



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 Motion

S5M-15896 Sandra White (SNP): Glasgow Girl Amal Azzudin, Honoured with the World Changing Alumni Award – That the Parliament congratulates Amal Azzudin, who has been presented with the World Changing Alumni Award by the University of Glasgow; notes that this honour is presented each year by the university to recognise and celebrate the achievements of a graduate over the last 15 years who has made a major contribution to the community, arts, science or business; believes that Amal has been deservedly recognised for her commitment to, and campaigning for, human rights and social justice; notes that this started when, as a teenager, she was one of the seven "Glasgow Girls", the group of school friends from Drumchapel High School that campaigned and stood up against dawn raids against, and the detention and deportation of, asylum seekers in Glasgow; acknowledges that the girls' story has since been shown as a documentary, stage musical and television drama; notes that Amal is the Equality and Human Rights

Officer for the Mental Health Foundation in Scotland; understands that she primarily manages its refugee programme, including the Sawti project; notes that, as well as this, she is also an ambassador for the Scottish Refugee Council; recognises the incredible impact that it believes Amal has had in championing equality and human rights, and wishes her continued success.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-15896>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Schools: Migration

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [220324] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what guidance his Department offers to (a) teachers and (b) schools on how they present the issue of migration.

Reply from Nick Gibb: The Department does not offer guidance to teachers or schools on how they present the issue of migration. However, sections 406 and 407 of the Education Act 1996 require maintained schools to prevent political indoctrination and secure the balanced treatment of political issues. This duty is reflected in the funding agreements for academies and free schools. In particular, Section 407 of the Education Act 1996 places a duty on schools to ensure that where political issues are brought to the attention of pupils, they are offered a balanced presentation of opposing views.

There have been recent valuable additions to the resources available to support teaching of this issue in History. For example, the Windrush Foundation has produced key stage 2 lesson plans for primary schools, and the Runnymede Trust's 'Our Migration Story' website provides extensive resources, including lesson plans. The Geographical Association and the Royal Geographical Society both provide resources on the issue to support teaching of the Geography curriculum.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-12/220324/>

The Windrush Foundation lesson plans can be requested from

<https://windrushfoundation.com/70-windrush-pioneers-and-champions-empire-windrush-education-resource/>

The Runnymede Trust resource is available at

<https://www.ourmigrationstory.org.uk/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: Publications

Jo Swinson (Liberal Democrat) [219337] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what oversight his Department has on the content included in Life in the United Kingdom: A guide for new residents.

Jo Swinson (Liberal Democrat) [219338] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to ensure the people listed in the next edition of Life in the United Kingdom: A guide for new residents reflect the diversity of the UK.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office manages the Life in the United Kingdom contract and approves the content of each publication.

The Department is reviewing the content of the handbook to ensure it re-flects modern society and British values – including the diversity of the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-11/219337/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-11/219338/>

Migrant Workers

Nigel Dodds (DUP) [221604] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the UK's future skills-based immigration system White Paper, published in December 2018, Cm. 9722, whether the time-limited transitional measure for low skilled labour will permit successful migrant workers to travel between regions and countries of the UK for the period of their stay where the nature of their work demands it.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The transitional route will be open to workers from low risk countries at all skill levels and there will be no restrictions on migrants wishing to travel within the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-14/221604/>

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

Visas: Applications

Deidre Brock (SNP) [220269] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of visa applications made using the Super Priority 24 hour service have received a decision within the service standard.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office does not collate or publish the information requested. Available information on visas and service standards can be found at

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-12/220269/>

Visas: Overseas Visitors

Hannah Bardell (SNP) [221834] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of visit visa applications have been refused in each year since 2000.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Home Office published statistics on visitor entry clearance visas start from 2005.

Information on visitor entry clearance visa applications and outcomes (grants, refusals, withdrawn and lapsed cases) is published on a quarterly basis as part of the Home Office publication scheme, in the Home Office's 'Immigration Statistics', Visas data tables volume 1, table vi_01_q. The latest edition can be found at

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-14/221834/>

Immigration: English Language

Keith Vaz (Labour) [220069] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many English language test centres in the UK accept certified copies of passports for non-UK citizens who want to apply for leave to remain.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: There are currently no Home Office English language test centres within the UK that accept copies of passports as standard, whether certified or not. Details of what documents can be accepted as proof of identity to

take the approved Secure English Language Test are published on the www.gov.uk website, which sets out the Home Office position on copies:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/544663/2016-08-08_-_SELT_candidate_identification_requirements_v1.1.pdf

The only exceptional circumstance which might apply is where the Home Office is holding the original document in which case separate arrangements are made with test centres to verify identity in liaison with Home Office officials.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-12/220069/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: Carers

Stephen Doughty (Labour Co-op) [220909] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what advice has been given to Zambrano carers following the rulings in *Chen v Home Secretary* and *Maria Teixeira v London Borough of Lambeth and Home Secretary* in the context of (a) the UK's withdrawal from the EU and (b) the UK leaving the EU without a deal.

Immigration: Families

Stephen Doughty (Labour Co-op) [220910] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what advice his Department has provided to people involved in *Surinder Singh* immigration cases on the implications for their immigration status of the UK leaving the EU (a) with and (b) without a deal.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: In a deal scenario, provision will be made in the Immigration Rules for a non-EU citizen who is resident in the UK as the primary carer of a British citizen, and who currently derives a right of residence from wider EU law (a Zambrano carer), as set out in paragraph 6.12 of the Statement of Intent on the EU Settlement Scheme (published on 21 June 2018). Further details will be provided shortly on the new status which will be available to Zambrano carers in both a 'deal' and 'no deal' scenario.

Paragraph 6.12 of the Statement of Intent also set out that, in a 'deal' scenario, non-EU citizen family members of British citizens who are lawfully resident in the UK by the end of the implementation period on 31 December 2020, by virtue of regulation 9 of the EEA Regulations (the '*Surinder Singh*' route), will be eligible to apply for status under the EU Settlement Scheme. Further details will be provided shortly on the immigration status of family members of British citizens returning from the EU in both a 'deal' and 'no deal' scenario.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-13/220909/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-13/220910/>

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

*Information about the '*Surinder Singh*' route, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/family-permit/surinder-singh>

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 two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: EEA Nationals

Stephen Doughty (Labour Co-op) [221777] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether all Surinder Singh people with issued EEA Family Permits and UK Residence Cards will have to re-submit all evidence of life in the UK when re-applying for permanent UK residence after 29 March 2019.

Stephen Doughty (Labour Co-op) [221778] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent estimate he has made of the number of Surinder Singh cases that will have to re-apply for permanent UK residency after 29 March 2019.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Where an application is made to the EU Settlement Scheme by an applicant who holds valid permanent residence documentation, or valid indefinite leave to enter or remain in the UK, the assessment of their previous UK residence will not be repeated.

Otherwise, evidence of UK residence for the relevant period will be required. The application process will help the applicant to establish their continuous residence, on an automated basis using data held by HM Revenue & Customs and the Department for Work and Pensions. This will keep the documentary evidence the applicant is required to provide to a minimum. If needed, the applicant will be able to upload documentary evidence of their continuous residence.

There has been no estimate made of how many people documented under the 'Surinder Singh' provisions (those resident here by virtue of regulation 9 of the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2016) will need to make an application to the EU Settlement Scheme. Those currently resident here under regulation 9 are not generally required to hold EEA documentation in order to be lawfully resident in the UK, as is the case with other direct family members of EEA citizens whose residence rights are automatic.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-14/221777/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-14/221778/>

Information about the 'Surinder Singh' route, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/family-permit/surinder-singh>

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

Peter Grant (SNP) [220282] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when he plans to publish the details of the refund process for EU nationals who have already paid fees through the EU Settlement Scheme.

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/2019-02-12/220282/>

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>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Deidre Brock (SNP) [200136] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether it is his policy to allow third-party payment of the fees for applications for settled status for EU citizens.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: As my Rt Hon Friend the Prime Minister told the House of Commons on 21 January (col. 28) “that we have listened to concerns raised in constituencies, by Members in the House and by user groups, and when we roll out the scheme fully in March, the Government will not charge an application fee to anyone applying under the EU Settlement Scheme. Anyone who has applied during the private or public beta test phases, or who does so, will have their fee reimbursed. Details of the refunds process will be published shortly.”

It was a matter for individual organisations or employers to decide whether they wished to pay on an applicant’s behalf, give them the funds to pay, or reimburse the fee.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-07/200136/>

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

Patrick Grady (SNP) [220942] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what costs are incurred by people contacting the dedicated telephone advice service for the EU Settlement Scheme using (a) mobile phones and (b) landlines.

Patrick Grady (SNP) [220943] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of making the dedicated telephone advice service for the EU Settlement Scheme a freephone service for all those calling from UK phone numbers.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office will not charge for this service although calls to the Settlement Resolution Centre from within the UK will cost the same as dialling any 01 or 02 number. This can be up to 10p per minute from a UK landline and between 3p to 40p from a mobile, depending upon the provider. Applicants may get free calls to some numbers as part of their call package. We also have an 02 number available for those calling from overseas.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-13/220942/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-13/220943/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Peter Grant (SNP) [222045] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of problems with the EU Settlement Scheme application system not recognising diacritical markings, such as umlauts, in EU nationals' names; and what plans he has to resolve those problems.

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 attempt to eliminate perceived errors translating special characters by using technology to read data direct from the passport Machine Readable Zone (MRZ) – the text at the bottom of a passport and passport chip.

The MRZ does not include special characters such as diacritical marks and neither does the chip in the document. This is in line with International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) standard for passports that all EU passports adhere to. The ICAO standard provides translation matrices for each marking to the English alphabet. However, in some cases there are options that can be chosen for the same letter with diacritical marks, so transforming the name back to one with diacritical marks can be complex. We feel it is important that a person's online status should reflect their true name with diacritical marks, something that does not happen where physical documents are issued.

However, as diacritical marks are not recognised or recorded across government and other public services (where names are often recorded from the name in the MRZ of the passport), the matching to this data is less affected, though it also depends upon how employers enter the name of the employee.

The beta test phases have provided us with a useful opportunity to prove various elements of the scheme functionality and we continue to refine the handling of special characters including how this could apply retrospectively to any applicants who may want their data to be corrected.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-15/222045/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Afzal Khan (Labour) [221820] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 12 February 2019 to Question 218366, whether his Department has made an estimate of the number of people who will be registered for settled status in the United Kingdom by (a) 29 March 2019, (b) 31 December 2020 and (c) 30 June 2021, in the event of the UK leaving the EU (i) with a withdrawal agreement and (ii) without a deal.

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. Following two successful private beta test phases, we commenced the wider public roll-out of the scheme on 21 January. The EU Settlement Scheme will be fully open by 30 March 2019 and EU citizens will have until 30 June 2021 to apply, in line with the draft Withdrawal Agreement.

In the event of a no deal, the Prime Minister has already made clear that all EU citizens resident here by 29 March 2019 will be welcome to stay. The deadline for applications will be 31 December 2020 to align with the start of the new UK immigration system.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-14/221820/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-07/218366/>

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

Jo Stevens (Labour) [194757] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the level of awareness among non-UK EU citizens living in the UK of the legal requirement to apply for Settled Status.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We have launched a targeted communications campaign to maximise awareness and reassure EU citizens of our commitment to protect their rights and entitlements. Activity will increase as we progress through

the phased roll out of the scheme.

Individuals will have sufficient time to apply for status before the end of the post-exit period.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-22/194757/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Lloyd Russell-Moyle (Labour Co-op) [221003] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans he has to ensure that deaf people who are fluent in sign language but not written English will be able to complete their application 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. That is why we are working in partnership with vulnerable group representatives, Local Authorities and other experts to identify user needs and provide the needed support.

Since November 2017, we have held monthly meetings with representatives of EU citizens on the design and development of the scheme. We have been working closely with these groups to identify the needs of potentially vulnerable applicants including the disabled, elderly and isolated. We will have a broad range of support in place to assist applicants through the process, including translations of guidance in all 23 EU languages and Welsh. Additionally, up to £9 million of grant funding will also be made available to enable civil society organisations to mobilise services targeted at vulnerable EU citizens and their families to ensure those that require the most support to apply to the scheme can access it.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-13/221003/>

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

Jo Stevens (Labour) [222663] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps the Office of the Public Guardian is taking to ensure that non-UK EU citizens within its remit register for settled status.

Reply from Edward Argar: The Office of the Public Guardian remit covers England and Wales. This is a matter for the attorneys and deputies to consider as part of their best interest considerations towards the donor/clients. It is not something OPG can insist upon. If the donor/client is disadvantaged, e.g. through lack of access to healthcare and benefits or Local Authority support because of the failure to apply for settled status, then this may be an issue for OPG to consider when determining whether decisions are being made in the best interest of the donor/client. OPG will review its guidance as appropriate.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-18/222663/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Jo Stevens (Labour) [222664] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he is taking to ensure that EU citizens with mental incapacity will be registered for settled status.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office has put in place a comprehensive vulnerability strategy to ensure that the EU Settlement Scheme is accessible for all. A user group of external stakeholders who represent the needs of vulnerable individuals has been established to work with the Home Office to assess

understand relevant risks and issues and to ensure the right support arrangements are in place for applicants, including those with mental incapacity.

It is possible for someone to apply to the Scheme on behalf of someone with a mental incapacity. The Home Office will accept a range of evidence of identity and residence on behalf of an applicant. In addition, where someone misses the deadline for their application for a good reason, they will be given a reasonable further period in which to apply.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-18/222664/>

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

Jo Stevens (Labour) [222665] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment his Department has made of the risks that the opt-in process for applying for settled status poses for people with a mental incapacity.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office requires EU citizens to ‘opt-in’ to the EU Settlement Scheme by making an application as an immigration status cannot be granted without the consent of the individual. Furthermore, there is no record of which EU citizens are currently resident in the UK, so individuals must identify themselves in order to apply to the scheme.

The Home Office has put in place a comprehensive vulnerability strategy to ensure that the EU Settlement Scheme is accessible for all, including those requiring someone to make an application on their behalf.

A user group of external stakeholders who represent the needs of vulnerable individuals has been established to work with the Home Office to understand relevant risks and issues and to ensure the right support arrangements are in place for applicants, including those with mental incapacity. We are also engaging with relevant stakeholders such as the Department for Health and Social Care, Local Government Association and Association of Directors of Adult Social Services to assess the needs of this group and ensure they are met.

It is possible for someone to apply to the Scheme on behalf of someone with a mental incapacity. The Home Office will accept a range of evidence of identity and residence on behalf of an applicant. In addition, where someone misses the deadline for their application for a good reason, they will be given a reasonable further period in which to apply.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-18/222665/>

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 two questions both received the same answer

Immigrants: EEA Nationals

Philippa Whitford (SNP) [187049] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether permanent residence cards for EEA nationals will remain valid if the UK leaves the EU without a deal.

Philippa Whitford (SNP) [187050] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether permanent residence cards will remain valid for people who have those cards on the basis of being the family member of an EEA national if the UK leaves the EU without a deal.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: In either a deal or no deal scenario, permanent residence (and other) documents which confirm a right to reside under Directive

2004/38EC (the Free Movement Directive) will cease to be valid when EU law ceases to apply.

However, EU citizens and their family members who have a documented right of permanent residence can exchange this for settled status free of charge.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-01/187049/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-01/187050/>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Immigrants: Domestic Abuse

Angela Crawley (SNP) [218829] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications have been made for the destitute domestic violence concession in (a) Lanark and Hamilton East, (b) Scotland and (c) the UK in each of the last five years.

Angela Crawley (SNP) [218830] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what his Department's performance standard is for processing destitute domestic violence concession applications; and how many applications have been completed within that target time in the last 12 months.

Angela Crawley (SNP) [218831] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applicants granted the destitute domestic violence concession have then been refused Indefinite Leave to Remain in each of the last five years in (a) Lanark and Hamilton East constituency, (b) Scotland and (c) the UK.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We do not hold the data required to answer the question in the requested format, as the data is not broken down by Parliamentary constituency or metropolitan borough and we do not publish data on those granted under the concession but subsequently refused Indefinite Leave to Remain.

Wider published statistics relating to individuals granted leave to remain under the destitution domestic violence concession and Indefinite Leave to Remain in the United Kingdom as a victim of domestic violence are available from the Immigration Statistics year ending September 2018 release are provided in the link below.

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-08/218829/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-08/218830/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-08/218831/>

Children in Care: Refugees

Jo Stevens (Labour) [217652] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what criteria his Department used to assess the availability of spaces in local authority care for unaccompanied child refugees.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: In 2016, the Government conducted a comprehensive consultation with local authorities across the UK to assess their capacity to accept unaccompanied children into their care. The outcome of the consultation led to the Government announcing that it would transfer 480 unaccompanied children to the UK from Europe under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.

The Home Office maintains a continual dialogue with local authorities and Strategic

Migration Partnerships across the country in order to identify placements for unaccompanied children to fulfil the Government's commitments.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-06/217652/>

Immigration: English Channel

Charlie Elphicke (Conservative) [218789] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the cost to his Department (a) has been and (b) will be of Royal Navy assets patrolling the English Channel in relation to immigration.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The deployment of the Royal Navy vessel is an interim measure whilst the two Border Force cutters currently redeployed from overseas make their way back to UK waters.

As stated in the House of Lords by Baroness Williams on 6 February 2019 to date, it has cost a total of £700,000.

The deployment is being funded by the Home Office and will be kept under constant review.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-08/218789/>

The statement referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-02-06/debates/2184BBEC-9B09-48EF-A2AB-FA26AE7C2938/MigrantCrossingsNavalAssets#contribution-F912D4A1-DAB9-48D6-A759-9EF557D6B3B8>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Undocumented Migrants: Kent

Charlie Elphicke (Conservative) [218798] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 7 February 2019 to Question 215154 on Undocumented Migrants: Kent, how many of the 500 migrants referred to were not Iranian.

Charlie Elphicke (Conservative) [218799] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 7 February 2019 to Question 215154 on Undocumented Migrants: Kent, what were the claimed nationalities of the migrants referred to who were not Iranian; and how many migrants claimed each of those nationalities.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We do not routinely publish this level of data on clandestine entry or attempts to enter the UK and we do not comment on the status of cases once they have claimed asylum.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-08/218798/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-08/218799/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-31/215154/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Undocumented Migrants: Kent

Charlie Elphicke (Conservative) [218800] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 7 February 2019 to Question 215154 on Undocumented Migrants: Kent, what number of people does the figure 80% represent.

Charlie Elphicke (Conservative) [218801] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 7 February 2019 to Question 215154 on

Undocumented Migrants: Kent, what number of people does the figure 40% represent.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Please see below a Home Office publication link to the Home Secretary's statement on 31 December 2018. This can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-bolsters-border-force-fleet-in-the-channel>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-08/218800/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-08/218801/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-31/215154/>

Undocumented Migrants: Boats

Charlie Elphicke (Conservative) [218802] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 7 February 2019 to Question 215154 on Undocumented Migrants: Kent, how many suspected illegal migrants entered the UK by small boat in each month from October 2018 to January 2019.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We do not routinely publish this level of data on clandestine entry or attempts to enter the UK. Published data on the numbers can be found in the links below for the Home Secretary's statement on 31 December 2018 and the subsequent Westminster Hall Debate on 30 January.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-bolsters-border-force-fleet-in-the-channel>

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

[A2B1853974C1/EnglishChannelIllegalSeaborneImmigration?highlight=illegal%20seaborne#](https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2019-01-30/debates/9E4482A1-3368-4E5F-89A3-A2B1853974C1/EnglishChannelIllegalSeaborneImmigration?highlight=illegal%20seaborne#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-08/218802/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-31/215154/>

The following five questions all received the same answer

Undocumented Migrants

Charlie Elphicke (Conservative) [220869] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 12 February 2019 to Question 218253 on undocumented migrants, on what date his Department introduced its policy on not releasing internal management information; which Minister made that decision; and if he will place in the Library the relevant policy document on that decision.

Charlie Elphicke (Conservative) [220871] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 12 February 2019 to Question 218253, for what reason data on the number of clandestines detected at (a) juxtaposed controls and (b) UK ports for the years following 2014 have not been published.

Charlie Elphicke (Conservative) [220872] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 12 February 2019 to Question 218253 on undocumented migrants, for what reasons clandestines detected at juxtaposed controls and at UK ports for the years since 2014 is classified as internal management information; and if he will publish his Department's definition of internal management information used for such purposes.

Charlie Elphicke (Conservative) [220879] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 12 February 2019 to Question 218253 on undocumented migrants; whether it is his Department's policy not to publish the number of clandestines detected at juxtaposed controls and at UK ports for the years since 2014.

Dover Port: Undocumented Migrants

Charlie Elphicke (Conservative) [220878] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 12 February 2019 to Question 217559 on Undocumented Migrants: Dover Port, when he plans to publish the data for 2015 onwards; and for what reason that data has not been published to date.

for such purposes.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We do not routinely publish management information in answers to Parliamentary Questions as these answers cannot be subject to the same extensive assurance as official statistics outputs.

Border Force does not routinely publish data that does not meet the Home Office standard for publication or that could impact its operational effectiveness. There are no current plans to routinely publish this data, but this is kept under review by Ministers.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-13/220869/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-13/220871/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-13/220872/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-13/220879/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-13/220878/>

The questions referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-07/218253/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-06/217559/>

Undocumented Migrants

Charlie Elphicke (Conservative) [220870] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 12 February 2019 to Question 218253, how many clandestines have been detected at (a) juxtaposed controls and (b) UK ports since 2014.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Border Force does not routinely publish data that does not meet the Home Office standard for publication or that could impact its operational effectiveness. There are no current plans to routinely publish this data in the future.

Data on clandestine detection that has been published can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/number-of-clandestines-detected-at-the-juxtaposed-controls-and-at-uk-ports-from-2010-to-2014>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-13/220870/>

The question referred to above can be read at

Undocumented Migrants

Charlie Elphicke (Conservative) [221669] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer 12 February 2019 to Question number 217557 on undocumented migrants, what estimate he has made of the number of migrants entering the UK illegally in each year since 2010.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Border Force do not routinely publish this level of data on clandestines, as this could compromise immigration controls and impact on national security.

I refer the Rt. Hon member for Dover to the answer of 12 February which states: The Home Office works closely with partners in the UK and overseas to strike people smuggling at source – identifying and dismantling the organised crime groups that facilitate illegal immigration. Additionally, the UK works abroad to reduce factors that may push or force people to attempt such journeys - through creating jobs, tackling modern slavery, providing education and delivering life-saving humanitarian assistance in response to conflicts and natural disasters.

In November a new UK-France Coordination and Information Centre opened in Calais to strengthen our joint efforts to tackle all kinds of criminality at the border. Border Force is working alongside Police Aux Frontieres as part of a 24/7 operation to help prevent illegal attempts to cross the shared border and exchange intelligence between UK and French agencies to combat cross-border criminality.

Despite our successes in preventing attempts to enter the UK illegally, we are not complacent. We will continue to work closely with our French counterparts to maintain border security and keep legitimate passengers and trade moving.

At juxtaposed controls and ports around the country, Border Force officers use some of the most advanced detection technology available to find and stop migrants attempting to reach the UK illegally.

We have also invested tens of millions of pounds in new infrastructure to enhance border security, with all freight vehicles entering the UK screened for people being smuggled into the UK using a range of techniques, which include using carbon dioxide detectors and motion sensors as well as sniffer dogs to detect clandestine on board lorries.

We have taken steps to address the possibility that there may be a displacement of clandestine migrant activity towards smaller and less frequented ports, as enhanced controls at the juxtaposed ports have become increasingly effective.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-14/221669/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-06/217557/>

Undocumented Migrants

Charlie Elphicke (Conservative) [221670] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 12 February 2019 to Question 217557 on undocumented migrants, what proportion of freight vehicles are screened for people being smuggled into the UK.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: I refer the Rt. Honourable member for Dover to the answer of 12 February which states:

We have also invested tens of millions of pounds in new infrastructure to enhance border security, with all freight vehicles entering the UK screened using a range of

techniques, which include using carbon dioxide detectors and motion sensors as well as sniffer dogs to detect clandestine on board lorries.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-14/221670/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-06/217557/>

Asylum: Community Relations

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [220123] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent steps his Department is taking to support the integration of refugee families living in the UK.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The UK has a proud history of providing protection to those that need it – and this Government is committed to ensuring that refugees can take positive steps towards integration as they rebuild their lives in the UK.

The Government response to the consultation on the Integrated Communities Strategy (ICS) and action plan was published on GOV.UK on 9th February. Refugees can access all integration measures in the ICS and have access to mainstream benefits and services. This includes healthcare, education, English language tuition and Job Centre work coaches. The Home Office is working with other Government departments to ensure these services meet the needs of refugees.

In addition, the ICS includes commitments to work with civil society and others to increase integration support for all refugees. The measures for refugees focus on four key themes: English language, employment, mental health and information.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-12/220123/>

The government response referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/777160/Integrated_Communities_Strategy_Government_Response.pdf

The action plan referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/778045/Integrated_Communities_Strategy_Govt_Action_Plan.pdf

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Applications

Catherine West (Labour) [220305] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his Department remains committed to making decisions on straightforward asylum applications within a target time of six months.

Catherine West (Labour) [220308] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his Department has a target for the time to make decisions on non-straight forward asylum applications.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We are committed to ensuring that asylum claims are considered without unnecessary delay, to ensure that those who need protection are granted as soon as possible and can start to integrate and rebuild their lives, including those granted at appeal. 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.

Until recently, our aim was to decide 98% of straight forward asylum claims within six months of the date of claim. However, many asylum claims are not straight-forward, which meant it was not always possible to make an initial decision within six months of the date of claim. Many of these cases had a barrier that needed to

be overcome to make the asylum decision and many of these barriers were outside of the Home Office's control.

To promote a greater understanding and transparency of the asylum system, we have prioritised deciding older claims and those made by more vulnerable individuals, whose claims are more complex. This has resulted in a reduction in the proportion of claims decided within 6 months.

We are engaging stakeholders as part of our plans to introduce new service standards which will help inform how we will prioritise asylum decision making in the future. This will seek to address the concerns that have been raised with the current arrangements, additionally as part of our wider strategy, we aim to increase the overall number of caseworkers to reduce the total number of outstanding claims.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-12/220305/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-12/220308/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Applications

Catherine West (Labour) [220306] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the current average waiting time is for a decision to be made on straightforward asylum application.

Catherine West (Labour) [220307] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the current average waiting time is for a decision to be made on a non-straightforward asylum application.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Until recently, our aim was to decide 98% of straight forward asylum claims within six months of the date of claim. However, many asylum claims are not straight-forward, which meant it was not always possible to make an initial decision within six months of the date of claim. Many of these cases had a barrier that needed to be overcome to make the asylum decision and many of these barriers were outside of the Home Office's control.

To promote a greater understanding and transparency of the asylum system, we have prioritised deciding older claims and those made by more vulnerable individuals, whose claims are more complex. This has resulted in a reduction in the proportion of claims decided within 6 months.

We are engaging stakeholders as part of our plans to introduce new service standards which will help inform how we will prioritise asylum decision making in the future. This will seek to address the concerns that have been raised with the current arrangements, additionally as part of our wider strategy, we aim to increase the overall number of caseworkers to reduce the total number of outstanding claims.

The Home Office does not publish data relating to the average waiting times for decisions to be made on straight forward and non-straight forward asylum claims, but does publish data on the percentage of asylum applications processed within the current service standard to decide 98% of straight forward asylum claims within 6 months of the date of claim.

Data on performance against the current published service standard can be found on tabs Asy_10 and Asy_11 of the Asylum Transparency Data November 2018 at:

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

In the November release of the transparency data, the Home Office are still reporting performance against our previous service standard to decide all straight

forward asylum cases within 6 months of the date of claim. The next release of transparency data, scheduled for 28 February 2019, will still contain data on performance and will be labelled under the title of percentage of cases decided within 6 months rather than explicitly referring to the service standard.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-12/220306/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-12/220307/>

Asylum: Appeals

Catherine West (Labour) [222575] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many pending tribunals involving asylum application cases there were on 1 January of each of the last five years.

Reply from Edward Argar: The number of registered asylum appeals outstanding in the Immigration and Asylum Chamber of the First-tier Tribunal as at 1st January² in each of the years requested is as follows:

2018	6,407
2017	10,143
2016	10,497
2015	4,838
2014	2,045

¹ The data are Management Information taken from the tribunal's case management system. They do not form part of the published statistics.

² Outstanding data on 1st January is at close of business on 31st December of the previous year.

Tribunal statistics are published on a quarterly basis and are available at: www.gov.uk/government/collections/tribunals-statistics

HM Courts & Tribunals Service has worked extensively to reduce the outstanding caseload and improve timeliness for all appeal types in the Immigration and Asylum Chamber. This has seen the live caseload in the First-tier Tribunal more than halve from 64,800 to 31,500 between July 2016 and September 2018. The average duration has also improved from 52 weeks in the period July to September 2017 to 39 weeks in the period July to September 2018. For asylum appeals in the same period the average time has come down from 28 weeks to 25 weeks.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-18/222575/>

Asylum: Children

Charlie Elphicke (Conservative) [218788] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 6 February 2019 to Question 215158 on UK-France Migration Committee, what services were purchased with the £3.6 million of funding to support transfers of eligible children to the UK.

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. This full package of £3.6 million was paid to the French Government at the end of 2018. We continue to work with France to transfer eligible children under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 and the Dublin regulation and transfers are ongoing.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-08/218788/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-31/215158/>

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: Children

Charlie Elphicke (Conservative) [220873] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 12 February 2019 to Question 218270 on Asylum: Children, how many children have been transferred to date.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government has committed to publishing regular updates on the number of requests processed under the Dublin III Regulation. The latest figures will be published on 28th February 2019 as part of the wider quarterly release of Migration Statistics, and will cover the 2018 period following the signing of the Sandhurst Treaty.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-13/220873/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-07/218270/>

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: Employment

Mike Penning (Conservative) [219339] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when his Department plans to respond to recommendations made in the Lift the Ban report entitled Why people seeking asylum should have the right to work; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government's policy on right to work for those seeking asylum is consistent with EU law and permits asylum seekers to work, in jobs on the Shortage Occupation List, if they have been waiting for a decision on their claim for 12 months or more and the delay is through no fault of their own. During the Meaningful Vote debate on 5 December, the Home Secretary stated that although there are no current plans to change the current policy, it is an area he wished to review, and work on this is ongoing.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-11/219339/>

The report referred to above can be read at

<http://lifttheban.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Lift-the-Ban-report.pdf>

The statement referred to above can be read at

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-12-05/debates/A7A014E4-2CC3-42E4-8732-8270A2BE9BF3/EuropeanUnion\(Withdrawal\)Act#contribution-3E9E77D4-0B19-46D7-9A7F-A21E712BA00C](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-12-05/debates/A7A014E4-2CC3-42E4-8732-8270A2BE9BF3/EuropeanUnion(Withdrawal)Act#contribution-3E9E77D4-0B19-46D7-9A7F-A21E712BA00C)

Asylum: Finance

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [217612] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he has held discussions with the Information Commissioner on the effect of the introduction of the Aspen on (a) data protection and (b) an individuals privacy.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The introduction of the Aspen Card and its effect on data protection and privacy has not been discussed with the Information Commissioner.

As part of the project, consideration was given to the privacy aspects of the scheme. The terms and conditions relating to Aspen usage received appropriate legal scrutiny prior to being published and make it clear that personal data will be used only for the prevention of fraud and to preserve the integrity of the scheme which includes ensuring the welfare of card users

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-06/217612/>

Asylum: Finance

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [217613] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers have had their asylum support (a) suspended and (b) discontinued as a result of information obtained by the monitoring of the usage of an Aspen card.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Where evidence comes to light that would suggest a supported asylum applicant has access to alternative accommodation and support, we would invite the applicant to give an account of their activity.

Evidence can come from a number of sources, including Aspen usage data. Suspension and any subsequent discontinuation of support due to a breach of conditions carries a right of appeal. Data is not held in a publishable format.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-06/217613/>

Asylum: Housing

Patrick Grady (SNP) [219484] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what information his Department holds on complaints against Serco as a provider of asylum accommodation.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The asylum accommodation contracts are self reporting and therefore have their own complaints resolution process. Service users who have a complaint are encouraged to inform their providers who will work directly with them to resolve it. Each provider holds their own complaints data. If a complaint has not been rectified satisfactorily then this can be escalated to UKVI.

We do not routinely publish data on complaints.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-11/219484/>

Asylum: Housing

Chi Onwurah (Labour) [222033] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of extending the minimum notice period to vacate for refugee accommodation contracts to four weeks.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The notice period to vacate an asylum accommodation property is currently 28 days for those granted a form of leave and 21 days for those who have had their claims refused.

There are no plans to increase the notice period to vacate asylum accommodation.
<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-15/222033/>

Dungavel House Immigration Removal Centre: Crime

Angela Crawley (SNP) [221827] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many crimes have been reported at Dungavel Immigration Detention centre in the last five years; and what the nature was of each allegation.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government takes the welfare and safety of our detainees very seriously. We do not tolerate any kind of criminal activity in our immigration removal centres, and any allegation of crime is immediately reported to the police for investigation.

Reported incidents which are considered crimes are recorded by the police. Over the last 12 months, the only time period for which figures are currently available, supplier management information indicates that 51 incidents which were considered crimes were reported to Police Scotland. Of these 25 were related to fights or alleged assaults, 11 were drug finds, 11 were threats and 4 other incidents including attempted fire starting and attempted escape. This is provisional management information that is subject to change.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-14/221827/>

Dungavel House Immigration Removal Centre: Inspections

Angela Crawley (SNP) [221828] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the implications for his polices of the conclusions of HM Chief Inspector of Prison's report on the (a) condition of the buildings and (b) needs of female detainees at Dungavel detention centre.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government has fully considered the recommendations made by HM Chief Inspector of Prison following his recent inspection report of Dungavel immigration removal centre.

The Government's response to the recommendations made, including the actions being taken forward, was published on the Inspectorate's website on 19 November 2018. A copy of the Government's service improvement plan can be found at the link below :

<https://www.justiceinspectores.gov.uk/hmiprison/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2018/11/2018-11-15-Service-Improvement-Plan-Dungavel-House-IRC-Final.pdf>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-14/221828/>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.justiceinspectores.gov.uk/hmiprison/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2018/11/Dungavel-Web-2018.pdf>

Immigrants: Detainees

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [218833] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 24 January 2019 to Question 212416 on Immigrants: Detainees, whether total resource costs of running the detention centres includes (a) health services within detention and (b) escorting services to and from detention.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The costs include all welfare provision but exclude Healthcare provision costs in England. Health Care services are provided by NHS England under a different agreement. The costs do not include the costs of the escorting contract which covers escorting to and from removal centres, the cost of

escorting for removals and other supporting activities.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-08/218833/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

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

Immigrants: Detainees

Angela Crawley (SNP) [219500] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many immigration detainees currently in detention have been detained for more than 28 days.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Information on the number of people in detention, at the end of each quarter, by length of detention is available in table dt_11_q of the detention tables in the latest release of 'Immigration Statistics, year ending September 2018', available from Gov.uk:

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-11/219500/>

Detainees: Compensation

Angela Crawley (SNP) [221826] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate he has made of the amount of compensation paid to people wrongfully detained in immigration detention centres in each of the last five years.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: This information is not readily available from the HO management systems, the Home Office is therefore not able to provide this data. To answer this PQ, the Home Office will have to review all compensation payments to people wrongfully detained for the years requested. This will breach the cost limit. However, information on the total amount of compensation paid to people wrongfully detained inclusive of those in Immigration Detention Centres is published in the HASC report (pages 9 & 10) and The Home Office Annual Report and Accounts 17/18 (page 97).

Refer to links below for the requested years figures on total compensation paid to people wrongfully detained:

HASC Report:

https://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-committees/home-affairs/Correspondence-17-19/180625_Permanent_Secretary_Immigration%20Enforcement.pdf

HO Annual Report and Accounts FY17/18:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/727179/6_4360_HO_Annual_report_WEB.PDF

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-14/221826/>

Deportation: Zimbabwe

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [222030] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 14 February 2019 to Question 219410, what assessment he has made of whether it is safe to deport Zimbabwean nationals who have been unsuccessful in claims for asylum since April 2018.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Our Country Policy and Information Note of April 2018 sets out the general position and that all asylum claims are carefully considered on their individual merits.

Since April 2018, we have been monitoring the situation in Zimbabwe. However, caselaw has established that a state of civil war and/or civil unrest is not enough, in itself, to provide for a grant of asylum. A person needs to show a risk above and beyond those general inherent risks.

We are currently in the process of updating the Country Policy and Information Note, incorporating recommendations from a review commissioned by the Independent Advisory Group on Country Information. This will be published in due course. Where additional information is needed, decision makers can ask for bespoke research to be undertaken on a case by case basis.

Where a person is unsuccessful in claims for asylum, they are – by definition – considered not to be at risk on return. Removal is only enforced when we and the courts conclude that it is safe to do so, with a safe route of return.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-15/222030/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-11/219410/>

Human Trafficking: Finance

Alex Norris (Labour Co-op) [219560] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the November 2018 High Court judgement and reinstatement of subsistence rates of £65 a week for possible victims of trafficking in the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), what the current subsistence rates are for people in the NRM who are (a) in outreach support, (b) in safe house accommodation (not catered), (c) in safe house accommodation (catered) and (d) in National Asylum Support Service accommodation.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: In light of the judgment in K and AM, the Home Office immediately reinstated the top up paid to those in the Victim Care Contract who are also receiving support from the asylum support system, so that they receive the same level of financial support they were receiving before the judgement.

This is:

- £35 per week for those in outreach support
- £65 per week for those in non-catered safe house accommodation
- £35 per week for those in catered safe house accommodation (catering covers all food costs and considers dietary and religious restrictions)
- A top-up for those in receipt of financial support from the National Asylum Support Service so that they receive a total of £65 per week which means £27.25 for those in receipt of section 95 support £29.61 for those in receipt of Section 4(2) support

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-11/219560/>

The judgment referred to above can be read at

<https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/approved-judgment-k-am-co-2143-2294-2018.pdf>

Human Trafficking: Detainees

Angela Crawley (SNP) [221825] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many suspected victims of human trafficking have been held in immigration detention since 2015.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office record the number of all individuals referred to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and this information is published Quarterly by the National Crime Agency. This information does not

distinguish between those detained under immigration powers and those living in the community. The reason for this is two-fold, firstly because the NRM referral is not an immigration route by which individuals should regularise their stay in the United Kingdom and, secondly, because a person's status in immigration detention is not permanent and can change.

The use of immigration detention in all cases is subject to regular reviews and consequently a change in circumstance may result in a different consideration. It is quite possible that an immigration detainee is referred to the National Referral Mechanism during a detention period and is released into the community at any point during that process.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-14/221825/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Human Trafficking: Detainees

Jess Phillips (Labour) [219465] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of whether the UK's obligations under Articles 12 and 13 of the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking and Article 11 of Directive 2011/36/EU can be met for potential victims of trafficking who are detained in immigration detention centres.

Slavery: Detainees

Jess Phillips (Labour) [219466] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether people who have been identified as potential victims of human trafficking or modern slavery during immigration detention and who have then received reasonable conclusive grounds under the National Referral Mechanism are released on receipt of that grounds decision.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The necessary assistance and support, including medical treatment, information and interpretation services are available in immigration removal centres to fulfil the UK's obligations under Articles 12 and 13 of the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking and Article 11 of Directive 2011/36/EU. However, under current Government policy, potential victims of modern slavery identified in detention will be referred to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and will be released following a positive reasonable grounds decision, unless there are public order considerations to justify their detention. Those who receive a positive conclusive grounds decision to the effect that they are a victim of modern slavery under the NRM, but who have no leave to remain in the UK, may be detained in order to effect their removal. However, they will be regarded as vulnerable in the terms of the Home Office's adults at risk in immigration detention policy (AAR). This means that such individuals will be detained, or their detention continued, only when the evidence of their vulnerability is outweighed by the immigration considerations in their particular case, including likely date of removal, compliance with immigration law and public protection.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-11/219465/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-11/219466/>

The Convention referred to above can be read at

<https://rm.coe.int/168008371d>

The Directive referred to above can be read at

https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/directive_thb_l_101_15_april_2011_1.pdf

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Controlling Migration Fund

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL13655] To ask Her Majesty's Government how much of the Controlling Migration Fund has been spent to date; and what estimate they have made of when the total Fund will be spent.

Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The Controlling Migration Fund opened in November 2016 with the aim of easing pressures on local services linked to recent migration and providing targeted immigration enforcement activity.

Until 2020 the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has contributed £100 million of funding, with the Home Office contributing £40 million worth of enforcement activity.

To date the MHCLG element of the fund has approved £73.6 million for projects covering tackling rogue landlords; building cohesion and integration within communities; supporting learning of English language; building capacity to support unaccompanied asylum seeking children; establishing Local Authority Asylum Support Liaison Officers to help new refugees transition from government-funded support into mainstream society and a Modern Day Slavery pilot in 6 local authorities to support the transition process of victims leaving safe houses.

The deadline for applications to the final round of the MHCLG element of the programme was 1 October last year. We received 149 bids from local authorities for the remaining £26.4 million of available funding. We hope to announce our decisions on these applications soon.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-02-12/HL13655/>

Immigration: Appeals

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL13464] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many immigration decisions were overturned on appeal in (1) 2015, (2) 2016, and (3) 2017.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: HM Courts and Tribunals Service publish appeal outcomes data on a quarterly basis. A link to the most recent available data is provided here;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/tribunals-and-gender-recognition-certificate-statistics-quarterly-july-to-september-2018>

The table in FIA-3 in the attached document contains the information requested; see summary below.

3. Immigration and Asylum

First-tier Tribunal Immigration and Asylum Chamber (FTTIAC)

In July to September 2018, FTTIAC receipts increased by 16% (to 11,200) compared to the same period in 2017.

In the same period, disposals and caseload outstanding decreased by 10% (to 15,500) and 13% (to 31,500) respectively, with the latter continuing the decline seen since the peak in April to June 2016, due to the volume of receipts being consistently lower than that of disposals since this peak.

[Tribunals and Gender Reg Cert July-Sept 2018](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-02-05/HL13464/>

Immigration: Windrush Generation

Lord Ouseley (Crossbench) [HL13462] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 21 January (HL12603), how many interim or emergency payments have been made to date to affected Windrush generation

individuals awaiting the introduction of the planned compensation scheme; what is the total value of any such payments; when the scheme will be launched; and what assessment they have made of whether any of those individuals who are currently being deported to the Commonwealth Caribbean countries are members of the Windrush generation.

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 will include information on the urgent and exceptional support provided before the Compensation Scheme is in place. 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>

We will announce details of the final scheme and how to apply as soon as possible. None of those being deported are British citizens or members of the Windrush generation, who are exempt under section 7 of the Immigration Act 1971

[HASC Windrush Update - Nov-Dec 2018](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-02-05/HL13462/>

Immigration Controls: Republic of Ireland

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL13452] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to reassure Irish citizens who reside in the UK that (1) their right of abode will remain, without such citizens needing to take action, and (2) they are free to return directly to the UK from overseas destinations, before and after Brexit.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Irish citizens residing in the UK do not need to do anything to protect their status in the UK, either before or after the UK leaves the EU. They will continue to be able to enter and reside in the UK and to enjoy their existing rights as provided for by the long-standing Common Travel Area (CTA) arrangements.

The UK Government has been clear since the EU Exit Referendum that these rights will be protected. The Home Secretary reaffirmed during the second reading of the Immigration and Social Security Coordination Bill that the rights of Irish citizens to enter and remain in the UK are protected. This position has been set out in various Government publications including Northern Ireland-Ireland Position paper (August 2017) and The UK's future skills-based immigration system White Paper (December 2018). Communications for EEA nationals on what action needs to be taken after the UK has left the EU include specific messages confirming that Irish citizens are not required to take action to protect their status or entitlements.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-02-05/HL13452/>

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 Controls: Republic of Ireland

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL13453] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of the Republic of Ireland about allowing (1) Irish, and (2) UK citizens the freedom to (a) come and go between the UK and the Republic of Ireland, and (b) seek employment and establish residence in the UK, without special formalities, both before and after Brexit.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Common Travel Area (CTA) arrangements allow British and Irish citizens to travel freely within the CTA without seeking permission from the authorities. They also provide for British citizens in

Ireland and Irish citizens in the UK to be able to work in either country without any requirement to obtain permission from the authorities.

These arrangements pre-date membership of the EU. The UK and Ireland are working closely to protect these rights after the UK leaves the EU.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-02-05/HL13453/>

Refugees: Homelessness

Lord Shipley (Liberal Democrat) [HL13470] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to prevent homelessness amongst newly recognised refugees after the 28 day move-on period.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government have implemented a number of initiatives to ensure that refugees are able to access benefits and housing promptly once any support they been provided by the Home Office ends 28 days after the grant of their status.

Refugees are eligible to receive assistance with housing from their local authority, in the same way as British Citizens or other permanent residents of the UK, and are treated as a priority need if they have children or are considered vulnerable. Asylum accommodation providers are under a contractual duty to refer these cases to the appropriate local authority.

We are also working with MHCLG to pilot "Local Authority Asylum Liaison Officers" (LAASLOs), who role is to provide assistance to people leaving asylum support, in particular with access to housing.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-02-05/HL13470/>

The following four questions all received the same answer

Immigrants: Detainees

Lord Touhig (Labour) [HL13421] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they collect data on the faith identity of people currently held in immigration detention; and if so, what those data are.

Immigration: Detention Centres

Lord Touhig (Labour) [HL13422] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many religious chaplains have been appointed to each immigration removal centre and short-term holding facility in each of the last five years.

Lord Touhig (Labour) [HL13424] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that people held in immigration detention receive appropriate access to chaplaincy and pastoral support.

Lord Touhig (Labour) [HL13425] To ask Her Majesty's Government what meetings they have had with faith groups to ensure that chaplaincy and pastoral support is available to people in immigration detention.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government respects the rights of detainees to practise their religious faith. The provision of religious services in immigration removal centres (IRC) is through the Detention Centre Rules 2001, the Operating Standards for IRCs, and the relevant sections of the contracts and service level agreements relating to religious affairs.

Under Rule 21 of the Detention Centre Rules 2001, if detainees on admission to an IRC wish to declare that they belong to a particular religion, that information must be recorded. This information is recorded by the IRC service providers on their own internal detainee management systems and is used to inform the religious provision available at the IRC.

IRCs are equipped with mosques and multi faith rooms for detainees to use for prayer, study and reflection. Communal prayers are available in all centres as well

as facilities for prayer in the detainees' rooms such as access to prayer mats. Each IRC is required to have a manager of religious affairs whose duties include: establishing a multi-faith team; arranging for ministers of religion to conduct religious services for detainees; and arranging for ministers of religion to visit detainees of their religion soon after their reception into the IRC and as often as they reasonably can thereafter. Each IRC is also required to publish a calendar of religious festivals and observances so that recognition is given to those events and those concerned are able to observe them. Engagement with faith groups is undertaken at a local level by the IRC religious affairs manager.

The religious needs of detainees held at short-term holding facilities must be catered for so far as practicable but, given the limited nature of the facilities at such sites and short durations of stay, there would not be organised services or ministers of religion present.

All IRCs have a number of appointed religious chaplains in place. Management information shows that there were 11 new religious chaplain appointments made at IRCs between 2014 and 2018. Of these 11 appointments, 2 were made in 2014 (Gatwick IRCs and Morton Hall), 4 in 2015 (1 at Gatwick IRCs, 1 at Yarl's Wood IRC and 2 at Morton Hall), 2 in 2016 (Gatwick IRCs and Morton Hall), 2 in 2017 (Gatwick IRCs and Heathrow IRCs) and 1 in 2018 (at Gatwick IRCs). This is provisional management information that is subject to change.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-02-04/HL13421/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-02-04/HL13422/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-02-04/HL13424/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-02-04/HL13425/>

The Detention Centre Rules, referred to above, can be read at

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2001/238/contents/made>

Immigrants: Detainees

Lord Touhig (Labour) [HL13423] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people currently held in immigration detention are claiming asylum on the grounds of religious persecution.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The basis of a person's asylum claim is recorded on their individual Home Office file, but not in a way that can be easily aggregated. Therefore, we cannot provide figures on how many people are currently held in immigration detention, claiming asylum on the grounds of religious persecution.

As such, this information could only be obtained at disproportionate cost because it would require a manual search through individual records.

Information on people entering detention in 2018 can be found in tab dt_01_q of the 'Detention data tables immigration statistics year ending September 2018':

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

Information on the number of asylum claims, subsequent grants of asylum and humanitarian protection, irrespective of whether the individual was detained, (as at year ending September 2018) can be found in tab as_02-q at Volume 2 of the

quarterly Immigration statistics release:

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

Information on people entering detention in 2018 can be found in tab dt_01_q of the 'Detention data tables immigration statistics year ending September 2018':

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-02-04/HL13423/>

Deportation: Charter Flights

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL13463] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to restart deportation charter flights; and if so, what they estimate the cost of any such flights to be.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Returns charter flights remain an important means by which we return illegal migrants and Foreign National Offenders without a right to remain in the UK.

For operational reasons, it is not possible to disclose full details of the returns charter flight programme.

In the 2017/18 financial year we spent £11.3 million on returns charter flight operations.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-02-05/HL13463/>

Press Releases

Calls for EU nationals to stay in Scotland

<https://www.gov.scot/news/calls-for-eu-nationals-to-stay-in-scotland/>

Migration and asylum: EU funds to promote integration and protect borders

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20190218IPR26999/migration-and-asylum-eu-funds-to-promote-integration-and-protect-borders>

Visa policy: Council confirms agreement on changes to the visa code

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2019/02/20/visa-policy-council-confirms-agreement-on-changes-to-the-visa-code/>

EU Visa Policy: Commission welcomes agreement to strengthen EU visa rules

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-721_en.htm

Tighter laws continue to hit migrants across the EU

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2019/tighter-laws-continue-hit-migrants-across-eu>

New Publications

Employment by Country of Birth and Nationality

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN07056/SN07056.pdf>

Not Seen, Not Heard: Childrens' experiences of the hostile environment

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zsVpKqJ0hohTLjV4KDPuQppwQnqneeN/view>

Migration: Key fundamental rights concerns - Quarterly bulletin 1

https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2019-migration-bulletin-1_en.pdf

News

Sturgeon to urge EU citizens to stay in Scotland after Brexit

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-47283886>

Immigration check outcry sees officers removed by councils

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/feb/24/labour-councils-remove-embedded-immigration-officers>

Bosses' alarm over EU visas

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/business/bosses-alarm-over-eu-visas-rgt78cnf7>

UK rehomes some 100 Syria White Helmets and family members

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-47243867>

Warning over cost of caring for young asylum seekers

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-47310345>

Unaccompanied child refugees should be supported

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/feb/22/unaccompanied-child-refugees-should-be-supported>

Cost of care for asylum-seeking children 'doubles in four years'

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/feb/21/cost-of-care-for-asylum-seeking-children-doubles-in-four-years>

Local councils forced to drastically increase spending on child refugees as ministers accused of 'paying lip service'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/child-refugees-asylum-seekers-minors-local-authority-council-lip-service-home-office-a8789051.html>

Council spending on unaccompanied child asylum seekers 'doubles in four years' as demand soars

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-seekers-children-council-spending-cost-local-government-a8788606.html>

Hard-pressed councils double spending on asylum-seekers as budgets face cuts and council tax increases

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/02/20/hard-pressed-councils-double-spending-asylum-seekers-budgets/>

Granting asylum seekers' the right to work would help them rebuild their lives

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/granting-asylum-seekers-the-right-to-work-would-help-them-rebuild-their-lives-7h6hs83mx>

Students wrongly caught up in Theresa May's 'hostile environment' still being detained and 'living in terror'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/students-theresa-may-hostile-environment-immigration-detention-deport-english-tests-a8781731.html>

34 migrants rescued from one boat in Channel in biggest operation since Christmas
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/02/18/34-migrants-rescued-single-boat-channel-biggest-operation-since/>

Boat carrying 34 migrants intercepted off coast of Dover

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/migrant-crossings-english-channel-dover-rescue-home-office-border-a8785546.html>

Jamaican high commissioner calls for halt to deportations from UK

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/feb/21/jamaican-high-commissioner-calls-for-halt-of-deportations-from-uk>

Jamaican high commissioner calls for halt on deportations to country until charter flight matters are 'resolved'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/jamaica-flights-deport-charter-immigration-high-commission-deportations-home-office-relatives-a8791141.html>

Hostile environment leaving UK-born children street homeless, finds report

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/hostile-environment-children-street-homeless-home-office-immigration-status-project-17-a8785256.html>

'I worked and paid taxes here for a decade. Now I can't feed my kids': Family on brink of homelessness after Home Office revokes UK status over tax error

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-tax-status-uk-family-homeless-pakistan-immigration-a8789901.html>

Man faces deportation after UK officials refuse to believe he is gay

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/feb/22/man-faces-deportation-after-uk-officials-refuse-to-believe-he-is-gay>

Home Office won't believe I'm gay, says asylum seeker

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-02-23/news/home-office-wont-believe-im-gay-says-asylum-seeker-bspqddw37>

'Crossing the Channel by boat is risky - we came by lorry'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/stories-47284426>

Father fights for visa to save family in Yemen

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-02-19/scotland/father-fights-for-visa-to-save-family-in-yemen-tn0s39762>

Barber 'refused travel certificate to visit dying mother by Home Office because of hair clippings fine'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-passport-barber-turkey-mother-hair-clippings-scotland-edinburgh-a8788636.html>

TOP

Community Relations

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Community Relations: Islam

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [220120] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps his Department is taking to help tackle sectarian violence in communities between different groups of the Islamic faith.

Reply from Heather Wheeler: The Government condemns violence between any groups or individuals in society

The Government facilitates the coming together of different groups within the Islamic faith through a range of initiatives, including supporting dialogue between faith leaders of different communities, and funding organisations such as Tell MAMA, which runs community outreach events across the country. Our overall work is informed by the Cross-Government Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group which brings together representatives from a range of Muslim communities.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-12/220120/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Schools: Admissions

Lord Warner (Crossbench) [HL13718] To ask Her Majesty's Government what evidence, if any, they have that programmes linking schools with each other with homogeneous pupil populations taken from one religious background are as effective at promoting social cohesion and inter-communal trust as fully inclusive schools open to children from a variety of backgrounds.

Lord Agnew of Oulton: Education has a vital role in promoting integration. That is why the Department for Education is taking forward a number of measures across its portfolio to support the sector to promote integration. We want educational settings that prepare all children, young people and adults to participate fully in life in modern Britain, and equip children and young people with the skills, knowledge and values to become active citizens. All schools and colleges are required to teach a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils, and to promote our shared values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

School linking programmes are an important element of our integration agenda. Providing opportunities for young people to have meaningful interactions with those from different backgrounds helps build understanding of different communities and cultures, fosters more positive attitudes, promotes social cohesion and inter-communal trust. Social mixing and school linking are grounded in contact theory, with studies consistently finding that contact between groups of young people from different backgrounds creates more positive attitudes and can increase cohesion. This is particularly evidenced in recent findings by the University of Bristol and London School of Economics[1].

The Department for Education co-funds, with the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government, The Linking Network which links all kinds of schools to help children explore questions of identity, diversity, equality and community cohesion. The Linking Network uses a data analysis tool to ensure that it is only linking together pupil populations from different backgrounds, including young people of

different faiths, ethnicities, socioeconomic backgrounds and from different areas. Diversity of intake is also important, and that is why we are taking forward our commitment, as set out in the Integrated Communities Action Plan, to develop model admissions arrangements. We have also recently published the Respectful Schools Communities toolkit[2] to help schools be inclusive environments; this self-review and signposting tool supports schools to develop a whole-school approach that promotes respect and discipline.

[1] Burgess, S., and Platt, L. (2018) Inter-ethnic relations of teenagers in England's schools: the role of school and neighbourhood ethnic composition, Centre for Research and Analysis of Migration (CReAM) Discussion Paper Series, CPD 07/18

[2] <https://educateagainsthate.com/school-leaders/?filter=guidance-and-training-school-leaders>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-02-13/HL13718/>

The CReAM paper referred to above can be read at
http://www.cream-migration.org/publ_uploads/CDP_07_18.pdf

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

David Linden (SNP) (2019) BEMIS Scotland – That this House congratulates BEMIS Scotland on the finale of their Year of Young People 2018 and Scottish Winter Festivals 2018/19 events that was held in the New Auditorium of the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall on Saturday the 26 January as part of the world renowned Celtic Connections Festival; considers that BEMIS Global Ensemble, who headlined the concert, represented a unique celebration of Scotland's diversity, its living traditions and cultural heritage; celebrates that the group of Scottish residents from African, Indian, Iranian, Jewish, Irish, Scottish Gaelic and Japanese communities showcased a unique representation of Scotland that has been further encapsulated in the BEMIS led events over the Year of Young People 2018, St. Andrew's Fair Saturday 2018 and Scottish Winter Festivals 2018/19; congratulates warmly the 73 local community events held across Scotland where citizens from over 25 self-identified international, European and domestic ethnic and cultural minority communities who call Scotland home have embraced St. Andrews Day, Burns night and other important dates by using their diverse languages, music, dance, poetry, food and song to articulate Scotland in 2019; and pays tribute to the partnership approach adopted by BEMIS to engage key institutions in the year's celebrations including the Celtic Connections Music Festival, the Scottish Football Association, The Fair Saturday Foundation (Bilbao) and Dundee St. Andrew's Fusion Festival helping to build the celebrations profile and showcase the best of Scotland's living traditions and diverse communities.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/52595/bemis-scotland>

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Children in Care: Ethnic Groups

Diana Johnson (Labour) [221613] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what estimate he has made of the number of looked-after children whose ethnicity is any other white background in each year since 2000.

Reply from Nadhim Zahawi: This information requested is shown in the attached table. Further information on the ethnic breakdown of looked-after children is published in the statistical releases 'Children looked-after in England including adoption' at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-looked-after-children-221613-221618-Children-looked-after-at-31-March>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-14/221613/>

Police: Ethnic Groups

Stephen Doughty (Labour Co-op) [220233] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions he has had with police forces on reforming recruitment procedures to increase the recruitment, retention and promotion of people from BAME backgrounds.

Reply from Nick Hurd: There is a greater proportion of black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) officers than ever before, however the Government has been clear that there is more for forces to do.

The Government established the College of Policing as the professional body for policing. The College has delivered a major programme of work to address the recruitment, retention and progression of officers from BAME and other underrepresented groups in policing including: capturing what works; publishing positive action advice; and reviewing the initial recruitment processes. A pilot of a new assessment centre for police officer recruits is now underway, led by the Metropolitan Police, and an evaluation is expected to be published by the College of Policing in autumn 2019.

Building on the foundations laid by the College, the National Police Chief's Council published its first Diversity, Equality and Inclusion strategy in October 2018.

Ministers are in regular dialogue with policing partners about increasing police workforce diversity. The Home Secretary chaired a Race Diversity Roundtable with policing leaders in October 2018, following which he wrote to Police and Crime Commissioners, the College of Policing, Her Majesties Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services and chief constables, urging a whole system approach to driving improvements in diversity.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-12/220233/>

The strategy referred to above can be read at

<https://www.npcc.police.uk/documents/edhr/2018/NPCC%20Diversity%20Equality%20Inclusion%20Strategy%20May%202018.pdf>

Press Release

Diversifying the civil service: Permanent Secretary speech

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/diversifying-the-civil-service-permanent-secretary-speech/>

News

Police leader calls for laws to allow positive race discrimination

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/feb/22/police-leader-calls-for-laws-to-allow-positive-race-discrimination>

Met disproportionately white for another 100 years – police leaders

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/feb/19/met-police-disproportionately-white-for-another-100-years>

I served in the Met. The lack of progress on diversity is disgusting

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/feb/21/served-met-diverse-force-discrimination-police-london>

Metropolitan Police is 100 years from matching city's ethnic mix

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-02-20/news/metropolitan-police-is-100-years-from-matching-city-s-ethnic-mix-ddkl760qs>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

See also “UK Labour and Conservative Party Resignations” in the “Other UK Parliament and Government” section below. Some of the MPs who have resigned have included “institutional antisemitism” as a significant reason for their decision.

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Discrimination

Anas Sarwar (Labour): Discrimination is about more than just hate crime; it impacts people's life chances and outcomes. Today, with the support of the Scottish Parliament information centre, I published a report that shows that Scotland's diverse minority communities are chronically underrepresented in the civil service and public sector bodies. Only 1.8 per cent of civil servants are from a diverse background; only 10 of the people who are in the most senior posts are from a diverse background; and in two thirds of local authorities people who are from a diverse background make up less than 1 per cent of employees.

Will the First Minister commit to a full and regular audit of Scotland's public sector? Will she support the implementation of the Rooney rule, which means that at least one person with an ethnic minority background is shortlisted when a vacancy arises? Will she agree to expand the welcome Gender Representation on Public Boards (Scotland) Act 2018 to ensure that our public sector bodies reflect Scottish society?

Reply from the First Minister: I want to say a couple of things in response to that. First, I absolutely agree with the sentiments behind Anas Sarwar's question. I will ask the permanent secretary to consider all the specifics that he has asked me about and I will be happy to write to him, or I will ask the permanent secretary to write to him, on how we will take forward those specific points.

I assure Anas Sarwar and the entire chamber that the Scottish Government, as an employer, is absolutely determined to increase the number of people from ethnic minorities who work in the organisation. They are underrepresented in the Scottish Government at the moment, as will be the case for many organisations and employers. Just as it is important that we redress the imbalance in gender, it is vital

that we redress the imbalance that affects people from ethnic minorities. As an employer, the Scottish Government is absolutely committed to doing so and to encouraging other employers to take similar action.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11950&i=108046#ScotParlOR>

The report referred to above is not yet available online

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-15938 Jackie Baillie (Labour): 20th Anniversary of the Publication of the Macpherson Report – That the Parliament acknowledges the 20th anniversary of the publication of the Macpherson report on 24 February 2019; recognises that this groundbreaking inquiry was launched as a result of the tragic mishandling of the racist murder of Stephen Lawrence, a young black man, in 1993; notes that the report found the Metropolitan Police Service to be "institutionally racist" and, importantly, defined institutional racism as "the collective failure of an organisation to provide an appropriate and professional service to people because of their colour, culture, or ethnic origin (which) can be seen or detected in processes, attitudes, and behaviour which amount to discrimination through unwitting prejudice, ignorance, thoughtlessness, and racial stereotyping"; recognises that Scotland's response to this, *The Stephen Lawrence Inquiry: An Action Plan for Scotland*, aimed to "eliminate racial discrimination and racism in our country"; supports calls from race equality campaigners for this publication to be revisited; notes with concern the recent reported claim by the Metropolitan Police Service Commissioner, Cressida Dick, that the organisation is no longer institutionally racist, and urges all of Scotland's institutions to continue to guard against the realities of structural and institutional racism.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-15938>

The Macpherson report, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/277111/4262.pdf

The Action Plan for Scotland referred to above, can be read at

<https://archive.parliament.scot/business/committees/historic/equal/reports-99/eor01.htm>

UK Parliament Debate

Antisemitism in Modern Society

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-02-20/debates/993F895E-D215-4773-A464-1A6320523B0E/AntisemitismInModernSociety>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Prime Minister's Questions

Theresa Villiers (Conservative): This afternoon, the House will debate antisemitism. With that in mind, I quote from the statement of the right hon. Member for Enfield North (Joan Ryan), who explained Labour inactivity on this issue: "Given a choice between the support of antisemites and ridding Labour of Jew-hate, they have decided to side with antisemites." In the light of that, will the Prime Minister join me in urging Labour to rid its party of this scourge once and for all? [909335]

Reply from the Prime Minister: I think this is a very important issue that everybody

in this House should take seriously. I never thought I would see the day when Jewish people in this country were concerned about their future in this country, and I never thought I would see the day when a once-proud Labour party was accused of institutional antisemitism by a former Member of that party. It is incumbent on all of us in this House to ensure that we act against antisemitism wherever and however it occurs. It is racism and we should act against it.

Jeremy Corbyn (Labour): ... The Prime Minister just responded to a question on antisemitism. I simply say this: ... antisemitism has no place whatsoever in our society or in any of our political parties, and my own political party takes the strongest action to deal with antisemitism wherever it rears its head. ...

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-02-20/debates/DBF98336-1D8D-4844-B89B-3C9AEFD1462B/Engagements#contribution-E1FD5D36-0A06-4763-88EE-7583C1D37F51>

Prime Minister's Questions

Maria Caulfield (Conservative): Will the Prime Minister join me welcoming Councillor Anne Meadows, who has today left the Labour party in Brighton and Hove City Council, crossing the floor to join the Conservatives ... Councillor Meadows left the Labour party because of the rise of antisemitism and bullying that she and her colleagues have experienced from Momentum activists ... Does the Prime Minister agree that antisemitism is rife throughout the whole Labour party?

Reply from the Prime Minister: I agree with my hon. Friend. As she says, Anne Meadows, a long-serving Labour councillor on Brighton and Hove City Council, has today chosen to leave Jeremy Corbyn's Labour party and join the Conservatives, due to the bullying and antisemitism that she has received from Momentum and the hard left. That is the harsh reality that decent, moderate Labour councillors are having to face every, day due to Jeremy Corbyn's failure to stand up to bullying and racism in his party. ...

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-02-20/debates/DBF98336-1D8D-4844-B89B-3C9AEFD1462B/Engagements#contribution-AD3430A3-27AB-4E24-AC28-CB97D1329736>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Religious Hatred: Islam

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [220121] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps his Department is taking to help protect Ahmadiyya Muslim citizens from verbal and physical attack and abuse on religious grounds.

Reply from Heather Wheeler: Government is clear that everyone in Britain has the right to feel safe and at ease. Verbal and physical attacks and abuse on religious grounds are hate crimes and will be dealt with appropriately by the police and criminal justice system. As part of our efforts to tackle hate crime, the Government supports the work of the Cross-Government Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group, which represents a range of perspectives, including those of the Ahmadiyya community. We also support Tell MAMA, a service which spreads awareness about Anti-Muslim hate crime and Islamophobia, and provides victim support, amongst a number of other initiatives.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-12/220121/>

Religious Hatred: Islam

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [220122] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps his Department is taking to help protect

Muslim citizens from verbal and physical attack and abuse on religious grounds.

Reply from Heather Wheeler: The Government is absolutely committed to tackling hate crime against all individuals and communities. As part of the Government's refreshed Hate Crime Action Plan published in 2018, we continue to support Tell MAMA, a service which spreads awareness about Anti-Muslim hate crime and Islamophobia, and provides victim support, amongst a number of other initiatives. Verbal and physical attacks and abuse on religious grounds are hate crimes which should be reported to the police. We are confident that reports will be dealt with appropriately.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-12/220122/>

The action plan referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/748175/Hate_crime_refresh_2018_FINAL_WEB.PDF

Antisemitism

Nigel Dodds (DUP) [219327] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, how many anti-Semitic attacks there have been in each part of the UK since 2012.

Reply from Heather Wheeler: Hate crimes are unacceptable and the Government is completely committed to tackling them.

In October 2018 the first breakdown of hate crime statistics by religion was released by the Home Office. This data showed that 672 antisemitic hate crimes were recorded by the police in England and Wales in 2017/18. The full hate crime data bulletin for 2017/18 can be found here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/748598/hate-crime-1718-hosb2018.pdf.

The Community Security Trust independently collects its own data on antisemitic attacks in the UK. According to its data, there have been 7742 antisemitic attacks in the UK since 2012, and the highest numbers of attacks have been in London and Greater Manchester.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-11/219327/>

Sports: Discrimination

Jo Stevens (Labour) [220274] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps his Department is taking to encourage (a) anti-racism and (b) anti-homophobia initiatives in sport.

Mims Daview: There is no place for racism, sexism, homophobia or any other kind of discrimination in sport. Tackling discrimination lies at the heart of the cross-government sport strategy "Sporting Future". We want sport to be at the forefront of equality, and we work with national governing bodies of sport and organisations such as Kick It Out and Stonewall to tackle discrimination in local, national and international sport.

In relation to football specifically the Government is alive to a rise in the numbers of reported incidents of discrimination at all levels of the sport. I will be inviting the FA, English Football League, Premier League, players' representatives, and groups such as Stonewall and the Community Security Trust among others, to discuss what more football can do to stamp out racist, homophobic and anti-semitic abuse.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-12/220274/>

The strategy referred to above can be read at

Cemeteries: Vandalism

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [220301] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what funding his Department has allocated to (a) local authorities and (b) the police to protect Jewish and Islamic cemeteries from targeted vandalism in each of the last four years.

Reply from Heather Wheeler: Vandalism and the desecration of cemeteries are criminal offences and we are confident that these offences will be dealt with appropriately by the police, local services, and criminal justice system. Where these criminal offences are aggravated by hostility towards particular religious communities these will be investigated as hate crimes.

The Government provides funding support to specialist third party organisations the Community Security Trust and Tell Mama, both of which report hate crimes to the police, spread awareness about hate crimes, and provide victim support.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-12/220301/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Schools: Racist Incidents

Baroness Chakrabarti (Labour): To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made in meeting the recommendation of the Report of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry, published in February 1999, that schools record all racist incidents and that the numbers of racist incidents are published annually on a school by school basis.

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: My Lords, schools are best placed to monitor and tackle racist incidents. We do not mandate that schools record or publish these, but they are required to have a behaviour policy that outlines measures to prevent racist and other forms of bullying, and are held to account by Ofsted. They are also required to take steps to advance equality of opportunity, foster good relations and eliminate racial harassment. We provide support to schools to do this.

Baroness Chakrabarti: I am grateful to the Minister for that Answer. I take this opportunity to pay tribute to my noble friend Lady Lawrence of Clarendon, perhaps the greatest campaigner for race equality that this country has ever known. When I think of the last 20 years since the publication of the Lawrence report and the challenges that those years have brought to the cause of race equality, I think of terrorism, anti-immigration sentiment, rising inequality, and sadly even recent debates around Brexit. Too often, social media has been an engine and vehicle for the transmission of race hate before, during and after class. Will the Minister set out his thinking on what can be done on the part of the Government to better resource hard-pressed teachers and schools to tackle this, and what the Government intend to do about it?

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: I echo the thoughts of the noble Baroness and pay my own tribute to the noble Baroness, Lady Lawrence. We have an inaugural Stephen Lawrence Day coming up on 22 April, and I am sure many schools will want to take part. We trust the professionals in our schools to act in the best interests of their pupils. What counts is what is happening on the ground. Schools do not operate in isolation so issues soon come to light, and schools work closely with local authorities, regional schools commissioners and their governing bodies.

Baroness Garden of Frognal (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, now that the Government

at last have the power to make PSHE compulsory in all schools, including academies, what steps will they take to ensure that racial and religious discrimination forms an essential part of that curriculum?

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: Racism of any kind is completely unacceptable and abhorrent in any setting. The Government are fully committed to eradicating it and are taking several actions. The DfE is providing over £2.8 million of funding between September 2016 and March 2020 to four anti-bullying organisations to support schools to tackle bullying; again, it is action on the ground. Those include the Anne Frank Trust, which we are funding to develop and deliver its “Free to Be” debate programme.

Baroness Berridge (Conservative): My Lords, my noble friend is correct that the professionals and schools are at the front line of dealing with these issues. In the past, one issue has been the lack of diversity in the workforce in our schools. What progress has been made in ensuring ethnic diversity in the workforce, and particularly in the leadership of our schools?

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: My noble friend is right. The Government recognise the importance of a representative and diverse teaching workforce, which is vital for both teachers and their pupils. That is why we published a statement of intent last year, alongside 10 co-signatories including the ASCL, the NAHT and the NGA, to commit to work together to address the diversity of the teaching workforce. The latest figure that I have, as of November 2017, indicates that 7% of head teachers in primary schools and 8% in secondary schools were from ethnic minorities; there is always more work to do.

The Lord Bishop of Ely: My Lords, the Minister will be aware that the Church of England is responsible for many schools where the majority of pupils are from a BME background. Those schools operate in great harmony. That is along with our initiative, Living Well Together. It would be good to hear more about how the DfE makes use of the information and statistics that it receives. There is an issue about holding the whole estate accountable, which cannot be left entirely to the local situation.

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: The right reverend Prelate is right to raise that point. The DfE has an integrated communities strategy, which I am sure he is aware of. Education has a vital role in promoting integration. Through education, we can ensure that the next generation learns the values underpinning our society. All schools are required to promote mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs, as well as democracy, the rule of law and individual liberty. I hope that is clear.

Baroness Lawrence of Clarendon (Labour): My Lords, as you are aware, my interest in this subject is around the Stephen Lawrence inquiry, where schools are given a definition of a racist incident and what they are expected to do in the circumstances, which is to record, report and publish. In researching online, I found it difficult to find any results on this. All I could find was material about filling in forms. An academy in Swindon said that: “Schools should be aware that there is no ... requirement to collect data relating to racial incident reporting as academy schools are not obliged to share this information with the LA”.

The Parent Zone website states that: “Schools are required to record and respond to racist incidents”.

What steps have the Government taken to make sure that schools take racist incidents seriously and report and publish them on an annual basis?

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: The noble Baroness raises an important point. As I said earlier, schools should develop their own approaches to monitor bullying, including racist bullying, and exercise their own judgment on what will work best for their pupils. We have not gone down the route of mandating figures to be published because, for some schools, it will mean recording incidents so that they

can monitor incident numbers and identify where bullying is recurring between the same pupils, but other schools may prefer to survey their pupils anonymously to identify bullying trends and gauge how safe pupils feel at school. As I have said, it is work on the ground that counts.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-02-18/debates/8D64EB63-9F50-4C1D-AA24-002A5ABF0613/SchoolsRacistIncidents>

The Stephen Lawrence Inquiry report, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/277111/4262.pdf

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Religious Hatred: Islam

Lord Pearson of Rannoch (UKIP) [HL13561] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims' working definition of Islamophobia, as set out in its report Islamophobia defined: the inquiry into a working definition of Islamophobia, published in November 2018, on (1) the efficacy of counter-extremism and integration policies, (2) the ability to study, investigate and criticise political and radical Islam, and (3) community relations, in particular for moderate or liberal Muslims and the Ahmadiyya Muslim community.

Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: We are examining the options for a definition of Islamophobia and intend to examine this issue through the newly appointed Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group. Any such approach would need to be considered carefully to ensure that this would have the positive effect intended.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-02-07/HL13561/>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/599c3d2febbd1a90cffdd8a9/t/5bfd1ea3352f531a6170ceee/1543315109493/Islamophobia+Defined.pdf>

New Publications

Hate Crime Campaign 2019

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/whats-happening/campaigns/2019/hate-crime-2019/>
and

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/whats-happening/news/2019/february/hate-crime-campaign-launched>

Debate pack: The Twentieth Anniversary of the Macpherson Report

<https://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CDP-2019-0052>

Antisemitism in modern society

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CDP-2019-0042/CDP-2019-0042.pdf>

Still Not Visible: Research on Black and minority ethnic women's experiences of employment in Scotland

<https://www.scojec.org/memo/memo.html>

State of Hate 2019: People vs the Elite?

<http://www.hopenothate.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/state-of-hate-2019-final-1.pdf>

News: Antisemitism in the UK Labour Party

Jeremy Corbyn must take 'personal lead' on anti-Semitism – Watson

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-47348617>

Jeremy Corbyn says Labour is tackling anti-Semitism after MPs quit party

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/jeremy-corbyn-says-labour-is-tackling-anti-semitism-after-mps-quit-party-1-4876549>

Jeremy Corbyn brushes off calls for change to his leadership as Labour embroiled in fresh anti-Semitism row

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17444444.jeremy-corbyn-brushes-off-calls-for-change-to-his-leadership-as-labour-embroiled-in-fresh-anti-semitism-row/>

Corbyn must call out antisemites to restore Labour's moral authority – Lord Harris

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-02-21/news/corbyn-must-call-out-antisemites-to-restore-labours-moral-authority-bnv00h0vk>

Labour seeks to stem antisemitism crisis after Ian Austin quits

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/feb/22/labour-seeks-to-stem-antisemitism-crisis-after-mp-ian-austin-quits>

Labour split: Luciana Berger targeted on Facebook in antisemitic bullying row

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-02-19/news/labour-split-luciana-berger-targeted-on-facebook-in-antisemitic-bullying-row-tnpgmxfck>

Luciana Berger's exit was a distressing sight for Jews

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-02-19/news/luciana-bergers-exit-from-the-labour-party-was-a-distressing-sight-for-jews-sph8x2md6>

Labour split: Antisemitism row over MP Ruth George's Israel funding claim

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-02-19/news/labour-split-antisemitism-row-over-mp-ruth-george-s-israel-funding-comments-mrk8cr5hd>

Brighton councillor Anne Meadows quits Labour over 'anti-Semitism'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-sussex-47306426>

It is devastating that Jewish people feel Labour will not fight antisemitism

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/commentisfree/2019/feb/23/sadiq-khan-devastating-jewish-people-labour-unwilling-to-tackle-antisemitism>

Other Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination News

Former Labour MP Angela Smith criticised over skin colour comment

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/world-47283899/former-labour-mp-angela-smith-criticised-over-skin-colour-comment>

Angela Smith: Ex-Labour MP blames being 'very tired' for saying ethnic minorities have 'funny tinge'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/angela-smith-funny-tinge-interview-bbc-politics-apology-labour-independent-group-a8787111.html>

Angela Smith apologises for 'funny tinge' remark

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/feb/18/angela-smith-apologises-for-funny-tinge-remark>

Labour anti-semitism is part of sinister global trend

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/labour-anti-semitism-is-part-of-sinister-global-trend-leader-comment-1-4877957>

It'll take more than pop and protests to beat rise of cyber fascists

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/itll-take-more-pop-protests-14022170>

What has really happened since Macpherson's report

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-47300343>

Stephen Lawrence: How has his murder changed policing?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-47161480>

'Institutional racism': 20 years since Stephen Lawrence inquiry

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/feb/22/institutional-racism-britain-stephen-lawrence-inquiry-20-years>

Macpherson report: what was it and what impact did it have?

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/feb/22/macpherson-report-what-was-it-and-what-impact-did-it-have>

Anti-semitism: University of Essex suspends worker amid row

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-essex-47329730>

University of Essex suspends lecturer accused of antisemitism

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2019/feb/22/university-of-essex-suspends-lecturer-accused-of-antisemitism>

Essex University lecturer accused of antisemitic Facebook posts

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2019/feb/21/essex-university-lecturer-accused-antisemitic-facebook-posts>

University of Essex suspends employee and creates Jewish society amid antisemitism row

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/essex-university-jewish-society-antisemitism-zionists-facebook-students-union-a8791961.html>

Essex University academic suspended in Jewish society row

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-02-23/news/academic-suspended-in-jewish-society-row-x9x2mqvgh>

Racism and discrimination: the reality of work for BME women

<http://thirdforcenews.org.uk/tfn-news/racism-and-discrimination-the-reality-of-work-for-bme-women>

Far right on the rise in a desperate and divided UK

<http://thirdforcenews.org.uk/tfn-news/far-right-on-the-rise-in-a-desperate-and-divided-uk>

'No Travellers' rule no more

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/no-travellers-rule-no-more>

Port William caravan park's 'no travellers' rule removed

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-south-scotland-47309039>

Orthodox Jewish nursery that sacked teacher for living with partner cleared of religious discrimination

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/orthodox-jewish-nursery-teacher-sacked-appeal-religion-discrimination-a8788146.html>

Jewish nursery wins appeal over sacking teacher 'living in sin'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-02-20/news/jewish-nursery-wins-appeal-over-sacking-npdm2gdvh>

New York is right to ban hair discrimination. Now how about the UK?

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/feb/20/new-york-ban-hair-discrimination-british-black-people>

Fashion houses rush to atone for blackface sins

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-02-23/news/big-brands-rush-to-atone-for-blackface-fashion-sins-z2c5fg20f>

Maajid Nawaz: LBC presenter 'racially attacked' in London

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-47287308>

Maajid Nawaz, LBC host, does not 'harbour hate' towards attacker

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/feb/19/maajid-nawaz-lbc-presenter-hurt-in-racially-motivated-attack>

Radio host Maajid Nawaz punched in the face by racist

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-02-19/news/radio-host-maajid-nawaz-punched-in-the-face-by-racist-tf7pksgdm>

Salford politicians condemn racist graffiti and far right rally

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/feb/19/salford-politicians-condemn-racist-graffiti-and-far-right-rally>

Salford man targeted with racist graffiti 'overwhelmed' by support

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/feb/18/salford-dad-jackson-yamba-targeted-with-racist-graffiti-overwhelmed-by-support>

Man charged over racist graffiti at Salford flats

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-47316211>

Man, 45, admits spraying 'No Blacks' on door of his African neighbour

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/02/21/man-45-admits-spraying-no-blacks-door-african-neighbour/>

Boy 'scared' after finding racist graffiti at Salford flats

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-47270531>

Scottish boy describes ‘terror’ of finding racist graffiti on his English home

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/scottish-boy-describes-terror-of-finding-racist-graffiti-on-his-english-home-1-4876063>

Racist graffiti victims in Salford wait a week for police to investigate

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-02-18/news/racist-graffiti-victims-wait-a-week-for-police-to-investigate-58mp3dscn>

Man 'blacked up' as Minstrel and sang 'racist song' to black colleague at Priory Christmas party, court hears

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/02/20/man-blacks-minstrel-sings-racist-song-black-colleague-priory/>

Strict Liability is best way to stamp out sectarianism in Scottish football

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17449007.strict-liability-is-best-way-to-stamp-out-sectarianism-in-scottish-football/>

Strict liability the only way to tackle sectarianism in Scottish football

<https://www.scotsman.com/sport/football/teams/rangers/comment-strict-liability-the-only-way-to-tackle-sectarianism-in-scottish-football-1-4877269>

Appeal for witnesses following hate crime at Hearts game

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/appeal-for-witnesses-following-hate-crime-at-hearts-game-1-4875932>

Steve Clarke: Kilmarnock boss upset by 'sectarian' abuse in Rangers defeat

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/football/47313458>

Rangers fan fined after singing sectarian songs

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17453395.rangers-fan-fined-after-singing-sectarian-songs/>

Brendan Rodgers fears sectarian abuse will ‘ruin’ society

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-02-23/scotland/brendan-rodgers-fears-sectarian-abuse-will-ruin-society-25hfwqncn>

Time to punish clubs for bad behaviour of their idiot ‘fans’

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/time-to-punish-clubs-for-bad-behaviour-of-their-idiot-fans-95fd9pf9s>

Clubs must be held liable for chants, MSP demands

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-02-22/scotland/clubs-must-be-held-liable-for-chants-msp-demands-mv6jv7k3r>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

New Publication

Animation: Members of the Scottish Parliament

<https://www.parliament.scot/visitandlearn/111169.aspx>

News

Scottish budget plans passed by Holyrood

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-47308528>

Scottish budget plans passed by Holyrood

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17450876.scottish-budget-plans-passed-by-holyrood/>

Scottish Budget: MSPs back SNP plans on tax and spending

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/scottish-budget-msps-back-snp-plans-on-tax-and-spending-1-4877137>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Offenders: Religion

John Hayes (Conservative) [218756] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the relationship between an individual's (a) religious identification and (b) propensity to commit crime.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The police are not required by the Home Office to record information on the religious identification of perpetrators of crime, and the Home Office has not made an assessment of any link.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-08/218756/>

HIV Infection: Ethnic Groups

Angela Crawley (SNP) [220954] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what steps she is taking to tackle the stigma faced by BAME people living with HIV to help ensure they engage with medical professionals.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Minister for Women and Equalities leads on policy relating to women, sexual orientation and transgender equality. We encourage organisations that provide HIV prevention and treatment services to proactively engage with the BAME lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender population.

The LGBT Action Plan includes a commitment on tackling HIV transmission, AIDS and HIV-related deaths. Public Health England are disseminating results from their 'Positive Voices' survey to tackle the stigma and discrimination faced by people living with HIV. Public Health England and the Department for Health and Social Care are responsible for sexual health policy. The Government Equalities Office work with those departments to tackle health inequalities faced by LGBT people, including those who are BAME.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-13/220954/>

The action plan referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/721367/GEO-LGBT-Action-Plan.pdf

Information about the Positive Voices survey, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/voices/about>

HIV Infection: Ethnic Groups

Angela Crawley (SNP) [220955] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to tackle the stigma faced by BAME people living with HIV to help ensure they engage with medical professionals.

Reply from Steve Brine: In 2015, Public Health England (PHE) collaborated with the sexual health charity, the Family Planning Association, on the 'People Living with HIV Stigma Survey UK' to identify the stigma and discrimination experienced by people living with HIV in healthcare settings, faith settings, the workplace, and with intimate partners, family and friends. Results were disseminated via scientific manuscripts, medical conferences, and publicly available reports. Positive Voices, a recurring, nationally representative survey of people living with HIV, was last undertaken by PHE in 2017. It included questions on stigma and discrimination in healthcare settings. Dissemination of results is ongoing, including a community-led report on stigma: 'Changing Perceptions: Talking about HIV and Attitudes', and the production of publicly available reports, local reports, presentations and scientific manuscripts. These reports aim to change perceptions about living with HIV.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-13/220955/>

Female Genital Mutilation

Jo Stevens (Labour) [220275] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many cases of alleged female genital mutilation have been investigated in each of the last five years.

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 Home Office does not collate information on investigations, arrests and prosecutions centrally. Information on FGM referrals from the police to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) from 2010-18 is available in the CPS's Violence Against Women and Girls Report, available at

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/publication/violence-against-women-and-girls>

The Serious Crime Act 2015 introduced a number of measures to help overcome the barriers to prosecution, including: a new mandatory reporting duty for known cases of FGM in under-18s; extension of extra-territorial jurisdiction over FGM offences committed abroad; lifelong anonymity for victims; FGM Protection Orders (FGMPOs); and a new offence of failure to protect a girl from the risk of FGM. Between their introduction and 30 September 2018, 296 FGMPOs were made to protect victims and those at risk.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-13/220275/>

UK Labour and Conservative Party Resignations

Nine MPs have resigned from the UK Labour Party because, amongst other reasons, they have said that it has become racist and institutionally antisemitic. They will continue to sit as MPs, eight of them in a new Independent group, and the ninth also as an Independent but separately from the group.

Three MPs have resigned from the UK Conservative Party because, amongst other reasons, they have said that there has been a significant shift to the right, and that it has become less tolerant and more inward-looking.

For information about these MPs and their reasons for leaving the Labour and Conservative Parties see <https://www.theindependent.group/who-we-are>

Press Release

David Mundell speech: 20 years of Scottish devolution: Devolution after Brexit

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/speech-devolution-after-brexit>

News: UK Labour and Conservative Party Resignations

Ian Austin becomes latest MP to quit Labour party

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17452110.ian-austin-becomes-latest-mp-to-quit-labour-party/>

Labour MP Ian Austin quits the party over 'culture of antisemitism'

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/feb/22/labour-mp-ian-austin-quits-the-party>

MP Joan Ryan quits Labour for Independent Group

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-47300832>

Joan Ryan MP quits Labour party as crisis grows

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17444545.joan-ryan-mp-quits-labour-party-as-crisis-grows/>

Joan Ryan becomes eighth Labour MP to quit, blaming 'culture of anti-Semitism' under Corbyn leadership

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/02/19/joan-ryan-eighth-labour-mp-quit-blaming-culture-antisemitism/>

Joan Ryan: Labour MP quits party to join Independent Group in protest at Corbyn's Brexit stance

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/joan-ryan-independent-group-labour-party-jeremy-corbyn-brexit-mp-a8787496.html>

Seven MPs leave Labour Party in protest at Jeremy Corbyn's leadership

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-47278902>

Labour harbours culture of "bullying, bigotry and intimidation," says Berger as seven MPs split from party

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17440933.labour-harbours-culture-of-bullying-bigotry-and-intimidation-says-berger-as-seven-mps-split-from-party/>

Kezia Dugdale: Labour quitters were 'at their wits' end'

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17440630.kezia-dugdale-labour-quitters-were-at-their-wits-end/>

Seven MPs quit Labour to form new breakaway Independent Group

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/seven-mps-quit-labour-to-form-new-breakaway-independent-group-1-4874615>

Independent Group: Three MPs quit Tory party to join

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-47306022>

Sarah Wollaston, Heidi Allen and Anna Soubry quit Conservative Party for Independent Group

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17445931.sarah-wollaston-heidi-allen-and-anna-soubry-quit-conservative-party-for-independent-group/>

The Independent Group: Tories Anna Soubry, Sarah Wollaston and Heidi Allen quit party over Brexit to join ex-Labour MPs

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/the-independent-group-tory-split-resign-anna-soubry-wollaston-allen-conservatives-a8787951.html>

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Other News

Female genital mutilation: Children to be taught dangers

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-47348878>

Whistleblowing Imam wins unfair dismissal case against Edinburgh mosque

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17445760.whistleblowing-imam-wins-unfair-dismissal-case-against-edinburgh-mosque/>

Teachers condemn plans to make them criminally responsible for failing to report forced marriages

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/teachers-forced-marriage-school-children-home-office-consultation-a8788161.html>

Scottish pagans bid to win legal right to worship outside village

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/odd/scottish-pagans-bid-to-win-legal-right-to-worship-outside-village-1-4874777>

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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>

Vulnerable Witnesses (Criminal Evidence) (Scotland) Bill

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

UK Parliament

Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) Bill

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

**** Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) (No. 2)**

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/asylumseekerspermissiontoworkno2.html>

First Reading, House of Commons

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-02-20/debates/307060AB-D6C8-494D-B5E9-536024A06B93/AsylumSeekers\(PermissionToWork\)\(No2\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-02-20/debates/307060AB-D6C8-494D-B5E9-536024A06B93/AsylumSeekers(PermissionToWork)(No2))

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>

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

**** closes this week!**

'Adults at Risk' in immigration detention (closing date 25 February 2019)

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

**** closes this week!**

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/>

**** closes this week!**

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>

The Law of Succession (closing date 10 May 2019)

<https://consult.gov.scot/justice/law-of-succession-2019/>

Experiences of Islamophobia (closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/amina-islamophobia>

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!**

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>

**** this week!**

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>

**** this week!**

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

**** this week!**

The Healing Neighbourhoods, Empowering Citizens

28 February 2019 in Glasgow (9.30-4.00)

Freedom from Torture stakeholders participation event to share learning and experiences on our work in relation to rehabilitation and integration of Torture Survivors through the Healing Neighbourhoods project. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yyvcd7bm>

**** this week!**

Who Am I? Who Do You Think I Am?

2 March 2019 in Glasgow (9.00-5.00)

NCBI participatory unconscious bias and diversity workshop to gain an understanding of

experiences of unconscious bias and difference and the meanings attached to them. For information see <https://actiononprejudice.info/events/who-am-i-who-do-you-think-i-am/>

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 and explore how service users might prepare themselves to avoid possible threats of Brexit. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training/#unique-identifier2>

Introduction to Race Equality

12 March 2019 in Glasgow (10.00-3.30)

CRER training to increase understanding of race and racism in the Scottish context, and provide the tools to promote equality for minority ethnic people. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y5rguwh2>

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>

Introduction to Policing Programme

16 and 24 March, and 6 April 2019 (three-day course) in Edinburgh and Tulliallan Police Scotland course to encourage people from minority ethnic communities to consider a career in policing. For information see https://www.scojec.org/memo/files/19iii_ps.pdf , contact recruitmentpositiveactionteam@scotland.pnn.police.uk or request to join the closed facebook group 'Police Scotland Positive Action'

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

Discover your Journey: Police Scotland women-only event

23 March 2019 in Edinburgh (9.30-3.30)

30 March 2019 in Jackton (9.30-3.30)

Police Scotland event to encourage women to consider a career in policing. For information about the Edinburgh event see www.scojec.org/memo/files/19iii_ps2.jpg , and about the Jackton event see www.scojec.org/memo/files/19iii_ps3.jpg contact recruitmentpositiveactionteam@scotland.pnn.police.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>

Working with unaccompanied refugee children

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

Age assessment awareness

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

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

Working with refugees and VPRS resettlement

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/zy436qr> 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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