



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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The Scottish Parliament is in recess until 2 September.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Motions

S5M-18161 John Mason (SNP) Scotland Needs Immigration Powers – That the Parliament notes the recent analysis by the Sustainable Growth Commission, which shows that there would be 500,000 more people residing in Scotland by 2040, compared to current population projections, were Scotland's population growth to match other small northern European nations; understands that Scotland's projected population growth of 4.4% by 2040 is markedly lower than the projected population growth rates in Ireland, Norway, Denmark, Iceland and Sweden; further understands that an aging population coupled with slow population growth could lead to a demographic crisis, with vital public services, such as the NHS, becoming increasingly difficult to fund; considers that it is glaringly obvious that the UK Government's reckless, London-centric immigration policy is not working for Scotland now, and will not work for Scotland in the future, and urges all

parties in the Parliament to demand new immigration powers for Scotland for, it considers, the sake of the country's public services, before it is too late.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-18161>

S5M-18182 Bob Doris (SNP): Refugee Festival Scotland 2019 Football Tournament – That the Parliament congratulates Glasgow Afghan United on recently hosting the Refugee Festival Scotland 2019 Football Tournament; commends in particular, Abdul Bostani of Glasgow Afghan United, for his efforts in organising the annual event; understands that Glasgow Afghan United is a community-led organisation seeking to improve the lives of Afghans and a wide range of ethnic minority communities living in Glasgow by promoting sport, health and wellbeing, social integration and active citizenship; notes that the tournament hosted 24 football teams in Toryglen Regional Football Centre, with participants of over 50 nationalities, including a local politicians team; appreciates that the tournament engages people in sport and encourages integration between communities; thanks Glasgow Life Sport, the Scottish Unity Football League, NG Homes, Refugee Festival Scotland, Glasgow City Council, the National Lottery Community Fund, and Police Scotland for their support of the event; acknowledges the kind donation of the Lowland Reserve Brigade Trophy to the tournament by the Reserve Forces and Cadets Association for the Lowlands of Scotland; congratulates Red Road FC on winning this year's tournament, particularly as it is the first they have played in, and wishes all involved every success in their future endeavours.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-18182>

UK Parliament Debates

Immigration Detention: Trafficking and Modern Slavery

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-07-09/debates/A29636A3-4487-4A9C-B0E5-C9E239C06A84/ImmigrationDetentionTraffickingAndModernSlavery>

Migrant Children: Welfare

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-07-09/debates/C4C8D482-9F1E-40C7-95DB-2A90C920F0BE/MigrantChildrenWelfare>

UK Parliament, Ministerial Statement

Windrush Lessons Learned Review

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Sajid Javid) [HCWS1714] The terms of reference for the Windrush lessons learned review set out that the aim was to publish the report by 31 March 2019.

On 8 July 2019, the independent adviser to the Windrush lessons learned review, Wendy Williams, wrote to me about the timing of her review. The complexity and scale of the work required, and the request for her to also consider the right-to-rent scheme following the High Court judgement of 1 March, means that she now expects to submit her final report to me at the beginning of September. I will publish the report as soon as practicable following this. We are determined to learn from, and right the wrongs of, the past. I look forward to receiving the report when the review concludes. I will consider the recommendations from the review carefully and announce appropriate action. ...

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-07-11/debates/19071149000012/WindrushLessonsLearnedReview>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Windrush: Home Office Investigation

Emma Dent Coad (Labour): Whether [the Minister's] Department is supporting the Home Office internal investigation into the causes of the Windrush scandal; and if she will make a statement. [911876]

Reply from the Minister for Women (Victoria Atkins): The Home Secretary commissioned a lessons-learned review to consider the key policy and operational decisions that led to members of the Windrush generation becoming entangled in measures designed for illegal immigrants and appointed Wendy Williams as its independent adviser. We understand that Wendy Williams has been considering a great deal of material during the course of the review and has spoken with a wide range of people. We will publish her report following its receipt.

Emma Dent Coad: The Government seem obsessed with pushing through a damaging no-deal Brexit, and Windrush victims feel ignored, as they have to make do with an apology, or perhaps another review, then a report, and then a consultation on the report and the review. Words are cheap; actions count. Can the Minister please explain how the process of compensating Windrush victims is progressing?

Reply from Victoria Atkins: I am glad that the hon. Lady has asked this question, because it gives me the opportunity to inform her that more than 6,400 people have been granted some form of documentation by the Windrush taskforce and more than 4,200 people have successfully applied to become British nationals through the Windrush scheme. We have announced that the Windrush compensation scheme is open for claimants. The forms, rules and claimant guidance were published in April and the free phone helpline is available for those wishing to receive printed copies of the forms or for any other queries.

Dawn Butler (Labour): The Government said that it would take two weeks to resolve the Windrush cases; it has been over 64 weeks thus far. I have a live petition, which garnered more than 800 signatures a day, which I plan to present to the Prime Minister next week. Will the Minister join me in fighting for justice and fairness for the Windrush generation, and support the call to get all cases resolved before we break for recess?

Reply from Victoria Atkins: I thank the hon. Lady for her question. As she knows from the work she has done, every case is complex. We want to ensure that they are being thoroughly considered. We will continue to update the Select Committee with work and progress on this, but I reference her back to the fact that more than 6,400 people have been given some form of documentation and more than 4,200 people have successfully applied to become British nationals through the scheme.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-07-11/debates/EB3EB17E-3AD0-4299-B493-CC7B4406D5B8/WindrushHomeOfficeInvestigation>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

British Nationality Act 1981

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [275146] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Answer of 10 May 2019 to Question 15353 on British Nationality, what assessment he has made of the merits of amending the British Nationality Act 1981.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We recognise the difficulties which current British nationality law presents for some British Overseas Territory citizen parents who wish to pass on their citizenship to their children. We have engaged with the British Overseas Territories to seek their views on this. We are considering what legislative options might be available to make any changes should this be desired.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-09/275146/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-04-25/HL15353/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

British Nationality: Applications

Shabana Mahmood (Labour) [272802] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment he has made of the equity of the fee structure for applying to become a UK citizen for people who have been (a) born and (b) raised in the UK.

Shabana Mahmood (Labour) [272803] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he has taken to ensure that a person eligible to apply for UK citizenship is not prevented from doing so as a result of the fee structure.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: An assessment of the impact of all border, immigration and citizenship (BIC) fees was published as an associated document to the Immigration and Nationality Fees (Regulations) 2018. Whilst the assessment doesn't focus on affordability, which would be a very subjective matter, it does include estimates of price elasticity. Policy Equality Statements are prepared alongside proposed fee changes.

The relevant information can be found via the following link:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukia/2018/59/pdfs/ukia_20180059_en.pdf

Additionally, the Home Office keeps its fees for immigration and nationality under regular review and changes to individual charges need to be made with a view to maintaining the overall purpose of the fees and charging legislation.

The Home Office constantly strives to achieve the right balance between ensuring that individuals are able to obtain status in the UK and access appropriate services, without adding burden to the taxpayer.

Applying for British nationality is not mandatory and many individuals who have settlement/ indefinite leave to remain (ILR) status choose not to apply. This is because, in addition to lawful permanent residence in the UK, a person with indefinite leave to remain has full access to the UK labour market, education, healthcare and the ability to sponsor family members' residence in the UK.

The Home Office also provides for exceptions to the need to pay application fees for limited and indefinite leave to remain, in a number of specific circumstances. These exceptions ensure that the Home Office's immigration and nationality fee structure complies with international obligations, including in relation to refugees and persons deriving rights under the ECHR and wider government policy and the protection of vulnerable children, such as those in Local Authority (LA) care.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-03/272802/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-03/272803/>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Migrant Workers: EU Nationals

Mark Pawsey (Conservative) [272825] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the UK (a) retains and (b) attracts highly skilled contractors from the EU after the UK leaves the EU.

Migrant Workers

Mark Pawsey (Conservative) [272826] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how the future skills-based immigration system will enable highly skilled contractors from overseas to fill temporary roles on a (a) self-employed and (b) employed basis after the UK leaves the EU.

Mark Pawsey (Conservative) [272827] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what visa routes will be introduced in the future skills-based immigration system to enable highly skilled contractors from overseas to continue to provide temporary and specialist services in the UK after the UK leaves the EU.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government set out its proposals for the future skills-based immigration system in the White Paper published on 18 December. It states that those wishing to base themselves in the UK to work on a self-employed or freelance basis will continue to be able to do so where they are able to qualify under the exceptional talent, business start-up or innovator routes. In addition, those skilled professionals who are technically self-employed but effectively filling a position with a UK-based business, for example, barristers, will continue to be able to be sponsored under the new route for skilled and highly skilled workers.

The UK has existing commitments under the General Agreement on Trade in Services and bilateral free trade agreements concluded between the EU and third countries which provide for the admission of contractual service suppliers and self-employed professionals where they are coming under contract to supply a service to a UK client. These commitments, which the UK expects to continue to be bound by following the UK's exit from the EU, are currently implemented through existing provisions in the UK immigration system, and these arrangements will continue after the UK leaves the EU. The Government expects to build upon these existing commitments in future trade agreements with the EU and other key trading partners.

The White Paper on the UK's future relationship with the EU sets the Government's intention to agree reciprocal mobility arrangements with the EU that support businesses' ability to provide services.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-03/272825/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-03/272826/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-03/272827/>

The Immigration 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 Relationship with the EU White Paper referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/786626/The-Future-Relationship-between-the-United-Kingdom-and-the-European-Union-120319.pdf

Visas: Fees and Charges

Hywel Williams (Plaid Cymru) [268423] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will provide in cash terms the value of the charge levied upon visa and settlement applicants for having documents (a) scanned and (b) photocopied by his Department.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: There is no charge by the Home Office levied upon

visa and settlement applicants for having documents (a) scanned and (b) photocopied

The vast majority of UKVI customers applying online have the option of uploading their supporting evidence themselves, for free. If customers choose not to use this self-upload function, then they have the option to have their documents scanned by the commercial partner at the visa application centre or service point when they attend their appointment. In most locations an additional charge is applicable for this service.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-24/268423/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Visas: Skilled Workers

Tom Brake (Liberal Democrat) [274426] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will make it his Department's policy to exclude scientific research occupations from proposals in the immigration White Paper for a minimum salary threshold.

Migrant Workers: Scientists

Tom Brake (Liberal Democrat) [274427] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent steps his Department has taken through the immigration system to ensure that the UK can attract and retain scientific talent at all career stages.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: On 24 June 2019, the Government asked the independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to consider the operation of salary thresholds in the future immigration system, including the impact of exemptions from minimum salary thresholds. The MAC is due to report by January 2020.

We recognise the vital contribution that scientists make to the UK. In his spring statement, my Rt Hon Friend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, confirmed that PhD level occupations would be exempt from the Tier 2 cap. Additionally, researchers applying for settlement are exempt from the rule which states that, there should be no absence from the UK for 180 days if the absence from the UK is for the purpose carrying out research. A number of research roles also appear on the Shortage Occupation List which also exempts them from the settlement salary threshold

The Tier 1 (Exceptional Talent) route is also available for internationally recognised leaders and promising future leaders, including in the science and research sector.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-08/274426/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-08/274427/>

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 following two questions both received the same answer

Visas: Ministers of Religion

Mhairi Black (SNP) [274563] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the meeting he is hosting in August 2019 with representatives from faith communities on changes to the immigration rules for (a) Tier 2 and (b) Tier 5 religious workers visas will involve representatives from the Scottish clergy and other religious organisations based in Scotland.

Mhairi Black (SNP) [274564] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department,

what discussions his officials have had with (a) the Scottish Government and (b) members of the Scottish clergy and other religious organisations based in Scotland on changes to the immigration rules in relation to (i) Tier 2 and (ii) Tier 5 visas for religious workers .

Reply from Caroline Nokes: On 8 July I held a meeting with representatives from the faith community about changes to Tier 2 and Tier 5 immigration rules. That meeting included a representative of the Scottish clergy.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-08/274563/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-08/274564/>

Overseas Visitors: Visas

Stephen Gethins (SNP) [270752] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of facilitating visa applications by human rights defenders to allow them to travel more easily to the UK.

Reply from Andrew Murrison: Human rights defenders wishing to travel to the UK are able to do so, provided that they comply with existing immigration rules, which in some cases will mean applying for a visa. However, there is no provision in the Immigration Rules to allow someone to travel to the UK for temporary protection, or to claim asylum. Those human rights defenders who may need to travel outside their home country in emergency situations are advised to go to the first country of safety they can reach, which is often a neighbouring country.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-28/270752/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Overseas Visitors: Visas

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [273413] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for visitor visas have been received, by nationality of country of origin, in each of the last 10 years.

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [273414] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications there have been for visitor visas for the purposes of visiting family, by country of origin of applicant, in each of the last 10 years.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Information on the amount of visit visa applications received for the purposes of visiting family is not available. The standard visit visa has replaced a range of previous visas including the family visit visa (see <https://www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa>)

Information on the number of total visa applications, grants and refusals, by nationality, the large majority of which are visit visas, can be found in table vi_02_q in volume 1 of our visas tables, the latest of which is available here:

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-04/273413/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-04/273414/>

Entry Clearances

Henry Bellingham (Conservative) [272790] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will make it his policy to take into account the skills and qualifications of non-EEA nationals applying for entry clearance under Appendix FM; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Whilst skills and qualifications of non-EEA nationals applying for entry clearance under Appendix FM to the Immigration Rules are generally not taken into account, there is provision within the Rules that they can be where there are exceptional circumstances.

Paragraph 21A of Appendix FM-SE, inserted by HC 290,

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statement-of-changes-to-the-immigration-rules-hc290-20-july-2017>, sets out objective criteria by which decision

makers will in such cases, assess an applicant's relevant skills and qualifications within the context of previous or prospective employment or self-employment income.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-03/272790/>

Immigration: Windrush Generation

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [273412] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people at Full Time Equivalent have been employed to establish and administer the system for compensation for victims of the Windrush scandal in the last 12 months.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The number of FTE employed to establish and administer the Windrush Compensation Scheme has fluctuated according to business need. A small, dedicated development team was set up to establish the scheme, averaging around 20 FTE. Now that the scheme is open for claims we have a budgeted complement for the policy and operational teams of up to 135

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-04/273412/>

Immigration: Windrush Generation

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [273423] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the effect of a wrong decision being made denying a person the right to re-enter the UK under the Windrush scandal on eligibility for benefits and tax credits which require residency in the UK for the last two years.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Officials in the Home Office continue to work closely with the DWP and HMRC on the design and delivery of the compensation scheme but also on individual cases through the Taskforce. The joint working has enabled those with a right to benefits to have them re-instated.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-04/273423/>

Care Leavers and Children in Care: EU Nationals

Steve Reed (Labour Co-op) [273800] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assistance his Department is providing to (a) children in care and (b) care leavers who are non-UK EU citizens to regularise their status in the UK through the EU settlement scheme.

Reply from Nadhim Zahawi: The EU Settlement Scheme is the responsibility of the Home Office, however the Department for Education has been working closely with them on the design and operation of the EU Settlement Scheme, including work in 5 local authorities to test the application process before it was rolled out nationally.

The testing was useful in identifying changes needed to reflect the issues faced by this vulnerable group of children and young people. This included issues associated with a lack of relevant identity documents, which have subsequently been addressed by the Home Office.

The Department for Education has worked with the Home Office to ensure that

information has been shared widely with local authorities and with other interested organisations to ensure that action is taken with respect to all eligible children and young people. This has included the production and distribution of specific guidance for local authorities to assist them with their responsibilities to support children in care and care leavers.

The department remains committed to working closely with the Home Office to monitor uptake of the EU Settlement Scheme and to ensure that the needs of looked-after children and care leavers are considered as a priority.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-05/273800/>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

Asylum: Yemen

Lyn Brown (Labour) [273359] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many refugees from Yemen the UK (a) accepted asylum applications from and (b) granted asylum to in (i) 2014, (ii) 2015, (iii) 2016, (iv) 2017, (v) 2018, and (vi) 2019 to 4 July 2019.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office publishes data, in its quarterly Immigration Statistics re-lease, on the number of applications for asylum in the UK, broken down by nationality for each quarter, in table as_01_q (Asylum, volume 1), and data on the number of applications granted asylum (as well as other forms of leave) at initial decision in the same table.

The latest edition covering up to the end of March 2019 is available at:

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

The next update to these statistics will be published on 22nd August, and will cover the period to end of June 2019.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-04/273359/>

Asylum: Children

Mohammad Yasin (Labour) [272267] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he is taking to ensure that children who make an asylum application in the UK are not incorrectly identified as adults.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Age assessment is a highly complex and challenging area of work. There is no single method or combination of methods which can accurately predict age. The Home Office's approach reflects our commitment to promote and safeguard the welfare of all children. A key part of this is identifying adults who are seeking to pass themselves off as children and ensuring that children are correctly identified at the earliest opportunity.

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. In these circumstances, 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.

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/2019-07-02/272267/>

Asylum

Mohammad Yasin (Labour) [272263] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how he plans to (a) monitor and (b) evaluate the support for newly recognised refugees under the new asylum advice and accommodation contracts.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Accommodation and support services will continue for 28 days from when an asylum seeker has been granted asylum. During this period the Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility (AIRE) Provider, Migrant Help, will assist newly recognised refugees to access local housing and benefit services through their dedicated 'Move-On' service. Within one working day of notification of the decision by the Home Office, Migrant Help will contact newly recognised refugees to help prepare them for their new lives in the UK.

This improved service includes: providing information on the length of 'grace period' and next steps on support, accommodation and employment; booking an appointment with the local Department of Work and Pensions office for a 'work focussed interview'; signposting Service Users to the relevant Local Authority housing team; and providing information on, and signposting Service Users to, relevant public services, local support networks and voluntary sector organisations. As part of the AIRE contracts, this service, will include clearly defined performance standards measured through a set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) set within a wider Performance Management Regime (PMR). These KPIs will be monitored formally at Contract Management meetings between the providers and representatives of UK Visas and Immigration and will be supported by a rigorous contract compliance regime that will ensure that the required performance standards are met.

The Home Office and its Provider remains committed to working in partnership with local government and civil society to evaluate, develop and improve services.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-02/272263/>

Asylum: Housing

Andy McDonald (Labour) [273394] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how his Department plans to record complaints by service users during the transition period between asylum accommodation contracts; and whether that information will be made public.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Under the new Asylum Accommodation and Support Contracts (AASC) and Advice Issue Reporting and Eligibility (AIRE) contracts, all issues and complaints raised by Service Users will be managed by the AIRE provider thereby simplifying the system for the service user and allowing for a clearer understanding of roles and responsibilities. The AIRE provider will be responsible for capturing, logging and referring feedback and complaints to the AASC Provider or Home Office for resolution, in a timely manner in line with the Key Performance Indicators underpinning the AASC and AIRE contracts.

The AIRE provider will work closely with Service Users to ensure they are aware of the action being taken to resolve the complaint and communicate any delays in resolution where the complaint may be complex. If the AIRE and AASC provider is unable to resolve a Service User complaint within a timely manner, this can be escalated to the Home Office for action where appropriate. The Home Office reserves the right to undertake an independent investigation into any Service User

requests for support or complaints, and the Accommodation Provider's performance in responding and implementing actions in response to such requests for support or complaints.

The Home Office and Providers will monitor all complaints raised throughout the transition period and beyond and will continue to engage with Local Authorities through the Regional Strategic Migration Partnerships to listen to and act in response to any wider concerns raised, ensuring swift and appropriate action. The Home Office does not routinely publish data in relation to asylum complaints.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-04/273394/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Housing

Alex Cunningham (Labour) [272834] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how his Department plans to record complaints during the transition period between asylum accommodation contracts; and whether that information will be published.

Alex Cunningham (Labour) [272835] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether risk management information and contingency plans on the transition to the new asylum accommodation provider in the North East have been shared with local authorities involved in dispersal in that region.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Under the new Asylum Accommodation and Support Contracts (AASC) and Advice Issue Reporting and Eligibility (AIRE) contracts, all issues and complaints raised by Service Users will be managed by the AIRE provider thereby simplifying the system for the service user and allowing for a clearer understanding of roles and responsibilities. The AIRE provider will be responsible for capturing, logging and referring feedback and complaints to the AASC Provider or Home Office for resolution, in a timely manner in line with the Key Performance Indicators underpinning the AASC and AIRE contracts.

The AIRE provider will work closely with Service Users to ensure they are aware of the action being taken to resolve the complaint and communicate any delays in resolution where the complaint may be complex. If the AIRE and AASC provider is unable to resolve a Service User complaint within a timely manner, this can be escalated to the Home Office for action where appropriate. The Home Office reserves the right to undertake an independent investigation into any Service User requests for support or complaints, and the Accommodation Provider's performance in responding and implementing actions in response to such requests for support or complaints.

The Home Office and Providers will monitor all complaints raised throughout the transition period and beyond and will continue to engage with Local Authorities through the Regional Strategic Migration Partnerships to listen to and act in response to any wider concerns raised, ensuring swift and appropriate action. The Home Office does not routinely publish data in relation to asylum complaints.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-03/272835/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-03/272834/>

The following four questions all received the same answer

Detention Centres: Staff

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [273415] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average ratio is of detainees to detention officers at (a) Colnbrook and (b) Harmondsworth immigration removal centres in the most recent period for which

figures are available.

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [273416] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the ratio of detainees to detention officers in immigration removal centres that is considered to be safe.

Immigrants: Detainees

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [273417] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many hours per day are detainees in (a) Harmondsworth and (b) Colnbrook immigration removal centres routinely locked in their rooms.

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [273418] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the highest number of detainees was in (a) Harmondsworth and (c) Colnbrook immigration removal centres in the last 12 months.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office does not specify a ratio of detainee to detainee custody officer (DCOs) within immigration removal centres (IRCs) and this information is therefore not recorded. Instead, IRC suppliers are required to provide a safe and secure environment for detainees in their care and all IRC contracts require a minimum staffing level based on the size and layout of each individual centre. The Home Office and its suppliers do not release information on staff deployment as doing so could compromise security of the removal estate.

In the period ahead, new contracts will set high expectations for the quality of the management and staffing in IRCs. The current re-procurement of the contract for the Gatwick IRCs includes provision for increased staffing in key areas, including residential units, to improve welfare and safety.

The dignity and welfare of detainees across the entire detention estate is of the utmost importance and the use of periods of time where detainees' freedom of movement is restricted contributes to the maintenance of a safe and secure environment in our centres.

Detainees at both Harmondsworth and Colnbrook immigration removal centres (IRC) have a rest period following lunch and curfew period at night, where the total hours of confinement cannot exceed 12 hours a day during the week and 12.5 hours a day at weekends and on bank holidays.

Information on the number of people detained in Harmondsworth and Colnbrook IRCs on the last day of each quarter is available in table dt_12_q of the [detention](#) tables in the latest release of 'Immigration Statistics, year ending March 2019'.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-04/273415/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-04/273416/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-04/273417/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-04/273418/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigrants: Detainees

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [273420] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans he has to reduce the number of people held in UK immigration removal centres.

Detention Centres

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [273421] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, what plans he has to change the provision of immigration removal centres in the UK; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: In the year ending March 2019 24,333 individuals entered the detention estate which is the lowest level since comparable records began in 2009. In the same period 71% of detainees were held for 28 days or less and 93% for less than four months.

The Government expects that changes in policy and operational approaches will lead to a reduction in the number of those detained, and the duration of detention before removal, in turn improving the welfare of those detained.

The Government is committed to using detention sparingly and only when necessary. The Home Office has taken a systematic approach to modernising and rationalising the immigration detention estate, ensuring the geographical footprint and resilience required to meet our future needs. By this summer the estate will be almost 40% smaller than it was four years ago and of significantly higher quality.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-04/273420/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-04/273421/>

Detention Centres: Children

Lesley Laird (Labour) [274633] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what type of education provision is being provided for non-UK nationals who are children at (a) Dungavel and (b) other immigration removal centres.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: As stated in response to the honourable member's question of 7 June 2019 [261289], 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.

A range of educational resources and other welfare services are provided to families with children in detention. The short time that families spend at the dedicated family accommodation near Gatwick means that formal education is not provided. The most recent Independent Monitoring Board report for the centre praised the learning equipment provided to children during their short stay.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-08/274633/>

Deportation: Human Trafficking

Edward Miliband (Labour) [275161] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many young people that were victims of trafficking have been removed from the UK after they reached 18 years of age in the last 12 months.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: This Government is committed to supporting victims of trafficking and the introduction of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 has ensured we protect those in need and target those committing this abhorrent crime.

All applications are looked at on a case-by-case basis, with caseworkers giving careful consideration to the circumstances of each individual and no one who is found to be at risk of persecution or serious harm in their country of origin will be returned there.

Unaccompanied child victims who are not granted refugee status or discretion-ary leave to remain are not required to leave the UK unless we are confident that there are safe and adequate reception arrangements in the country to which they will be returned. Instead, leave to remain is granted for 30 months or until they are 17½

years of age, whichever is the shorter period. Upon turning 18, they are expected to return to their home country or make a further application to the Home Office if they believe they have a lawful basis to remain.

The Government has also set out an ambitious funding programme to tackle modern slavery abroad. Last year the Government announced it would double its official development assistance spend to £150 million to tackle modern slavery internationally. This includes the £33.5m Modern Slavery Fund, which tackles modern slavery in key countries from which victims are regularly trafficked to the UK. For example, this Fund has programmes in Nigeria (£5m) and Vietnam (£3m). These programmes will help to catch offenders, support victims and stop people falling into slavery in the first place.

The Home Office record the number of all individuals referred to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and this information is published Quarterly by the National Crime Agency. This information does not distinguish an individual's immigration status.

Providing the information requested would therefore require a manual check of individual records which could only be done at disproportionate cost.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-09/275161/>

Slavery

Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru) [266747] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what happens to (a) adult and (b) child victims of modern slavery after they have been referred to the National Referral Mechanism for the mandatory 45 days.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The National Referral Mechanism is our system for identifying and providing access to support for suspected victims.

The support for adult victims is provided through a Government-funded support service, the Victim Care Contract (VCC), which gives all adult victims in England and Wales a tailored and specialised package of care and support which includes, but is not limited to, accommodation, financial support, counselling, access to mental, physical and dental health services, and signposting to legal support.

Currently all potential victims of modern slavery who receive a positive Reasonable Grounds (RG) decision in the NRM are able to access a minimum of 45-days of support delivered through the VCC during their recovery and reflection period. This support is provided until the potential victim receives a Conclusive Grounds (CG) decision. This will be at least 45 days after they enter support but is often longer.

After the recovery and reflection period, victims who receive a positive CG decision are currently able to access continuing move-on support. Previously this support was provided for 45 days, but the Home Office is in the process of reviewing this policy.

Those who receive a negative decision are able to access a further 9 days of move-on support.

Child victims of modern slavery are supported by local authorities under existing statutory child protection arrangements. In addition, Section 48 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, makes provisions for Independent Child Trafficking Advocates (ICTAs). ICTAs are an independent source of advice for trafficked children and somebody who can speak up on their behalf. We have successfully rolled out ICTAs to one third of all local authorities in England and Wales and the Government remains committed to rolling ICTAs out nationally.

The Independent Review of the Modern Slavery Act led by Frank Field, Baroness Butler-Sloss and Maria Miller has recently considered Section 48 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, which makes provision for ICTAs. The Review's final report can be found

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-review-of-the-modern-slavery-act-final-report>

The Government is currently carefully considering the recommendations for ICTAs for national roll out.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-19/266747/>

Slavery

Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru) [266748] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how victims of modern slavery are monitored in respect of ongoing safeguarding after referral to the National Referral Mechanism; and how many victims of modern slavery have been reported as continuing to be trafficked in the last 12 months.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Adults who enter the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) can receive specialist and tailored support through the Victim Care Contract. This can include accommodation, financial support and assistance in accessing mental and physical health care

We ensure victims are safeguarded through robust contract management. The prime contractor for the Victim Care Contract, The Salvation Army, is responsible for ensuring that all subcontracted provision meets the needs of victims. The Salvation Army conducts regular safeguarding reviews and it has a duty to escalate to the Home Office any safeguarding concerns that it finds.

In October 2017, the Government announced an ambitious package of reforms to the NRM. As part of that package, we are introducing an inspection regime for accommodation provided through the Victim Care Contract. This will ensure that victims of modern slavery are effectively safeguarded while in the NRM. We are working with the Care and Quality Commission (CQC), the independent regulator of health and social care in England, to develop this regime which will be embedded in the new Victim Care Contract

The Government is unable to provide an accurate figure for the number of confirmed victims who have been re-trafficked after leaving the National Referral Mechanism. We are working with the National Crime Agency to improve our ability to identify potential re-trafficking cases. Our reforms to introduce a new digital referral process will also improve our ability to identify re-trafficking, as it will increase our knowledge of victims of modern slavery and enable us to capture and analyse data to better aid prevention and law enforcement activity. The digital referral form has already been launched for closed-beta testing with a group of First Responders and it will go live at the end of the summer.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-19/266748/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Visas: Migrant Workers

Lord Howell of Guidford (Conservative) [HL16747] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to review the cost of intra-company transfer business visas for staff and their families applying to work in the UK for more than three years; what is the typical cost for an employee, their spouse and two children to apply for such visas; and what representations they have received about the impact of those costs.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: It is the government's policy that those who use and benefit most from the immigration system should contribute towards the cost of operating the system and reduce the burden on the UK taxpayer.

The fees charged by the Home Office are governed by the charging principles set out in the 2014 Act and can only be increased with the approval of Parliament following collective government agreement.

The Home Office keeps its fees for immigration and nationality under regular review. The cost (fee) for an employee to apply for an intra company transfer, as the main applicant, for a period of more than three years is as follows:

Overseas £1220

In country extension £1408

The same fee applies for each application made by a dependant.

We are actively engaging with business about the future Borders and Immigration System and the cost of visas (and the impact this has) is part of this engagement.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-06-27/HL16747/>

Visas: Conferences

Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench) [HL16687] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 25 June (HL16233), whether, when making decisions about whether to refuse visa applications to participants at conferences, including the Coalition for Religious Equality and Inclusive Development held in Westminster on 11 June, they take into account whether a conference has been sponsored or part funded by a government department; and what assessment, if any, they make of the impact on the public purse and the reputation of the UK of a visa refusal for such a conference.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: All UK Visa applications are considered on their individual merits and in line with the UK Immigration Rules

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-v-visitor-rules>

which set out the requirements to visit the UK. These requirements apply to all visitors to the UK and the onus is on the applicant to demonstrate that they satisfy the immigration rules.

Among the points on which the applicant must satisfy the decision maker is that they are a genuine visitor who will leave the UK at the end of their visit and will not make the UK their main home through frequent or successive visits. When assessing a visit visa application decision makers follow publicly available guidance:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/793361/Visit-guidance-v8.0ext.pdf

[Visit guidance](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-06-26/HL16687/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-06-11/HL16233/>

English Language: Education

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL16816] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to publish a strategy for English for speakers of other languages for people living in England.

Reply from Lord Agnew of Oulton: The government recognises 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.

As part of the response to the Integrated Communities Strategy Green paper

(attached), the government will publish a new strategy for English for speakers of other languages in autumn 2019. We are working across government to develop the strategy which will provide a shared vision for all publicly funded English language provision.

[HL16816 document](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-07-01/HL16816/>

Children in Care: Immigration

Lord Russell of Liverpool (Crossbench) [HL16668] To ask Her Majesty's Government how they assess whether local authorities are identifying children in their care who need to address immigration issues; and how they intend to ensure that all European national children in care apply to the EU Settlement Scheme before the deadline for applications.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office has been engaging with relevant stakeholders such as the Department for Education, Local Government Association and Association of Directors of Children's Services to assess the needs of this group and ensure they are supported.

The Home Office has issued a series of letters to all Directors of Children Services making recommendations about the activity local authorities and their staff need to undertake to make applications to EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) for looked after children and care leavers.

These recommendations have been followed up with a round of teleconferences aimed directly at local authorities and Health and Social Care Trusts to find further information about EUSS and to share information with colleagues across the UK. The aim of the teleconferences is to monitor the level of take up to the scheme and to surface early any problems a local authority might be experiencing. These calls will continue through the lifetime of the EUSS.

The Home Office will shortly be surveying local authorities to benchmark current uptake of the scheme, and to baseline current cohorts of EEA citizen looked after children and care leavers. This survey will take place at set intervals throughout the lifecycle of the EUSS.

A New Burdens Assessment has also been produced in collaboration with key stakeholders representing local authorities and children's social services to ensure they are funded to identify and support eligible EEA children and family members in care.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-06-25/HL16668/>

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

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

Immigration: Children in Care

Lord Russell of Liverpool (Crossbench) [HL16669] To ask Her Majesty's Government what advice they have issued to local authorities about the provision of support for children from the European Economic Area and Switzerland who are subject to interim care orders and are applying, or intend to apply, for status through the EU Settlement Scheme.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office has issued guidance about the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) to help local authorities and Health and Social Care Trusts understand their responsibilities for supporting looked after children and care leavers. The EUSS has been designed to be as simple as possible, but we have committed to working with applicants, and those supporting them, to ensure they obtain the status they need where required.

The Home Office has been engaging with relevant stakeholders such as the

Department for Education, Local Government Association and Association of Directors of Children's Services to assess the needs of this group and ensure they are supported.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-06-25/HL16669/>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: Children in Care

Lord Russell of Liverpool (Crossbench) [HL16670] To ask Her Majesty's Government what advice they have issued to local authorities about the process of applying for legal aid through exceptional case funding for unaccompanied and separated children for children from the European Economic Area and Switzerland in care.

Lord Russell of Liverpool (Crossbench) [HL16672] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Ministry of Justice on 23 April (244118), when they estimate they will introduce legislation to grant legal aid to unaccompanied and separated children; and whether updated guidance will be available to local authorities and social care trusts about the availability of legal aid for looked-after children going through the EU Settlement Scheme.

Reply from Lord Keen of Elie: We have issued communications to Local Authority Directors of Children's Services on the availability of exceptional case funding for separated migrant children's immigration matters.

As part of Legal Support Action Plan, we are working to issue new guidance to improve understanding and awareness of the availability of exceptional case funding.

We have engaged with charity groups and stakeholders on this issue and have committed to lay legislation to bring non-asylum immigration matters into the scope of legal aid for separated migrant children. Subject to parliamentary time we intend to lay the amendment as soon as possible. Over the coming months we will continue to work with children's charities and the Department of Education on further communications and guidance on this amendment.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-06-25/HL16670/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-06-25/HL16672/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-11/244118/>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

Immigration: Children in Care

Lord Russell of Liverpool (Crossbench) [HL16671] To ask Her Majesty's Government why their Looked-after Children and Care leavers: EU Settlement Scheme Local Authorities and Social Care Trusts Guidance, published on 3 April, makes no reference to the legal aid available to unaccompanied and separated children in care through exceptional case funding.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office designed the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) to be: free of charge; streamlined; and user-friendly. The majority of applicants apply with-out the need for advice from a lawyer on rights

to enter or remain. Although legal aid is available, we did not anticipate the vast majority of applicants would need legal aid.

The Home Office has created and issued guidance about the EUSS to help local authorities and Health and Social Care Trusts understand their responsibilities for supporting looked after children and care leavers and how to apply. Although the EUSS was designed to be as simple as possible, we have committed to working with applicants to ensure they obtain the status they need where required. The guidance is clear that where necessary, because of case complexity, or if there is any doubt about how to proceed, that the LA or HSCT may consider obtaining independent legal advice, in line with their own organisational processes and policies.

The guidance is intended to help local authorities and HSCT staff navigate information available on gov.uk by pulling together relevant information relating to looked after children and care leavers into one simple straight forward document. It is also the intention that this information pack will be updated and added to as and when required.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-06-25/HL16671/>

The guidance referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-community-leaders-toolkit/toolkit-introduction-how-to-use-the-local-authorities-toolkit-in-your-community-or-network>
and

https://adcs.org.uk/assets/documentation/EUSS_LA_HSCT_Guidance.pdf

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

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

Asylum: Housing

Lord Beecham (Labour) [HL16581] To ask Her Majesty's Government why they have awarded contracts to Serco for the provision of housing to asylum seekers; and what measures they intend to put in place to ensure that the quality of the service delivered under those contracts is up to a good standard.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office awarded the new Asylum Accommodation and Support Services Contracts (AASC) to providers following an open, fair and extensive procurement exercise.

There is a rigorous contract compliance regime in place to ensure that the required performance standards expected of all providers, as defined in the contracts, are met. Instances of non-conformance of the performance indicators may lead to a financial deduction from monthly invoices

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-06-24/HL16581/>

Deportation: Commonwealth

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL16667] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to remove the threat of deportation from those people of Commonwealth parentage who were born after the introduction of the British Nationality Act 1983 and who were subsequently denied British citizenship.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Under the UK Borders Act 2007, the Secretary of State has a legal duty to make a deportation order in respect of a foreign criminal sentenced to a period of 12 months or more imprisonment. This is subject to a number of exceptions, including where to do so would breach a person's ECHR rights or the UK's obligations under the Refugee Convention.

We have no plans to make changes to the UK Borders Act 2007 or Article 8 public

interest considerations which were approved by Parliament during the passage of the Immigration Act 2014.

A child of a Commonwealth national, born after 1 January 1983, can apply to the Windrush Scheme for evidence of their immigration status. Unless they are liable to deportation on grounds of criminality, they will not be removed from the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-06-25/HL16667/>

UK Parliament Petition

Lizanne Zietsman, Isle of Arran

Patricia Gibson (SNP) [P002488] This petition is from the residents of North Ayrshire and Arran, and many others from across the United Kingdom. The residents are deeply concerned by the UK Home Office's decision to refuse Lizanne Zietsman leave to remain in the UK. They note: that Lizanne has settled on the Island of Arran with her Scottish-born husband, John, and has built a successful business, employing local residents; further that she is a valued, respected and much loved member of the Arran community, which is bewildered, dismayed and genuinely upset that the UK Home Office has rejected her application to stay in the UK; and further that an online petition on this matter has received, at the latest count, more than 16,069 signatures, in just a few days, with the number rising as we speak. It is worth noting that population of Arran stands at about 5,000.

It is extremely disappointing that the Immigration Minister has no time to meet me to discuss this matter further. This decision to force Lizanne to leave the UK by Friday 12 July is cruel and unnecessary, and it robs a rural community of one of its highly esteemed members, to no good purpose or benefit to anyone. It is not done in the name of these 16,069 and counting petitioners. The petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Home Office to reconsider this decision without delay and grant Lizanne leave to remain in the UK, so that she can continue to contribute to the Isle of Arran community. ...

The petition of residents of North Ayrshire and Arran, Declares that we are deeply concerned by the UK Home Office's decision to refuse Lizanne Zietsman leave to remain in the UK; further that Lizanne has settled on the Island of Arran with her Scottish-born husband and has built a successful business employing local residents; further that she is a valued and respected member of the Arran community which is bewildered and dismayed that the UK Home Office has rejected her application to stay in the UK; and further that an online petition on this matter has received over 16,069 signatures.

The petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Home Office to grant Lizanne leave to remain in the UK so that she can continue to contribute to the Isle of Arran community. ...

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-07-09/debates/11E77840-0B41-4CCC-A522-3D0074958AC9/LizanneZietsmanIsleOfArran>

Press Releases

Building a fairer immigration system

<https://www.gov.scot/news/building-a-fairer-immigration-system/>

£100 million migration fund helps alleviate council pressures across England

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/100-million-migration-fund-helps-alleviate-council-pressures-across-england>

Government to launch new modern slavery research centre

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-launch-new-modern-slavery-research-centre>

New Publications

Letters between Robin Walker MP, Caroline Nokes MP, and Nadhim Zahawi MP regarding waiving citizenship fees for EU citizens' children who are looked after children and care leavers

<http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2019-0725/Letter from Robin Walker MP to Caroline Nokes MP.pdf>

and

<http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2019-0725/Response from Caroline Nokes MP to Robin Walker MP.pdf>

and

<http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2019-0725/Letter from Robin Walker MP to Nadhim Zahawi MP.pdf>

and

<http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2019-0725/Response from Nadhim Zahawi MP to Robin Walker MP.pdf>

Management of adults at risk in immigration detention

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/816821/DSO_08_2016_Management_of_adults_at_risk_in_immigration_detention.pdf

News

Scotland should get its own 'distinct' immigration rules under new pilot

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/scotland-should-get-its-own-distinct-immigration-rules-under-new-pilot-1-4964279>

SNP demands immigration powers to avoid cuts

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17754824.snp-demands-immigration-powers-avoid-cuts/>

Why it would be wrong to devolve immigration policies

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17760111.wrong-devolve-immigration-policies/>

Failure to recognise Scottish four year degree is 'ignorance or incompetence', Mike Russell tells UK Government

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17766109.failure-recognise-scottish-four-year-degree-ignorance-incompetence-mike-russell-tells-uk-government/>

'Ignorant' visa rule threatens Scottish universities

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-07-13/scotland/ignorant-visa-rule-is-threat-to-scottish-universities-javid-told-kj9kslccb>

No major UK politician trusted by public on immigration, poll shows

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/07/07/no-major-uk-politician-trusted-public-immigration-poll-shows/>

Home Office 'applies good character test to children as young as 10'

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/jul/09/home-office-applies-good-character-test-to-children-as-young-as-10>

The Home Office's harsh 'good character' tests are ruining children's lives

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/jul/10/home-office-good-character-test-children-british-citizenship>

Children who have spent all their lives in UK denied British citizenship because of judgments on their 'good character'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/children-uk-citizenship-british-character-judgment-home-office-immigration-a8996136.html>

Charities make fresh plea to halt evictions of asylum seekers in Glasgow

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/charities-make-fresh-plea-to-halt-evictions-of-asylum-seekers-in-glasgow-1-4962093>

Last ditch attempt to halt Serco evictions

<http://thirdforcenews.org.uk/tfn-news/last-ditch-attempt-to-halt-serco-evictions>

Halt 'inhumane' Glasgow asylum seeker evictions, Serco urged

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/jul/09/charities-urge-serco-to-stop-inhumane-asylum-seekers-evictions>

MPs to question Home Office officials over English tests scandal

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/jul/09/mps-to-question-home-office-officials-over-english-tests-scandal>

Home Office 'not that bothered' over English tests scandal, MP says

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/jul/10/home-office-not-that-bothered-over-english-tests-scandal-mp-says>

Home Office admits 'significant mistakes and misjudgements' made in English language test scandal

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-english-language-test-mistakes-public-accounts-committee-sir-philip-rutman-a8999536.html>

Home Office 'wants to turn charity workers into border guards'

<http://thirdforcenews.org.uk/tfn-news/home-office-wants-to-turn-charity-workers-into-border-guards>

The UK must stop persecuting people who seek asylum based on sexuality

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/jul/09/lgbt-asylum-seekers-detention>

More than 500 victims of trafficking detained in 2018, UK study finds

<https://www.theguardian.com/law/2019/jul/09/more-than-500-victims-of-trafficking-detained-in-2018-uk-study-finds>

Old bikes help refugees settle into new lives

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-48869000>

Yarl's Wood: Trafficking victims 'detained for months'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-48910326>

Plea for Home Office not to deport Arran businesswoman rejected

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17765226.plea-home-office-not-deport-arran-businesswoman-rejected/>

Couple's heartbreak as wife told 'return to South Africa by Friday'

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17757188.couple-s-heartbreak-wife-told-return-south-africa-friday/>

Devastated Scottish husband told wife could be deported by the end of the week

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/people/devastated-scottish-husband-told-wife-could-be-deported-by-the-end-of-the-week-1-4961880>

Deported South African woman forced to leave 'much loved home' on Arran vows to return

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/deported-south-african-woman-forced-to-leave-much-loved-home-on-arran-vows-to-return-1-4964526>

Trafficked prostitute returned by immigration officials to brothel where she was sexually exploited

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/07/09/trafficked-prostitute-returned-immigration-officials-brothel/>

The Syrian refugees changing the UK's food scene

<https://www.theguardian.com/food/2019/jul/12/the-syrian-refugees-changing-the-uks-food-scene>

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Community Relations

News

What it's like being black in rural England

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-oxfordshire-48967252/what-it-s-like-being-black-in-rural-england>

TOP

Equality

Press Releases

Prime Minister announces new independent organisation to tackle deep-rooted injustices in society

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-announces-new-independent-organisation-to-tackle-deep-rooted-injustices-in-society>

Britain's ethnic pay gap: workers of Bangladeshi heritage paid least

<https://www.theguardian.com/inequality/2019/jul/09/ethnic-pay-gap-bangladeshi-workers-earn-fifth-less-white-britons>

Government must introduce ethnicity pay gap reporting without delay, says TUC
<https://www.tuc.org.uk/news/government-must-introduce-ethnicity-pay-gap-reporting-without-delay-says-tuc>

New Publication

Ethnicity pay gaps in Great Britain: 2018

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/articles/ethnicitypaygapsingreatbritain/2018/pdf>

News

Theresa May announces new 'Office for Tackling Injustices' as part of her legacy plan

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/theresa-may-office-tackling-injustices-inequality-race-gender-disability-a9001446.html>

GCSE exam board adds more ethnically diverse texts, after complaints of too many 'dead white men'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/07/08/gcse-exam-board-adds-ethnically-diverse-texts-complaints-many/>

Lack of black officials is problem we must tackle, says referees' chief

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/lack-of-black-officials-is-problem-we-must-tackle-says-referees-chief-p8hdqlb9z>

Chinese ethnic group biggest earners in the UK

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-48919813>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Higher Education: Antisemitism

Wes Streeting (Labour) [272895] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many and which higher education institutions have adopted the IHRA definition of antisemitism.

Reply from Chris Skidmore: On 16 May 2019, I wrote to all higher education institutions to urge them to consider adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism. I set out my view that this is a useful tool, which will help front-line services better understand and recognise instances of antisemitism.

The government believes that adopting the IHRA definition of antisemitism sends a clear message that antisemitic behaviour will not be tolerated, and that any instances of antisemitism will be taken very seriously.

Higher education providers are autonomous organisations who are independent from the government and individually responsible for deciding whether to adopt the IHRA definition and this information is therefore not held centrally.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-03/272895/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Universities: Racism

Lord Bassam of Brighton (Labour): To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures they intend to take to ensure that universities properly investigate allegations of racism by students, lecturers and staff; and what role the Office for Students will have in any such investigations.

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: My Lords, the Government take all forms of racism extremely seriously and expect providers to act swiftly to investigate and address reports of racist incidents. The Government are working closely with Universities UK and the Office for Students to support work to address racism and other forms of harassment in higher education, including the implementation of UUK's task force recommendations. The Government tasked the OFS to support this, and over £2 million has been invested in projects tackling hatred and harassment.

Lord Bassam of Brighton: My Lords, universities have a responsibility to ensure that they provide a safe, inclusive learning requirement but fail in some cases to treat racism seriously. Twenty-five per cent of universities surveyed admitted that they lacked central records of racist complaints, some did not specifically record racist incidents, and just five said that staff who investigated complaints received specific anti-racism training. Does the Minister share my concern that without concerted action, the widened access a diverse intake brings is threatened, and that there are few mechanisms and fewer trained staff able to deal with racism at our universities?

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: My Lords, we are concerned, and there is no place in our society, including within higher education, for hatred or any form of harassment, discrimination or racism. Higher education providers have clear responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010, and should discharge their responsibilities fully and have robust policies and procedures in place to comply with the law to investigate and swiftly address incidents reported to them—by the way, this includes having enough resources, especially staff. The Office for Students was set up to champion students, and it is right that it works closely with universities to fund them to tackle this important issue.

Lord Leigh of Hurley (Conservative): Yesterday, the United States special envoy on global anti-Semitism came to this House. He told us that global anti-Semitism has risen, in part due to anti-Semitism taking place on campus. The Jewish Leadership Council, of which I am vice-president, met the Minister, Chris Skidmore, a short while ago, and he wrote to every vice-chancellor asking them to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of anti-Semitism. Despite that, Jewish students are still having to pay for security on campus. Has the Minister received a reply from the vice-chancellors, and what steps are being taken to ensure that all universities adopt this definition?

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: I am aware of the meeting and the letter which Minister Skidmore wrote—on 16 May, I believe. I can tell my noble friend that there have been some replies, so I believe that the message is getting through. However, I am the first to say that there is more work to be done. King's College London has adopted the IHRA definition, but I believe that that happened before the letter was written. Just to complicate matters, we have to respect institutional autonomy as regards how higher education providers operate, although obviously government has a role.

Baroness Garden of Frognal (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, last week I was speaking at a sixth-form college where the students were almost entirely black and minority ethnic. They were thrilled when one of their bright girls got a place at Cambridge, and devastated when her father refused to allow her to go on the grounds that she must live at home and

go to a local university. What more can be done to encourage ethnic minority communities not to discriminate against girls in this way, and to ensure that they have the opportunities that others have, both before they go to university and afterwards?

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: The noble Baroness raises an important point. It is important to encourage more females to go to university, when it is right for them, as well as BAME students. I know that a number of universities, including but not exclusively Oxford and Cambridge, are doing a lot of work to try to encourage and improve entries from this particular group, and the work is getting through.

Lord Morgan (Labour): My Lords, when I was a vice-chancellor, there were clear regulations about how to handle allegations of racial discrimination or abuse of some kind. One knew exactly what one had to do: procedures would be set up, which I myself would chair. Perhaps these serious allegations that my noble friend has alluded to arise from the fact that vice-chancellors may be turning their attentions to other managerial matters and not to their fundamental responsibility, which is the welfare and well-being of students and staff.

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: The noble Lord is right that the welfare of students has to be paramount, and the OfS is tasked with that. However, there is more to it than that; the House may note that the EHRC is conducting an inquiry into racial harassment in higher education, which we welcome. Minister Skidmore wrote to the EHRC on 7 January regarding its inquiry to set out the importance of our understanding of these issues and how they are addressed by providers. Therefore, we very much want to follow through and are on the front foot as regards trying to understand more where the problems are and address them.

Baroness Hussein-Ece (Liberal Democrat): Has the Minister seen the report on the research by Dr Katy Sian on the racism and the lack of career progress that black, Asian and minority ethnic academics are facing in universities? The figures are woeful, and demonstrate, as she puts it, 'institutional racism' rather than meritocracy. Does the Minister agree with the recommendation that there should be far more transparency in terms of an audit, a statutory requirement for universities to report on the ethnic make-up of their senior academic staff and the progress they intend to make to change that picture?

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: Indeed, that is what they are tasked to do, through changes we have made in the transparency requirements of the Higher Education and Research Act. There is more to it: £1.8 million has been given for 45 projects. They are looking not only at online harassment—£480,000 has been given for 11 projects to tackle religious harassment. There are a number of strands in progress to make sure we are doing the maximum possible in this area.

Lord Lexden (Conservative): My Lords, following the question of the noble Lord, Lord Morgan, will the Minister make inquiries to establish whether the guidance the noble Lord referred to is still in place and available to vice-chancellors and principals? It is clearly very important that, having been provided, it should be retained.

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: I will certainly check that, but I have no doubt that the guidance is there. The big question is whether we should be updating it. That will certainly come in the autumn, when the EHRC is due to report, so this is very much a work in progress.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-07-10/debates/3714CF1B-B09A-4161-B01D-5AD67AF7FBC0/UniversitiesRacism>

The report referred to above is not available online.

UK Parliament Home Affairs Committee

Evidence sessions: Inquiry into the Macpherson Report: twenty years on
<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/home-affairs-committee/the-macpherson-report-twenty-years-on/oral/103657.html>
and
<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/home-affairs-committee/the-macpherson-report-twenty-years-on/oral/103709.html>

Press Release

UN Human Rights Council 41: UK response to the Special Rapporteur's report on racism
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/un-human-rights-council-41-uk-response-to-the-special-rapporteurs-report-on-racism>

News: Antisemitism in the UK Labour Party

Row over Scottish Labour 'branch office' which is 'powerless' against anti-Semitism
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17769279.row-scottish-labour-branch-office-powerless-anti-semitism/>

Anti-semitism crisis affects Scottish Labour too – Kezia Dugdale
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/anti-semitism-crisis-affects-scottish-labour-too-kezia-dugdale-1-4964293>

Labour anti-Semitism row: Push for independent complaints process
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-48981120>

Publish anti-Semitism probe response, says Watson
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-48956973>

Tom Watson says he has been frozen out of the full scale of Labour's anti-Semitism crisis
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/07/11/tom-watson-says-has-frozen-full-scale-labours-anti-semitism/>

Labour's general secretary Jennie Formby accused of 'interference' amid fresh anti-Semitism row
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/07/10/labours-general-secretary-accused-interference-amid-fresh-anti/>

Publish anti-Semitism probe response, says Watson
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-48956973>

Labour anti-Semitism claims prompt dismay in party
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-48946070>

Labour anger at BBC over Panorama antisemitism documentary
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-07-08/news/labour-anger-at-bbc-over-antisemitism-documentary-pwltvwzr3>

Top Labour figures 'interfered' in anti-Semitism disputes

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-48929244>

Panorama: senior Labour figures meddled in anti-Semitism probes

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17762384.panorama-senior-labour-figures-meddled-anti-semitism-probes/>

Labour bosses accused of undermining fight against antisemitism

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/jul/10/labour-bosses-accused-of-undermining-fight-against-antisemitism-bbc-panorama>

Jeremy Corbyn's team repeatedly intervened in antisemitism cases, claim Labour whistleblowers in new documentary

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/jeremy-corbyn-labour-antisemitism-panorama-documentary-whistleblower-a8999441.html>

Jeremy Corbyn aides 'interfered' in anti-semitism investigations

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/jeremy-corbyn-aides-interfered-in-anti-semitism-investigations-1-4962836>

Labour boss 'sent Corbyn email promising to intervene in antisemitism case'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-07-10/news/momentum-attacks-bbc-bias-before-labour-antisemitism-documentary-rcrn1kmts>

Labour needs exclusion rule for antisemitism, says Keir Starmer

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2019/jul/10/labour-needs-exclusion-rule-antisemitism-keir-starmer-denial>

Tom Watson backs automatic exclusions over Labour antisemitism

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/jul/11/labour-antisemitism-claims-automatic-exclusions-tom-watson>

Labour antisemitism: Tom Watson attacks party's 'smears' of whistleblowers in Panorama expose

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/labour-antisemitism-whistleblowers-tom-watson-jeremy-corbyn-jews-panorama-a9001131.html>

Labour MPs threaten to use Parliamentary privilege to expose party's alleged failings on anti-Semitism

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/07/07/labour-mps-threaten-use-parliamentary-privilege-expose-party/>

Rewrite Labour Party rules to automatically expel antisemites, Corbyn urged

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-07-11/news/corbyn-allies-interfered-in-labour-antisemitism-inquiries-df593r93x>

Labour antisemitism: Momentum accuses BBC of bias on Panorama

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-07-11/news/labour-antisemitism-momentum-accuses-bbc-of-bias-on-panorama-l9zhr0hhx>

Labour antisemitism whistleblower: 'In 30 years I'll be very proud of myself'

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2019/jul/11/labour-whistleblower-in-30-years-ill-be-very-proud-of-myself>

Three Labour peers resign whip over 'anti-Semitism'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-48923671>

Three Labour peers quit over handling of antisemitism cases

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/jul/09/labour-peers-resign-over-handling-of-antisemitism-complaints-triesman-darzi-turnberg>

Three Labour peers quit over party's 'institutional anti-Semitism'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/07/09/three-labour-peers-quit-anti-semitism-insiders-warn-dam-bursting/>

Labour's Lord Triesman quits party over 'institutional anti-Semitism'

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/labour-s-lord-triesman-quits-party-over-institutional-anti-semitism-1-4961999>

Labour antisemitism row: former party boss Lord Triesman resigns whip

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-07-09/news/labour-antisemitism-former-labour-party-boss-lord-triesman-resigns-whip-fxc5qghvv>

Labour must 'act more quickly' on anti-Semitism, says senior MP

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-48906649>

Labour panel meet over MP suspended in anti-Semitism row

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-48919696>

Labour anti-Semitism row: Scots activist who claims 'Holocaust was exaggerated' formed anti-Zionist group while suspended

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17769276.labour-anti-semitism-row-scots-activist-claims-holocaust-exaggerated-formed-anti-zionist-group-hq-suspended/>

Gordon Brown pleads with Jewish voters: Don't give up on Labour

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17755042.gordon-brown-pleads-jewish-voters-dont-give-labour/>

Labour antisemitism isn't normal. It's a total disgrace

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-07-11/news/twitter-hack-has-spin-doctors-in-a-twist-xwm2g3k39>

Schama: anti semitism a 'poison' in Labour's soul

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-07-13/news/schama-anti-semitism-a-poison-in-labours-soul-sc9380pv5>

Jewish figures rail against Labour's handling of antisemitism charges

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/jul/14/jewish-intellectuals-express-outrage-over-labours-handling-of-antisemitism-crisis>

Other Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination News

Humza Yousaf takes break from Twitter after trolls target baby

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17769712.humza-yousaf-takes-break-twitter-trolls-target-baby/>

Humza Yousaf hits out at Labour over handling of 'racism' case

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/humza-yousaf-hits-out-at-labour-over-handling-of-racism-case-1-4964050>

Labour 'failed to act on councillor Jim Dempster's Islamophobic abuse' of Humza Yousaf

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/labour-failed-to-act-on-councillor-jim-dempster-s-islamophobic-abuse-of-humza-yousaf-bsfnw2vcr>

Conservatives: Members see Islam as 'threat to British life', poll suggests

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-48912065>

Where is the outrage about the Tory party's Islamophobia?

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/jul/10/islamophobia-tory-party-britain>

Prevent is stopping free speech on campus and demonising Muslims

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/jul/01/prevent-stopping-free-speech-campus-demonising-muslims>

Most UK news coverage of Muslims is negative, major study finds

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2019/jul/09/most-uk-news-coverage-of-muslims-is-negative-major-study-finds>

Anti-semitism, Islamophobia and racism can have a deadly price

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/anti-semitism-islamophobia-and-racism-can-have-a-deadly-price-angus-robertson-1-4961445>

Britons believe far-right groups a greater threat to society than Islamist extremism, poll says

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/uk-far-right-terrorism-hope-not-hate-poll-islamism-a9003826.html>

'Extremists linked to mosque killer prey on homeless'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-07-09/scotland/extremists-linked-to-mosque-killer-prey-on-homeless-gwcsvkdc>

Racism in UK universities is blocking BAME academics from the top

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2019/jul/10/racism-in-uk-universities-is-blocking-bame-academics-from-the-top>

UK universities condemned for failure to tackle racism

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2019/jul/05/uk-universities-condemned-for-failure-to-tackle-racism>

I've seen firsthand that academic spaces have a problem with racial slurs – no wonder PhD students are quitting

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/academic-racism-university-cambridge-n-word-priyamvada-gopal-a8993016.html>

Sorry Cressida Dick, but as a black former detective I know just how racist the Met still is

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/met-police-cressida-dick-no-longer-institutionally-racist-racism-black-officer-a9001176.html>

Army racism tribunal: Officer 'referred to coloured people'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-essex-48912884>

Traveller bias: 'It's the last accepted form of racism'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-scotland-48921325/traveller-bias-it-s-the-last-accepted-form-of-racism>

David Mackereth: Christian doctor 'sacked over trans beliefs'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-birmingham-48924966>

Christian doctor lost his job after refusing to identify a six-foot-tall bearded man as 'madam', tribunal hears

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/07/10/christian-doctor-lost-job-government-department-refusing-identify/>

Doctor sacked for refusing to refer to transgender woman as 'she'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/christian-doctor-trans-woman-sacked-gender-pronouns-universal-credit-a8999176.html>

FA told to increase ban for racism

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/fa-told-to-increase-ban-for-racism-lzzgctvj>

How it feels to... talk to Raheem Sterling about racist abuse

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/how-it-feels-to-talk-to-raheem-sterling-about-racist-abuse-mwvkhqzqx>

Why can't mermaids be black?

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/caitlin-moran-why-cant-mermaids-be-black-jgs050gvv>

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New Publication

State of Media Reporting on Islam & Muslims: Quarterly Report: Oct - Dec 2018

<https://cfmm.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/CfMM-Quarterly-Report-Oct-Dec-2018.pdf>

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Other News

'I was forced to marry my cousin'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-48949483>

Early Learning and Childcare

The Scottish Government is expanding the provision of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) which all children aged 3 and 4, and eligible 2-year-olds, are entitled to. The entitlement will increase from 600 hours per year to 1,140 hours per year by August 2020.

Information on what the expansion of ELC means for parents and their children can be found on the [Parent Club website](#).

To deliver the expansion in hours up to 11,000 new jobs will be created in the run up to

August 2020. That means there are opportunities across Scotland to pursue an exciting and rewarding career helping to shape the futures of our youngest children and give them the best possible start in life. For careers information in Early Learning and Childcare see https://www.scojec.org/memo/files/19vii_elc.pdf

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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>

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

Islamophobia in Scotland (closing date 26 August 2019)

<https://forms.ncl.ac.uk/view.php?id=13027>

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

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

Scottish Government proposals to create a Scottish Biometrics Commissioner (closing date 30 August 2019)

https://www.parliament.scot/S4_JusticeCommittee/Inquiries/SBCBillCfEforweb20190701.pdf

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/>

Women of Colour in Scottish Politics (closing date not stated)

<https://edinburgh.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/women-of-colour-in-scottish-politics>

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

**** Scotland's Winter Festivals and St Andrew's Fair Saturday 2019/2020**

Closing date 16 September 2019

This Bemis small grant fund, supported by the Scottish Government, will be available to Scotland's diverse ethnic and cultural minority community organisations holding public multicultural celebratory that will enable everyone to experience the dynamic and invigorating nature of Scotland's cultural and ethnic diversity.

Participating organisations must embrace the message of arts and culture as a way of bringing communities together in common international human bond, and ensure our events are open to all. They must also nominate a charity to benefit from their event. This could be from a raffle or any other way of fundraising. If the organisation is a charity it could raise money for an existing or new project. There is no minimum or maximum amount they must raise. For information and to apply see <https://bemis.org.uk/project/swf-2019/>

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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Online Hate Talk – Race and Religion

22 July 2019 in Edinburgh (10.00-4.30)

Racist, Islamophobic or anti-Semitic talk can be found in online settings but what counts as prejudicial is itself often a topic of debate. This event from Edinburgh University and the British Psychological Society will discuss the nature of online hate talk, and how it can be theorised, researched, and responded to. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y2glghmr>

Working with People from Diverse Religion & Belief Identities

30 July 2019 in Glasgow (9.30-1.00)

6 September 2019 in Glasgow (1.00-4.30)

21 November 2019 in Glasgow (9.30-1.00)

Interfaith Scotland course to learn about the core beliefs and cultural practices of the main faiths, and the individual needs that may arise from a person's faith or belief identity, and consider where unintentional discrimination may occur and discuss steps to remove it. For information about the July event see <https://tinyurl.com/y63r67cs> the September event see <https://tinyurl.com/yxqh4wb9> and the November event see <https://tinyurl.com/yxrr95j2>

3 Mottos for Guiding our Approach to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

8 August 2019 in Glasgow (9.30-1.00)

17 September 2019 in Glasgow (9.30-1.00)

Interfaith Scotland course to consider why some people ignore or deny the disadvantages that others experience; how to respond to misunderstandings or offence; and the impact of our inner narratives on our interactions. For information about the August event see <https://tinyurl.com/yxg4z6a3> and the September event see <https://tinyurl.com/y69h9tyz>

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>

Interpreting Culture – Improving Cross-Cultural Communication

21 August 2019 in Glasgow (9.30-1.00)

16 October 2019 in Glasgow (1.00-4.30)

Interfaith Scotland course to consider the wide-ranging influence of cultural background on people's behaviour, expectations and beliefs, consider responses to the behaviour of others, and improve communication skills with people from other cultures. For information about the August event see <https://tinyurl.com/y374w8md> and the October event see <https://tinyurl.com/y4r8ed8f>

**** Introduction to Policing**

25 August 2019 in Dunfermline (9.45-3.00)

1 September 2019 in Motherwell (9.45-3.00)

Scotland is an increasingly diverse country and Police Scotland want to represent this change. This one day course is aimed at encouraging people from minority ethnic communities to consider a career in policing, and will include information about the recruitment process, input from specialist departments, and an opportunity to try the fitness test. For information about the Dunfermline event see <https://tinyurl.com/y2kxb6yh> and about the Motherwell event see <https://tinyurl.com/y69h46gv>

Meet the Charity Regulator

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/>

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>

Refugee Survival Trust <https://www.rst.org.uk/>

Freedom from Torture <https://tinyurl.com/yyhmtvky>

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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