



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

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

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Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Brexit (Settled Status Fee)

Linda Fabiani (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to the United Kingdom Government scrapping the European Union settled status fee. (S5O-02819)

Reply from the Minister for Europe, Migration and International Development (Ben Macpherson): Since the EU referendum in June 2016, the Scottish Government has been consistent in both our words and our actions: we want EU citizens to stay in Scotland. Therefore, I am pleased that the Prime Minister has finally seen sense and listened to the deluge of calls to scrap the unfair settled status fee—including from this Parliament, with the exception of the Scottish Conservatives.

However, dropping the fee does not change the fact that the UK Government is still Making EU citizens apply to retain their current rights. Therefore, to assist EU

citizens in our communities to apply for settled status, the Scottish Government's advice service, which is delivered in partnership with Citizens Advice Scotland, will help to ensure that EU citizens feel welcomed, supported and valued.

The Prime Minister's approach to migration makes it all the more clear why it is time for this Parliament to have powers over immigration so that it can determine a tailor-made policy.

Linda Fabiani: I advise the minister of the position of a constituent, who has lived in Scotland for decades and has not renewed his EU passport. Now, he must do so—at a cost—to prove to the UK Home Office that he is, in fact, an EU national. In order to do that, he must prove to his EU nation that he is not a British citizen—also at a cost—by obtaining a confirmation of non-acquisition of British citizenship from the UK Home Office.

Does the minister agree that that anomalous situation is insulting and concerning to someone who has lived and worked here for more than 30 years and has raised his family, had a national insurance number and paid taxes here? Surely this man and others like him, no doubt, already have a proven right to continue to live in and contribute to Scotland. It is, after all, their home.

Reply from Ben Macpherson: I thank Linda Fabiani for raising that specific case. I share her concerns about the situation being insulting and of concern. I am sympathetic towards the many families and individuals who have difficulties navigating the complex and increasingly restrictive UK immigration rules, as illustrated in the case that Linda Fabiani has raised.

It is right that EU citizens who have built their lives here and chosen to make Scotland their home should have all their rights protected. If the UK Government persists in its ambition to remove Scotland from the EU against the will of the Scottish people, it will be vital that those EU citizens who have chosen to make their home here in Scotland are provided through as simple a process as possible with the documentation that they need to evidence their right to continue to live here as they do now.

I would be happy to raise such cases, including the case that Linda Fabiani has raised today, with the UK immigration minister, with the consent of the individuals concerned.

I reassure all MSPs that we in the Scottish Government are pressing the UK Government for a fair and managed immigration system that recognises individual circumstances and provides a welcoming environment for new Scots and their families. ...

Neil Findlay (Labour): I welcome the scrapping of the fee for EU citizens. Will the minister now join me in calling for the UK Government to take the next step and end its hostile environment policy and its anti-immigration policies and rhetoric?

Reply from Ben Macpherson: Absolutely. I welcome the sentiment of Neil Findlay's question. I wish that we had seen such a coherent position from Labour in the House of Commons earlier this week on the UK Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill.

The UK Government's hostile environment policy has been discredited in both practice and principle. It should be noted that, since June 2016, the UK Government should have provided assurances to EU citizens separately from any withdrawal agreement; it could have done that in every month up to the current point, but it did not. It should think about that very carefully.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11919&i=107733#ScotParlOR>

Brexit (Democratic Participation for European Union Citizens)

Rona Mackay (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government how it will ensure that EU citizens living in Scotland can maintain democratic participation. (S5O-02823)

Reply from the Minister for Europe, Migration and International Development

(Ben Macpherson): EU citizens will retain their right to vote and stand in Scottish Parliament and local government elections after Brexit. We previously set out our intent to protect EU citizens' voting and candidacy rights in Scottish Parliament and local government elections. The programme for government includes a commitment to bring forward an electoral franchise bill, which will extend the franchise to include citizens of all nationalities who are legally resident in Scotland.

Rona Mackay: Several EU citizens in my constituency have been in touch with my office because they are concerned about the United Kingdom Government's EU settlement scheme. Does the minister agree that, as well as being grossly unfair, the system is not fit for purpose, given that the UK Government's settled status scheme app is available only to Android phone users and not to those who use other mobile devices?

Reply from Ben Macpherson: Our programme for government for this year has committed to introduce a franchise bill, and we opposed the settled status fee charge. Working with Citizens Advice Scotland, we have set up our advice service to advise and help EU citizens in our communities—who make such a huge contribution—as they go through the settled status scheme.

We are going over and above anything that the UK Government is doing. As Rona Mackay highlighted, there are serious misgivings about the technical and practical delivery of the UK Government's mechanisms for bringing EU citizens through the settled status scheme. We are going further than the UK Government in our efforts to reach out into communities and assist people who have accessibility issues or who are not comfortable using digital technology. Our advice service will provide face-to-face, telephone and online advice, which we hope will make an important difference.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11919&i=107737#ScotParlOR>

United Kingdom Immigration Policy (Impact on Working Population)

Maureen Watt (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government what impact UK Government immigration policy is having on Scotland's working population. (S5O-02829)

Reply from the Minister for Europe, Migration and International Development (Ben Macpherson): Migration is vital to Scotland's population growth. Each year for the next 25 years, all of Scotland's population growth is projected to come from migration.

The United Kingdom Government's commitment to cut net migration to the tens of thousands could therefore seriously harm our economy. If that commitment is implemented, Scotland's working age population is projected to decline by 4.5 per cent, which would mean a reduction of 150,000 people between 2016 and 2041.

A Brexit-driven reduction in migration would see gross domestic product in Scotland drop by an estimated 6.2 per cent by 2040, which would be equivalent to a fall of almost £6.8 billion a year in GDP and £2 billion in Government revenue. That is an unacceptable price for Scotland to pay, which is why we need a migration policy that is tailored to Scotland's needs and more powers for the Scottish Parliament.

Maureen Watt: An NHS Grampian survey that was recently presented to the Aberdeen city health and social care partnership states that not only staffing but medical supplies, access to treatment, regulations and cross-border issues are areas of high risk due to Brexit. That is compounded by the Home Office's stubborn refusal to engage with MSPs and our offices. Does the minister agree that the Home Office should stop treating MSPs and members of other devolved Parliaments like second-class representatives and start engaging with us to resolve immigration cases as soon as possible? Does he agree that it is time that the Westminster Government stopped using European Union nationals and others as pawns in its games? ...

Reply from Ben Macpherson: Brexit could indeed have significant impacts on health and social care in Scotland, with potentially serious consequences for the

recruitment and retention of health and social care workers. As Maureen Watt said, Brexit also raises concerns in areas such as medicines, medical devices, clinical trials, access to future EU funding and the rights of Scottish citizens to access state-provided healthcare across the EU.

On correspondence, MSPs are understandably concerned about those issues and the impact that they have on their constituents. I have met the UK Minister of State for Immigration, Caroline Nokes, several times to highlight the Scottish Government's concerns and reiterate our willingness to work collaboratively to safeguard the interests of EU citizens in Scotland. However, despite committing to meaningful engagement, the Home Office continues to refuse to deal substantively with the concerns of the Scottish ministers and MSPs on immigration cases. That is completely unacceptable.

The UK Government has repeatedly committed—publicly and privately—to the full involvement of the devolved Administrations. Unfortunately, I have thus far been frustrated by the quality of that engagement. Nevertheless, the Scottish Government is clear that it will do all that it can to support EU citizens through this difficult time. As Minister for Europe, Migration and International Development, I am happy to receive correspondence from MSPs and to write to the UK Government, minister to minister, as I have done for MSPs across the chamber. ...

Willie Rennie (Liberal Democrat): I also have concerns about the immigration policy. Sectors such as the fruit and veg farms in my constituency, universities and the tourism industry are already being impacted by a drop in the number of workers in Scotland.

I do not support the devolution of immigration policy, as these problems are not unique to Scotland. What practical steps has the minister taken to influence UK Government policy?

Reply from Ben Macpherson: Just under a year ago, the Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs, Fiona Hyslop, presented to the Scottish Parliament our substantial paper on how we can take practical steps and seek to influence UK policy. We have written repeatedly to UK Government ministers about our concerns about the Migration Advisory Committee report and the white paper, and we have raised those concerns in person. We will make a submission to the Migration Advisory Committee consultation on the shortage occupation list. We are working across every area of the Government to influence UK Government policy, and we are working with stakeholders across business who are deeply concerned about what is in the white paper, particularly the proposed salary threshold.

I say to Willie Rennie in good faith that we are proposing flexibility in the UK system by taking a solution-focused approach in response to what is being proposed in the UK Government's white paper. Willie Rennie said that in his constituency—this is the case for many constituencies across Scotland—key sectors will be affected by what the UK Government's white paper proposes. I ask Willie Rennie to meet me and engage with us as a Government. Together, let us be solution focused for the benefit of his constituents and the common good of Scotland.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11919&i=107743#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Immigration: Mozaffar Saberi and Rezvan Habibimarand

S5O-02846 Daniel Johnson (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what contact it has had with the Home Office regarding the recently reported case of Mozaffar Saberi and Rezvan Habibimarand.

Reply from Ben Macpherson: I have written to the UK Immigration Minister in support of Mr Saberi and Ms Habibimarand and asked her to urgently review the case and properly consider all factors that clearly indicate this couple should be

allowed to stay.

My officials have also been engaging with the Home Office regarding this difficult situation which once again highlights the failure of the UK Government's one-size-fits-all immigration policy.

We have consistently called for a more compassionate system that takes into account individual circumstances particularly around family migration. This is why we will shortly be setting out detailed proposals on family migration that will consider its complexity and seek to reintroduce more compassion into the system.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5O-02846>

Information about the case referred to above can be read at

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-46923234>

UK Parliament Debate

English Channel: Illegal Seaborne Immigration

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-01-30/debates/9E4482A1-3368-4E5F-89A3-A2B1853974C1/EnglishChannelIllegalSeaborneImmigration>

UK Parliament, Ministerial Statement

Migration Crossings

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Sajid Javid): [HCWS1280] Since November 2018 there has been a significant increase in the number of individuals attempting to cross the English Channel illegally in small boats.

This activity represents a substantial risk to the lives of those attempting the crossing, as well as to the rescue services. Organised criminal networks are exploiting vulnerable individuals to drive profit from what is a highly dangerous activity.

As I set out to the House on 7 January, I declared a major incident on 28 December to send a clear message that we will not tolerate these life-threatening and illegal crossings. I established a Gold Command structure to co-ordinate my Department's response to this issue.

Good progress has been made to date. The re-deployment of Border Force assets and use of aerial surveillance has substantially improved coverage in the Channel and our extensive work with our French counterparts has improved co-ordination, both on land and at sea. We have built on existing structures, such as the Centre Conjoint d'Information et de Co-ordination (CCIC), which sees Border Force and Police Aux Frontières working alongside law enforcement partners to exchange real-time intelligence on criminality at the border and work together to identify and dismantle criminal gangs involved in people smuggling and wider cross-border crime. The Immigration Minister attended the formal opening of CCIC with Interior Minister Christophe Castaner on 25 January and saw first-hand the efforts that both countries are making to enhance our co-operation around border security.

Through these efforts, we have managed to reduce the number of individuals attempting the crossing from around 250 in December to around 90 so far in January, with roughly half of the January attempts being intercepted by partners in France before they can make it to British waters. But even one crossing is too many and I am determined that we make further efforts to deter both the facilitators and the individuals making these crossings.

To that end, I met with Minister Castaner in London on 24 January to agree a Joint Action Plan. The plan solidifies and builds on our existing border security partnership by setting

out over £6 million (€7 million) in investment for new security equipment, as well as increased CCTV coverage of ports, air surveillance and shared intelligence. We have also agreed that migrants encountered in the Channel will be taken to the nearest safe port, in accordance with international maritime law.

In addition, the plan features a mutual commitment to return more migrants to France who have used boats to illegally cross the Channel. The first of these returns took place on 24 January.

We will not allow illegal migration and its facilitators to flourish, and we will continue to work closely with France and other countries to provide a strong deterrent against these dangerous crossings. This includes making it clear that those fearing persecution should claim asylum in the first safe country they reach, and my officials are looking to strengthen our inadmissibility guidance for claims made by those who have travelled here through countries that are internationally recognised as being safe.

The Joint Action Plan comes into force immediately and builds on the existing framework of co-operation set out in the Sandhurst Treaty. I am confident that it will strengthen the achievements that we have made to date and I thank our French colleagues for their collaboration in working with the United Kingdom to tackle this critical issue—protecting human life, and our border. ...

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-01-28/debates/1901284000007/MigrationCrossings>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

British Nationality: Children

Jim Cunningham (Labour) [210012] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many children under the age of 18 have been denied UK citizenship in each year since 2010.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The available published information on the total number of decisions to refuse applications for British citizenship are published in Home Office's Immigration Statistics, year ending September 2018, Citizenship tables cz_09 (Refusals of citizenship by reason) available from

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-september-2018>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-18/210012/>

Immigration

David Simpson (DUP) [212346] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people from (a) EU countries (b) Asia (c) North America were granted Indefinite Leave to Remain in 2018.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Information on grants of settlement (Indefinite leave to remain) to non-EEA nationals and issues of documents recognising initial and permanent resident rights to EU citizens (and their non-EU family members) to the year ending September 2018, are published in the quarterly Immigration Statistics, Settlement and EEA tables, latest edition of which can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-september-2018>

Information regarding EU citizens and their non-EU family members issued settled status during the two Private Beta phases of the EU Settlement Scheme is available at:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/772139/EU Settlement Scheme Private Beta 2 Report.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/772139/EU_Settlement_Scheme_Private_Beta_2_Report.pdf)
<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-24/212346/>

Entry Clearances: Biometrics

David Simpson (DUP) [212347] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many biometric residence permits were issued in each of the last three years.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The information you have requested regarding the total number of BRPs issued over the last three years is not included in statistics published by the Home Office. However, the total number of grants of leave, by type of application, are available in published information at www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release
<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-24/212347/>

Immigration Controls: Offenders

Priti Patel (Conservative) [206314] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate his Department has made of the number of foreign national offenders from an EU-27 member state have been prevented from entering the UK in each of the last five years.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Border Force prevents travel of known terrorists and serious criminals prior to their arrival in the UK with the use of API and PNR data received from carriers. Through advanced analysis of data and intelligence Border Force devises electronic rules to target persons of interest that can be shared with Border 5 partners and other government departments overseas, to secure borders not only in the country of potential risk, but globally to mitigate any threat. One of Border Force's priorities is the management of the Pre-Departure Checks Scheme (PDCS) which is designed to deny boarding to high risk individuals identified by the Security Services and Home Office Special Cases Directorate. The Authority to Carry Scheme has been in operation since 2015; this enables Border Force to offload a passenger pre-departure, including those passengers that have Exclusion Orders, Deportation Orders or travelling on an invalid document.
<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-08/206314/>

Asylum and Visas: Applications

Rebecca Long Bailey (Labour) [211291] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many (a) visa applications and (b) asylum applications were awaiting a decision on 22 January 2019.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: All asylum claims lodged in the UK are carefully considered on a case by case basis, based on their individual merits, against a background of relevant case law and up to date country information.

The available information for the number of visa applications awaiting a decision up until the end of September 2018, can be found at table Visa_03 of the International Operations Transparency Data at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/international-operations-transparency-data-november-2018>

The available information for the number of Asylum Applications awaiting a decision up until the end of September 2018 can be found at table Asy_11 of Asylum Transparency Data at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-transparency-data-november-2018>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-22/211291/>

Immigration: Applications

Stephen Timms (Labour) [212298] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of premium service applications for indefinite leave to remain were processed on the same day in each year since 2010.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Information on in country premium service applications for indefinite leave to remain and performance against service standards is published in the Migration Transparency data, table InC07 and can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data>

This shows that 98.9% of straightforward cases were dealt with within our same day customer service standard.

Historic data for the 2017 period can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/in-country-migration-data-november-2017>

We are unable to provide data for the period before 2017.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-24/212298/>

Immigration and Nationality: Applications

Stephen Timms (Labour) [212299] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for (a) indefinite leave to remain, (b) naturalisation and (c) asylum were lost by his Department in each year since 2010.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The information on the number of applications for Indefinite Leave to Remain, naturalisation and asylum which have been lost is not recorded in a manner which can be reported on, and to do so would require a trawl through immigration databases which could only be achieved at disproportionate cost.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-24/212299/>

Health Services: Immigrants

Kate Green (Labour) [211731] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, with reference to Public Health England's consultation on the impact of data-sharing arrangements under the memorandum of understanding on the health and healthcare-seeking behaviour of migrants, whether the findings of that consultation will be published; when the results of that consultation will be published; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Jackie Doyle-Price: On 9 May 2018, the Minister of State for Digital and the Creative Industries (Margot James MP), announced that the Government will be amending the data request arrangements covered under a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between NHS Digital, the Home Office and the Department of Health and Social Care. This would narrow when the Home Office can request non-clinical information from NHS Digital to very limited circumstances.

The Department commissioned a review from Public Health England (PHE) in 2017 into the impact on public health and health-seeking behaviour of the previous MOU, which was withdrawn on 9 November 2018. The Department has asked PHE to extend their review to provide advice on the potential impact of the narrowed scope of a new MOU. This will be published when it is complete.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-23/211731/>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-05-09/debates/CE43B0ED-87D3-4F63-B8A4-2A66964790C2/DataProtectionBill\(Lords\)#contribution-9D7D926A-A034-431A-B462-37EEFBE274A2](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-05-09/debates/CE43B0ED-87D3-4F63-B8A4-2A66964790C2/DataProtectionBill(Lords)#contribution-9D7D926A-A034-431A-B462-37EEFBE274A2)

Immigrants: Employment

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [212407] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have had their right to work revoked as a result of provisions introduced in the Immigration Act 2016.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: A person subject to immigration control derives their right to work from the leave to enter or remain and any associated conditions granted to them by the Home Office, not from the Immigration Act 2016. Employers are responsible for preventing illegal working under the Immigration Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 by conducting right to work checks specified in Home Office regulations. The Immigration Act 2016 supplemented these controls by clarifying that it is a criminal offence for a person subject to immigration control to work unlawfully in the UK, and incorporated further safeguards into the alcohol, late night refreshment, taxi and private hire vehicle licensing regimes to prevent immigration offenders working in these sectors.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-24/212407/>

Children: English Language

David Simpson (DUP) [212344] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps his Department is taking to support children who are learning English as a second language.

Reply from Nadhim Zahawi: Every child, regardless of their background or family circumstances, deserves the opportunity to progress and succeed in school and beyond. Schools are responsible for ensuring that each of their pupils is engaged, challenged and has opportunity to achieve their full academic potential. The government's ongoing education reforms have given headteachers considerable flexibility over their use of the funding allocated to their schools, as they are best placed to support and address the specific needs of their pupils – including those who are classed as having English as an additional language (EAL).

We recognise that having a large intake of EAL pupils can present challenges for a school. Through the national funding formula (NFF) for schools, introduced in April 2018, state-funded schools attract funding for pupils with EAL who have been in the school system in England for up to 3 years. This funding equates to an additional £515 per primary school pupil and an additional £1,385 per secondary school pupil by the time the formula is fully implemented. Schools in which more than 10% of pupils joined mid-way through the school year also attract funding through the mobility factor in the NFF if their local authority uses this factor in their local formula. Furthermore, schools are also able to use their pupil premium funding to support pupils with EAL who are classed as disadvantaged, through having been eligible for free school meals at any point in the last 6 years, or through being looked after or previously in local authority care.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-24/212344/>

Visas

Peter Dowd (Labour) [211222] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many tier one visas the Home Office issued in (a) 2018, (b) 2017, (c) 2016, (d) 2015 and (e) 2014.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Information on Tier 1 entry clearance visa

applications and outcomes (granted, refused, withdrawn, lapsed) is published on a quarterly basis in the Home Office's 'Immigration Statistics', Visas data tables volume 1, table vi_01_q, latest edition at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-september-2018/list-of-tables#visas>

Corresponding data for Q4 (October to December) 2018 is planned to be published on 28 February 2019.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-22/211222/>

Migrant Workers: Pay

Luke Graham (Conservative) [210709] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of bringing forward regional salary thresholds for non-UK workers to allow businesses to recruit employees in line with regional economic circumstances after the UK leaves the EU.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Migration Advisory Committee considered this issue and found that there was no strong economic case for regional differentiation within the immigration system.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-21/210709/>

NHS: Migrant Workers

Emma Reynolds (Labour) [211719] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how many EEA nationals from countries other than the UK were employed in the NHS in each year since 2015.

Reply from Stephen Hammond: NHS Digital publishes Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS) workforce statistics. These include staff working in hospital trusts and clinical commissioning groups, but not staff working in primary care, local authorities or other providers.

The following table shows the headcount figures for all HCHS staff in England who have specified an European Economic Area (EEA) nationality as at 30 September for each of the years specified.

	2015	2016	2017	2018
HCHS staff who have specified an EEA nationality	371	401	432	467
HCHS staff who have specified an EU27 nationality	52,808	59,796	61,974	63,484

Source: National Health Service HCHS quarterly workforce statistics, NHS Digital

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-23/211719/>

NHS: Migrant Workers

Keith Vaz (Labour) [210018] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what estimate he has made of the number of nurses and non-clinical staff paid under £30,000 per annum who will be able to continue to work in the UK after the UK leaves the EU.

Reply from Stephen Hammond: The United Kingdom's future immigration system is set out in the Government's Immigration White Paper, which was published on 19 December 2018. At the time of publication, my Rt. Hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department announced that the salary threshold would be the subject of further engagement. The Government is continuing to work with employers, representative bodies and charities in the health and social care sector

to help contribute to the discussion on an appropriate threshold.

European Union nationals currently working in the health and social care sectors can apply to the EU Settlement Scheme to secure their long-term status in the UK. The scheme is now open and, further to the Prime Minister's announcement on 21 January 2019, from 30 March 2019 onwards, EU nationals will not have to pay for their application. Any application made before that date, including those that have already been made, will be reimbursed.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-18/210018/>

The White Paper referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/766465/The-UKs-future-skills-based-immigration-system-print-ready.pdf

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/eu-settlement-scheme-applicant-information>

Windrush Generation: Reviews

David Simpson (DUP) [212342] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress his Department has made in its Windrush scheme: historical review of removals and detentions; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Secretary wrote to the Chair of the Home Affairs Committee on 21 August, outlining the initial findings of the Historical Review of removals and detentions. The review found that the total number of individuals identified who have been removed and/or detained by the Home Office since 2002, and who have something on their file which indicates they may have been in the UK before 1 January 1973, is 164.

Of these we identified 18 individuals who stayed in the UK permanently and who are the people we consider most likely to have suffered the most detriment because their right to be in the UK was not recognised and where the de-partment is most likely to have acted wrongfully in removing or detaining them. Eleven of these left the UK voluntarily and seven were detained.

Work on cases involving criminality, as well as individuals who were subject to proactive compliant environment sanctions, is ongoing. These figures will be provided to HASC upon completion of the work.

Our regular updates to HASC are published at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/correspondence-on-the-work-of-the-home-office-windrush>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-24/212342/>

The letter referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-committees/home-affairs/Correspondence-17->

[19/Letter%20from%20the%20Home%20Secretary%20regarding%20Windrush%20-%20July%20update,%2021%20August%202018.pdf](https://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-committees/home-affairs/Correspondence-17-19/Letter%20from%20the%20Home%20Secretary%20regarding%20Windrush%20-%20July%20update,%2021%20August%202018.pdf)

Deportation: Windrush Generation

Caroline Lucas (Green) [208260] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to Answer of 27 November 2018 to Question 181253 on Deportation: Windrush Generation; what evidence he has sought to inform his decision not to make a specific attempt to inform those 49 people of the existence of the Windrush Taskforce; if he will make it his policy to attempt to inform them; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: There is no evidence to indicate that any of these individuals were in the UK before 1973 and therefore potentially entitled to status

under the 1971 Immigration Act.

Any individual who believes they are protected under the provisions of the 1971 Immigration Act is able to contact the Windrush Taskforce, who will help to identify their current status.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-14/208260/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-18/181253/>

Windrush Generation: Compensation

Caroline Lucas (Green) [212349] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when he plans to publish his Department's response to its consultation on the Windrush compensation scheme.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government has committed to putting into place the Windrush compensation scheme and is grateful to those who responded to the public consultation that closed on 16 November.

We are considering the outcome of the consultation exercise and will respond as soon as possible with further details, including who is eligible to apply for compensation and how they can access the scheme.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-24/212349/>

Immigrants: Bank Services

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [212406] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have had their bank accounts closed as a result of provisions introduced in the Immigration Act 2016.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The banking provisions in the Immigration Act 2016 took effect during the first quarter of 2018, but are not yet operating in full due to temporary restrictions introduced to ensure that members of the Windrush generation are not adversely impacted. To date the Home Office has received confirmation from the banking sector that 15 accounts have been closed as a result of the Immigration Act 2016 provisions.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-24/212406/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Dawn Butler (Labour) [210544] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government is taking to ensure it is able to process large numbers of applications from EU citizens applying for settled status under the EU settlement scheme.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: EU Settlement Scheme is a new streamlined, user-friendly digital application process which draws on existing government data to minimise the administrative burden on individuals.

We are confident that the administrative process will be simple and streamlined, and we expect most applications to be processed very quickly. In addition to the new technology and processes, we will have cir-ca 1,500 UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) European Casework staff in post to process applications.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-21/210544/>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/eu-settlement-scheme-applicant-information>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Tom Brake (Liberal Democrat) [213160] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the estimated operational cost of the EU settlement scheme is.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: For the Financial Year 18/19, HM Treasury provided funding of £395million to Home Office. £170 million has been reserved for the development and delivery of the EU Settlement Scheme.

The Government will ensure the cost of this process is fully funded. What is important is that every EU, Swiss or EEA EFTA citizen and their family members who are here and want to stay, can stay, both in the event of a deal or no deal scenario, and that there is no financial barrier to their doing so.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-28/213160/>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/eu-settlement-scheme-applicant-information>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Deidre Brock (SNP) [210042] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, which agencies and bodies outside of Government will have access to the data of non-UK EU citizens who register under the settled status scheme.

Deidre Brock (SNP) [210043] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to protect the data of non-UK EU citizens who register under the settled status scheme.

Deidre Brock (SNP) [210044] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what purposes the data of non-UK EU citizens who register under the settled status scheme will be shared with organisations outside his Department.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office is the data controller for all data processed within the EU Settlement Scheme, this includes where organisations are contracted to act on behalf of the Home Office as the Home Office. No other organisations have access to the personal information of applicants to the EU Settlement Scheme. The Home Office may however share information with other organisations, but only where the information needs to be shared and there is an appropriate legal basis for doing so. Further detail on this is set out in the Borders, Immigration and Citizenship System privacy information notice:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/personal-information-use-in-borders-immigration-and-citizenship>.

The Home Office takes its data security and data protection obligations extremely seriously. There are processes in place in the Home Office for the capturing and mitigation of risks and vulnerabilities to ensure appropriate control of our services. I can confirm this is the case for the EU Settlement Scheme

All Home Office systems including EU Exit applications undergo rigorous cyber assessments prior to launch. This includes an independent security testing to ensure they are resilient to external attack.

Our IT systems hosting platform include a number of mechanisms to detect and respond to malicious intrusions.

All data is encrypted both in transit and at rest. Our IT staff are security cleared and your data will only be accessed by those who have a valid business reason to access it. The Home Office regularly monitors the systems for abuse and misuse.

With this non-exhaustive list of measures, we protect the data of non-UK EU citizens who register under the Settlement Scheme.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-18/210042/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-18/210043/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-18/210044/>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/eu-settlement-scheme-applicant-information>

Immigration: EEA Nationals

Roberta Blackman-Woods (Labour) [211180] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when he plans to provide more information on the immigration system that will be in operation for EEA nationals after 29 March 2019 in the event of the UK leaving the EU without a deal.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: In the event of the UK leaving the European Union without a deal, we will continue to run the EU Settlement Scheme for EEA nationals resident in the UK by 29 March 2019. This is consistent with the policy paper “Citizens’ Rights – EU citizens in the UK and UK nationals in the EU” published by the Department for Exiting the European Union on 6 December 2018.

The Immigration Bill will end free movement of EEA nationals to the UK. In a ‘no deal’ scenario we have been clear that there will have to be a period of transition to the future skills-based immigration system. We will set out more information shortly on the arrangements for EEA nationals coming to the UK during this period.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-22/211180/>

The policy paper referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/762222/Policy_paper_on_citizens_rights_in_the_event_of_a_no_deal_Brexit.pdf

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/eu-settlement-scheme-applicant-information>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Marion Fellowes (SNP) [213412] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reason his Department will accept identity documents only scanned electronically for the purposes of applying to the EU settlement scheme via Android devices.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: EU citizens make a huge contribution to our economy and society, and we want them to stay. The EU Settlement Scheme enables them to do so. The application process is short and user-friendly, and it will be accessible on any smartphone, tablet or computer using internet browsers.

The ‘EU Exit: Identity Document Check’ app – which allows applicants to prove their identity remotely, without sending in their passport or national identity card – is currently available only on Android devices. Applicants can, if they wish, use a family member or friend’s Android device to access the app, and complete the rest of the process on their own device.

Additionally, we currently have 13 locations where applicants can have their ID document scanned, if they choose to do so. Once the scheme is fully open, by 30 March 2019, there will be over 50 locations across the UK where applicants can have their identity document scanned. Applicants will also be able to post identity documents to the Home Office to be checked and returned quickly.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-28/213412/>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/eu-settlement-scheme-applicant-information>

Immigration: Computer Software

Kate Hollern (Labour) [213386] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reason the Government's settled status app is only available on Android platforms; and whether he plans to make that app available for other platforms.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: EU citizens make a huge contribution to our economy and society, and we want them to stay. The EU Settlement Scheme enables them to do so. The application process is short and user-friendly, and it will be accessible on any smartphone, tablet or computer using internet browsers.

The 'EU Exit: Identity Document Check' app – which allows applicants to prove their identity remotely, without sending in their passport or national identity card – is currently available only on Android devices. Applicants can, if they wish, use a family member or friend's Android device to access the app, and complete the rest of the process on their own device.

Additionally, we currently have 13 locations where applicants can have their ID document scanned, if they choose to do so. Once the scheme is fully open, by 30 March 2019, there will be over 50 locations across the UK where applicants can have their identity document scanned. Applicants will also be able to post identity documents to the Home Office to be checked and re-turned quickly.

The Home Office and Apple continue to engage to see if we can provide the equivalent service for those with Apple devices.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-28/213386/>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/eu-settlement-scheme-applicant-information>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [211325] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to support people to prove their eligibility for settled status.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The EU Settlement Scheme provides a simple, streamlined process for resident EU citizens and their family members to obtain their new UK immigration status. The application process draws on existing government data, to minimise the need for applicants to provide evidence of their UK residence. Caseworkers will work with applicants to help them to establish their eligibility under the scheme from the evidence they have, and they will be able to exercise discretion in favour of applicants where appropriate, to minimise administrative burdens.

Arrangements are also being developed to provide a range of support, offered by the Home Office and through third parties such as community groups and charities, to help vulnerable applicants in applying for status under the scheme.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-22/211325/>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/eu-settlement-scheme-applicant-information>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Dawn Butler (Labour) [211131] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he is taking to ensure that women are not disproportionately and negatively impacted in applying for the EU Settlement Scheme and (b) what adjustments will be made

for vulnerable women to assist them in applying for settled status.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office is putting in place measures to ensure that the EU Settlement Scheme is streamlined, user-friendly and accessible to all prospective applicants.

We have been working closely with voluntary and community organisations across the UK representing the needs of potentially vulnerable applicants including victims of human trafficking and domestic abuse. The range of support includes telephone advice from our customer support centre; face-to-face assisted digital support and a range of translated content when the scheme opens fully in March.

As the Prime Minister announced on 21 January, having listened to concerns raised in constituencies, by Members in the House and stakeholders, applicants to the EU Settlement Scheme will not have to pay a fee when the scheme is fully rolled out by 30 March. Anyone who has applied during the pilot phases of the scheme, or does so, and paid an application fee, will have that fee reimbursed. This will ensure that there is no financial barrier to those who wish to remain in the UK after we leave the EU.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-22/211131/>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-01-21/debates/0FBF8F8F-E4B4-47A2-BD0A-958EFC89BD7E/LeavingTheEU#contribution-99B39557-ED82-420D-B124-FF83FC72F686>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Kate Green (Labour) [211732] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what provision he plans to make in the EU Settlement scheme for those who have held pre-settled status for five years but cannot qualify for settled status due to excessive absences.

Kate Green (Labour) [211733] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what his policy is on people to whom the EU Settlement Scheme will apply and who have held pre-settled status for five years but cannot qualify for Settled Status due to excessive absences being able to apply for a further five years' pre-settled status leave.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: To be eligible for settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme, applicants will generally be required to demonstrate continuous residence in the UK for a minimum of five years in one of the eligible categories. This reflects the continuous residence criteria for the acquisition of 'permanent residence' under the Free Movement Directive, and the approach agreed with the European Union in the draft Withdrawal Agreement.

Should an applicant not be immediately eligible for settled status, and instead be granted pre-settled status (five years' limited leave to remain), they must continue to meet these continuous residence criteria in order to qualify for settled status. This will be made clear to them when they are granted pre-settled status.

Those granted pre-settled status who are not eligible for settled status before the expiry of their five years' limited leave to remain, owing to excess absence(s) from the UK, will have the option of applying for leave to remain under the new skills-based immigration system.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-23/211732/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-23/211733/>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

Immigration: EU Nationals

Maria Eagle (Labour) [210491] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will take steps to extend the eligibility for settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme pilot for EU citizens that can financially sustain themselves but do not work.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: As set out in the Statement of Intent published on 21 June 2018, we have decided as a matter of domestic policy that the main requirement for eligibility under the EU Settlement Scheme will be continuous residence in the UK. Applicants will not need to demonstrate that they meet the current relevant requirements in the Free Movement Directive as to permitted activity.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-21/210491/>

The Statement of Intent referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/718237/EU_Settlement_Scheme_SOI_June_2018.pdf

Apprentices: EU Nationals

Catherine McKinnell (Labour) [213351] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether EU nationals undertaking an apprenticeship in the UK will be able to complete their apprenticeship in the event that the UK leaves the EU without a withdrawal agreement.

Reply from Anne Milton: We have agreed to protect the rights of EU citizens in the UK in both a deal and no deal scenario. Should the UK leave the EU without a deal, EU nationals living in the UK before 29 March 2019 will be able to remain in the UK and work, study, and access benefits and services, including education, training and apprenticeships, on broadly the same terms as now. They will need to apply to stay in the UK, through the EU Settlement Scheme, if they are planning to continue living in the UK after 2020. They would need to make an application by 29 March 2020.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-28/213351/>

Immigration

Stephen Doughty (Labour Co-op) [198842] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate he has made of the (a) number of (i) EU and (ii) EEA nationals that will have the right to reside permanently in the UK; and (b) number UK citizens that will have the right to reside permanently in EU Member states after March 2019.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: a) The impact assessment for the EU Settlement Scheme estimates that between 3.5m and 4m EEA nationals (excluding Irish nationals) will be eligible to apply for the scheme by the end of the Implementation Period in December 2020.

The IA is published at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/875/impacts>.

b) The Home Office does not hold this information. The Office for National Statistics has published estimates of the number of UK nationals who are resident in other EU countries at:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/articles/livingabroad/april2018>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-04/198842/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Maria Eagle (Labour) [210489] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have applied for settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme pilot in (a) the UK and (b) Garston and Halewood constituency.

Maria Eagle (Labour) [210490] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been deemed eligible for settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme pilot in (a) the UK and (b) Garston and Halewood constituency.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The 3.5 million EU citizens and their family members resident in the UK are eligible to apply for settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme. Over the two private beta test phases, over 30,000 applications have been received. We have published separate reports on both private beta test phases setting out further details of the outcomes. The reports can be found here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/752872/181031_PB1_Report_Final.pdf

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-private-beta-2/eu-settlement-scheme-private-beta-testing-phase-2-report>

We commenced a wider public beta phase on 21 January. We have committed to provide further details in due course of the planned phased implementation of the scheme and we will continue to update Parliament as part of that process.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-21/210489/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-21/210490/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [211215] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the process is for the reimbursement of fees paid by non-UK EU nationals for applications for settled status; and how that process will be communicated to those non-UK EU nationals.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: As the Prime Minister announced on 21 January anyone who has already applied for settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme, or who applies and pays a fee during the pilot phases, will have their fee refunded. The Home Office will set out full details in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-22/211215/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Tom Brake (Liberal Democrat) [211619] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if the Government will reimburse all reasonable administrative costs to EU citizens who apply for settled status.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: As the Prime Minister announced on 21 January, there will be no fee for applications under the EU Settlement Scheme when we roll out the scheme in full by 30 March. Anyone who has applied during the pilot phase, or who does so, will have their fee reimbursed. The Home Office will set out further details in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-23/211619/>

Immigration: Turkey

Dan Carden (Labour) [211939] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government is taking to protect the rights of Turkish citizens who applied

for permanent residency in the UK through the Ankara Agreement before 16 March 2018.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Turkish business persons and their family members who submitted settlement applications under the Ankara Agreement prior to 16 March 2018 will be assessed under the guidance that was in force at the date of their application.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-23/211939/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Chechnya

Stephen Doughty (Labour Co-op) [211781] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum claims his Department has received from LGBT+ people fleeing persecution in Chechnya in each year since 2015.

Stephen Doughty (Labour Co-op) [211782] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department has taken to expediate asylum claims by LGBT+ people fleeing persecution in Chechnya.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: On 29 November 2018, the Home Office published statistics on asylum claims lodged on the basis or part basis of sexual orientation covering the period 2015 – 2017.

The statistics reflect the claims made by asylum applicants and do not reflect a confirmed sexual orientation basis for a claim. Some individuals applying for asylum may have less reason to mention sexual orientation when making a claim because it may not be a significant factor in their seeking asylum. Such nationalities would be undercounted in these statistics

The statistics can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-september-2018/experimental-statistics-asylum-claims-on-the-basis-of-sexual-orientation.>

Chechnyan nationals cannot be identified separately in the data but would be included in the figure for Russia. For Russia, which may also include non Chechnyan nationals, six claims based on LGBT+ issues were received in 2016 and twelve in 2017.

As a signatory to the Refugee Convention, the UK fully considers all asylum claims lodged in the UK. We remain committed to improving the asylum process for those claiming asylum on the basis of their sexual or gender identity. In the case of considering sexual identity claims, we are confident that our re-vised guidance and dedicated training is thorough and ensures every sexual identity claim decision is scrutinised in depth, either by a senior case worker or Technical Specialist. We do not consider asylum claims lodged outside UK territory.

We recognise the continuing concerns of key partners domestically and internationally, and we remain committed to continuing engagement with them on this issue.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-23/211781/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-23/211782/>

Immigration: India

Kelvin Hopkins (Independent) [211607] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his Department uses the Government of India's list of Undesirable Contact Men as a criterion of decisions on who can reside in the UK.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: All persons wishing to enter or remain in the United

Kingdom are checked against several watchlists and databases. Non-EEA nationals who do not meet the requirements of the Immigration Rules are refused leave to enter/remain.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-23/211607/>

Immigration: Vetting

Kelvin Hopkins (Independent) [212292] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his Department (a) international blacklists and (b) the Government of India's Undesirable Contact Men are included in the criteria for the granting of residence to (a) Sudhir Choudhrie, (b) Bhanu Choudhrie and (c) other people on those lists.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office does not comment on individual cases. All persons wishing to enter or remain in the United Kingdom are checked against several watchlists and databases. Non-EEA nationals who do not meet the requirements of the Immigration Rules are refused leave to enter/remain.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-24/212292/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Business: Immigration

Kelvin Hopkins (Independent) [212293] To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, if he will make an assessment of the applicability of Government of India international blacklists in decision-making on people that intend to undertake business in the UK.

Kelvin Hopkins (Independent) [212294] To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, if he will make an assessment of the applicability of the Government of India's list of Undesirable Contact Men in decision-making on people that intend to undertake business in the UK.

Reply from Kelly Tolhurst: The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has no plans to make such assessments.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-24/212293/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-24/212294/>

Refugees

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [212408] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people are currently waiting for a decision on leave to remain as a stateless person.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: I am sorry but we do not hold the data required to answer the question in the requested format. The Home Office regularly shares information with UNHCR relating to Stateless Leave applications and decisions made. Some of the information provided is published by UNHCR, in regular trend reports. The latest published report by UNHCR on mid year trends, from June 201, can be found at the link below:

<https://www.unhcr.org/uk/statistics/unhcrstats/5aaa4fd27/mid-year-trends-june-2017.html>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-24/212408/>

Refugees

Kate Green (Labour) [211721] To ask the Secretary of State for International

Development, what steps the Government is taking to ensure that barriers to economic participation for refugees are included as part of discussion during the upcoming 2019 London Initiative on 28 February 2019.

Reply from Alistair Burt: The London Initiative will aim to boost sustainable and inclusive business-led economic growth in Jordan. A core strand of the Initiative and its implementation will focus on reforms to increase workforce participation for all, particularly from women, youth and refugees.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-23/211721/>

Refugees: Children

Stephen Doughty (Labour Co-op) [212371] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to secure a resolution for the 30 unaccompanied children in Calais who have had their migrant status confirmed in the UK under the Dubs scheme.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We continue to work very closely with participating States France, Greece and Italy, local authorities and delivery partners to relocate the specified number of 480 children under Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 as soon as possible. Over 220 children are already in the UK and transfers are ongoing continuously.

As part of the Sandhurst Treaty, signed between the UK and France in January 2018, we made a number of specific commitments relating to un-accompanied asylum-seeking children. This included the deployment of a UK Asylum Liaison Officer to support the transfer of eligible children under section 67 and the Dublin Regulation. We also allocated £3.6 million specifically to fund the development of the Dublin process to support transfers of eligible children to the UK, including training for those working with unaccompanied children, family tracing and targeted information campaigns.

Relocation of eligible children to the UK is dependent on the availability of appropriate local authority care placements. The Government maintains a continual dialogue with local authorities, Strategic Migration Partnerships, and delivery partners in the UK. We welcome all offers from local authorities with capacity to look after unaccompanied asylum seeking children and will continue to utilise these offers to fulfil all of our existing commitments.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-24/212371/>

The Sandhurst Treaty, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/674885/Treaty_Concerning_the_Reinforcement_Of_Cooperation_For_The_Coordinated_Management_Of_Their_Shared_Border.pdf

Refugees: Children

Helen Hayes (Labour) [212415] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 12 December 2018 to Question 199462 on Refugees: Children, how the £3.6M development fund will be spent; and whether his Department has identified specific projects for that funding.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The UK and France enjoy a special relationship based on shared values and priorities, including promoting the rule of law, protecting the rights of individuals and ensuring the security of our citizens. In January 2018 both countries signed the Sandhurst Treaty, which included a funding package of £45.5 million to fund joint co-operation on all elements of tackling the impact of illegal migration in northern France. Within this package, £3.6 million was

specifically allocated to funding the development of the Dublin process to support transfers of eligible children to the UK, including training for those working with unaccompanied children, family tracing and targeted information campaigns.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-24/212415/>

The Sandhurst Treaty, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/674885/Treaty_Concerning_the_Reinforcement_Of_Cooperation_For_The_Coordinated_Management_Of_Their_Shared_Border.pdf

Asylum: Applications

Rebecca Long Bailey (Labour) [211292] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for asylum applications that were submitted (a) three years ago, (b) two years ago and (c) within the last 12 months are awaiting a decision.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office publishes data, in its quarterly Immigration Statistics release, on the number of asylum applications lodged in each year, broken down by outcome, including cases with a decision, or appeal outcome, not known as at May 2018 (time of publication), in table as_06 (Asylum, volume 2) Latest edition available at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/758195/asylum2-sep-2018-tables.ods

The next update of this table is due in August 2019.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-22/211292/>

Asylum: Mental Health

Rebecca Long Bailey (Labour) [211798] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum applications are pending where the claimant has a recorded mental health condition; and how many of these are claims have been awaiting decision for (a) three years (b) two years and (c) 12 months.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Department does not hold data on the number of asylum seekers who have mental health issues and have been waiting a decision for two years, three years and 12 months in a reportable format.

The basis of a person's asylum claim and any personal information is recorded on their individual Home Office file, but not in a way that can be easily aggregated, so this information could only be obtained at disproportionate cost, because it would require a manual search through individual records. Even then, the data may not be sufficiently reliable, as it is worth noting that the claimants do not always disclose their mental health issues to case-workers despite having opportunity to do so.

The Home Office publishes data, in its quarterly Immigration Statistics release, on the number of asylum applications lodged in each year, broken down by outcome, including cases with a decision, or appeal outcome, or not known, as at May 2018 (time of publication), in table as_06 (Asylum, volume 2).

Latest edition available at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/758195/asylum2-sep-2018-tables.ods

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-23/211798/>

Asylum: Children

Catherine West (Labour) [213429] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 23 January 2019 to Question 208875 on Asylum:

Children, what independent support his Department provides to a child when a social care team carries out an age assessment test on them.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: When there is doubt about the age of an asylum seeker, they will be referred to a local authority for a Merton compliant age assessment - they are treated as a child whilst the outcome is awaited.

In the case of potential victims of trafficking who have been allocated an Independent Child trafficking Advocate (ICTA), they will remain entitled to an ICTA and support under the Modern Slavery Act 2015 while their age remains in doubt. The Home Office and, if applicable, the ICTA support the local authority age assessment by ensuring that all relevant information is made available to the local authority to support the assessment. Whilst the local authority may take into account information obtained by the Home Office to inform their assessment, they will come to their own conclusion in accordance with caselaw.

In addition, the Home Office also provides independent support to all unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in England through the Refugee Council's Children's Advice Project. The Project's role is to assist children through the asylum process and their interactions with central and local government organisations.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-28/213429/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-15/208875/>

Asylum: Children

Stephen Doughty (Labour Co-op) [213369] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many local authorities have (a) volunteered to support unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and (b) published the number of children who have been successfully rehomed since the launch of the National Transfer Scheme.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Data on the local authorities participating in the National Transfer Scheme (NTS), including the number of transfers in and out of each authority, can be found in the Asylum transparency dataset, last published in November 2018 at;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-transparency-data-november-2018>.

Since it was launched in July 2016, more than 700 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children have been transferred via the NTS. This is a significant achievement which has seen many local authorities offer placements for children whose best interests are served by transferring to another local authority.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-28/213369/>

Asylum: Slavery

Alex Norris (Labour Co-op) [211929] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department has taken to ensure that survivors of modern slavery are aware of the repayment scheme for victims of modern slavery who received asylum support in England and Wales between 1 March and 8 November 2018.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Government is making every effort to ensure those affected are aware of the back-payment scheme.

We will be sending out personalised letters to all those affected, notifying them of the amount they are entitled to and when they will receive the payment. If an individual believes they are eligible but does not receive a letter, they can complete an application form. Further information is available on gov.uk

(<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-a-subsistence-rates-back-payment-victims-of-modern-slavery>).

We are also working with NRM support providers and other stakeholders to ensure as many victims as possible are aware of this process.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-23/211929/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Slavery

Frank Field (Independent) [213236] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many victims of slavery who are no longer receiving support through the asylum system (a) have applied for a subsistence rate back payment and (b) are yet to apply for a back payment.

Frank Field (Independent) [213237] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of victims of slavery who are due a subsistence rate back payment are no longer receiving support through the asylum system.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Government is making every effort to pay back everyone affected by the subsistence rate contract changes for asylum-seeking victims of modern slavery made in March 2018.

Based on the current data, we have identified 1,208 potential victims of trafficking that have been affected and are entitled to back payments. 989 of those affected are still in both National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and asylum support, 150 are no longer in NRM support but are still in asylum support, and 69 are no longer in either NRM or asylum support.

On 24 January 2019, personalised letters were sent out to all those we identified as being affected and eligible for repayments. For those still in support, the letters detailed how much and how they will be paid. For those who have left support, the letters explained how to apply for these payments.

If an individual believes they are eligible but does not receive a letter, they can complete an application form on gov.uk. There is no closing date for when people can apply for back payments if they think they are eligible. Further information is available on gov.uk

(<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-a-subsistence-rates-back-payment-victims-of-modern-slavery>).

We are not releasing the number of people who have already applied through the application form on gov.uk as this is an ongoing process and we will be working with these individuals to ensure those who are eligible are paid.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-28/213236/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-28/213237/>

Human Trafficking: Children

Emma Reynolds (Labour) [211717] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans his Department has to make specialist support and accommodation for trafficked children available under the National Referral Mechanism.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Independent Child Trafficking Advocates (ICTAs) are a source of specialist support for trafficked children. In July 2018, the Government announced that it would roll out the service to eligible children in one third of local authorities in England and Wales by April 2019.

The Government is committed to rolling ICTAs out nationally. Section 48 of the

Modern Slavery Act 2015, which makes provisions for ICTAs, is being considered in the Independent Review of the Modern Slavery Act, led by Frank Field MP, Maria Miller MP, and Baroness Butler-Sloss. The Government will carefully consider any recommendations about ICTAs which come out of the Review ahead of any national rollout.

Local authorities play a pivotal role in the safeguarding of all children in their care, regardless of their backgrounds or experiences. It is absolutely right that local authorities continue to make decisions about the placement and welfare of children, which includes ensuring they have access to suitable accommodation. To support this, in addition to the national rollout of ICTAs, we have revised statutory guidance on the care of unaccompanied children and child victims of modern slavery and funded 1,000 additional training places for foster carers and support workers.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-23/211717/>

Independent Child Trafficking Advocates Service

Catherine West (Labour) [213430] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 15 January 2019 to Question 208877 on Children: Advocacy, what support his Department provides to children who are no longer eligible for the revised Independent Child Trafficking Advocate scheme.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: In local authorities where the Independent Child Trafficking Advocate (ICTA) service has been rolled out, all children that are potential victims of trafficking are eligible for support. The revised ICTA model will continue to provide one-to-one support for children who have no effective parental responsibility for them in the UK. It also introduces, for the first time, an expert ICTA regional practice co-ordinator. This role will focus on children who do have a figure with effective parental responsibility for them in the UK, by working with professionals who are already engaged with and supporting the child.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-28/213430/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-15/208877/>

Immigrants: Detainees

David Linden (SNP) [201717] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average duration of detention was for migrants to the UK in 2018.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Information on the length of detention of people leaving detention, broken down by quarter, is available in table dt_06_q of the detention tables in the latest releases of 'Immigration Statistics, year ending September 2018', available from the Home Office website at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/758249/detention-sep-2018-tables.ods

There are a small number of detainees who have been detained for long periods of time, which would skew the mean value. The median is therefore the most suitable average for these data.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-12/201717/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigrants: Detainees

Rushanara Ali (Labour) [211298] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department,

how many children have been held in immigration detention since September 2018; and what steps his Department is taking to establish alternatives to detention for children at risk of being detained in exceptional circumstances.

Refugees: Detainees

Rushanara Ali (Labour) [211748] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment his Department has made of the equity of the treatment of children in refugee detention centres.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Home Office statistics on the number of children held in immigration detention since September 2018 have not yet been published. The next publication: Immigration Statistics, year ending December 2018 will be released on 29 February 2019 at:

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

Information on children in detention broken down by quarter, is available in the detention tables in the latest release of 'Immigration Statistics, year ending September 2018', available from the Home Office website at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/758249/detention-sep-2018-tables.ods

The UK does not operate refugee detention centres and ended the routine detention of children in 2010 and, in line with the Immigration Act 2014, does not hold unaccompanied children in immigration removal centres. There remain limited circumstances where unaccompanied children may be detained for a short period, usually at ports of entry. This will be done for safeguarding reasons and will be for a very brief period, normally just a matter of hours, until alternative care arrangements are made. Families with children intercepted at the border may also be detained very briefly, but the Home Office does not publish data on children detained at the border.

Under the Family Returns Process, which was established in 2011 as an alternative to routine detention in immigration removal centres, a family with children with no lawful basis of stay in the UK who fails to comply with Home Office attempts to encourage and support voluntary return may, as a last resort, be detained at dedicated Pre Departure Accommodation (PDA), for a short period immediately prior to removal. The operation of the PDA is regulated by the published PDA Operating Standards. Treatment of children more generally is also governed by Detention Services Order 19/2012 "Safeguarding Children Policy." These documents can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pre-departure-operating-standards>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/detention-and-escorting-safeguarding-children-policy>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-22/211298/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-23/211748/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [212416] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how his Department calculates the quarterly figures on the average cost per day to hold an individual in immigration detention.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The costs are derived at by dividing the Total Resource Costs of running the Detention Centres (Contracts, Staff, Rent, Rates, Utilities and Depreciation) by the average number of bed spaces (currently 3448). The average cost to detain an individual in immigration detention is provided on a per day basis. The current daily cost per detainee is £88.29, which corresponds to

an annual cost of £32,227 (£88.29 multiplied by 365 days). Data can be found at the link below

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-enforcement-data-november-2018>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-24/212416/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [212417] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department has taken to ensure that immigration detainees can access websites that contain information about immigration law in all immigration detention centres.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: It is a contractual requirement for all of the Home Office's suppliers operating immigration removal centres to provide detainees with reasonable and regulated access to the internet. This provision enables people in detention to remain in contact with family, friends and legal representatives, and to prepare for removal.

Detention Services Order 04/2016 provides published guidance on access to the internet. This includes ensuring that material which may be relevant to a detainee's immigration case is easily accessed, as long as it does not fall within a prohibited category or website.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-24/212417/>

Immigration: Children

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [210687] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to provide independent legal guardianships for (a) unaccompanied and (b) trafficked children in (i) Oxfordshire and (ii) the UK.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Independent Child Trafficking Advocate (ICTA) service was rolled out in three early adopter sites in Greater Manchester, Hampshire and Wales in January 2017.

We have invested an additional £2m to expand the ICTA provision into West Midlands, East Midlands and Croydon. This will mean the service will be available in one third of all local authorities by April 2019.

Section 48 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, which makes provisions for ICTAs, is being considered in the Independent Review of the Modern Slavery Act led by Frank Field, Baroness Butler-Sloss and Maria Miller. The Government will carefully consider any recommendations for the national rollout of ICTAs which come out of the review.

Unaccompanied children are looked after by the relevant local authority and are entitled to the same services as any other looked after child. Under these arrangements, unaccompanied children will have a professional social worker and an independent reviewing officer to oversee their care arrangements. All unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in England are referred to the Refugee Council's Children's Panel and they are also entitled to legal assistance in pursuing their asylum claim. The Government believes that these arrangements ensure unaccompanied children are provided with the independent support and advice that they need.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-21/210687/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

UN High Commissioner for Refugees

Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench) [HL12773] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has a consistent policy on resettling asylum seekers who claim that atheism or religious beliefs will lead to their persecution if returned to their countries of origin; if they have found that it is not consistent, what steps they are taking to ensure it is; how many such claimants have submitted applications to the UNHCR in Thailand; and how long, on average, it takes for such applications to be processed.

Reply from Lord Bates: UNHCR is mandated to protect all refugees and other displaced persons, including those who fear persecution on the basis of religion. UNHCR's procedures and criteria for determining refugee status include religious persecution, in line with the Refugee Convention. Where religious belief causes or heightens the risk a refugee faces, UNHCR will take this into consideration when assessing specific vulnerabilities, and determining the appropriate protection interventions (including but not limited to resettlement).

HMG does not hold information on the number of asylum claims submitted to UNHCR in Thailand, or elsewhere; this information is held by UNHCR. Individual data is considered private and confidential and not normally shared with third parties (and never without the specific consent of the individual). Furthermore, UNHCR does not routinely identify or record beneficiaries by their religion where this has no bearing on their case. The reason for this is because there is a risk that collecting information about the ethnicity or religion of people receiving aid could be obtained by others, including extremist groups, and used to persecute them.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-14/HL12773/>

Visas

Baroness Manningham-Buller (Crossbench) [HL12897] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 11 December 2018 (HL11859), whether they will publish the number of visa refusals by nationality, rather than those at an aggregated level published in the quarterly immigration statistics; and why they do not publish this data currently.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Information on refusals by nationality identifying delegates wishing to enter the UK to attend international scientific conferences and their reasons for such refusals is not recorded on centrally collated statistical databases and would require examination of individual case files at disproportionate cost

The information collected and published in the quarterly Immigration Statistics is kept under review, balancing user needs against burdens on suppliers, in line with the Code of Practice for Statistics

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-16/HL12897/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-11-27/HL11859/>

Migrant Workers: Immigration Controls

Lord Green of Deddington (Crossbench) [HL12832] To ask Her Majesty's Government (1) which countries they consider to be "low risk" in the context of provision for low skilled workers set out in paragraphs 25–31 of their White Paper on the UK's future skill-based

immigration system (Cm 9722), and (2) whether such low skilled workers will be permitted to return to the UK to work after their one year “cooling off” period and, if so, for how long.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: (1) To determine low-risk countries as set out in the UK’s Future Skills-Based Immigration System White Paper, the Home Office will consider a range of relevant factors such as returns’ agreements, reciprocal mobility agreements, co-operation on border security and prosperity. These measures will be reviewed regularly and further information will be provided in due course.

(2) Following a 12-month cooling off period, previous holders of a temporary short-term work visa will be eligible to apply for another temporary work visa to come to the UK for as long as the scheme remains in place.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-15/HL12832/>

The White Paper referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/766465/The-UKs-future-skills-based-immigration-system-print-ready.pdf

Immigration: Windrush Generation

Lord Greaves (Liberal Democrat) [HL12951] To ask Her Majesty's Government how long on average it takes for an application to prove settled status or for citizenship under the Windrush scheme to be dealt with.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Secretary provides the Home Affairs Select Committee with monthly updates on the work of the department in connection with Windrush. This includes information on decisions made by the Taskforce, with a section on decision timeliness. The monthly updates can be found at the following link and attached is the most recent letter to the Chair of HASC sent in December 2018.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/correspondence-on-the-work-of-the-home-office-windrush>

[Letter - Chair of HASC - Dec 2018](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-18/HL12951/>

Immigration: Windrush Generation

Lord Greaves (Liberal Democrat) [HL12955] To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the nationalities of those who have applied for citizenship or to prove their settled status under the Windrush Scheme since 30 May 2018; and of those, how many (1) have had their immigration status confirmed, (2) have been rejected, (3) are subject to an appeal, and (4) are still being considered, broken down by nationality.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Secretary provides the Home Affairs Select Committee with monthly updates on the work of the department in connection with Windrush. This includes information on decisions made by the Taskforce, with a section on the nationalities of those granted documentation. The monthly updates can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/correspondence-on-the-work-of-the-home-office-windrush>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-18/HL12955/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Lord Greaves (Liberal Democrat) [HL12952] To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the statement by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 16 January (HL Deb, col 218)

that citizens of EU countries who have been resident in the UK since before the UK joined the European Economic Community “can if they want make a free application to the Windrush scheme for documentation to confirm that status”, what are the consequences of those citizens not making such an application, in particular for those who do not have documentary evidence of their status.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: EU citizens who were settled in the UK before 1973 are deemed to have indefinite leave to remain and therefore already have a UK immigration status, which will be unaffected by the UK’s exit from the European Union. EU citizens who already have indefinite leave to remain are not required to apply to either the Windrush Scheme or the EU Settlement Scheme, but they may find it useful to do so to obtain up-to-date evidence of their status free of charge.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-18/HL12952/>

The statement referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-01-16/debates/7E69062C-4881-4DD6-B240-B18C9F0F0740/BrexitEUCitizensInTheUK#contribution-0572D310-F4DA-485C-A383-D4399F3FA0C4>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Lord Greaves (Liberal Democrat) [HL12954] To ask Her Majesty's Government what (1) guidance, and (2) assistance they provide to citizens of EU countries who have been resident in the UK since before the UK joined the European Economic Community, who have indefinite leave to remain but are not in possession of documentary evidence confirming their status; whether such support is being provided by the Windrush Task Force and its Vulnerable Persons Team; and if so, what support they offer.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: EU citizens make a huge contribution to our economy and society, and we want them to stay. The EU Settlement Scheme enables them to do so. The application process is short and user-friendly, and it will be accessible to all prospective applicants.

We are working in partnership with vulnerable group representatives, local authorities and other experts to make sure we reach everyone. Since November 2017, we have held monthly meetings with representatives of EU citizens on the design and development of the scheme and communications plans. We have been working closely with these groups to identify the needs of potentially vulnerable applicants including the disabled, elderly and isolated. We are looking for reasons to grant, not for reasons to refuse; and we will have a broad range of support in place. For those who need non-specialist support there is the assisted digital service for technological support, and the Settlement Resolution Centre which will be able to assist with questions relating to the application process.

The Home Office will proactively work with applicants to provide further evidence where there is the need to do so. Applicants who claim to have an historical grant of Indefinite Leave to Enter (ILE) / Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) that they are unable to provide evidence of and which pre-dates current Home Office records may be able to apply under the Windrush Scheme to have their status checked and documented. Further information can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/undocumented-commonwealth-citizens-resident-in-the-uk>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-18/HL12954/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Lord Greaves (Liberal Democrat) [HL12953] To ask Her Majesty's Government what actions they are taking to ensure that members of the Roma community who are citizens of EU countries and living in the UK are able to establish their right to remain in the UK after Brexit.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office is putting in place measures to ensure that the settlement scheme is accessible to all prospective applicants.

There will be new arrangements to provide both direct support from the Home Office, and indirect support through third parties. The support will include: 'assisted digital' support for those that cannot access or aren't confident with technology; a range of translated content when the scheme opens fully in March; and policy provisions to ensure that the Home Office can consider a wide range of evidence of residence.

The Home Office has established a user group of external stakeholders including representation of the Roma community, to ensure the right support arrangements are in place.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-18/HL12953/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Drew Hendry (SNP) (2020) Visa application for 14 year old Annaceline Omondi – That this House supports the Omondi family and calls on the Home Office to overturn its rejection of the visa application for 14-year-old Annaceline Omondi, daughter of Lance Corporal Denis Omondi, a serving soldier for the Royal Regiment of Scotland, 3 Scots, and her application for entry clearance; this House further rejects the Home Office's application of unachievable family commitments required for serving soldiers', as in this case; pays thanks to Lance Corporal Omondi for his long-running and continued service to the British Army; and requests that greater flexibility is allowed, given the sacrifices made by service personnel and their families, when considering immigration applications from members of these communities.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/52510/visa-application-for-14-year-old-annaceline-omondi>

Press Releases

Immigration threat to universities

<https://www.gov.scot/news/immigration-threat-to-universities/>

Government outlines no deal arrangements for EU citizens

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-outlines-no-deal-arrangements-for-eu-citizens>

European Temporary Leave to Remain in the UK

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/european-temporary-leave-to-remain-in-the-uk>

New Refugee and Asylum Seeker plan for Wales launched

<https://gov.wales/newsroom/people-and-communities/2019/refugee-asylum-seeker-plan-launched/?lang=en>

New Publications

Policy Paper: Immigration from 30 March 2019 if there is no deal

http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2019-0109/Immigration_no_deal_policy_paper.pdf

Nation of Sanctuary – Refugee and Asylum Seeker Plan

https://welshrefugeecouncil.org.uk/sites/default/files/news/files/Nation_of_Sanctuary_Refugee_and_Asylum_Seeker_Plan_English%20Final.pdf

The Home Office response to the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration’s report: An inspection of Home Office (Borders, Immigration and Citizenship System) collaborative working with other government departments and agencies February – October 2018

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/775277/20190131_OGD_Formal_response.pdf

News

Tens of thousands of EU nationals in UK could become undocumented after Brexit in crisis 'worse than Windrush'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/eu-nationals-brexit-settlement-scheme-undocumented-windrush-a8735426.html>

EU nationals in Scotland face ‘unacceptable’ hurdles when applying for residency

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/eu-nationals-in-scotland-face-unacceptable-hurdles-when-applying-for-residency-1-4863796>

MPs slam Android-only app for EU citizens to apply for settled UK status

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/feb/03/mps-slam-android-only-app-for-eu-citizens-to-apply-for-settled-uk-status>

Tory immigration bill ‘damaging’ to Scotland, claim SNP

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/tory-immigration-bill-damaging-to-scotland-claim-snp-1-4863436>

Concerns raised over post-Brexit immigration policy effect on Scots universities

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17405371.concerns-raised-over-post-brexit-immigration-policy-effect-on-scots-universities/>

EU leave to remain plan to hit students

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/eu-leave-to-remain-plan-to-hit-students-pbbghldkv>

Police chief warns public figures to mind language on migrants as Brexit looms

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17395922.police-chief-warns-public-figures-to-mind-language-on-migrants-as-brexit-looms/>

Launch: New Scots Connect

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/3396_launch_new_scots_connect

Network set up to help integrate refugees into Scotland

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17395786.network-set-up-to-help-integrate-refugees-into-scotland/>

We need more 'Glasgow Girls' to fight injustice

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/blogs/3394_we_need_more_glasgow_girls_to_fight_injustice

Dozens of Caribbean nationals to be deported on first charter flight to Jamaica since Windrush scandal

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/windrush-charter-flight-deported-jamaica-home-office-immigration-caribbean-remove-a8759916.html>

As a Christian country, UK should give Asia Bibi asylum – Stephen Kerr MP

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/as-a-christian-country-uk-should-give-asia-bibi-asylum-stephen-kerr-mp-1-4864376>

Man, 90, told to fly to US to get correct visa to remain in UK with wife

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/jan/30/man-90-told-to-fly-to-us-to-get-correct-visa-to-remain-in-uk-with-wife>

Stansted 15 activist: 'Jail separation from my baby would be horrific'

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/feb/02/stansted-15-emma-hughes-jail-fear-separation-baby-son>

Why I feel lucky to face jail as a Stansted 15 activist

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/jan/30/jail-stansted-15-activist-deportation>

Home Office 'wrecked my life' with misuse of immigration law

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/feb/02/home-office-wrecked-my-life-with-misuse-of-immigration-law>

One family's Brexit dilemma: 'I'll fight to keep us together until the very last day'

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/feb/02/brexit-scotswoman-forced-part-with-belgian-husband-leave-daughter>

British man and family made homeless after Home Office policy blocks them from renting property

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/british-man-rent-property-home-office-right-to-rent-hostile-environment-homeless-a8754216.html>

I suffered indefinite immigrant detention. This injustice must end

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/feb/01/indefinite-immigrant-detention-harriet-harman-time-limit>

I crashed an airline industry dinner with 13 other anti-deportation activists and this is why

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/deportations-migrants-airline-uk-annual-dinner-lgsm-british-airways-a8756076.html>

TOP

Community Relations

News

At last someone has spoken up for the pleasures of a mixed community

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/feb/03/working-class-know-real-value-migrants>

TOP

Equality

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Equality: Judicial Appointments Board for Scotland

S5W-20921 Pauline McNeill (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what analysis it has carried out of whether the Judicial Appointments Board for Scotland is delivering equality for (a) women and (b) BME people.

Reply from Humza Yousaf: The Judicial Appointments Board for Scotland (JABS) provides statistical information on diversity, including gender and ethnicity, in its annual report. The Scottish Government does not carry out separate analysis as JABS undertakes its own analysis of these areas.

JABS has a statutory duty to have regard to the need to encourage diversity in the range of individuals available for selection to be recommended for appointment to a judicial office. This is contained in section 14 of the Judiciary and Courts (Scotland) Act 2008.

Since 2015 JABS has recommended 108 individuals for judicial office. 52 were women, 50 were men and 6 preferred not to say. Of those recommended, 1 was of Asian background, 2 of mixed, 1 was unknown and 104 identified as white British or white other.

In 2010 the Diversity Steering Group (DSG) was set up, which is chaired by Lady Wise. This is a collaborative group which has in mind JABS's obligations under section 14 of the 2008 Act. The DSG's aims include identification of ways in which increased diversity of applicants applying for judicial office can be achieved and advice on removal of perceived obstacles to diversity. A Scottish Government official is a member of the steering group as an observer.

JABS has a statutory duty to prepare and publish an annual report on the carrying out of its functions during the previous year. This report must be sent to the Scottish Ministers and is then laid before the Scottish Parliament. The reporting provided on diversity covers both the DSG's work and statistical reporting on applicants for all appointments within JABS remit.

In addition to its annual reporting, last year JABS published a 5 Year Strategic Plan for 2018-2022 which sets out how they intend to contribute to the creation of a more diverse judiciary in Scotland - one which 'reflects the growing diversity in our communities and which helps to build public trust and confidence.

The progress to date is good and I recognise JABS' continued commitment to strive for better by encouraging diversity in the range of individuals available for selection.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-20921>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Employment: Females

Jo Stevens (Labour) [211804] To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps his Department is taking to encourage the participation of BAME women in the labour market.

Reply from Kelly Tolhurst: In October 2018, my rt. hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced a package of measures to make the workplace fairer for people from ethnic minorities, including a Race at Work Charter.

Developed jointly by the Government and Business in the Community (BITC), the new Race at Work Charter commits businesses to a bold set of principles and actions designed to drive forward a step-change in the recruitment and progression of ethnic minority employees.

The Prime Minister also announced a consultation on mandatory ethnicity pay reporting by employers with more than 250 employees, to help tackle burning injustices in society and build a society that works for everyone. The consultation closed on 11 January 2019.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-23/211804/>

The announcements referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-launches-series-of-measures-to-tackle-barriers-facing-ethnic-minorities-in-the-workplace>

The Race at Work Charter, referred to above, can be read at

<https://race.bitc.org.uk/issues/racecharter>

Special Educational Needs: Ethnic Groups

Vicky Foxcroft (Labour) [210658] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what proportion of children with Educational, Health and Social Care plans are from (a) Black, (b) Asian and (c) Minority Ethnic backgrounds.

Reply from Nadhim Zahawi: The proportions of children with education, health and care plans from black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds are given in the attached table.

Table of children with education, health and care plans

Ethnicity	Number of children in state-funded primary, state-funded secondary and special schools with education, health and care plans in January 2018	Proportion of all children in state-funded primary, state-funded secondary and special schools with education, health and care plans in January 2018
Black	16,366	7
Asian	23,146	9.8
Minority Ethnic	69,765	29.6
All	235,385	100

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-21/210658/>

Census: Sikhs

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [211322] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, if he will include Sikhs in the next Race Disparity Audit.

Reply from Chloe Smith: The Race Disparity Audit is an ongoing and permanent

programme of work. The data collated by the Audit from Government Departments and published on the *Ethnicity Facts and Figures* website, is on the basis of ethnicity.

In data currently collected by Government departments the 'Sikh' category is listed under the 'religion' classification. The Sikh category is not currently classified in the data as an ethnic group.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-22/211322/>

The website referred to above can be read at

<https://www.ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Cabinet Office: Sikhs

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [211330] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many Sikhs the Prime Minister's office employs; and whether they are recorded as members of an (a) ethnic or (b) religious group.

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [211854] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many Sikhs are employed in his Department; and whether they are recorded as (a) an ethnic or (b) a religious group.

Reply from Chloe Smith: At the 31st December 2018, 43 civil servants in my Department were recorded as being Sikhs, as a religious group. The Prime Minister's Office is included in this reply.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-23/211330/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-23/211854/>

Department for International Development: Sikhs

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [211846] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, how many Sikhs are employed in her Department; and whether they are recorded as (a) an ethnic or (b) a religious group.

Reply from Harriett Baldwin: As at 31 December 2018, 6 civil servants in my Department have voluntarily declared their religious group as being Sikh.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-23/211846/>

Department of Education: Sikhs

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [211848] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many Sikhs are employed in his Department; and whether they are recorded as (a) an ethnic or (b) a religious group.

Reply from Anne Milton: As at 31 December 2018, 73 civil servants in the department were recorded as being Sikhs, as a religious group.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-23/211848/>

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs: Sikhs

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [211849] To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, how many Sikhs are employed in his Department; and whether they are recorded as (a) an ethnic or (b) a religious group.

Reply from George Eustice: At the 31st December 2018, 21 civil servants in my Department were recorded as being Sikhs, as a religious group.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-23/211849/>

Department for Exiting the European Union: Sikhs

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [211850] To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, how many Sikhs are employed in his Department; and whether they are recorded as (a) an ethnic or (b) a religious group.

Reply from Chris Heaton-Harris: Based on the self-declaration rates held on our system at the time of this question, none have declared as Sikh. This figure is based entirely on people identifying themselves as a Sikh on the Department's HR system. The option to declare as Sikh is categorised under Religion. The Department for Exiting the European Union is committed to the creation of a diverse and inclusive working environment to ensure staff do not face any barriers to success, and all staff feel supported at work.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-23/211850/>

Department for Transport: Sikhs

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour) [211852] To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how many Sikhs are employed in his Department; and whether they are recorded as (a) an ethnic or (b) a religious group.

Reply from Jesse Norman: The table below shows data the Department (DfT Central Department, the Driver Vehicle & Licensing Agency, the Driver & Vehicle Services Agency, the Maritime & Coastguard Agency and the Vehicle Certification Agency) holds on the number of staff that have indicated that they are Sikh, and whether this information is recorded as an ethnic or religious group as at 31 December 2018.

Department Total	Recorded as Ethnic or Religious group
51	Religion

The figures represent staff on our payroll and does not include contractors and other non-pay employees.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-23/211852/>

Department for Work and Pensions: Sikhs

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [211853] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many Sikhs are employed in her Department; and whether they are recorded as (a) an ethnic or (b) a religious group.

Reply from Justin Tomlinson: The Department encourages all of its employees to provide details of their personal diversity information. This action is voluntary and information is captured via employee input onto the HR SOP system. Details on whether someone is a Sikh is captured via input of religious belief information.

As at 31st December, 12,211 employees (14.8% of DWP's workforce), have input information on their religious belief. This includes 166 employees who have recorded their information as Sikh, and 852 employees who chosen the 'prefer not to say' option.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-23/211853/>

Department of Health and Social Care: Sikhs

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [211855] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and

Social Care, how many Sikhs are employed in his Department; and whether they are recorded as (a) an ethnic or (b) a religious group.

Reply from Caroline Dinenege: As of 24 January 2018, eight civil servants in the Department were recorded as being Sikh, as a religious group.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-23/211855/>

Foreign and Commonwealth Office: Sikhs

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [211856] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, how many Sikhs are employed in his Department; and whether they are recorded as (a) an ethnic or (b) a religious group.

Reply from alan Duncan: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) employs around 12,500 staff, a third of whom are UK-based and two thirds local staff. We only hold data centrally for UK-based staff.

The number of FCO UK-based staff who are Sikhs is 0.75 per cent. The most recent UK census data estimated that Sikhs are 0.7 per cent of the UK population.

The diversity characteristic used to report this is religion.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-23/211856/>

Home Office: Sikhs

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [211857] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Sikhs are employed in his Department; and whether they are recorded as (a) an ethnic or (b) a religious group.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: 720 employees have declared themselves as Sikh. Recorded as a religious group.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-23/211857/>

Ministry of Defence: Sikhs

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [211858] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many Sikhs are employed in his Department; and whether they are recorded as (a) an ethnic or (b) a religious group.

Reply from Tobias Ellwood: As at 31 December 2018, the recorded number of personnel who had declared the Sikh faith under the category 'Religion' or 'Faith' is: Civilian Personnel 130; Regular/Reserve Military Personnel 270

- In line with Departmental guidance the figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
- Civilian data is based on all employees who are active, or on paid or unpaid leave of absence and employed in the MOD Main Top Level Budgets or Defence Equipment and Support as of 31 December 2018.
- UK Regulars comprises full-time personnel including Nursing Services, Full Time Reserve Service personnel, Gurkhas, Mobilised Reservists, Military Provost Guard Service, Locally Employed Personnel, British Army, Non Regular Permanent Staff, Approval Managers, Cadet Force Adult Volunteers, and Sponsored Reserves.
- Totals exclude Locally Engaged Civilians in overseas locations and Royal Fleet Auxiliary personnel for whom this data is not available.

It is not mandatory for personnel to declare their ethnicity and religion, and figures should therefore not be considered definitive. Sikh is recorded as a religion not an ethnic group.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-23/211858/>

Ministry of Justice: Sikhs

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [211859] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many Sikhs are employed in his Department; and whether they are recorded as (a) an ethnic or (b) a religious group.

Reply from Edward Argar: As at 31st March 2018, there are 236 Sikh staff employed within the MoJ; this is based on staff declaring their religious beliefs on the HR system (SOP), the declaration rate stands at 28.3%. This data will be included in the Workforce Monitoring Report. The tentative due date for publication of the Workforce Report is 31st January 2019.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-23/211859/>

Leader of the House of Commons: Sikhs

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [211860] To ask the Leader of the House, how many Sikhs are employed in her Department; and whether they are recorded as (a) an ethnic or (b) a religious group.

Reply from Andrea Leadsom: As set out in the answer from the Minister for Constitution, as of the 31st December 2018, 43 civil servants in the Cabinet Office were recorded as being Sikhs, as a religious group.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-23/211860/>

Treasury: Sikhs

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [211861] To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many Sikhs are employed in his Department; and whether they are recorded as (a) an ethnic or (b) a religious group.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: As of 31st December 2018, 11 civil servants employed by HM Treasury were recorded as being Sikhs, as a religious group. This was 1% of recorded religion.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-23/211861/>

Scotland Office: Sikhs

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [211862] To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, how many Sikhs are employed in his Department; and whether they are recorded as (a) an ethnic or (b) religious group.

Reply from David Mundell: The Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland does not employ staff directly. All staff that join do so on assignment, loan or secondment from other government bodies, principally the Ministry of Justice and the Scottish Government, who remain the employers.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-23/211862/>

Wales Office: Sikhs

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [211863] To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, how many Sikhs are employed in his Department; and whether they are recorded as (a) an ethnic or (b) religious group.

Reply from Nigel Adams: The Office of the Secretary of State for Wales is not an employer in its own right. The Ministry of Justice are the employer of staff working in the Office. As at 31 December 2018, fewer than five staff had recorded themselves as Sikh as a religious group. To protect the identification of staff, an exact number cannot therefore be provided.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-23/211863/>

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government: Sikhs

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour (Co-op)) [211864] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, how many Sikhs are employed in his Department; and whether they are recorded as (a) an ethnic or (b) religious group.

Reply from Jake Berry: At 31 December 2018, 15 (1.3 per cent) civil servants in my Department were recorded as being Sikhs, as a religious group.

This information is offered voluntarily by staff and as such we can only report on those that have chosen to provide details of their religious group.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-23/211864/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Government Departments: Religious Freedom

Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench) [HL13051] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will encourage departments, including the Ministry of Defence and the Department for International Development, to make freedom of religion or belief literacy training available for their staff; and whether they will produce strategies which show how they aim to promote freedom of religion or belief.

Reply from Lord Young of Cookham: The Civil Service Diversity & Inclusion Strategy makes clear our commitment to addressing issues of faith and belief as part of our wider approach to inclusion. The strategy also makes clear our commitment to working with all government departments to achieve this goal.

We have a Civil Service Faith and Belief Champion in place (Clare Moriarty, Permanent Secretary DEFRA), and Faith and Belief departmental Champions in 26 departments (across Whitehall and agencies - including the Ministry of Defence and the Department for International Development), tasked with promoting faith literacy and inclusion in their departments.

The Champions and networks across Government have agreed a narrative that will underpin our work towards greater faith literacy.

Faith and Belief training is currently being developed for use by line managers, Champions and networks to support more inclusive environments for faith and belief in the Civil Service.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-23/HL13051/>

Press Release

Universities must do more to tackle ethnic disparity

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/universities-must-do-more-to-tackle-ethnic-disparity>

News

More than half of young people in jail are of BME background

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/jan/29/more-than-half-young-people-jail-are-of-bme-background>

'There is no silver bullet': how young BME people suffer under criminal justice system

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/feb/01/we-need-more-black-judges-how-disproportionality-hits-young-bme-people>

Britain criminalising young BME people could spark a new crisis on the streets
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/jan/30/britain-criminalising-bme-young-people-racism>

Universities could lose league table positions for diversity failures
<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2019/feb/01/uk-universities-lose-league-table-positions-diversity-failures>

'Preserved in aspic': opera embarks on diversity drive
<https://www.theguardian.com/music/2019/jan/28/preserved-in-aspic-opera-embarks-on-diversity-drive>

Colour-conscious casting: mixing it up can be a good thing
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/jan/30/the-guardian-view-on-colour-conscious-casting-mixing-it-up-can-be-a-good-thing>

Jacaranda reveals plans to publish 20 black British writers in 2020
<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2019/jan/29/jacaranda-reveals-publish-20-black-british-writers-in-2020-twentyin2020>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Social Media Platforms and Hate Speech

Anna Turley (Labour Co-op): What steps the Government are taking to ensure that social media platform providers identify and remove online hate speech. [908928]

Liz Twist (Labour): What steps the Government are taking to ensure that social media platform providers identify and remove online hate speech. [908932]

Reply from the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (Jeremy Wright): In the digital charter we set out our ambition for everyone to access the opportunities of the internet and to feel safe in doing so. Our forthcoming White Paper will set out measures to ensure platforms take adequate steps to protect their users from online abuse, including hate speech, and as part of the Government's internet safety strategy we have asked the Law Commission to conduct a review of the current law around abusive and offensive online communications.

Anna Turley: ... I hear the Minister's words and look forward to the forthcoming report, but I am afraid this just seems like too little too late. Does he not agree with the Science and Technology Committee, which has published a report today, that an existing regulator such as Ofcom could start work on a harm reduction strategy as soon as October, as I already put forward in a private Member's Bill two years ago? This is urgent.

Reply from Jeremy Wright: I am grateful to the hon. Lady and am familiar with her private Member's Bill and the report to which she refers; both are extremely valuable additions to this consideration. I am sure she will understand, however, that the most important thing we can do ... is make sure that our response is effective and properly thought through and will work in the long term. It is no good getting good headlines for a day or two and then finding that the structures we set up have holes in them that mean they cannot deliver. What that means is that the Government are taking time to get this right. It is also worth pointing out that we are the first country that will do this; if we produce a holistic approach to online harms

and internet regulation, we will be the first country to do it. We should be proud of that, but we should make sure we get it right. We will do it and the hon. Lady will see the White Paper soon, but it needs to be got right.

Liz Twist: On 8 January the Petitions Committee produced its report on its inquiry into internet trolling of people with disabilities. Will the Minister commit to our recommendation to ensure that the internet is no more dangerous for disabled people than for everyone else, and will he include people with disabilities in his consultation?

Reply from Jeremy Wright: The answer to the last question is yes, and the hon. Lady is right to highlight again this report and the issues that surround the abuse that can be directed to disabled people. This is absolutely fundamental. What we must get across, not just in regulatory structures and Government action but in what we all say, is that there is no special rule that applies to the online world that means people can engage in abuse or behaviour that would be unacceptable in any other forum. That is not the case, and we all have to say it with clarity.

Michael Fabricant (Conservative): ... Nick Clegg seemed startled at the idea that Facebook has any responsibility in this area when asked about it on television recently. Does my right hon. and learned Friend have any plans to speak with Mr Clegg about this ...

Reply from Jeremy Wright: ... I spoke to Sir Nick last week and I am happy to tell the House what I told him, which is that when the White Paper is published he and everyone else, including Facebook, will see that the Government's intent is to set out with clarity what the responsibilities of online companies like Facebook are, how they should meet those responsibilities and what will happen to them if they do not.

Tom Watson (Labour): I agree with the Secretary of State that the White Paper should provide remedies for dealing with hate speech; the real test will be whether it protects our children. Last week, we heard of the tragic case of a young girl taking her own life after being exposed to harmful material about depression and suicide online. This week, we have learned that online bullying has doubled. If I got to talk to Nick Clegg, I would tell him that, rather than focusing on protecting children, Facebook and others are focused on profiting from children. This morning, the Science and Technology Committee has called for a legal duty of care on social media companies, and we support that important report. Will Secretary of State confirm that he supports that call, and will he state explicitly that it has to be underpinned and enforced by a regulator that has teeth?

Reply from Jeremy Wright: ... On the point about a duty of care, the hon. Gentleman knows, because we have discussed it, that this is something we are considering carefully. We are also keen to ensure that whatever structures the White Paper sets up can be enforced. Although it is right to point out that some social media companies have done some things in this space that we should applaud, it is clear that there has been nowhere near enough activity yet, and it would be wrong to assume that this House or this Government can sit back and allow the social media companies to do this voluntarily, so there will be further action, and the hon. Gentleman will see it set out in the White Paper. I look forward to his comments and the House's reassurance on this; we will want to hear what everyone in the House and beyond has to say. As I said earlier, this is ground-breaking stuff and the UK should be proud to be able to do it first, but we must do it right. That means that the views, opinions, knowledge and expertise of many more must be included in the process.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-01-31/debates/90B8E52A-807C-4FEA-9864-6F515CF31055/SocialMediaPlatformsAndHateSpeech>

The Digital Charter referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/digital-charter/digital-charter>

The Science and Technology Committee report referred to above can be read at

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmsctech/822/822.pdf>

The Petitions Committee report referred to above can be read at <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmcompetitions/759/759.pdf>

Prime Minister's Questions

Bob Blackman (Conservative): Last Sunday, we commemorated Holocaust Memorial Day, when we remembered the darkest period in Europe's history. Will my right hon. Friend join me in thanking the Holocaust Educational Trust, its youth ambassadors, and the incredible survivors, who give their personal testimony to young people so that they will remember what the ultimate destination of racial hatred and antisemitism truly is?

Reply from the Prime Minister: My hon. Friend is absolutely right to raise the excellent work that the Holocaust Educational Trust does, and the youth ambassadors. I have met some of these youth ambassadors, who have understood the importance of learning the lesson from the holocaust, and understood the importance of acting against antisemitism wherever it occurs—and, indeed, wider racial hatred. As my hon. Friend says, the survivors from the holocaust have given their time to ensuring that nobody is in any doubt about where man's inhumanity to man can lead. They have done a really important job. I pay tribute to them and to their continuing work. It is important that we all recognise the terrible things that can happen when we let antisemitism occur. We should all be fighting against antisemitism wherever it occurs.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-01-30/debates/287C6244-017F-45E8-A4FB-A9E71D7035AC/Engagements#contribution-20001FD1-1814-47E2-BA83-E10B61769CB6>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Religion: Discrimination

Lord Singh of Wimbledon (Crossbench) [HL12940] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth on 14 January (HL Deb, col 7), what measures they have put in place to ensure equal consideration of all faiths in the development and implementation of policy relating to discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief.

Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), as a public authority, has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the need to assess the impact of our policies on people with protected characteristics, and to consider whether it is possible to mitigate or avoid any negative impacts. This includes people with a faith or belief. For each policy, we complete an Equality Impact Assessment. To assist with completing these assessments, in addition to formal consultations, MHCLG Ministers and officials regularly meet with a range of partners, from across faiths and beliefs, to discuss policy considerations. This engagement includes our quarterly Sikh stakeholder roundtable and Lord Bourne's England-wide Faith Tours.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-17/HL12940/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-01-14/debates/5AAEA536-F95C-434E-9331-529C93639C53/Islamophobia>

Religious Hatred: Islam

Lord Pearson of Rannoch (UKIP) [HL12902] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on British

Muslims Islamophobia defined: the inquiry into a working definition of Islamophobia, published in November 2018; and what assessment they have made of whether the evidence that was used in that report was balanced and objective.

Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: We are aware that some have suggested that establishing a definition of Islamophobia could strengthen efforts to confront bigotry and division. We are examining the options for an agreed definition of Islamophobia and intend to develop this through the Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-16/HL12902/>

Press Release

Charities launch anti-bullying campaign

<http://thirdforcenews.org.uk/tfn-news/charities-launch-anti-bullying-campaign>

New Publications

Celebrating Difference

<https://www.chooserespect.scot/celebrating-difference/>

Resources for schools:

Celebrating Difference: Exploring Stereotypes and Anti-Racism

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5b602e3a8ab722cbfa307afa/t/5c4eef0342bfc120279b078a/1548676873246/22391_RESPECTME_REDCARD_V4.pdf

Celebrating Difference: Exploring Appearance Related Bullying

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5b602e3a8ab722cbfa307afa/t/5c4f1ddd562fa7de1ac3e84e/1548688892183/22390_RESPECTME_CHANGINGFACES_COMBINED.pdf

Start a conversation about celebrating difference

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5b602e3a8ab722cbfa307afa/t/5c4f1cf0575d1f05fb4eece3/1548688625955/22380_RESPECTME_PROMPT_COMBINED.pdf

News

Theresa May accused of 'presiding over a rising tide of racism in the UK'

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17396203.theresa-may-accused-of-presiding-over-a-rising-tide-of-racism-in-the-uk/>

Labour leadership urged to 'adequately' tackle antisemitism

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/feb/01/labour-leadership-urged-to-adequately-tackle-antisemitism>

Labour MPs to give Jeremy Corbyn seven days to prove party has acted on antisemitism

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/jeremy-corbyn-labour-party-antisemitism-anti-jewish-plp-a8758911.html>

Labour activist quits over response to antisemitism

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/labour-activist-quits-over-response-to-antisemitism-zfkntt3qt>

Labour MP David Lammy lambasts Jim Davidson for 'legitimising everyday racism' in Twitter row

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/david-lammy-jim-davidson-twitter-racism-political-correctness-race-card-labour-mp-tottenham-a8757836.html>

'It was an anti-Catholic hate crime': Priest spat on during Orange March speaks out following attack

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17396639.it-was-an-anti-catholic-hate-crime-priest-spat-on-during-orange-march-speaks-out-following-attack/>

Thug Bradley Wallace admits spitting at Glasgow priest Tom White during Orange Walk

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17395812.thug-bradley-wallace-admits-spitting-at-glasgow-priest-tom-white-during-orange-walk/>

Spitter at priest caught by his saliva

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/spitter-at-priest-caught-by-his-saliva-tv3b13c50>

Interfaith solidarity is a fight worth fighting

<https://www.faith-matters.org/2019/01/30/interfaith-solidarity-is-a-fight-worth-fighting/>

Anti-Semitism: Wales tops UK Google searches, report says

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-47029732>

YouTube runs antisemitic adverts by Holocaust denier

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/youtube-runs-antisemitic-adverts-by-holocaust-denier-slqn33k7p>

Muslim schoolgirls filmed by man in 'disturbing' racist video being investigated by police

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/muslim-schoolgirls-followed-man-video-footage-police-investigate-london-bow-a8750146.html>

Racism warning as Muslim pupils asked to draw God

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/racism-warning-as-muslim-pupils-asked-to-draw-god-m7wk686zx>

Newcastle Islamic school staff 'afraid' after racist vandalism

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/jan/28/newcastle-islamic-school-staff-afraid-after-racist-vandalism>

Warwick university students banned over rape threats and racial slurs allowed back early

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/warwick-university-students-rape-threats-ban-racism-facebook-group-chat-campus-a8756126.html>

Group expelled over racist rant could return to Warwick

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/group-expelled-over-racist-rant-could-return-to-warwick-9rvkdh0pp>

London Jewish Museum to explore tropes about money

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jan/31/london-jewish-museum-to-explore-tropes-about-money>

Muslim pupils at Trojan Horse schools meet Holocaust survivors

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/muslim-pupils-at-trojan-horse-schools-meet-holocaust-survivors-h35h6w6c7>

The Nazis tried to kill kindness. We fight against that'

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2019/jan/29/nazis-tried-to-kill-kindness-holocaust-survivors-grandson-ss-officer>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-15679 Ruth Maguire (SNP): Scotland's Domestic Abuse and Forced Marriage Helpline – That the Parliament congratulates Scottish Women's Aid on being awarded the contract from the Scottish Government for the continued management of Scotland's Domestic Abuse and Forced Marriage Helpline; considers that the helpline is a crucial lifeline providing specialist support and somewhere safe to speak for anyone with experience of domestic abuse and forced marriage, as well as their family members, friends, colleagues and professionals who support them; notes that the telephone number is 0800 027 1234 and is open 24/7; encourages everyone to share the helpline's information to ensure that those affected by domestic abuse or forced marriage are aware that they are not alone, and thanks Scottish Women's Aid for its continued efforts working towards the eradication of domestic abuse.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-15679>

Press Releases

Scotland's Open Government Action Plan: 2018-2020

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-open-government-action-plan-2018-20/>

Young people urged to set out their future hopes for the Scottish Parliament

<https://www.parliament.scot/newsandmediacentre/110974.aspx>

New Publication

Open Government in Scotland Action Plan 2018-2020

<https://tinyurl.com/y7wseg6q>

News

Opt-out organ donation system backed by MSPs will not boost donations, warn experts

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opt-out-organ-donation-system-backed-by-msps-will-not-boost-donations-warn-experts-1-4866521>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Census: Ethnic Groups

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [211331] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what assessment he has made of the effect on the quality of information provided by having a write-in option compared to a tick box option for ethnicity in the Census in terms of public bodies monitoring ethnic groups.

Reply from Chloe Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply. ...

On Friday 14 December 2018 the Government published a White Paper 'Help Shape Our Future: The 2021 Census of Population and Housing in England and Wales'¹ laying out the UK Statistics Authority's proposals for the conduct and content of the 2021 Census. In May 2016, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) published the criteria² used for assessing the content of the census and this includes data quality, along with other criteria including user needs, legal obligations and operational requirements.

The White Paper includes ONS's recommendations, which fully recognise the need for robust, accurate data on the ethnic group category. The recommendations for the ethnic group are set out in Section 3 of the White Paper. Sections 3.182 to 3.184 may be of interest, as these set out improvements for equalities monitoring following the census:

3.182 In 2017 the government online data service "Ethnicity Facts and Figures", published by the Race Disparity Unit, showed that data collections on ethnic group across the public sector are not consistent. In addition, religion is little monitored across government. ONS recognises that for communities including the Sikh, Jewish and Roma communities this means many aspects of their communities' needs are hidden at present and that this needs to change. <https://www.ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk>

3.183 As well as the consideration ONS has given to how this can be addressed in the census, ONS will use the new possibilities provided by the Digital Economy Act 2017 to address these needs. ONS will work across government to identify a body that collects data on each key characteristic so that once collected the data can be shared with ONS and used with other data to improve the government's ability to identify and address disadvantage associated with each of the protected characteristics across government, consistently, at lower cost to the taxpayer, and lower burden on users of public services.

3.184 In advance of this the harmonisation guidance will be updated as soon as possible to ensure that it fully reflects the range of communities that need to be monitored as a race.

You may also like to consider both ONS's and the Government's responses³ to the Women and Equalities Select Committee Race Disparity Audit report, and the Committee's recommendations with regards to improving the collection and availability of data by ethnicity across the public sector.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-2021-census-of-population-and-housing-in-england-and-wales>

² <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/censustransformationprogramme/questiondevelopment/2021censustopicresearchupdatedecember2018>

³ <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmwomeq/1537/1537.pdf>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-22/211331/>

The White Paper referred to above can be read at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/765089/Census2021WhitePaper.pdf

The data service referred to above can be read at <https://www.ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk/>

The following four questions all received the same answer

Census: Sikhs

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [211865] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, pursuant to the Answer of 20 December 2018 to Question 202832 on Census: Sikhs, of the 53 participants who took part in the focus groups to consider the possible addition of new tick boxes, how many felt a specific Sikh ethnic tick-box was not acceptable.

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [211866] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of Sikhs who did not tick the optional Sikh religious tick box in the 2011 census.

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [211867] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what estimate his Department has made of the number of Sikhs in England and Wales.

Census

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [211868] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, with reference to paragraph 3.89 of the White Paper entitled Help Shape Our Future: The 2021 Census of Population and Housing in England and Wales, which of the 55 proposed tick boxes received the most number of requests.

Reply from Chloe Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply. ...

Independent research was undertaken to understand the acceptability of the Sikh response option (within the ethnic group question) to the wider Sikh population. This is published on the Kantar website at “Focus groups to consider the addition of possible new tick boxes”¹. It showed a specific Sikh ethnic tick-box was not acceptable to all participants involved in the research, particularly amongst younger, second-generation participants, who felt it was unfair to include Sikh without also including all other religions within the ethnic group question. It also added respondent burden, with some respondents being confused on whether to identify as Indian, Sikh or to write in another identity such as Punjabi.

For the 2011 Census in England and Wales, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) estimated that of the 430,020 persons who identified themselves as Sikh, 6,862 (1.6%) identified themselves in the ethnic group question and choose not to identify themselves as Sikh in the religion question.

ONS estimated the number of persons who identified themselves as Sikh in England and Wales, at the time of the 2011 Census, at 430,020.

ONS have published the following table with data from the 2011 Census: CT0736 - Religion (Sikh and remainder of religion) by ethnic group (write-in response: Sikh and remainder of ethnic group)². Table 1 (below) summarises the data from CT0736.

Religion (Sikh)	Ethnic Group (Sikh write-in)	Total	Percentage
YES	YES	76,500	17.8%
YES	NO	346,658	80.6%
NO	YES	6,862	1.6%
Total		430,020	100.0%

The number of requests for a tick-box is not an indicator of user need or any other of the published criteria³ used for assessing the content of the census. When evaluating requests for each of the 55 proposed additional tick-boxes referenced in

paragraph 3.89 of the White Paper (Help Shape Our Future: The 2021 Census of Population and Housing in England and Wales⁴), the requests were prioritised initially against strength of need as established during our 2015 consultation. There was also further consideration against criteria including the availability of alternative data sources, data quality, and comparability. The most frequently requested tick-box out of the 55 was a Sikh tick-box, for which there were 14 requests (from a mix of individuals and organisations) with submitted evidence.

¹ <http://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&ved=2ahUKEwjUw5fzhIngAhXFK1AKHUS2Bu0QFiAAeqQIChAC&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.kantar.com%2Fpublic%2Fdownload%2Fdocuments%2F227%2FONS%2BEthncity%2BFocus%2BGroups%2BReport.pdf&usg=AOvVaw3qreUcZJNM2-icwkp0obbC>

² <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/ethnicity/adhocs/007501ct0736religionsikhandremainderbyethnicgroupsikhandremainder>

³ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/censustransformationprogramme/questiondevelopment/2021censustopicresearchupdatedecember2018>

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-2021-census-of-population-and-housing-in-england-and-wales>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-23/211865/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-23/211866/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-23/211867/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-23/211868/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

National FGM Centre

Sarah Champion (Labour) [210632] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the National FGM Centre.

National FGM Centre: Finance

Sarah Champion (Labour) [210633] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what plans he has for the funding arrangements of the National FGM Centre after 2020.

Reply from Nadhim Zahawi: In July 2017, the department made over £1.6 million available from our Innovation Programme to Barnardo's to run the National FGM (Female Genital Mutilation) Centre for three years. The proportion of the centre's costs to be paid by the department reduces year by year, with the centre to be self-sustaining from April 2020. The University of Bedfordshire is evaluating the centre and the evaluation is due to be completed by July this year.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-21/210632/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-21/210633/>

The following three questions both received the same answer

Female Genital Mutilation: Victims

Sarah Champion (Labour) [210636] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate he has made of the average cost of supporting an FGM victim

in the UK, including the provision of (a) mental health support, (b) safeguarding costs, (c) medical support, and (d) other associated costs.

Female Genital Mutilation

Sarah Champion (Labour) [210637] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent steps the Government has taken to develop a cross-departmental strategy on tackling FGM.

National FGM Centre: Finance

Sarah Champion (Labour) [210638] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his Department has plans to allocate future funding to the National FGM Centre.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a crime and it is child abuse. The Government is clear that we will not tolerate a practice that can cause extreme and lifelong suffering to women and girls

The Government has significantly strengthened the law in 2015 to improve protection for victims and those at risk, and to break down the barriers to prosecution.

Work to tackle FGM is an integral part of our cross-Government Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy, published in March 2016. The Strategy commits to continue to challenge deep-rooted social norms, attitudes and behaviours that discriminate against and limit women and girls across all communities. As part of our commitment to tackling all forms of VAWG, we have pledged £100 million in funding, including the £17 million VAWG transformation fund. This year, we will refresh the strategy to ensure that we are doing all that we can to tackle crimes which disproportionately affect women.

In July 2017, the National FGM Centre received additional funding through the Department for Education's Social Care Innovation Programme to support its work through to the end of March 2020. The intention was for this funding to be time limited, with the Centre to be self-sustaining from April 2020. Therefore, the Home Office have no plans to contribute to the funding of the Centre beyond March 2020. The Home Office does not hold information on the average cost of supporting an FGM victim in the UK. However, we are committed to continuing our work to protect and support victims and those at risk of this terrible crime.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-21/210636/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-21/210637/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-21/210638/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Female Genital Mutilation

Lord Porter of Spalding (Conservative) [HL12848] To ask Her Majesty's Government what analysis they have conducted into the prevalence of female genital mutilation in England.

Reply from Baroness Mansoor: An estimated 137,000 women in the United Kingdom are affected by female genital mutilation (FGM). NHS Digital publishes annual experimental statistics – the FGM Enhanced Dataset – which supports the Department's FGM Prevention Programme by presenting a national picture of the prevalence of FGM in England. The most recent quarterly statistics, published in

December 2018 and covering the period July-September 2018, show that there were 1,630 women and girls who had an attendance where FGM was identified or a procedure related to FGM was undertaken. These accounted for 2,025 attendances reported at National Health Service trusts and general practitioner practices where FGM was identified or a procedure related to FGM was undertaken. There were 925 newly recorded women and girls in this period.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-15/HL12848/>

Press Releases

Mother first to be convicted of female genital mutilation

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/london-north/news/mother-first-be-convicted-female-genital-mutilation>

Downing Street transformed for Chinese New Year celebration

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/downing-street-transformed-for-chinese-new-year-celebration>

New Publication

**Briefing: International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation:
6 February 2019**

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/LLN-2019-0016/LLN-2019-0016.pdf>

News

FGM conviction: Mother of girl, 3, becomes first person found guilty of female genital mutilation in UK

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/fgm-first-uk-conviction-mother-three-year-old-female-genital-mutilation-witchcraft-london-a8758641.html>

Mother of three-year-old is first in Britain to be convicted of female genital mutilation

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/02/01/first-fgm-conviction-uk-mother-faces-lengthy-jail-sentence/>

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Other News

Glasgow Caledonian University to become European hub for youth volunteering

<https://www.gcu.ac.uk/newsroom/news/article/index.php?id=269157>

Urgent action needed to address lack of FGM awareness, say experts

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/feb/02/urgent-action-needed-address-lack-fgm-awareness>

Are we about to witness the rise of 'transracialism'?

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/life/witness-rise-transracialism/>

School defends LGBT lessons after religious parents complain

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2019/jan/31/school-defends-lgbt-lessons-after-religious-parents-complain>

Muslim school will not allow girls to eat lunch until after boys have finished, Ofsted chief says

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/2019/01/30/muslim-school-will-not-allow-girls-eat-lunch-boys-have-finished/>

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Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

**** Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Scotland) Bill**

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/108681.aspx>

Holyrood Committee backs move to change consent arrangements for organ donation

<https://www.parliament.scot/newsandmediacentre/110941.aspx>

Health and Sport Committee: Stage 1 Report

https://www.parliament.scot/S5_HealthandSportCommittee/Human_Tissue_Stage_1_Report.pdf

Vulnerable Witnesses (Criminal Evidence) (Scotland) Bill

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/108702.aspx>

UK Parliament

Border Control Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/bordercontrol.html>

Children Act 1989 (Amendment) (Female Genital Mutilation) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/childrenact1989amendmentfemalegenitalmutilation.html>

EEA Nationals (Indefinite Leave to Remain) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/eeanationalsindefiniteleavetoremain.html>

Gypsy and Traveller Communities (Housing, Planning and Education)

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/gypsyandtravellercommunitieshousingplanningandeducation.html>

Holocaust (Return of Cultural Objects) (Amendment) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/holocaustreturnofculturalobjectsamendment.html>

Human Trafficking (Child Protection) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/humantraffickingchildprotection.html>

**** Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill**

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/immigrationandsocialsecuritycoordinationeuwithdrawal.html>

Second Reading, House of Commons

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-01-28/debates/321FEFF1-26E7-4194-91BD-BC530B5AE57E/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination\(EUWithdrawal\)Bill#debate-3677218](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-01-28/debates/321FEFF1-26E7-4194-91BD-BC530B5AE57E/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination(EUWithdrawal)Bill#debate-3677218)

Impact assessment

[https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2017-2019/0309/2018-12-18%20Impact%20Assessment%20\(signed\)%20-%20Immigration%20Social%20Security%20Co-ordination%20Bill.pdf](https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2017-2019/0309/2018-12-18%20Impact%20Assessment%20(signed)%20-%20Immigration%20Social%20Security%20Co-ordination%20Bill.pdf)

Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/humantraffickingchildprotection.html>

Immigration (Time Limit on Detention) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/immigrationtimelimitondetention.html>

Modern Slavery (Transparency in Supply Chains) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/modernslaverytransparencyinsupplychains.html>

Modern Slavery (Victim Support) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/modernslaveryvictimsupport.html>

Online Forums Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/onlineforums.html>

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/refugeesfamilyreunionbill.html>

Refugees (Family Reunion) (No. 2) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/refugeesfamilyreunionno2.html>

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (Legal Advice and Appeals) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/unaccompaniedasylumseekingchildrenlegaladviceandappeals.html>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

'Adults at Risk' in immigration detention (closing date 14 February 2019)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/call-for-evidence-adults-at-risk-in-immigration-detention>

One Scotland: Hate Has No Home Here (closing date 24 February 2019)

<https://consult.gov.scot/hate-crime/consultation-on-scottish-hate-crime-legislation/>

European responses to irregular migration (closing date 25 February 2019)
<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/foreign-affairs-committee/news-parliament-2017/irregular-migration-launch-17-19/>

**** closing date extended!**

Racial harassment in higher education (closing date 28 February 2019)
<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/inquiries-and-investigations/racial-harassment-higher-education-our-inquiry>

Scottish charity law (closing date 1 April 2019)
<https://tinyurl.com/y9ln88df>

Proposed Post-Mortem Examinations (Defence Time-Limit) (Scotland) Bill
(closing date 4 April 2019)
www.parliament.scot/S5MembersBills/20190108_Gil_Paterson_Consultation_document.pdf

Defamation in Scots law (closing date 5 April 2019)
<https://tinyurl.com/yb7dv8tu>

Experiences of Islamophobia (closing date not stated)
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/amina-islamophobia>

Social inclusion, loneliness and belonging in society (closing date not stated)
<http://app.surveymethods.com/EndUser.aspx?B397FBE3BAF0E3E2B3>

Raising skills and standards of supporters of refugees and asylum seekers
(closing date not stated)
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/3R8SDYN>

Police Scotland: Your view counts (open all year)
<http://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/decision-making/public-consultation/local-policing-consultation>

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Job Opportunities

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

[Click here](#) to find out about Graduate, Modern, and Foundation Apprenticeship opportunities.

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Working with refugees and VPRS resettlement
5 February 2019 in Glasgow
23 May 2019 in Glasgow
2 October 2019 in Glasgow

21 November 2019 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to examine the issues facing Syrian refugees as they move from countries around Syria to the UK, and highlight the challenges and opportunities they face as they build new lives in Scotland. Reduced fees available. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/zy436gr> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

**** this week!**

One Scotland: Hate Has No Home Here

6 February 2019 in Aberdeen (12.00-3.00)

<https://tinyurl.com/y9a9x6h8>

7 February 2019 in Shetland (10.00-1.00)

<https://tinyurl.com/yahlmwvm>

12 February 2019 in Stirling (10.00-1.00)

<https://tinyurl.com/y72rahnbn>

Scottish Government Hate Crime consultation meetings to provide information about the proposals, and enable individuals and communities to give their views. For information and to book a place, please click on the relevant link above.

**** this week!**

Introduction to Policing Programme

10, 17, and 24 February 2019 (three-day course) in Glasgow, Tulliallan, and Jackton

Police Scotland course to encourage people from minority ethnic communities to consider a career in policing. For information see www.scojec.org/memo/files/19ii_ps.pdf , contact recruitmentpositiveactionteam@scotland.pnn.police.uk or request to join the closed facebook group 'Police Scotland Positive Action'

Disability Benefits for Migrants

12 February 2019 in Glasgow (9.30-12.30)

PAiH course to cover presence and residence tests and strategies for supporting tenants and service users through the application process for disability benefits. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training/#unique-identifier5>

Overcoming Unconscious Bias

12 February 2019 in Kirkcaldy (9.30-4.00)

Fife Centre for Equalities training to help those in positions of leadership to understand hidden factors that contribute to the success or failure of organisational policy and strategy. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y87rbupl>

Working with unaccompanied refugee children

14 February 2019 in Glasgow

1 May 2019 in Glasgow

26 September 2019 in Glasgow

6 November 2019 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to enable service providers to better understand separated children, and how you can help them in their journey. Reduced fees available. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y7mz5uuv> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

BME Women's Experiences of Gender Based Violence

15 February 2019 in Edinburgh (10.00-4.00)

Scottish Women's Aid session to raise awareness and broaden understanding of the varied issues for black and minority ethnic (BME) women and their children experiencing domestic abuse, forced marriage and other types of gender based violence. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yd6hnycp> or contact 01312266606

Still Not Visible: Black and Minority Ethnic Women's Experiences of Employment in Scotland

19 February 2019 in Glasgow (9.30-1.15)

Close the Gap conference to launch a new report exploring BME women's employment experiences including recruitment, workplace culture, training, and childcare. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yaajacx4>

The Gathering

20-21 February 2019 in Edinburgh

The Gathering is the largest free third sector event in the UK with over 100 exhibitors, and a packed programme featuring more than 70 workshops, seminars and training sessions. For information see <https://scvo.org.uk/the-gathering-2019>

Age assessment awareness

20 February 2019 in Glasgow

9 May 2019 in Glasgow

13 November 2019 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to give social workers and other relevant staff an awareness of the components that are used to build a picture of a person's age. It draws on a variety of existing Age Assessment practice guidelines and demonstrates how these apply in Scotland. Reduced fees available. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y8f2z7p4> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

No Recourse to Public Funds

26 February 2019 in Glasgow (9.30-12.30)

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 to maintain tenancies where difficulties arise. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training/#unique-identifier5>

Fostering Good Race Relations in Scotland

26 February 2019 in Glasgow (10.00-3.00)

CRER event to address the challenges and opportunities of fostering good relations, including the potential and pitfalls of using the Scottish Social Attitudes Survey in policy aimed at fostering good race relations, the role of local Integration Plans and Community Cohesion Plans in fostering good race relations in other areas of Britain, and fostering good race relations in the community and public sectors, in theory and practice. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y9f435sy>

Working with refugees and the asylum process

28 February 2019 in Glasgow

15 May 2019 in Glasgow

18 September 2019 in Glasgow

31 October 2019 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to examine why people might need to flee their own country, how they seek asylum in the UK, and what opportunities exist for rebuilding their lives here in Scotland. Reduced fees available for relevant organisations. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/z68a5k8> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Working with People from Diverse Religion & Belief Backgrounds

5 March 2019 in Glasgow (9.30-1.00)

Interfaith Scotland course to increase confidence in discussing and responding to the religion and belief of others at work, learn about the core beliefs and cultural practices of the main faiths, and the individual needs that may arise from a person's faith or belief identity. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y9bkt6e2>

**** Lunchtime Equality Workshop**

6 March 2019 in Kirkcaldy (12.00-1.30)

Fife Centre for Equalities workshop to find out about the latest equality statistics for Fife. For information contact Elric@centreforequalities.org.uk / 01592 645310.

Working with Interpreters

7 March 2019 in Glasgow

24 April 2019 in Glasgow

8 October 2019 in Glasgow

28 November 2019 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to train service providers in the processes of using an interpreter, examine the pitfalls – and consequences – of this aspect of service provision, looking at confidentiality, professional boundaries, including appropriate behaviour and standards, and evaluation processes. Reduced fees available for relevant organisations. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/jt93fog> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals

12 March 2019 in Glasgow (9.30-12.30)

19 March 2019 in Edinburgh (9.30-12.30)

PAiH course to provide information on fundamental issues of housing, employment and welfare entitlements of EEA nationals, For information see

<http://www.paih.org/training/#unique-identifier2>

Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

12 March 2019 in Glasgow (1.30-12.30)

19 March 2019 in Edinburgh (1.30-4.30)

PAiH course to provide information about rights of refugees and asylum seekers in the UK, explore how the asylum system works from the perspective of a claimant and the process involved in making a claim for asylum, and explore the barriers faced by both refugees and asylum seekers building a new life in Scotland and their respective entitlement to services. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training/#unique-identifier3>

Three Mottos for Excellence in Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

14 March 2018 in Glasgow (9.30-1.00)

Interfaith Scotland course to consider three models that help guide our thinking, as we seek to tackle discrimination, communicate across difference and understand the relationship between our identities, our experiences and our worldview. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yd8uhfeq>

Refugee rights to housing

22 March 2019 in Glasgow

7 November 2019 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course identifying the different groups of asylum seekers and refugees most likely to seek housing in Scotland, their legal rights, and the duties and obligations on local authorities and other housing organisations towards them. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y9pvpl5r> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Engaging with seldom heard voices

27 March 2019 in Glasgow

5 December 2019 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course looking at the various approaches, tools and techniques we can adopt to reach out to people who are seldom heard. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y8tg2x4k> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Equality and intersectionality

29 March 2019 in Edinburgh (12.00-4.00)

University of Edinburgh and Equality Network event to share learning about equality work and applying intersectionality across cities, sectors and countries of the UK, and network with people working in equality third sector organisations in England and Scotland, people in the public sector, academics and equality policy makers. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yaerx9fm>

Inclusion Cultivation

16 April 2019 in Kirkcaldy (9.30-4.00)

Fife Centre for Equalities workshop to help those aspire to be equality trainers to learn the techniques in designing and conducting a programme of activities, approaches you can adopt in your promotional strategy, and confidence to lead discussions on fairness and equality. For more information see <https://tinyurl.com/yb6anztx>

Refugee community sponsorship

21 May 2019 in Glasgow

11 December 2019 in Glasgow

For information see http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/what_we_do/training or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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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>

European Parliament <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/portal/en>

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

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

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/working-jobs/finding-a-job/disclosure/>

Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services <https://www.volunteerscotland.net/for-organisations/disclosure-services/>

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

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



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



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

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