



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

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

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Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

University Applications (People with Leave to Remain)

Maureen Watt (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government what the criteria are for people applying to university who have leave to remain when assessing their home or overseas status. (S5O-03412)

Reply from the Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science (Richard Lochhead): As autonomous bodies, it is for universities to determine the tuition-fee status of students who apply for higher education courses, in accordance with the Education (Fees) (Scotland) Regulations 2011. Eligibility for home-rate fees is determined with reference to an applicant's residence rather than their nationality or place of birth.

Maureen Watt: In my constituency, there is a family who came to this country in 2002; all

its members have leave to remain. Two of the children currently attend university and receive home fees. However, when the daughter applied for higher education, certain universities and colleges classed her as an overseas student, which meant that she would have to pay fees. Does the minister agree that the criteria should be applied equally over all Scotland's higher education institutions?

Reply from Richard Lohead: That question is similar to the previous question. I reiterate that residency rules, which are laid out in legislation, set out eligibility for tuition fees and living costs loan support. As I also said before, we are speaking about autonomous institutions. On rare occasions, decisions vary from institution to institution. I make a similar offer and ask Maureen Watt to send me more details of the case. If there is a case for my intervention, in order to have more consistency across the institutions, I will look at it carefully.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12195&i=110159#ScotParlOR>

Edinburgh Festivals (Artists' Visas)

Gordon MacDonald (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government whether it is aware of any action being taken to ensure that the Edinburgh festivals do not experience the same difficulties as last year regarding complex visa rules faced by some artists. (S5O-03399)

Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs (Fiona Hyslop): At the end of last month, I was pleased to close the members' business debate on the important topic of visa issues for festivals. For the benefit of those who were not in the chamber on that day, I repeat that I have written to the Home Secretary as well as to other ministers, inviting their attendance at an international festivals visa summit here, in Edinburgh. I have reiterated that a better solution for visiting artists, performers and others must be integral to any future immigration system.

The United Kingdom Government's current visa application process for visitors who come to Scotland for our festivals is lengthy and complex, and there is a catalogue of examples of poor decision making. The Scottish Government is committed to ensuring that Scotland's voice and that of our internationally renowned festivals is heard in the discussion on the future immigration system.

Gordon MacDonald: I thank the cabinet secretary for that answer and for her efforts to address the problem. The issue needs to be addressed for the long term. Will the cabinet secretary join me in calling on the UK Government to make the visa process for this year's festivals more transparent and to allow festival organisers a chance to put any errors or omissions right before a visa refusal is received?

Reply from Fiona Hyslop: I will, indeed. We have reminded the Home Office that it needs to address that for this year, not just for future years. The member will have heard about the real concern of two Indian artists who have come as part of a UK-India cultural exchange programme, which was set up by the UK Government with funding from the British Council, Creative Scotland and the Scottish Government. Paragon, a charity that promotes Scottish inclusive music and dance, was involved in that particular programme.

The galling thing is that the artists' non-disabled colleagues from the charitable foundation in Chennai, who were travelling to Glasgow with them to support them, were granted entry without any trouble but the two young artists were not. We are looking into the issue and we are asking the Home Office to look into it. As of now, and as of this weekend, we are continuing to see the issues that are faced by cultural artists who want to come and perform here. They should be made welcome, and we should celebrate our international musical connections. The Home Office really must pay special attention to those issues this year.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12194&i=110135&c=2187109#ScotParlOR>

Refugee Week

Ruth Maguire (SNP): To ask the First Minister how the Scottish Government is marking refugee week. (S5F-03455)

Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon): The Scottish Government is delighted to support refugee festival Scotland, which begins today, on world refugee day. The Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government will be visiting an exhibition in Glasgow that has been designed and produced by refugees, and she will be hearing from those who are involved in the festival. The festival is co-ordinated by the Scottish Refugee Council, and it provides an opportunity for refugees to tell their stories and for us to recognise their courage, strength and resilience. It also gives us the opportunity to recognise the contribution that refugees and asylum seekers from all over the world make to life here in Scotland. We must remember that refugees have sought sanctuary from war, terrorism and torture, and I am proud that they are welcomed here and can begin to rebuild their lives. I thank all those who are involved in supporting refugees across our country.

Ruth Maguire: People in Scotland should feel proud that we have lived up to our global responsibility to find homes for thousands of refugees. However, because of the callous Tory Government, we still have lock-change evictions by Serco, children and pregnant women behind barbed wire at Dungavel and a hostile environment that persecutes rather than protects vulnerable people. In a few weeks, we will have a new Prime Minister. What should their priority be when it comes to fixing that broken system?

Reply from the First Minister: The implications of the policies that Ruth Maguire has just narrated to the chamber should shame the Conservative Government at Westminster, and I hope that the new Prime Minister will think again, fundamentally and very quickly. I call on the incoming Prime Minister to immediately overhaul the current failed asylum system. We urgently need a new process that is based on some important and basic principles: fairness, dignity and respect for human rights. We need a system that does not leave people at risk of destitution and homelessness, with other public services having to pick up the pieces. There should be a 28-day time limit on detention at immigration centres and a ban on the detention of children and pregnant women.

Today, the current Prime Minister and Home Secretary could take action to ensure that local authorities that voluntarily participate in asylum dispersal are provided with adequate funding to allow them to support people, from the very first day of their arrival, to rebuild their lives in communities.

Patrick Harvie (Green): The First Minister is right to say that the policy levers are at Westminster, but the responsibility to support people who are being failed in our communities lies with us, too. While we celebrate the refugee festival, hundreds of asylum seekers in Glasgow will face the threat of mass evictions and destitution. Does the First Minister agree that what they need in the coming weeks is not just a restatement of the existing Government commitment to provide, with Glasgow City Council, emergency accommodation but for that emergency accommodation to be available now? When will such accommodation be available? What can the First Minister tell us about the work that is on-going?

Reply from the First Minister: The Scottish Government will continue to work with Glasgow City Council and with any council that is in a similar situation to ensure that the support that asylum seekers need is available. That is an on-going obligation and responsibility, which includes the need to provide asylum seekers with access to accommodation.

It is essential that the point that I made a moment ago—I know that Patrick Harvie agrees with this—is understood by the United Kingdom Government. Local authorities that voluntarily participate in asylum dispersal, which we encourage local authorities to do, must get adequate funding from the UK Government to

support those people. Let us absolutely live up to our responsibilities, but let us continue to press the UK Government to live up to its responsibilities, too.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12196&i=110195#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-17885 Patrick Harvie (Green): Refuweegee Claiming Back the Narrative Exhibition – That the Parliament congratulates Glasgow-based Refuweegee on its Claiming Back the Narrative photographic exhibition, which is on display at Kelvingrove Museum and Art Gallery from 20 to 25 June 2019, understands that the exhibition presents informative photographs, art and written work, created by individuals who arrived as refugees to Glasgow in 2016; recognises Refuweegee and its partners and community who donated to provide welcome packs for 2,000 refugees on arrival in Scotland since 2016; notes that the welcome packs contain a letter from a local and essential items to help refugees feel at home; recognises Refuweegee's success in providing 120 welcome packs a month to new arrivals to Scotland; further recognises Refuweegee for the organisation of pop-up events for refugees to provide free clothing, toys and household items; notes that the exhibition coincides with Refugee Week and falls at the start of the Refugee Festival Scotland, the theme for which is Making Art, Making Home, which is about talent, creativity and resilience of new Scottish artists and community groups; hopes that this event further raises the voices of refugees and supports Scottish communities to continue to welcome them; recognises Oxfam Scotland's role in supporting Refuweegee and in its Stand as One campaign, which aims to bring people together in solidarity with, as well as support, people forced to flee, and counteract negative attitudes towards displaced people, and wishes all participants at the Refugee Festival Scotland the very best.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-17885>

UK Parliament Debates

Visa Processing Algorithms

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-06-19/debates/7B667153-E403-430C-8784-489D90717085/VisaProcessingAlgorithms>

Refugee Family Reunion

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-06-20/debates/17F2CA58-585D-40A5-8EA4-788C2748DC45/RefugeeFamilyReunion>

Modern Slavery Act: Independent Review

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-06-19/debates/66FD5FFB-2058-4CAE-8B1F-0EC4B2E09041/ModernSlaveryActIndependentReview>

UK Parliament, Ministerial Statement

Refugee Protection

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Sajid Javid) [HCWS1627] The UK is today reaffirming its ongoing commitment to supporting refugees, and to working with partners to find a longer-term approach to refugee protection, an approach that restores

dignity and offers refugees a viable future.

The UK has a long history of supporting refugees in need of protection. Our schemes have provided safe and legal routes for tens of thousands of people to start new lives in the UK. In every year since 2016 the UK resettled more refugees from outside Europe than any other EU member state. These remarkable achievements have been made possible through the tireless commitment of individuals, community and faith groups, local authorities, the devolved administrations, NGOs and our international partners. I am grateful to them for their ongoing support.

The global humanitarian need continues to grow with over 68.5 million people around the world forced from their homes and nearly 25.4 million refugees fleeing persecution; whether due to conflict, religious belief, sexuality or any reason under the refugee convention. Over half of those refugees are children and for some, resettlement to places like the UK is the only durable solution.

With our commitments under the vulnerable persons' resettlement scheme, vulnerable children's resettlement scheme and gateway protection programme coming to an end during 2020, it is right to provide certainty to our partners on the future of the UK's refugee resettlement offer. That is why today I want to confirm the UK's ongoing commitment to resettlement and set out our plans for after 2020.

Once we have delivered our current commitments we will consolidate our biggest resettlement schemes into a new global resettlement scheme. Our priority will be to continue to identify and resettle the most vulnerable refugees, identified and referred by UNHCR. Under the global resettlement scheme, we will broaden our geographical focus beyond the middle east and north Africa region and be better placed to swiftly respond to international crises in co-ordination with global partners.

In the first year of operation of the new scheme, the UK will aim to resettle in the region of 5,000 of the world's most vulnerable refugees. We will continue to purposefully target those most in need of assistance, including people requiring urgent medical treatment, survivors of violence and torture, and women and children at risk. A new process for emergency resettlement will also be developed, allowing the UK to respond quickly to instances of heightened protection need, providing a faster route to protection where lives are at risk. Building on the experience of delivering the current schemes and the significant contribution of our community sponsors a key part of our resettlement offer will be that those resettled through our community sponsorship and Mandate routes will be in addition to our yearly, global commitment.

We will continue to work in partnership with local authorities. Recognising that their continued support will be fundamental to achieving our ambitions, we will ensure that they continue to be well-funded, supporting them to provide resettled refugees with the best possible support upon arrival.

We will also continue our strong engagement with civil society as we move forward.

We will continue to support the long-term integration of refugees, empowering them to fulfil their potential and contribute positively to their new communities.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-06-17/debates/19061715000005/RefugeeProtection>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Health Professions: Migrant Workers

David Drew (Labour Co-op) [263048] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how many Cuban-trained (a) doctors and (b) nurses are employed by the NHS.

Reply from Stephen Hammond: NHS Digital publishes hospital and community health services workforce statistics for NHS trusts and clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) in England.

NHS Digital workforce statistics reports on the nationality of doctors and nurses in English NHS trusts and CCGs. As at December 2018 there were 14 members of NHS staff of Cuban nationality (headcount), including a total of six doctors, nurses and health visitors and midwives. Nationality data is self-reported and may reflect cultural heritage rather than country of birth. We do not know whether these workers received their medical training in Cuba or not.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-11/263048/>

Immigration: Fees and Charges

Stephen Timms (Labour) [264714] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration's report, An inspection of the Home Office Borders, Immigration and Citizenship System's relating to charging and fees, published on 4 April 2019, what progress has been made on assessing the potential merits of tapering the fee for repeat applications.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office is still considering its approach with regard to fee tapering for repeat settlement applications, which was recommended for review in the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration's report. The Home Office keeps all its fees under review and any future changes will be dependent upon the outcome of the next Spending Review.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-14/264714/>

The report referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/792682/An_inspection_of_the_policies_and_practices_of_the_Home_Office_s_Borders_Immigration_and_Citizenship_Systems_relating_to_charging_and_fees.pdf

Immigration: Enforcement

Jo Stevens (Labour) [263880] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many cases his Department has shared proactively shared data with other Departments for the purposes of immigration enforcement for each year for which figures are available.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office collects and processes personal data to fulfil its legal and official functions. We will only collect and process personal data where we have a legal basis to do so and it is necessary and proportionate. The Home Office may share information with other organisations, but only where the information needs to be shared and there is a legal basis for doing so. Further detail on this, including the categories of organisations with which we may share data, is set out in the Home Office personal information charter

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/about/personal-information-charter>

and, for the Borders, Immigration and Citizenship System (BICS), including the EU Settlement Scheme, via the BICS privacy information notice:

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

Identifying the precise number of instances in which data has been shared proactively with another government department would involve the interrogation of an array of disparate IT systems and would therefore be disproportionately costly.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-12/263880/>

DNA

Afzal Khan (Labour) [264449] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Independent review of the Home Office response to the mandating of DNA evidence for immigration purposes, what steps his Department has taken to find additional people affected by the mandating of DNA evidence who were not originally identified by his Department.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office has undertaken a range of activity to identify those affected through the work of the Taskforce and further system sampling including further work in light of the recommendations by Mr Singh. The Department will continue to consider if there are any additional steps that can be taken to identify individuals effected.

Anyone who thinks they have been affected should contact the Home Office:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/use-of-dna-evidence-in-immigration-applications>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-13/264449/>

Overseas Students: English Language

Stephen Timms (Labour) [264300] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the information his Department sent education institutions on students accused of cheating in the Test of International Communication distinguished between students who has (a) definitely and (b) probably cheated; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office provided a list of students to some licensed institutions which distinguished between those students with 'invalid' and those with 'questionable' TOEIC scores. The lists provided only related to students associated with those institutions.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-13/264300/>

Immigration: Turkey

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [263838] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will reverse his decision of March 2018 to close the permanent residency route under the Ankara Agreement for Turkish nationals who have set up businesses in the UK and are seeking indefinite leave to remain in the UK.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Upper Tribunal concluded, in the case of Aydogdu, that there was no legal basis under the Ankara Agreement for the previous route to indefinite leave to remain (ILR) for Turkish nationals who have set up businesses in the UK.

The Home Office therefore closed the route in March 2018 and, though not obliged to do so, introduced a route via the domestic Immigration Rules to enable Turkish business persons and their family members to obtain ILR where certain criteria are met.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-12/263838/>

The judgement referred to above can be read at

[https://moj-tribunals-documents-](https://moj-tribunals-documents-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/decision/doc_file/52222/00167_ukut_iac_2017_ha_ijr.doc)

[prod.s3.amazonaws.com/decision/doc_file/52222/00167_ukut_iac_2017_ha_ijr.doc](https://moj-tribunals-documents-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/decision/doc_file/52222/00167_ukut_iac_2017_ha_ijr.doc)

Right of Abode: Veterans

Peter Kyle (Labour) [265578] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 7 November 2018 to Question 186245 on Right of Abode:

Veterans, when his Department plans to announce a decision on granting right of abode to former British-Hong Kong servicemen.

Caroline Nokes: Under the British Nationality Selection Scheme introduced in 1990, a limited number of Hong Kong Military Service Corps personnel who were settled in Hong Kong could apply to register as a British citizen. The Scheme ran until 1 July 1997.

The Home Secretary has met with Andrew Rosindell MP and a delegation of former Hong Kong Military Service Corps (HKMSC) personnel and listened to their representations. This is a complex matter to which we are giving careful consideration.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-17/265578/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-31/186245/>

Visas

Jo Stevens (Labour) [263174] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his Department uses an algorithm to stream UK visa applications.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: UK Visas and Immigration streams UK visa applications using a streaming tool that is regularly updated with a range of immigration data.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-11/263174/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Visas: Applications

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [263146] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he is taking to improve the level of service provided by Sopra Steria for in-country visa services at UK visa and citizenship application service centres and enhanced service points across the UK.

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [263147] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he is taking to ensure that the UK Visa and Citizenship Application Service centres and enhanced service points across the UK have sufficient capacity to handle the increase in demand that will result from the student surge period in September 2019.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: UKVI officials meet with Sopra Steria Limited (SSL) on a regular basis to review performance and drive improvements to service standards. We are aware that there are issues with capacity at the moment which means customers might not always be able to book an appointment at their earliest convenience.

We are working with SSL as a matter of priority on a number of actions to increase the capacity at service points and we expect availability to increase shortly. These measures include; four additional enhanced service points in Sheffield, Leeds, Manchester and Edinburgh over the last month, increasing appointments offered to customers across a number of existing sites and reducing the cost of out of hours appointments.

Planning is underway with Sopra Steria and we are looking at a range of options to ensure that there is sufficient capacity within the service to meet demand during the student Autumn surge period.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-11/263146/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-11/263147/>

Visas: Applications

Jeff Smith (Labour) [266266] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to Sopra Steria's delivery of the UK Visa and Citizenship Application Services (UKVCAS), what assessment he has made of the (a) availability of free appointments and length of waiting times for applicants, (b) affordability of paid appointments for applicants and (c) the affordability of the pay-per-minute UKVCAS helpline.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: As part of their bid and delivery programme, Sopra Steria Limited (SSL) undertook market research to identify initial service locations and this included the impact on customer travel time, cost and accessibility.

There are currently six core sites across the UK at which application submission services are offered free of charge and beyond that, SSL offer a range of enhanced services in a further 52 locations. 62% of customers will, on average, have to travel less than 25 miles to visit a core service centre, with 78% travelling less than 50 miles.

UKVCAS offers customers the option to arrange an appointment at any of its core service points, located in Croydon, Cardiff, Birmingham, Manchester, Glasgow and Belfast. The UKVCAS core service points offer appointments up to 35 days in advance. Free appointments are available Monday to Friday between 10:00 and 16:00, any appointments outside these times, and those at enhanced service points, are subject to a charge. The charges for these services were based on the extensive customer research SSL completed as part of their bid. SSL will continue to review prices in light of customer insight and demand.

We are aware that customers are currently experiencing difficulties in securing free appointments and this is resulting in them having to wait longer for an appointment. New appointments are released by SSL on a daily basis and UKVI continue to work with SSL to increase the number of appointments available to its customers through opening new service points and increasing the number of appointments available at its existing service points experiencing high demand.

In relation to your concern around the cost of the UKVCAS support line, this is an added value service which is optional to customers who wish to find out more information about the application service. Customers who do not wish to avail of this chargeable service, may also contact SSL via their website, where they can choose from two options "make an enquiry" or "make a complaint". Once a customer has booked an appointment, they will also be provided with a local rate 0330 number on their booking confirmation.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-18/266266/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Visas: Applications

Afzal Khan (Labour) [265585] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, in how many cases his Department has deemed a (a) visa and (b) settlement application to be invalid while the applicant is waiting for an appointment with UK visa and citizenship application services.

Refugees

Afzal Khan (Labour) [265596] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, in how many cases a refugee's application for settlement has been classified as invalid following missing the deadline for enrolling biometric data, as a result of delays getting an

appointment with UK visa and citizenship application services.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: UKVI does not routinely deem visa or settlement applications to be invalid while the applicant is waiting for an appointment with UKVCAS. However, where an applicant has failed to book an appointment with UKVCAS, several months after submitting their application and having been sent multiple reminders, on these occasions the application may be deemed to be invalid.

Refugee applications for settlement are not dealt with through the UKVCAS process.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-17/265585/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-17/265596/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Migrant Workers: English Language

Caroline Lucas (Green) [264761] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how language competency will be taken into account as a key skill in the skilled workers route under a new immigration framework.

Caroline Lucas (Green) [264762] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of a language competency for the shortage occupation list under the proposed new immigration framework.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: In December 2018, the Government set out its proposals in “the UK’s future Skills-based Immigration System” White Paper. The White Paper proposals include a new route for skilled workers which will be open to anyone at RQF level 3 and above, irrespective of where they are applying from. The White Paper is clear that those applying in this route will be subject to an assessment of their language skills in order to support integration.

The Shortage Occupation List (SOL), is based on expert advice from the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) and identifies those occupations deemed to be in national shortage. It does not include a separate language assessment. The MAC published their most recent review of the full SOL on the 29 May. The Government is grateful to the MAC for a comprehensive report, the content of which we are now considering.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-14/264761/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-14/264762/>

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

The review referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/806331/28_05_2019_Full_Review_SOL_Final_Report_1159.pdf

Visas: Migrant Workers

Caroline Lucas (Green) [264763] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will make it his policy to extend the proposed transitional measure of a time-limited route for temporary short-term workers from 12 months to three years.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government published its White Paper “The

UK's future skills-based immigration system" on 19 December 2018, which proposed a new route for short-term workers to come to the UK for up to 12 months. This will be subject to a full review by 2025.

In the interim, we have launched a year-long programme of engagement to enable businesses and other stakeholders to shape the final details of policy and processes contained within the White Paper.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-14/264763/>

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: Overseas Students

Stephen Timms (Labour) [264713] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 6 June 2019 to Question 258941, on Visas: Migrant Workers, what guidance his Department has provided to Sopra Steria on managing the anticipated increase in the number of student visa applications in September 2019.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: UKVI has set out clear expectations to Sopra Steria on the provision of the service during the student surge from September. UKVI are working closely with Sopra Steria to ensure that any additional services are delivered at the appropriate times and location in order to meet demand. This preparation work has included providing Sopra Steria with historical data on student applications volumes to support their planning.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-14/264713/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-03/258941/>

Immigration: Windrush Generation

Jo Stevens (Labour) [263878] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much money from the public purse has been spent on urgent and exceptional support in relation to victims of the Windrush scandal in each month that figures are available.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The specific information requested is not included in statistical data published by the Home Office.

The Home Secretary provides monthly updates to the Home Affairs Select Committee on the work of the department in connection with Windrush. This includes information on the urgent and exceptional support provided to members of the Windrush cohort.

The monthly updates can be found at the following link:

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-12/263878/>

Immigration: Windrush Generation

Jo Stevens (Labour) [263879] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much his Department has spent on advertising the Windrush Compensation scheme.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office has a programme of engagement in place to promote the Windrush Compensation Scheme. We have a designated team tasked with engaging with communities. Our publicity efforts are targeted at potential claimants under the Scheme rather than a wider audience. We have

issued press notices, offered articles to key diaspora publications and engaged in social media activity. We are also exploring targeted paid media to promote the scheme.

We are working with local councils, MPs, religious and community groups to raise awareness through a series of engagement events. 14 such events have taken place to date and more are planned. The events are publicised on Gov.UK and publicity material is made available to local authorities and representative bodies. Targeted publicity is the most effective way of informing prospective Windrush claimants about the Scheme. In terms of direct spend on advertising, we do not readily have data on the total cost of all our activities to publicise the Compensation Scheme as this includes design and production of posters and wallet cards, radio advertisements and staff and travel costs associated with organising and participating in events.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-12/263879/>

Information about the events referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/windrush-compensation-scheme#windrush-engagement-events>

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

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

Immigration: EU Nationals

Jessica Morden (Labour) [263778] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will take steps to ensure that all of the EU Settlement Scheme application process is available in every European language.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We have no plans to make the application process available in every European language. The application for the EU Settlement Scheme is simple and straight forward.

The application process has been tested with users of different abilities and we have conducted research with those who do not read English. We have also published the scheme guidance in 26 different European languages.

In addition, there are now over 300 assisted digital centres where applicants can be supported through their application and we have awarded up to £9 million funding for 57 voluntary and community sector organisations across the UK to help reach more vulnerable or at risk EU citizens and their family members directly.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-12/263778/>

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

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

Immigration: EEA Nationals

Kerry McCarthy (Labour) [265467] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average time is to process Surinder Singh applications, and how that compares with other types of applications made under the EU Settlement Scheme since that scheme's inception.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Current processing times for applications made under the EU Settlement Scheme can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-application-processing-times/eu-settlement-scheme-pilot-current-expected-processing-times-for-applications>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-17/265467/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Darren Jones (Labour) [266278] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the Home Office has plans to provide EU citizens with physical documentation confirming their settled status after the UK leaves the EU.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office issues all EU citizens granted status under the EU Settlement Scheme with a written notice of their immigration status and their conditions of leave for staying in the UK, by email or letter, which is an official document that individuals can keep. However, due to the possibility of fraud and abuse, this document cannot be used to evidence an individual's immigration status to work or access services. EU citizens will be able to continue using their passports and national identity cards to evidence their status in the UK until the new immigration system is introduced in 2021. EU citizens granted status under the scheme can view that status, as recorded digitally by the Home Office, and will be able to share it with others to access services they are entitled to, via an online status checking service. This digital status forms part of the move towards digital products in the UK immigration system. It is more secure and enables individuals to keep their information up to date, share it in real time, and only share the information that is required, which is not possible with a card.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-18/266278/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

English Language: Refugees

Catherine West (Labour) [263820] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment he has made of the potential effect of providing English for Speakers of Other Languages training for refugee women on the (a) number of hours of English language teaching available to and (b) ability to access childcare of those women.

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [263875] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what plans his Department has to improve access to ESOL provision for (a) refugee women and (b) refugee women who have childcare and caring responsibilities.

Reply from Anne Milton: The government recognises that learning English is essential in enabling refugee women to rebuild their lives. We are working across government to develop a new strategy for English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) in 2019, which will include addressing the needs of refugees.

The department funds ESOL through the Adult Education Budget, which is allocated to providers on an annual basis. Colleges and adult learning providers have the freedom and flexibility to determine how they use their Adult Education Budget allocation to meet the needs of their communities. This includes planning, with local partners, the ESOL courses that they will deliver locally. The Home Office and the Department for Education have provided £10 million to enable refugees resettled through the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme to access additional classes.

We know that there are many examples of good practice to overcome barriers for learners with childcare needs. Through the ESOL strategy, we will explore what else needs to be done to enable good local solutions and to support greater access to English language provision.

All 3 and 4 year olds in England are entitled to 570 hours a year of funded early education over no fewer than 38 weeks of the year (which equates to 15 hours a week for 38 weeks of the year) irrespective of the immigration status of the child or their parent(s).

Local authorities have a duty to provide information, advice and assistance for parents and prospective parents on the provision of childcare in their area. Parents can contact their local Family Information Service for details of local childcare and

early years provision in their area.

For those who come to the UK under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme, additional funds are made available for childcare to ensure this is not a barrier for mothers and carers to learn English.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-12/263820/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-12/263875/>

Refugees: English Language

Kate Green (Labour) [263841] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment his Department has made of the potential long-term (a) economic and (b) social merits of ensuring that refugees' command of English enables them to be ready to work; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government published the cross-government Integrated Communities Action Plan in February 2019. In the action plan we have committed to ensuring all refugees are empowered to integrate and rebuild their lives in the UK, focusing on improving support for English language, employment, mental health, and orientation to life in the UK.

The Government recognises that learning English is essential to empowering refugees to rebuild their lives and move towards self-sufficiency and integration. We are working across government to develop a new strategy for English for speakers of other languages in 2019. The strategy will provide a shared vision for all publicly funded English language provision and this will include addressing the needs of refugees.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-12/263841/>

English Language: Refugees

Frank Field (Independent) [264326] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether the forthcoming strategy for ESOL will ensure that all refugees can access a minimum of eight hours a week of formal, accredited English language teaching for their first two years in the UK.

Reply from Anne Milton: The government recognises that learning English is essential in enabling refugees to rebuild their lives. We are working across government to develop a new strategy for English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) in 2019, which will include addressing the needs of refugees.

The department funds ESOL through the Adult Education Budget, which is allocated to providers on an annual basis. Colleges and adult learning providers have the freedom and flexibility to determine how they use their Adult Education Budget allocation to meet the needs of their communities and this includes planning, with local partners, the ESOL courses that they will deliver locally.

The Home Office and Department for Education have provided £10 million to enable refugees resettled through the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme to access additional classes.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-13/264326/>

English Language: Refugees

Chris Stephens (SNP) [265552] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that all refugees who come to the UK are provided with English language education at the earliest opportunity.

Reply from Anne Milton: The government recognises that learning English is essential in enabling refugees to rebuild their lives. We are working across government to develop a new strategy for English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) in 2019, which will provide a shared vision for all publicly funded English language provision, including addressing the needs of refugees.

The department funds ESOL through the Adult Education Budget (AEB), which is allocated to providers on an annual basis. Colleges and adult learning providers have the freedom and flexibility to determine how they use their AEB allocation to meet the needs of their communities and this includes planning, with local partners, the ESOL courses that they will deliver locally. The AEB also provides additional support for learners who face specific financial hardship, which is preventing them from taking part or continuing in learning.

The Home Office and the Department for Education have also provided £10 million to enable refugees resettled through the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme to access additional classes.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-17/265552/>

Refugees: Loneliness

Alex Norris (Labour Co-op) [265589] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of access to English language classes to reduce levels of loneliness among resettled refugees.

Reply from Anne Milton: The government is committed to tackling loneliness and published its first loneliness strategy on 15 October 2018, bringing together the government, local government, public services, the voluntary and community sector and businesses to identify opportunities to tackle loneliness and build more integrated communities.

The government recognises that learning English is essential in enabling refugees to rebuild their lives. We are working closely across government to develop a new strategy for English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) in 2019, which will provide a shared vision for all publicly funded English language provision, including addressing the needs of refugees.

We know that language skills are crucial to help people integrate into life in England, as well as to break down barriers to work and career progression. This is why we support adults in England through the Adult Education Budget to secure the English language skills they need. The Home Office and the Department for Education have also provided £10 million to enable refugees resettled through the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme to access additional classes.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-17/265589/>

Asylum: Afghanistan

David Lammy (Labour) [264302] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Afghanistani interpreters who worked for (a) British forces and (b) NATO forces during the Afghanistan conflict have been granted asylum in the UK.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office are unable to report on how many Afghanistani interpreters who worked for (a) British Forces and (b) NATO forces during the Afghanistan conflict, have been granted asylum in the UK. This information is recorded on individual Home Office files, but not in a way that can be easily retrieved, and this information could only be obtained at disproportionate costs.

The Home Office does publish data on those who have been granted asylum in the UK, for main applicants broken down by country of nationality, including those from

Afghanistan. The latest release published 24th May 2019, can be found in tab as_01 at volume 1 of the quarterly Immigration Statistics release:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2019/list-of-tables#asylum>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-13/264302/>

Asylum: Finance

Ian Murray (Labour) [264766] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of funding allocated to local authorities to provide services to meet the needs of asylum seekers.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office are engaging closely with Local Authority Chief Executives on a continuous basis to assess the costs associated with meeting the needs of asylum seekers. As recently outlined in correspondence between Ministers and Local Authorities, it has been agreed that this joint review will be co-designed and co-produced by Local Authorities and the Home Office.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-14/264766/>

Health Services: Asylum

Kate Green (Labour) [263891] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, for what reasons NHS England has ceased printing and distributing hard copies of the How to register with a doctor leaflets for asylum seekers and refugees.

Reply from Seema Kennedy: NHS England is currently reviewing the information provided to patients. The “How to register with a doctor” leaflets remain available online and can be printed as necessary from the following link:

<https://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/AboutNHSservices/doctors/Documents/how-to-register-with-a-gp-leaflet.pdf>

The process of registering with, and gaining access to, primary medical care services is the same for all patients, whether they are gypsies, travellers, homeless or vulnerable migrants. People do not need to provide proof of address to register with a general practitioner (GP).

The free NHS 111 service can assist anyone who has faced difficulty finding a GP or accessing other services in their local area.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-12/263891/>

Asylum: Children

Paul Girvan (DUP) [262442] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to identify the age of people placed in care facilities with minors when requesting asylum.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Where clear and credible documentary evidence of age is not available, criteria including physical appearance and demeanour are used as part of the process to assess whether a person is under 18. The Home Office will treat a person claiming to be a child as an adult only where their physical appearance and demeanour very strongly suggest they are 25 years of age or over. When there is doubt about an individual’s claim to be a child, Home Office policy is to refer them to the relevant local authority to carry out a careful “Merton compliant” age assessment, which must be carried out by two social workers and must adhere to guidelines set out by the Courts. Whilst this assessment is ongoing, the local authority or Health and Social Care Trust looking after the individual remains responsible for their care arrangements and the safeguarding of other children in their care.

The Home Office keeps its policies and processes under review and we remain committed to striking the right balance between ensuring that children who claim asylum are appropriately supported and maintaining the integrity of the asylum system by preventing adults being treated as children.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-10/262442/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Stephen Doughty (Labour Co-op) [263156] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to his oral contribution of 24 July 2018 on detention, Official Report column 909, what extra data on immigration detention he plans to publish; and what the timetable is for the publication of that data.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: In November 2018, the Home Office published data on the number of deaths in the detention estate and absconds from the detention estate for the first time in its official [Immigration Statistics](#). This data will continue to be published on an annual basis each August.

At the same time, the Home Office published data on pregnant women in detention and further breakdowns of data on reports made by a medical practitioner under Rule 35 for the first time in the [Immigration Enforcement Transparency](#) data. This data will continue to be published on a quarterly basis.

In February 2019, the Home Office also announced its intention to undertake a more extensive review of the published enforcement data and has invited initial user feedback on the current and future publication of enforcement data. The review will include a formal consultation, which will be launched this summer and will be used to inform any future publication plans.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-11/263156/>

The oral contribution referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-07-24/debates/03FA26A3-90A1-4E58-826A-1341ABA6D146/ImmigrationDetentionShawReview>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2019/how-many-people-are-detained-or-returned#review-of-immigration-enforcement-data>

The following six questions all received the same answer

Asylum: Detainees

Lesley Laird (Labour) [263224] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers resident in Scotland are held in removal centres at (a) Dungavel and (b) other UK centres.

Lesley Laird (Labour) [263225] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many child asylum seekers resident in Scotland are currently being held at (a) Dungavel and (b) other UK removal centres.

Lesley Laird (Labour) [263226] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the longest time an asylum seeker resident in Scotland has been held at (a) Dungavel and (b) another UK removal centre.

Lesley Laird (Labour) [263227] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the longest time held is for an asylum seeker resident in Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath constituency at (a) Dungavel and (b) another UK removal centres.

Lesley Laird (Labour) [263228] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average length of detention for asylum seekers resident in Scotland is at (a) Dungavel and (b) other UK removal centres.

Lesley Laird (Labour) [263229] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department,

what the average cost to the public purse is of each detention of asylum seekers resident in Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath constituency at (a) Dungavel and (b) other UK removal centres.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office does not hold the information requested on individual detainees from Scotland or from Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath constituency in a reportable format. The last known addresses of detainees are not included in the underlying datasets used to produce the Home Office's published detention figures and the information requested could only be supplied at disproportionate cost.

The median length of detention of people leaving the detention estate in Q1 2019 was between 8 and 14 days, and of people in the immigration detention estate as at 31 March 2019 between 15 and 28 days. Information on the length of detention of people leaving and in the detention estate is available in tables dt_06_q and dt_11_q of the detention tables in the latest releases of 'Immigration Statistics, year ending March 2019'.

The UK ended the routine detention of children in immigration removal centres in 2010 and enshrined this in law under the Immigration Act 2014. There remain limited circumstances where, very exceptionally, unaccompanied children may be detained in the absence of suitable alternatives.

The great majority of asylum claims are processed in the non-detained system, with claimants living in the community. Only a small minority of claimants are detained whilst their claim is considered. The current policy emphasises fairness and flexibility. There are no fixed timescales for scheduling an asylum interview and deciding an asylum claim in detention. Timescales are tailored to take account of the circumstances of each case.

The High Court and Court of Appeal have confirmed the lawfulness and fairness of the Detained Asylum Casework process. Asylum claims in detention are considered in accordance with published detention guidance, incorporating the policy on safeguarding adults at risk.

The average cost to detain an individual in immigration detention is provided on a per day basis. The current daily cost per detainee is £88.68, which corresponds to an annual cost of £32,368 (£88.68 multiplied by 365 days). Data can be found at the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-enforcement-data-february-2019>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-11/263224/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-11/263225/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-11/263226/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-11/263227/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-11/263228/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-11/263229/>

The immigration statistics referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2019>

Asylum: Deportation

Stephen Doughty (Labour Co-op) [263157] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been deported who applied for asylum in the UK based either in part or wholly on their sexuality or gender identity and fear of persecution in their home countries in each year since 2010 by country of origin.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office is unable to report on how many people have been deported who applied for asylum in the UK based either in part or wholly on their sexuality or gender identity and fear of persecution in their home countries in each year since 2010 by country of origin, as the Home Office do not publish data on asylum claims based on gender identity or expression. This information could only be obtained at disproportionate costs.

The Home Office remains committed to publishing information on the number of people claiming asylum on the basis of sexual orientation broken down by nationality.

On 29 November 2018, the Home Office published experimental statistics on Asylum claims made on the basis of sexual orientation, covering the period 2015 to 2017.

These experimental statistics provide data on asylum claims from 2015-2017, by year of application, initial decision, appeal receipt, or appeal decision

Data on the number of asylum claims on the basis of sexual orientation can be found in tabs SOC_00 in the experimental statistics in the link provided below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2019/list-of-tables#asylum-on-the-basis-of-sexual-orientation>

These are the latest data available, and the next planned update to these statistics is in August 2019.

Deportations are a subset of enforced returns. They may occur either following a criminal conviction, or when it is judged that a person's removal from the UK is conducive to the public good. Information on those deported who have made an asylum claim on the basis above is not separately available. The published statistics refer to enforced returns, which include deportations as well as cases where a person has breached UK immigration laws, and those removed under other administrative and illegal entry powers who have declined to leave voluntarily. Most illegal immigrants are removed from the UK under administrative or illegal entry powers and not deported.

Information on all returns is published as part of Home Office's quarterly Immigration Statistics broken down by nationality, and can be found at tab rt_01:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2019/list-of-tables#returns>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-11/263157/>

Deportation: Tamils

Gareth Thomas (Labour Co-op) [263667] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Tamil asylum seekers have been deported from the UK to Sri Lanka in each of the last nine years; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office does not hold the information requested.

To provide the information would require a manual check of individual records which would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold.

Data relating to the numbers of asylum seekers removed to Sri Lanka can be

accessed in the link below: Immigration:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2019/how-many-people-are-detained-or-returned#data-tables>

The UK has a proud history of granting asylum to those who need our protection. Each claim is carefully considered on its individual merits. We expect those with no legal right to remain in the country to leave.

Guidance used by UK Visas and Immigration to make decisions on asylum and human rights applications can be found on the gov.uk website

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/country-policy-and-information-notes>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-12/263667/>

Deportation: Afghanistan

David Lammy (Labour) [264301] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people from Afghanistan who claimed asylum in the UK were returned to that country during the period when coalition forces were active there.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The number of returns from the UK of nationals of Afghanistan to Afghanistan from 2004 to 2018 is published in table rt_04 (returns data tables, volume 4) in 'Immigration Statistics, year ending March 2019', available from the GOV.uk website at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/803186/returns4-mar-2019-tables.ods

Information on returns prior to 2004 is not comparable with more recent years; however data on the number of enforced removals and voluntary returns for the period 2000 to 2003 can be obtained from the [National Archives](#) under the title Control of Immigration: Statistics, United Kingdom.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-13/264301/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Immigration and Asylum Applications

Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat): To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they intend to take to address decision-making on initial immigration and asylum applications, following the publication of Home Office data that 52 per cent of immigration and asylum appeals were allowed in the year to March 2019.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford):

My Lords, the Home Office recognises that there are improvements to be made to the initial decision-making process, but there are various reasons why appeals are allowed, not all of which necessarily relate to the quality of decisions. However, we are not complacent; we continue to focus on improving the quality of decision-making and the customer experience, including learning from the tribunal.

Lord Scriven: I thank the Minister for that reply. It is quite clear that there is a systematic and fundamental problem in the Home Office with the initial decision-making process on asylum and immigration. Issues such as basic information not being collected or used, medical reports being ignored and staff feeling a culture of bullying and intimidation have come to light. If that is the case, how do we in six months' time judge success and whether an improvement has been made so that this House and the public can determine whether this systematic failure is improving?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I do not agree with the noble Lord that there is systematic failing. He will appreciate that many of these cases are complex and involve human rights considerations. I agree that we should focus on

timeliness but the quality of decision-making, which the noble Lord also points out, is absolutely crucial. We have created a UKVI caseworking unit and caseworker lead; I hope that the quality of initial decision-making will improve—I do not doubt it—but I accept that the longer a decision-making or appeals process goes on, the greater the chance of more information coming to light or fresh appeals ensuing.

Lord Rosser (Labour): In a recent letter to me, the Minister said that, in 2017, 1,936 asylum applications were made on grounds of sexual orientation, with 423 grants of asylum, but 487 appeals were allowed—that is, there were more allowed appeals than the number of applications granted in that same year. I accept that, in some cases, more relevant information is provided by the applicant for the appeal than in the initial application. In what percentage of allowed appeals is that the decisive factor? What are the main reasons for appeals being allowed? Do staff who turned down the initial application get told if there has been a successful appeal and the reasons for it? Have any changes been made to asylum application practices in the light of reasons for allowed appeals, whether in guidance or advice to applicants or questions that should be asked by those assessing an application? ...

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I know that the noble Lord will understand if I do not answer all five questions now. However, I will answer his question on more appeals being allowed than applications being granted as it is a hangover from a question he has asked before. That figure was slightly mystifying at the time. Many of the appeals that are heard are not necessarily from that given year; there may be a lag effect with applications from the previous year—hence, in any given year, more appeals may be allowed than applications granted. I will leave it there but perhaps talk to the noble Lord afterwards about his other questions.

Lord Hylton (Crossbench): Does the Minister accept that the quality of the first principal interview is the most important factor, rather than that of the later decision-making? Endless advice was given to successive Governments, so can the Minister assure me that interviewers will, whenever possible, be of the same gender as the applicant, and that there will be no assumption that all applicants are lying?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, I do not think—in fact I am categorically certain—that no assumption is made that all applicants are lying, but where I would concur with the noble Lord is that the quality of the interview is incredibly important in the initial decision-making process. On the cohorts that we discuss quite often in the House such as LGBT people or people of faith, we have well-trained staff dealing with these applications. For LGBT and faith-based applications—I thank my noble friend Lady Berridge for establishing faith as a basis for an application—the training process for the staff has been much improved.

Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb (Green): My Lords, does the Minister have any suspicion that the hostile environment created by our current immigration system might be contributing to the more overt hate speech that we are seeing on all social media as well as in wider society at the moment?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The noble Baroness will know perfectly well that my right honourable friend the Home Secretary wanted to end the notion of a hostile environment, a term which was of course coined under a previous Labour Government, and move more towards an environment of compliance in the area of immigration. As she knows, hate speech is derived from a number of complex and different factors, so to talk about a hostile environment as the deciding factor for hate speech would be incorrect.

Lord Cormack (Conservative): My Lords, does my noble friend have a record of the number of refused asylum seekers who are claiming asylum because they are persecuted Christians?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I do not have the number with me and I am not sure that the reason for persecution because of faith will be available.

However, I will certainly have a look for my noble friend.

Lord Paddick (Liberal Democrat) My Lords, human rights appeals and EU free movement appeals are allowed in more than 50% of cases. Despite what the noble Baroness has said, the former suggests a continuation of the hostile environment culture at the Home Office and the latter sheer incompetence. Why is the Home Office not learning from these cases and adjusting its initial decision-making criteria accordingly? Any learning organisation would see a steady decline in the proportion of successful appeals, not an increase.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Human rights appeals are often quite lengthy and those which end up before the tribunal come with new information to be presented, sometimes just a couple of days before the actual hearing, resulting in the higher number of wins on appeal. However, I totally accept the point and I do not think that I have shied away from the fact that our performance could be better. We are doing a number of things to improve our appeal rate win.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-06-19/debates/A2705584-84B3-4924-B826-742DA99C6082/ImmigrationAndAsylumApplications>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer

Migrant Workers: Teachers

Baroness Coussins (Crossbench) [HL15991] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to include teachers of all modern languages in the Shortage Occupation List for immigration purposes.

Migrant Workers: Interpreters

Baroness Coussins (Crossbench) [HL15992] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to include professionally qualified linguists wishing to work as public service interpreters in the Shortage Occupations List for immigration purposes.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Shortage Occupation List (SOL) is set based on advice from the independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC). Last July, the Government commissioned the MAC to undertake a full review of the current composition of the SOL. That review is now complete and was published on 29 May. The Government is grateful to the MAC for a comprehensive report, the content of which we are now considering.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-06-04/HL15991/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-06-04/HL15992/>

The review referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/806331/28_05_2019_Full_Review_SOL_Final_Report_1159.pdf

Undocumented Migrants

The Earl of Sandwich (Crossbench) [HL16167] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many illegal migrants arrived in the UK by sea in the last 12 months; what proportion of them were trafficked women and children; and of those, what proportion have leave to remain in the UK.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Permanent Secretary's letter to the Home Affairs Select Committee on small boat attempts up to and including February 2019 can be found here:

<https://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-committees/home-affairs/Correspondence-17-19/19-03-05-Letter-from-Sir-Philip-Rutnam-KCB-Permanent-Secretary-Home-Office-Migrant-boats-in-the-channel.pdf>

The data from March is currently being reconciled to ensure accuracy. No decision has been taken on mode or frequency of any future publication of this data. We are tackling the organised crime gangs who are exploiting vulnerable and desperate individuals by working across Government and with both domestic and international agencies to respond to this issue.

As the Immigration Minister announced in Parliament there have been 24 arrests between IE and NCA in relation to small boat threats.

[Letter - Perm Sec - Migrant Boats Channel](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-06-06/HL16167/>

Undocumented Migrants

Lord Empey (UUP) [HL16145] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people illegally entered the UK by sea since January.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Permanent Secretary's letter to the Home Affairs Select Committee on small boat attempts up to and including February 2019 can be found here:

<https://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-committees/home-affairs/Correspondence-17-19/19-03-05-Letter-from-Sir-Philip-Rutnam-KCB-Permanent-Secretary-Home-Office-Migrant-boats-in-the-channel.pdf>

The data from March is currently being reconciled to ensure accuracy. No decision has been taken on mode or frequency of any future publication of this data.

[Letter - Perm Sec - Home Office Migrant Boats](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-06-06/HL16145/>

Undocumented Migrants

Lord Empey (UUP) [HL16146] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people who entered the UK illegally by sea since January have (1) applied for asylum, (2) been detained pending further enquiries, and (3) been returned to another country.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office has published data on the number of illegal migrants who have entered the UK illegally by crossing the Channel and the point at which they were encountered, up to and including February 2019, and this information can be found at Table 2, at the link below:

<https://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-committees/home-affairs/Correspondence-17-19/19-03-05-Letter-from-Sir-Philip-Rutnam-KCB-Permanent-Secretary-Home-Office-Migrant-boats-in-the-channel.pdf>

Year	Number of People encountered and to the point they were encountered
2019	177

Data from March 2019 is currently being reconciled to ensure accuracy. No decision has been taken on mode or frequency of any future publication of this data.

The Home Office is unable to report on how many people who entered the UK illegally by sea since January have (1) applied for asylum, (2) been detained pending further enquiries, as the method of entry for those who claim asylum in the UK is non recorded in a format that can easily be retrieved and to obtain this information would require a manual trawl and could only be obtained at disproportionate costs.

The Home Office does publish data on the number of applications for asylum in the UK, in its quarterly Immigration Statistics release, the latest release published

24th May 2019. The number of asylum applications for main applicants by country of nationality, made since January 2019 can be found in table as_01_q for main applicants:

Year	Total asylum applications (Main applicants)
2019 Q1	8,922

Latest edition available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2019/list-of-tables#asylum>

The Home Office does publish data on the number of people entering detention, in its quarterly Immigration Statistics release, the latest release published 24th May 2019. The number entering detention since January 2019 can be found in table dt_01_q:

Year	Total detainees
2019 Q1	6,153

Latest edition available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2019/list-of-tables#detention>

The number of illegal migrants who entered the UK illegally by small boats and have been returned to another country currently stands at 35.

[Letter - Migration Boats](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-06-06/HL16146/>

Undocumented Migrants

Lord Empey (UUP) [HL16147] To ask Her Majesty's Government what costs have been incurred from (1) intercepting, (2) processing, and (3) housing and maintaining, people who have illegally entered the UK by sea since January.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office publishes data regarding its financial accounts on the GOV.UK website as part of its financial reporting procedures, and also as part of the transparency agenda. The latest report can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/home-office-annual-report-and-accounts-2018-to-2019>

We do not routinely publish breakdowns of operational departmental spending, and are unable to provide this information, as it could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

[HO Annual Report and Accounts - 2018-19](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-06-06/HL16147/>

Human Trafficking

The Earl of Sandwich (Crossbench) [HL16168] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they provide the independent anti-slavery commissioner with regular information on new arrivals in the UK who may be victims of trafficking, whether or not they register with the National Referral Mechanism; and what guidance they provide on the need to offer care and protection to victims of trafficking while they have temporary leave to remain.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government recognises the importance of sharing data with the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner and will do so where appropriate, including on the number of modern slavery victims coming to the UK.

Safeguarding modern slavery victims is a top priority for this Government. We

provide guidance available to all frontline staff to help them identify and support potential victims of modern slavery. This guidance is available here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/509326/victims-of-modern-slavery-frontline-staff-guidance-v3.pdf.

We also provide guidance to the staff of the Single Competent Authority (SCA), where all decisions are made on whether someone is a victim of modern slavery, to ensure victims are correctly identified and receive appropriate care and protection. This guidance is available here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/797903/victims-modern-slavery-competent-auth-v7.0-ext.pdf.

The Government is also working to publish statutory guidance to further improve the identification and support for victims.

In addition, we are currently conducting a review of the training received by First Responders, to ensure that they are aware of their responsibilities, and that they can effectively connect victims to the support they need.

[Victims of Modern Slavery Auth - v7](#)

[Victims of Modern Slavery Frontline Staff - v3](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-06-06/HL16168/>

Slavery

Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench) [HL15973] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many reports of slavery-related offences have been made to competent authorities since the Modern Slavery Act 2015 came into force, broken down by (1) month, and (2) the identity of first responder.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The National Crime Agency publishes statistics on referrals into the National Referral Mechanism on a quarterly basis. This report presents a summary of the number of potential victims of modern slavery and human trafficking referred into the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) in 2018 and is the final annual report in this format, prior to the transfer of the NRM to the new Home Office Single Competent Authority in April 2019 as part of a wide-reaching NRM Reform Programme.

Further analysis is contained within the 2018 UK Annual Report on Modern Slavery. These reports are available via the following links:

<https://nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/who-we-are/publications/282-national-referral-mechanism-statistics-end-of-year-summary-2018>

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/749346/2018_UK_Annual_Report_on_Modern_Slavery.pdf

NCA - National Ref Mechanism Stats - 2018

UK Annual Report on Modern Slavery - 2018

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-06-04/HL15973/>

Press Releases

Prime Minister confirms landmark location for new Windrush monument

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-confirms-landmark-location-for-new-windrush-monument>

Government publishes details of immigration advisory groups

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-publishes-details-of-immigration-advisory-groups>

New global resettlement scheme for the most vulnerable refugees announced

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-global-resettlement-scheme-for-the-most-vulnerable-refugees-announced>

House of Commons Library: Debate Pack - Refugee Family Reunion

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CDP-2019-0157/CDP-2019-0157.pdf>

Progress Towards Wales becoming a Nation of Sanctuary

<https://gov.wales/written-statement-progress-towards-wales-becoming-nation-sanctuary>

Windrush generation honoured through Welsh celebrations

<https://gov.wales/windrush-generation-honoured-through-welsh-celebrations>

Joint Statement by the European Commission and the High Representative on the occasion of World Refugee Day, 20 June 2019

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-19-3056_en.htm

Assistance to refugees in danger is an obligation, not a crime, OSCE human rights head says

<https://www.osce.org/odihr/423428>

New Publications

Understanding different migration data sources: June progress report

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/articles/understandingdifferentmigrationdatasources/juneprogressreport/pdf>

EU Settlement Scheme Statistics, May 2019

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/810223/eu-settlement-scheme-statistics-may-2019pdf.pdf

Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration's report: Country of Origin Information

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/809624/Inspection_of_Country_of_Origin_Information_January_2019.pdf

The Home Office response to the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration's report: Country of Origin Information

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/809748/Home_Office_response_to_the_ICIBI_Inspection_of_COI_2019_002_.pdf

Role of public services in integrating refugees and asylum seekers

https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/sites/default/files/ef_publication/field_ef_document/ef19042en.pdf

News

Scotland's First Minister calls on incoming Prime Minister to overhaul the 'failed' UK asylum system

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/3452_scotland_s_first_minister_calls_on_incoming_prime_minister_to_overhaul_the_failed_uk_asylum_system

SNP minister: Post-Brexit Scottish visa system could emulate freedom of movement

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17719346.snp-minister-post-brexit-scottish-visa-system-could-emulate-freedom-of-movement/>

David Mundell dismisses plans for a separate Scottish visa system after Brexit

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17720382.david-mundell-dismisses-plans-for-a-separate-scottish-visa-post-brexit/>

Scottish visa 'making traction' with UK government, say SNP

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/scottish-visa-making-traction-with-uk-government-say-snp-1-4951388>

Windrush memorial to be built at Waterloo station

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-48724128>

May's plan for Windrush memorial at Waterloo met with 'disgust'

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/jun/22/windrush-generation-to-be-honoured-by-waterloo-monument>

Theresa May accused of 'arrogance' over Windrush memorial plans as campaigners demand end to hostile environment

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/windrush-generation-memorial-government-treatment-disgraceful-theresa-may-a8970651.html>

Hostile Windrush environment 'can be traced to post-war governments'

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/hostile-windrush-environment-can-be-traced-to-post-war-governments-1-4948906>

UK to resettle 5,000 more refugees in expanded scheme

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/uk-refugee-resettlement-vulnerable-persons-middle-east-a8962046.html>

Future of UK Resettlement and Community Sponsorship schemes

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/3451_future_of_uk_resettlement_and_community_sponsorship_schemes

Refugee resettlement scheme extension welcomed

https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/news/2019/refugee_resettlement_scheme_extension_welcomed

Campaigners renew calls for UK to accept 10,000 child refugees

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jun/18/campaigners-renew-calls-uk-accept-10000-child-refugees>

UK accused of profiteering on Syrians' child citizenship fees

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/jun/19/uk-accused-profiteering-syrians-child-citizenship-fees>

'Discredited' test used on two in five Syrian asylum seekers in UK

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/jun/17/discredited-test-used-on-two-in-five-syrian-asylum-seekers-in-uk>

Private firms raking in millions as people forced to pay 'extortionate' fees to apply for UK status

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/private-firms-immigration-fees-home-office-application-sopra-steria-a8948846.html>

Almost one in four British children do not know what a refugee is, survey says

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/refugee-asylum-uk-children-immigration-red-cross-survey-a8958936.html>

More than 70 million people now fleeing conflict and oppression worldwide

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2019/jun/19/more-than-70-million-people-fleeing-conflict-oppression-worldwide>

More than 70 million people forced to flee their homes because of war and persecution

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/06/19/70-million-people-forced-flee-homes-war-persecution/>

Suffolk Refugee Support: 'I looked straight into a sniper's eyes'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-suffolk-48690665>

Refugees and asylum seekers unite around netball

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-48705782>

Home Office apologises for accusing man of being 'foreign criminal'

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/jun/19/home-office-apologises-for-accusing-man-of-being-foreign-criminal>

Home Office blocks baby adopted by UK resident from entering country

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-baby-adopted-uk-resident-immigration-a8960296.html>

Pakistani wives brought here to give birth, then sent home alone

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-06-22/news/pakistani-wives-brought-here-to-give-birth-then-sent-home-alone-20k98ll3p>

Refugee living in fear since wrongful arrest over botched Tube bomb

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-06-22/news/refugee-living-in-fear-since-wrongful-arrest-over-botched-tube-bomb-lczjr7r8s>

TOP

Community Relations

News

Catholic Church and Orange Order move to ease tensions on Glasgow Orange Walks

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17713752.catholics-and-protestants-moot-compromise-on-glasgow-orange-walks/>

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Race and Ethnicity Board

Yasmin Qureshi (Labour) [264755] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many people are members of the Race and Ethnicity Board that was established as a result of the Lammy Review; how many hours the members of that Board have worked in the last 12 months; what the budget is of that Board; and whether the Budget has remained the same in each year since that Board was established.

Reply from Edward Argar: As part of the Government's response to the Lammy Review, we have set up a Race and Ethnicity Board to oversee progress on the recommendations, and the wider agenda of race disparity. The Board currently has circa 22 members and is chaired by the Ministry of Justice Director General for Policy, Communications and Analysis. Membership of the Board includes senior level representation from departmental policy groups (from Ministry of Justice and other government departments), operational bodies such as HM Prison and Probation Service, HM Courts and Tribunal Service, and the Crown Prosecution Service, and external members. It is not possible to isolate individual time spent on race disparity work, as the board members hold these positions as part of their wider work responsibilities. However, the board was set up in January 2018 and has since met on a quarterly basis. The board does not have a dedicated budget as work is resourced separately by the various organisations responsible for actions to address racial disparities.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-14/264755/>

The Lammy Review, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/643001/lammy-review-final-report.pdf

Civil Servants: Ethnic Groups

Dawn Butler (Labour) [262295] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, how many Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people have been employed at each civil service grade in the (a) Government Equalities Office and (b) Civil Service in each year since 2010.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: In April 2019, the Government Equalities Office became an integral part of the Cabinet Office. GEO staff are employees of the Cabinet Office, who are responsible for collecting workforce diversity and inclusion data. GEO does not have access to this data as the size of GEO means that individual members of staff could be identifiable. Prior to April 2019, GEO workforce diversity data will have been included in the data of the relevant parent department.

The Office for National Statistics publishes annual data on Civil Service employment in the UK, including ethnicity data by department:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/publicsectorpersonnel/datasets/civilservicestatistics>

In addition, data regarding numbers of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic civil servants by grade is published at:

<https://www.ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk/workforce-and-business/workforce-diversity/civil-service-workforce/latest>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-10/262295/>

Combined Cadet Force: Ethnic Groups

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [262283] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps he is taking to encourage children from Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds to participate in Combined Cadet Force units in states schools.

Reply from Nick Gibb: The criteria outlined below is used to target schools for engagement by regional School Cadet Expansion Officers. This includes cities and areas of high deprivation (as measured by the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index), areas where there is currently limited access to the cadet experience (either schools or community based) compared with the population of 13 to 18 year old children, and areas where Ministry of Defence (MOD) wants to generate interest in careers in the Armed Forces.

Since the start of the Cadet Expansion Programme, approximately 50 cadet units have been established in schools considered to have high or moderately high levels of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic pupils.

The MOD-sponsored Cadet Forces are inclusive organisations committed to equality of opportunity for young people, recognising diversity within their membership and regarding it as one of their greatest strengths.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-10/262283/>

News

Diversity concern as Scottish Parliament nears 20th anniversary

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-48730618>

MSPs highlight diversity concerns as Holyrood marks 20 years

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17724236.msps-highlight-diversity-concerns-as-holyrood-marks-20-years/>

Rail union in push for more female and BAME train drivers

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/jun/17/female-bame-train-drivers-aslef>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Football (Sectarianism)

Liam McArthur (Liberal Democrat): To ask the Scottish Government for what reason it

has reportedly agreed with the Scottish Professional Football League to keep information regarding the extent of sectarianism at football confidential, and whether it will publish this data. (S5T-01718)

Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Justice (Humza Yousaf): I strongly agree that we need robust data to understand unacceptable conduct at football and to take the necessary action to address it. The data is collated by the football authorities, not by the Scottish Government, and was provided only on the basis that it is “confidential and is not published.”

However, our clear and consistent preference has been for the data to be published. Therefore, I have spoken to SPFL chief executive Neil Doncaster today to reiterate that point once again, and I will follow it up in writing. He and the SPFL have committed to discuss the matter at the next board meeting.

It is only through open and honest discussion, based on robust evidence, that we can work with all our partners to tackle the unacceptable conduct by a minority of spectators that, unfortunately, continues to shame our national game.

Liam McArthur: The recommendation from Professor Duncan Morrow could not be clearer: ministers, football authorities and the police should work together on the monitoring of sectarian incidents, and findings should be “published annually to allow for a genuine debate about the extent of sectarian behaviour and attitudes in football”.

A joint Liberal Democrat and Nil By Mouth investigation shows that the Government reached agreement with the SPFL and the football authorities have been collating data for the past two seasons in secret. Nobody but ministers and the police has ever seen the data, and they never will unless something changes. Will the cabinet secretary rip up the secrecy agreement and publish, today, the contents of the sectarianism database in full?

Reply from Humza Yousaf: I recognise Liam McArthur’s interest—and the general public’s interest—in the issue. I agree that the data should be published. That is not only the view that I hold, as the cabinet secretary for the past year; it was the view of my predecessor, with whom the agreement was reached, who wrote to Neil Doncaster in 2017. His letter, a copy of which I have given to the Scottish Parliament information centre, said:

“It is difficult to see how the building of public confidence can be achieved without being open and transparent with the data gathered. I am therefore disappointed that the data gathered will not be publicly available and I hope that you will reconsider this decision.”

The serious point—I know that Liam McArthur understands this—is that the data is not the Scottish Government’s data; it is data that is collated by match officials. The proviso in the agreement that was reached was that, if we wanted to have the data, it must be confidential and could not be published. It is not in my gift to rip up, as the member suggests, an agreement with a stakeholder, because doing so could be actionable.

Instead, I have spoken to Neil Doncaster this morning and asked him once again to reconsider the SPFL’s objection to publishing the data. In fairness to Neil Doncaster, he took a very constructive approach during our telephone conversation, and he has agreed to put the suggestion forward at the next board meeting. Through such dialogue, I hope that the data will be readily published. However, I hope that the member understands that it is not within my gift to rip up the agreement and publish the data today.

Liam McArthur: It seems inconceivable that the Government would sign up to an arrangement that means that it has, in effect, been gagged by the SPFL. The Scottish Government’s independent commission asked for the data to be recorded and published annually to inform a proper public debate. It is impossible to have serious conversations about options such as strict liability if the figures are kept secret. That calls into question how seriously those who have the data are working to lift the curse that is affecting Scottish

football. I, too, would like to hear from Neil Doncaster, because the SPFL's response to date has been, frankly, pathetic. Is it not the case that, if the SPFL's response to sectarianism is dependent on secrecy and gagging orders, it does not deserve to be running the game?

Reply from Humza Yousaf: I say to Liam McArthur, once again, that we are in agreement that the data should be published. There is no disagreement on that point. However, for us to get the data, which has helped us to focus on where our interventions should be and to focus our discussion on what he rightly calls the "curse" of our national game, we had to agree that it would not be published. It is not our data to publish; the data is collected by match officials and it belongs to clubs, the SPFL and—in relation to cup games—the Scottish Football Association. I had a very positive conversation with Neil Doncaster this morning. As I said, he is taking the suggestion forward to his board, and I hope that his board will see sense on the issue by agreeing to publish the data.

I could mention a number of projects, including the one that Liam McArthur mentioned, that we are funding to lift the curse from our game. The Government has taken action. The Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012 was part of that action, but Parliament chose to repeal it. We will continue to intervene when we think that it is appropriate to do so. Once again, I agree with Liam McArthur that there should be transparency. Therefore, my wish and desire is for the SPFL and the SFA to publish the data.

Liam Kerr (Conservative): People feel as though this is secret Scotland again. It feels to them as though not only is the SPFL keeping the dossier secret, the Scottish National Party Government is sticking by it in not forcing its hand, while admittedly making the right noises. They feel that sectarianism is being swept under the carpet. Is there a signed agreement not to publish, which could be—to use Liam McArthur's words—ripped up? Can the cabinet secretary promise that there are no other instances of the SNP Government covering up or withholding information in this way?

Reply from Humza Yousaf: The hyperbole with which the member asks the question does the issue a disservice. The data belongs to the SPFL—it belongs to the clubs. The only way in which we could get the data was by signing an agreement not to publish it. That data has helped us to plan our interventions.

I say again that my predecessor as justice secretary, Michael Matheson, who is sitting on my right, wrote to the SPFL in 2017 saying very clearly that our position was that the data should be released. Indeed, he expressed the hope that the SPFL would reconsider its decision not to release the data. As I said, if we were to release the data, that could be actionable.

We understand that there is a real public interest in this issue and we absolutely understand why that is the case. The onus is on the SPFL to reflect on its position. It has said that it will; Neil Doncaster has said that the issue will be presented at the next board meeting and I hope for a positive conclusion from that.

James Dornan (SNP): As the cabinet secretary is aware, I have been leading a campaign for Scottish football clubs and authorities to introduce strict liability to crack down on trouble from fans. Although I am looking at introducing legislation to achieve that, it has always been my preference for Scottish football to implement the measure itself. I welcome the cabinet secretary's comments about his discussion with Neil Doncaster, but does the cabinet secretary not agree with me that it is incumbent on the SPFL and the SFA to publish their data? If they do not, people will continue to think that Scottish football believes that it is a law unto itself and has real inclination to make the necessary changes to clean up the game, or they will think that Scottish football has something to hide. Will the cabinet secretary continue to push the SPFL and the SFA to release these figures before that something to hide starts to look like something serious to hide?

Reply from Humza Yousaf: The SPFL and the SFA would do well to reflect on just

how they will be viewed not just by parliamentarians but by the public on this issue if they are not as open and transparent as I and, clearly, the Parliament would like them to be with the data. That is an important point.

On the flipside, I will say to James Dornan that I have had some positive and constructive conversations with the SFA, the SPFL and wider stakeholders in football, from the Professional Footballers Association Scotland and the referees associations to supporters organisations and individual clubs. From my conversations with them, I detect a desire to do something about unacceptable conduct. Of course, what people think should be done varies. However, I will take those conversations forward.

I reiterate that we want the SPFL to publish this data; I hope that it will and I hope that it comes to that conclusion at its next board meeting.

James Kelly (Labour): To ensure that there is a positive and constructive discussion about tackling unacceptable conduct and promoting a positive, supportive experience, all verified and accurate data should be in the public domain.

It is fair to say that the engagement from some clubs and football authorities has been inadequate in recent times, so what action is the Government taking to ensure that clubs and football authorities engage more positively in this debate in order to ensure a more positive atmosphere across football?

Reply from Humza Yousaf: I thank James Kelly for the constructive manner in which he asked that question. I have taken a range of actions; there have been many lessons to learn over the years on how we approach this subject. I am trying to take as many people as possible with us on that journey. James Kelly will understand that there is a range of views on how to tackle unacceptable conduct, including the option of strict liability.

I have had some good ideas; I am happy to talk to James Kelly offline about the lay of the land among the clubs and the various stakeholders. However, we are starting to build a coalition of those who are building consensus about what we need to do. Those conversations will continue. I hope to have those conversations well into the summer, ahead of the start of the new season.

I detect that there is some movement and there is a willingness to take action, but I agree with James Kelly's central premise that whatever we do should be done in an open and transparent way. Therefore, I hope that the SPFL will reflect on this session in the chamber and that it will come to a positive conclusion at its next board meeting and release the data into the public domain.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12194&i=110129#ScotParlOR>

UK Parliament Debate

Anti-Semitism

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-06-20/debates/D9310F3B-861B-4070-8F29-0750104A5149/Anti-Semitism>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Hate Crime

Chris Ruane (Labour) [264340] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the effect of (a) political discourse, (b) the print media and (c) social media on the level of hate crime in the UK in the last five years; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Home Office and key partners continue to build understanding of the drivers of hate crime through research and evaluation of hate crime programmes, and consultation with subject matter experts including the Independent Advisory Group and local practitioners.

Alongside the Hate Crime Action Plan refresh in October 2018 the Government published a thematic review of the current evidence base – this can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hate-crime-action-plan-2016>.

The review highlighted the complex nature of the drivers and harms of hate crime, including the impact of political and other events, such as the 2017 terrorist attacks, in triggering ‘spikes’ in offending.

In recognition that political discourse, the print media and social media may have a role in hate crime, the Action Plan set out a number of commitments, including work with the Society of Editors and the Independent Press Standards Organisation. More broadly the Government published the Online Harms White Paper on 8 April 2019, and delivered a communications campaign to increase public awareness of the different forms hate crime can take.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-13/264340/>

The hate crime action plan refresh 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

The following two questions both received the same answer

Schools: Finance

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [265590] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether his Department has made an assessment of a potential correlation between (a) reductions in real-terms school budgets, (b) shortages of teaching assistants and (c) pastoral staff and schools' ability to tackle incidents of bullying.

Bullying: Pupils

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [265591] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment he has made of the implications for his policies of the higher rates of bullying in schools experienced by (a) LGBTQ and (b) ethnic minority pupils.

Reply from Nick Gibb: The Government has no plans to require schools to report centrally on incidents of bullying, but the Department included questions in its School Snapshot survey in winter 2017 to obtain information on different types of bullying. The results can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-snapshot-survey-winter-2017>.

Similar questions have been included in the summer 2019 survey. The results of this survey will be published next year.

The Government has sent a clear message to schools that all bullying, for whatever reason, is unacceptable. The public sector Equality Duty means that schools must have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not.

The Department has issued guidance to schools about how to prevent and respond to bullying as part of their overall behaviour policy. It has also published the Respectful Schools Communities tool to support schools to develop a whole school approach which promotes respect amongst all pupils and signposts further sources of advice.

This will be supported by the introduction of compulsory relationships education in all primary and secondary state-funded schools. Statutory guidance for schools sets out that pupils should be taught about different types of bullying, the impact of

bullying and how to get help. We are committed to ensuring schools are supported and ready to teach these new subjects to high quality and have announced a budget of £6 million in 2019-20 financial year to develop a programme of support for schools. The Department is establishing an early adopter school programme to support early teaching of the new requirements. It is also working with early adopter schools to support the design of the training programme and to refine supplementary guidance to ensure that the teaching of the subjects is as effective as possible.

The Department is also providing over £2.8 million of funding between September 2016 and March 2020 to four anti-bullying organisations to support schools to tackle bullying. This includes the Anne Frank Trust who have developed the Free to Be debate programme, which encourages pupils to think about the importance of tackling prejudice, discrimination and bullying. It also includes the Anti-Bullying Alliance, whose programme has a particular focus on reducing bullying of those with special educational needs and disabilities. Between 2016-2019 the Government Equalities Office provided £3 million of funding to prevent and tackle homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying in schools. In the LGBT Action Plan published last year, it committed £1million to continue the programme until 2020.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-17/265590/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-17/265591/>

UK Parliament Home Affairs Committee

Inquiry: The Macpherson Report: twenty years on: evidence session

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/home-affairs-committee/the-macpherson-report-twenty-years-on/oral/103155.html>

Press Releases

Discrimination going unchallenged in legal aid system

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/discrimination-going-unchallenged-legal-aid-system>

We Must All Do Better at Looking Out for Each Other, Secretary-General Stresses while Launching United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/sqsm19627.doc.htm>

New Publication

Access to legal aid for discrimination cases

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/access-to-legal-aid-for-discrimination-cases-our-legal-aid-inquiry.pdf>

News

Call for government to 'rip up' sectarianism secrecy deal with SPFL

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-48683584>

Holyrood committee: secret sectarianism report must be published

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17724226.holyrood-committee-secret-sectarianism-report-must-be-published/>

Humza Yousaf asks for end to Scottish football sectarianism report secrecy

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17714437.humza-yousaf-asks-for-end-to-scottish-football-sectarianism-report-secrecy/>

MSPs to quiz Yousaf over secret football bigotry data

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17711962.msps-to-quiz-yousaf-over-secret-football-bigotry-data/>

SNP MP accuses Scottish Labour of 'failing to take action on racism'

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/snp-mp-accuses-scottish-labour-of-failing-to-take-action-on-racism-1-4951242>

Baroness Warsi: Ex-Tory chairwoman criticises party for only now committing to Islamophobia inquiry as Hunt says they must be 'whiter than white' on issue

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/tory-party-islamaphobia-baroness-warsi-conservative-racism-jeremy-hunt-leadership-a8965046.html>

Minister apologises for homeless 'tinkers' email

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-derbyshire-48713049>

Lib Dem councillor details racial abuse she suffered on tube

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jun/22/lib-dem-councillor-details-racial-abuse-she-suffered-on-tube>

All political parties should follow Change UK's example and adopt the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/06/20/political-parties-should-follow-change-uks-example-adopt-ihra/>

New Islamophobia definition could be 'bully's charter,' warns former equalities chief

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/06/19/new-islamophobia-definition-could-bullys-charter-warns-former/>

Legal aid cuts harming discrimination victims, says equality watchdog

<https://www.theguardian.com/law/2019/jun/19/legal-aid-cuts-discrimination-cases-equalities-watchdog-report>

Victims of discrimination 'denied justice' as legal aid cuts create 'David vs Goliath' scenario, report finds

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/legal-aid-cuts-discrimination-court-human-rights-ehrc-report-a8963581.html>

Teenage neo-Nazis jailed over terror offences

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-48672929>

Teenager who called Prince Harry a 'race traitor' sentenced

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/jun/18/michal-szewczuk-sentenced-prince-harry-online-post-far-right>

Neo-Nazi jailed for Prince Harry post

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-06-19/news/neo-nazi-jailed-for-prince-harry-post-p8sjlwpvb>

Teenage neo-Nazis jailed for inciting terror attacks on Prince Harry and other targets

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/neo-nazi-trial-terror-prince-harry-michal-szewczuk-oskar-dunn-koczorowski-a8963396.html>

Leadership debate: BBC defends vetting process after imam's tweets emerge

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-48687744>

BBC debate descends into shambles over 'anti-Semitic' Imam and Labour staffer who grilled Tory hopefuls

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/06/19/bbc-facing-questions-anti-semitic-imam-grilled-tory-leadership/>

BBC under fire over 'antisemitic' imam in Tory leadership debate

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-06-19/news/bbc-under-fire-over-antisemitic-imam-qnr7635l>

Jewish Board of Deputies: BBC treatment of imam's anti-semitism 'deeply problematic'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/06/20/jewish-board-deputies-bbc-treatment-imams-anti-semitism-deeply/>

Anti-Semitism has become the norm – and until we start calling it what it is, the problem will only get worse

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/life/anti-semitism-has-become-norm-start-calling-problem-will-get/>

British Muslims like me have had enough of 'Abdullah from Bristols' speaking for us

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/06/21/british-muslims-like-have-had-enough-abdullah-bristols-speaking/>

Manchester United fans top list of arrests involving racism as a factor

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2019/jun/17/manchester-united-arrests-racism>

Manchester United fans arrested for racism more than any other club in England in last four years

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/premier-league/manchester-united-fans-racism-arrests-football-matches-most-racist-abuse-raheem-sterling-a8962851.html>

Malaysia's prime minister tells Cambridge Union his Jewish friends are 'not like other Jews', causing laughter

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/mahathir-mohamed-anti-semitic-cambridge-union-jewish-malaysia-a8962246.html>

Cambridge Union audience laughs at anti-Semitic 'joke' by Malaysian prime minister

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/06/17/cambridge-union-audience-laughs-anti-semitic-joke-malaysian/>

Cambridge audience laughed at speaker Mahathir Mohamad's antisemitic 'joke'
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-06-18/news/cambridge-audience-laughed-at-speaker-mahathir-mohamad-s-antisemitic-joke-s6bswq07n>

Penguin orders independent review of book over antisemitism claims
<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2019/jun/17/penguin-pedro-banos-how-they-rule-the-world-julia-neuberger-antisemitism-claims>

John Cusack under fire for antisemitic 'follow the money' tweet
<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2019/jun/18/john-cusack-antisemitic-tweet>

John Cusack accused of antisemitism after controversial Star of David tweet
<https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/films/news/john-cusack-antisemitic-tweet-criticism-star-of-david-israel-palestine-a8963261.html>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Releases

First Minister: 20 years of devolution
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/fm-20-years-devolution/>

Independent review of complaints handling, investigations and misconduct issues in relation to policing: preliminary report
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/preliminary-report-independent-review-complaints-handling-investigations-misconduct-issues-relation-policing/>

New Bill to extend electoral franchise
<https://www.gov.scot/news/elections-representation-franchise-bill/>

Gender recognition reform
<https://www.gov.scot/news/gender-recognition-reform/>

Gender Recognition Act 2004 review
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/review-of-gender-recognition-act-2004/>

New Publications

Independent review of complaints handling, investigations and misconduct issues in relation to policing: preliminary report
<https://tinyurl.com/y68krlv8>

Review of the Gender Recognition Act 2004: factsheet
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/review-of-the-gender-recognition-act-2004-factsheet/>

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New Publication

Community Enterprise Launch New Interactive Map

<https://www.impactfundingpartners.com/news/community-enterprise-launch-new-interactive-map>
and
<https://www.impactfundingpartners.com/sites/default/files/files/2019-06/SE%20Eco-System%20Interactive%20Map%20Scotland%202019%20final.pdf>

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Other News

“How good is your memory?”: Study for older adults of ethnic minority descent

The researchers are looking for older adults, aged 60+, to help create a memory test independent of language, culture and educational level. Ageing affects everybody, but the current measures of detecting its effects are not adapted for people whose first language is not English, or who spend a significant amount of time speaking another one. Because of this, minorities are at risk to not be accurately diagnosed and they aim to improve this. For information see https://www.scojec.org/memo/files/19vi_memory.pdf

Father faces jail after trying to force daughters into marriage

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-06-19/news/father-faces-jail-after-trying-to-force-daughters-into-marriage-90kv3t7dh>

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Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Disclosure (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/111895.aspx>

Female Genital Mutilation (Protection and Guidance) (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/111850.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>

Banknote Diversity

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

Border Control Bill

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

Unauthorised Encampments

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

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

Scottish Human Rights Commission Draft Strategic Plan (closing date 28 June 2019)

<http://www.scottishhumanrights.com/media/1860/strategic-plan-consultation-vfinal-eh.docx>

Online Harms White Paper (closing date 1 July 2019)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/online-harms-white-paper>

**** English language tests for overseas students** (closing date 8 July 2019)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/public-accounts-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/inquiry33/>

Female Genital Mutilation (Protection and Guidance) (Scotland) Bill (closing date 30 August 2019)

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/112128.aspx>

Section 38 of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015: Duty to notify and provide information about victims (closing date 6 September 2019)

<https://consult.gov.scot/justice/duty-to-notify-and-provide-information/>

Use of interpreters in the asylum process (closing date not stated)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/call-for-evidence-use-of-interpreters-in-the-asylum-process>

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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Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

Diversity Week Activity Fund – Fife

Closing date not stated

Fife Centre for Equalities funding of up to £100 for groups hosting a one-off activity that will take place during Fife Centre for Equalities Diversity Week 2-8 September 2019, and will encourage people to celebrate the diverse population in Fife. For information and to apply see <https://tinyurl.com/y45jmk92>

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Refugee Festival Scotland

20-30 June 2019 (Scotland-wide)

Refugee Festival Scotland celebrates the contribution refugees make to life in Scotland, and offers people from different backgrounds the chance to meet and celebrate together.

For information and the full programme see

<https://www.refugeefestivalscotland.co.uk/about/>

**** this week!**

Talking Prejudice

25 June 2019 in Glasgow (10.00-4.00)

27 June 2019 in Edinburgh (10.00-4.00)

Youthlink Scotland event for youth workers and other practitioners in diverse communities to hear from other professionals about the tools and services available to address hate crime and prejudice. For information about the Glasgow event see

<https://tinyurl.com/y2prbudt> and for the Edinburgh event see <https://tinyurl.com/y2f8wnqv>

**** this week!**

Home on the Move: the Impact of Immigration Policy on Participation and the Possibilities for Practice

25 June 2019 in Glasgow (11.00-1.30)

Workshop to present research findings about the meaning and importance of 'home' to migrants, refugees and asylum seekers living in Glasgow. For information see

<https://tinyurl.com/y5utxt84>

**** this week!**

Meet the Charity Regulator

25 June 2019 in Troon (1.15-4.00)

28 August 2019 in Dunfermline (1.15-4.00)

25 September 2019 in Glasgow (1.15-4.00)

1 October 2019 in Fort William (9.30-12.15)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator events to give charity trustees and staff the opportunity to hear about latest developments, meet OSCR staff and board and ask questions. For information see <https://www.oscr.org.uk/news/meet-the-scottish-charity-regulator-2019/>

**** this week!**

Author and Subject – People Seeking Asylum and Refuge Affecting Change

25 June 2019 in Glasgow (5.30-7.00)

Event to explore the different ways asylum seekers and refugees use their experiences and voices to positively affect change in their own lives and in the lives of others. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y44krodd>

**** this week!**

Housing for Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Europe

26 June 2019 in Edinburgh (5.00-7.00)

Presentation of research by the Universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow into housing for refugees and asylum. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y43fjpsb>

**** this week!**

Come As You Are #Berlin, and Klezmer Ceilidh

27 June 2019 in Edinburgh (7.00-10.30)

30 June 2019 in Glasgow (7.00-10.30)

Contemporary dance performance from Berlin-based dance company TOTAL BRUTAL. It explores what happens when three refugees from Syria try to find their way into the Berlin art landscape: their hopes, dreams and nightmares. For information about the Edinburgh event see <https://tinyurl.com/y5yjggc4>, and about the Glasgow event see <https://tinyurl.com/y42q8yfr>

**** this week!**

Gesturing Refugees

27 June 2019 in Glasgow (7.00-8.00)

Interactive performance by Palestinian dancer and choreographer, Farah Saleh and collaborators to archive hidden stories of refugeehood using the bodies of refugee artists and audience members, while playing with other archive material, testimonies and imagination. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yy5xgocf>

**** this week!**

Refugee Cycle

29 June 2019 in Glasgow (10.00-4.00)

UNESCO cycle ride. At regular intervals along the route, there will be informative performances and activities. Central themes are (forced) migration, community building and hospitality. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y5ualhd9>

**** this week!**

Challenging The Hostile Environment

29 June 2019 in Glasgow (1.00-5.00)

Stand Up to Racism Scotland event about injustices such as the Windrush scandal, and Serco's threat to evict refused asylum seekers in Glasgow. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y5sbt7fa>

**** this week!**

Asylum Seeker and Refugee Scholarships

29 June 2019 in Glasgow (4.00-8.00)

Africa Future conference about the benefits for young people and asylum seekers to study in higher education. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y23w6odp>

**** this week!**

Refugee Festival Scotland 2019 Football Tournament

30 June 2019 in Glasgow (11.00-4.00)

Football tournament to stimulate the integration of the local community with people from a refugee background. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yygx75mm>

**** this week!**

Lives in Transit: Written Accounts and Artistic Expressions of Refugee Stories

30 June 2019 in Edinburgh (6.00-9.00)

Opening night of an exhibition presenting the experiences of refugees through a display of interviews with refugees now resettled in Scotland. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y5emrnew>

We Are One – Citizenfest

9-10 August 2019 in Glasgow

Festival asserting and celebrating diversity and equality with a programme of events in a variety of city centre venues: celebrating our rights – ethnic, political, minority, and common human rights – through music, seminars, food, drama, talks, art, and much more. For information see <https://www.facebook.com/citizenfestweareone>

Working with refugees and the asylum process

18 September 2019 in Glasgow

31 October 2019 in Glasgow

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

Working with unaccompanied refugee children

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

Working with refugees and VPRS resettlement

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

Refugee rights to housing

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

Age assessment awareness

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

Engaging with seldom heard voices

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

Refugee community sponsorship

11 December 2019 in Glasgow

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

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Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Disclosure Scotland <https://www.mygov.scot/working-jobs/finding-a-job/disclosure/>

Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services

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

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

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



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



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

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