (closes 22 October 2010)

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/surface-charges/index.htm>

[TOP](#)

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