



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

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

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Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Proposed Scottish Visa (Impact on Rural Economy)

Keith Brown (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government how its proposed Scottish visa could impact on the rural economy. (S5O-04110)

Reply from the Minister for Europe, Migration and International Development (Ben Macpherson): The current migration system is not working for our rural communities. The Scottish visa and rural migration pilot schemes, in line with the recommendation from the Migration Advisory Committee, could have a significant positive impact on the growth and sustainability of our rural economy. Those measures would allow Scotland to attract and, crucially, retain people with the skills and attributes that we need for our communities to flourish.

The UK Government should engage positively and work with us to develop the pilots

and to trial them in Scotland to encourage people to move to, and stay in, our rural communities.

Keith Brown: Does Ben Macpherson share my concerns about reports from a recruitment agency based in my constituency that specialises in sourcing staff from Europe for the rural hospitality sector, for which there is limited local seasonal labour, that in a recent recruitment drive only three people applied for positions, instead of the usual 40-plus applicants? Does he agree with the United Kingdom Migration Advisory Committee's recommendation that the UK should pilot tailored approaches for rural areas, and will he make a request for Scotland to host such pilots to address labour shortages in sectors such as the rural hospitality industry?

Reply from Ben Macpherson: I very much share Keith Brown's concerns. The example that he cites shows that the fact that we have now left the European Union makes us less attractive to migrant workers. We are competing with EU countries that want to attract the same individuals to work in their economies.

As Keith Brown said, and as I mentioned in my previous answer, pilots should be hosted here in Scotland. We have consistently said that to UK ministers and the Home Office since the previous Home Secretary mentioned the pilots on 23 January 2019. We will continue to engage with the UK Government and to press ministers to undertake the pilots, which will be to the benefit of the whole of Scotland.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12507&i=113088#ScotParlOR>

The Migration Advisory Committee's recommendations, referred to above, can be read at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/860669/PBS_and_Salary_Thresholds_Report_MAC.pdf

UK Parliament, House of Commons Point of Order

Dawn Butler (Labour): ... The Home Office press team told journalists that all the people on a deportation flight to Jamaica were serious criminals. That seems not to have been true, and ... the Government have not even received the lessons learned report.

The wife of a constituent of mine has said that he is due to be deported in just six days' time. He was convicted under the now unlawful joint enterprise rule, and was released after two months. His wife fears that this stress will kill him because he has a heart problem. Mr Speaker, how can I get the Home Secretary to take this seriously and to be truthful about the people who are due to be on the deportation flight, so that we can halt it until we establish the true facts of the situation?

Mr Speaker: I thank the hon. Lady for giving notice of her point of order. As she knows, it is not a point of order for me personally, but I think that the whole House has sympathy with what she has said, I am sure that Ministers have heard it, and I am sure that someone will look into it as a matter of urgency.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-02-05/debates/74BAB0C2-631C-4246-8BD4-DE588D33EC45/PointsOfOrder>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answer

Prime Minister's Questions

Nadia Whittome (Labour): It has been two years since the Windrush scandal exposed the wrongful detention and deportation of Commonwealth citizens. While we wait for the much delayed publication of the lessons learned review, the Government plan to deport 50 people to Jamaica by charter flight next week. Will the Prime Minister immediately

suspend the flight until the lessons learned review is published and the recommendations are implemented? [900626]

Reply from the Prime Minister: I think the whole House will understand that the people of this country will think it right to send back foreign national offenders.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-02-05/debates/9EAB35C6-1EF6-4A18-B345-56F34D5D4504/Engagements#contribution-66BE5E06-344E-4330-A6A7-11E408EDE96D>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Immigration

Steve Double (Conservative) [9727] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the implications for her policies of the Migration Advisory Committee's January 2020 report on a points-based system and salary threshold for immigration.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Following the UK's exit from the European Union and the end of free movement, we will deliver a new points-based immigration system that allows us to attract the brightest and best talent from around the world and works for all parts of the UK.

The independent Migration Advisory Committee published its report on salary thresholds and the points-based system on the 28 January. We will consider carefully its findings and recommendations before taking any final decisions.

We will set out proposals for the future immigration system in the near future.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-29/9727/>

The report referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/860669/PBS_and_Salary_Thresholds_Report_MAC.pdf

Immigration

Daniel Zeichner (Labour) [3772] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to consult with groups representing (a) medical research, (b) science and (c) the NHS in advance of reforms to the immigration system.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Home Office have conducted a large-scale engagement programme with businesses, communities and local governments on the future border and immigration system. More than 150 events reaching over 2,400 stakeholders have been held, including representatives from the medical, research and NHS sectors. Advisory Groups have also been established to consider specific aspects of the new system and Ministers continue to regularly engage with sector groups.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-15/3772/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: EU Law

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [2557] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many cessation of international protection (Articles 11 and 17 Directive 2011/95/EU) decisions were made by the UK in 2019; and what the (a) nationality and (b) protection status was of each applicant subject to those decisions.

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [2558] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many withdrawal of international protection (Article 14 and 19 Directive 2011/95/EU) decisions were made by the UK in 2019 and what the (a) nationality and (b) protection

status was of each applicant subject to those decisions.

Victoria Atkins: Information regarding the number of cessations or withdrawals of international protection decisions made by the UK in 2019, and the nationality, and protection status of each applicant subject to those decisions, is not held centrally and to obtain it would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-13/2557/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-13/2558/>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Immigration: Fraud

Anneliese Dodds (Labour Co-op) [9137] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many cases are on hold pending the drafting of the case-handling instructions since the conclusion of Immigration4U trial on 26 November 2018.

Anneliese Dodds (Labour Co-op) [9138] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the timeframe is for the conclusion of case-handling instructions following the conclusion of the Immigration4U trial.

Anneliese Dodds (Labour Co-op) [9139] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she plans to take to ensure that immigration cases that are on hold as a result of the prosecution and conviction of Immigration4U immigration advisors are promptly concluded.

Reply from Kevin Foster: There are currently 85 cases on hold pending the drafting of case handling instructions since the conclusion of the Immigration4U trial. Although the main trial ended on 26 November 2018, the second trial did not conclude until 2 June 2019. The Home Office is in the final stages of writing the guidance.

The Home Office will ensure decision makers will be provided with the requisite training and support to ensure that these applications are promptly concluded. The applications will be prioritised in date order.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-28/9137/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-28/9138/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-28/9139/>

Information about the trials referred to above can be read at

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/cps/news/four-sentenced-their-part-uks-largest-ever-visa-fraud>

Immigration

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [8177] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent estimate she has made of the number of people who have had their application for (a) leave to remain and (b) asylum refused but who remain in the UK.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Information regarding the number of people who have had their;

(a) application for leave to remain refused, but who remain in the UK, can be found on tables PRE_MRP_01 of the Immigration Enforcement Transparency data, published 22nd August 2019:

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

(b) application for asylum refused, but who remain in the UK, can be found on tables OLCU_01, OLCU_04 and ASY_03 of the Asylum, UK Visa & Immigration Transparency Data Q2 2019, published 22nd August 2019:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-transparency-data-august-2019>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-27/8177/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Visas

Kate Green (Labour) [8272] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to her Department's White Paper of December 2018, The UK's future skills-based immigration system, Cm 9722, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of extending the length of the low-skilled visa from 12 months to 24 months.

Kate Green (Labour) [8273] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to her Department's White Paper of December 2018, The UK's future skills-based immigration system, Cm 9722, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of reducing the length of the cooling-off period applicable to low-skilled visas as set out in that paper.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Government commissioned the independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to advise on salary thresholds and how points could be awarded to prospective migrants under a new points-based immigration system. The MAC published its report on 28 January and the Government will consider carefully their findings and recommendations before setting out further detail in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-27/8272/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-27/8273/>

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 report referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/860669/PBS_and_Salary_Thresholds_Report_MAC.pdf

Visas: Standards

Sarah Owen (Labour) [10475] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what representations she has received on the time taken to process visa applications from (a) refugees and b) other visa applicants.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office does not hold the information in the format requested or routinely publish data to answer this question. To obtain it would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold.

- Published data on the processing of visa applications is available at:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data

- Information on UKVI's service standards is available at:

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visas-and-immigration/about-our-services#service-standards

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-30/10475/>

Visas

Deidre Brock (SNP) [4358] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much and what proportion of the revenue stream from visa applications represented the cost of processing those applications in each of the last four years.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Published information for financial years 2016-17, 2017-18 & 2018-19 for revenue from visa applications can be found in the Home Office's Annual Report and Accounts via the links below:

The cost of processing applications is not reported separately from other UKVI expenditure in the accounts, but unit cost information is published, and the link to that is also below.

2018-19

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/807126/6.5571_HO_Annual_Report_201920_WEB.PDF#page=137

2017-18

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/727179/6_4360_HO_Annual_report_WEB.PDF#page=126

2016-17

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/627853/ho_annual_report_and_accounts_2016_2017.pdf#page=119

Income generated via visa applications for the current financial year 2019-20 is expected to be published in June 2020.

Published visa unit costs are provided in the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visa-fees-transparency-data>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-16/4358/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Visas: Iraq

Robert Halfon (Conservative) [6653] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of people from the Kurdistan Region in Iraq were refused an entry visa to the UK in the last 12 months for which figures are available.

Robert Halfon (Conservative) [6654] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to improve the visa application system in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office does not publish the information requested. Available information on entry clearance visa applications can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-september-2019>.

Our commercial partner, TLS Contact, operates the User Pay application point in Erbil which operates five days a week (Sundays to Thursdays) between 0900 and 1600 and offers 42 appointment slots each day. The operating frequency of our outsourced operations are dictated by demand.

The UK keeps its visa system under regular review. Decisions on changes are always taken in the round and reflect key facets of the bilateral relationship with the country concerned. These will vary globally, but often include security, compliance, returns, reciprocal arrangements for UK nationals, logistics and prosperity.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-22/6653/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-22/6654/>

In Vitro Fertilisation: Immigrants

Jonathan Ashworth (Labour Co-op) [8300] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether people seeking leave to remain in the UK are eligible for NHS IVF treatment.

Reply from Edward Argar: Non-European Economic Area nationals seeking leave to remain in the United Kingdom are not eligible for National Health Service in vitro fertilisation services free of charge.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-27/8300/>

Immigration: Windrush Generation

Helen Hayes (Labour) [1915] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate her Department has made of (a) the number of outstanding applications to the Windrush Compensation Scheme and (b) the average waiting time for (i) a decision on an application to that scheme and (ii) payment to the claimant.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Outstanding applications are taken to mean those which have been submitted but which have not yet had a final decision.

We will publish information on the total number of claims, claims paid and the overall amount paid out by the scheme shortly, as noted in the Home Secretary's report to the Home Affairs Select Committee

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/update-to-the-hasc-on-windrush-22-october-2019>

We do not intend to publish information on the time taken between a claim being submitted and a decision or a payment being made on that claim – all claims are different and the time taken will depend on many factors, including its complexity.

We also often resolve part of a claim ahead of the rest of it if that part can be resolved more quickly, thereby speeding up the provision of compensation.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-10/1915/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Windrush Generation: Compensation

Sarah Owen (Labour) [9790] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many victims of the Windrush scandal have received compensation to date.

Sarah Owen (Labour) [9791] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much compensation has been awarded to the victims of the Windrush scandal to date.

Reply from Kevin Foster: We will publish information on the total number of claims submitted, claims paid and the overall amount paid out by the scheme shortly, as noted in the Home Secretary's report to the Home Affairs Select Committee

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/update-to-the-hasc-on-windrush-22-october-2019>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-29/9790/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-29/9791/>

The following five questions all received the same answer

Windrush Generation: Compensation

Vicky Foxcroft (Labour) [8376] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applicants to the Windrush compensation scheme from (a) England, (b) London

and (c) Lewisham, Deptford constituency have received a financial settlement from the Government.

Vicky Foxcroft (Labour) [8377] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications to the Windrush compensation scheme from (a) England, (b) London and (c) Lewisham, Deptford constituency have been refused.

Vicky Foxcroft (Labour) [8378] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people from (a) England, (b) London and (c) Lewisham, Deptford constituency have contacted the Windrush helpline for support with compensation claims.

Vicky Foxcroft (Labour) [8379] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of applicants to the Windrush compensation scheme have received guidance from the Windrush task force on making their application.

Vicky Foxcroft (Labour) [8380] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many organisations have applied for funding to host community events promoting the Windrush compensation scheme in (a) England, (b) London and (c) the London borough of Lewisham.

Reply from Kevin Foster: We will publish information on the total number of claims paid and the overall amount paid out by the scheme shortly, as noted in the Home Secretary's report to the Home Affairs Select Committee

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/update-to-the-hasc-on-windrush-22-october-2019>

A breakdown of claims awarded by geographical area will not be published as this could potentially identify individual claimants. There is no plan to publish the number of calls made to the Helpline. The Windrush Taskforce does not provide guidance on making an application for compensation. There is guidance on how to complete the compensation form online at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/windrush-compensation-scheme-claim-forms-and-guidance>

Windrush Helpline staff refer claimants to the Claimant Assistance Service if they require assistance completing their claim form.

The number of organisations which have applied for funding to host community events promoting the Windrush Compensation Scheme are (a) ten in England, b) two in London, and (c) none in the London Borough of Lewisham.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-27/8376/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-27/8377/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-27/8378/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-27/8379/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-27/8380/>

Overseas Students: EEA Nationals

Emma Hardy (Labour) [10448] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment his Department has made of the potential effect of changes to (a) tuition fees and (b) student loans for EEA students after the UK has left the EU on the number of those students studying in the UK.

Reply from Chris Skidmore: EU students make an important contribution to the UK's higher education sector, both financially and culturally. On 28 May 2019, we announced guarantees on student finance for EU nationals. EU nationals (and their family members) who start a course in England in the 2020-21 academic year or before will continue to be eligible for 'home fee' status and undergraduate and postgraduate student financial support from Student Finance England for the duration of their course, provided they meet the residency requirement. Any potential effects of changes to tuition fees and loans for European Economic Area students from the 2021-22 academic year will be considered as part of wider discussions about the UK's future relationship with the EU. The government will continue to work towards the ambitious goals set out in our International Education Strategy, to host 600,000 international students per year by 2030, an increase of 30%.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-30/10448/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Royston Smith (Conservative) [9084] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the EU Settlement Scheme.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The EU Settlement Scheme makes it straightforward for EU citizens and their family members to obtain the UK immigration status they need in order to stay here, guaranteeing their rights in UK law. Those resident here by 31 December 2020 have until 30 June 2021 to apply. Applicants only need to complete three key steps – prove their identity, show that they live in the UK and declare any criminal convictions. The scheme is working well: according to the latest internal figures, more than 2.8 million applications have been received. The latest published statistics for the scheme are available at:

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-28/9084/>

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

Immigration: EU Nationals

Stephen Doughty (Labour Co-op) [1447] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much her Department spent on advertising the EU Settlement Scheme by (a) channel and (b) region or nation in each of the last six months.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: In October 2019, the Home Office launched [a new £1m wave of UK wide marketing campaign](#) to encourage EU citizens to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme. Outdoor advertising, social media and search went live across the whole of the UK including in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

<http://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-office-launches-1-million-advertising-campaign-for-eu-settlement-scheme>

All channels were paused in November due to the pre-election period. Activity will restart in February 2020.

A regional breakdown will be available at the conclusion of this wave of activity.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-08/1447/>

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

Immigration: EU Nationals

Shabana Mahmood (Labour) [7607] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent steps she is taking to ensure that EU citizens living in the UK apply for settled status by 31 January 2020.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The EU Settlement scheme is free, there is plenty of support for applicants and EU citizens have until the end of June 2021 to apply.

The latest published information shows that more than 2.7 million (2,756,100) EU Settlement Scheme applications had been received up to 31 December 2019. The latest figures can be found in the Home Office's 'EU Settlement Scheme monthly statistics' available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/eu-settlement-scheme-statistics-december-2019>

In order to ensure that resident EEA nationals and their family members understand how and by when to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme, the Home Office has put in place a comprehensive communications and engagement plan, using all available channels to reach our audiences – such as marketing, presentations, email updates, toolkits and webinars.

The Home Office has delivered a £4 million marketing campaign to encourage resident EEA nationals to apply and further campaign activity is planned. Alongside this campaign activity, we have also undertaken extensive engagement and outreach with stakeholder groups, including employers, local authorities and community organisations. No-one will be left behind, which is why we are working in partnership with representatives of vulnerable groups and other experts to make sure everyone knows what they need to do and has the right level of support.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-24/7607/>

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: EU Nationals

Afzal Khan (Labour) [5537] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when she plans to publish guidance on the criteria for reasonable grounds for people missing the registration deadline for the EU Settlement Scheme.

Afzal Khan (Labour) [5538] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of EU citizens that will miss the registration deadline for the EU Settlement Scheme with a reasonable excuse for doing so.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Government has made clear that, where a person eligible for leave under the EU Settlement Scheme has reasonable grounds for missing the application deadline of 30 June 2021, they will be given a further opportunity to apply.

EU citizens can apply to the scheme, free of charge, simply by completing three key steps: proving their identity, showing that they live in the UK and declaring any criminal convictions. There is support available for any who need help in applying, including through the EU Settlement Resolution Centre, which is open seven days a week.

We have not estimated the number of EU citizens who may miss the deadline to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme as our focus remains on ensuring everyone who is eligible applies before the deadline.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-20/5537/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-20/5538/>

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

Immigration: EU Nationals

Jamie Stone (Liberal Democrat) [4774] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she plans to take in relation to EU citizens who have not been granted the right to remain in the UK by the end of June 2021.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: We have been clear that, where someone has reasonable grounds for missing the deadline, they will be given a further opportunity to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme. Meanwhile, we will continue to provide support to those who require assistance in applying to the scheme.

The EU Settlement Scheme is a free and easy process for EU citizens resident in the UK to obtain the immigration status they need to continue living in this country. There have already been over 2.8 million applications, with plenty of time until the deadline on 30 June 2021.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-17/4774/>

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

Immigration: EU Nationals

Caroline Lucas (Green) [8210] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps the Government plans to take to ensure that the Independent Monitoring Authority for the Citizens' Rights Agreement (a) is independent and (b) ensures that applicants to the EU Settlement Scheme have access to an effective redress mechanism, beyond administrative review, to challenge decisions.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Independent Monitoring Authority (IMA) will be fully independent, with its own legal personality separate from Government. It will have its own board to set direction and make decisions. The Government will have no role in the day-to-day running of the IMA or the decisions it makes. To ensure the independence of the IMA, the EU (Withdrawal Agreement) Act places a statutory duty on the Secretary of State to have regard to the need to protect the operational independence of the IMA.

The IMA will be fully capable of monitoring our domestic implementation of the citizens' rights parts in the Withdrawal Agreement and EEA EFTA Separation Agreement. Once the IMA is operational, this will include monitoring the EU Settlement Scheme. The IMA will be able to launch inquiries, receive complaints, and bring judicial review proceedings in order to safeguard the rights of citizens.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-27/8210/>

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

Immigration: EEA Nationals

Alan Campbell (Labour) [6022] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of EEA national children have applied for (a) pre-settled and (b) settled status as of December 2019.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Published information on EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) applications by the applicant's age and concluded applications by age and outcome type (including grants of settled and pre-settled status) to 30 September

2019, can be found in the Home Office's 'EU Settlement Scheme quarterly statistics', statistics tables, tables EUSS_02 and EUSS_04 respectively, available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/eu-settlement-scheme-quarterly-statistics-september-2019>.

EUSS quarterly statistics to 31 December 2019, including updated tables by age group, are planned for publication on 6 February 2020.

The published figures refer specifically to applications made to the EUSS and cannot be directly compared with Office for National Statistics (ONS) estimates of the resident population of EU/EEA nationals in the UK. The published EUSS figures include non-EEA family members, Irish nationals, and eligible EEA citizens not resident in the UK, none of whom are usually included in ONS estimates of the resident EU population. Furthermore, the population estimates do not take account of people's migration intentions and will include people who have come to the UK for a range of purposes, including some who have no intention to settle in the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-21/6022/>

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

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

Immigration: EU Nationals

Jo Stevens (Labour) [9715] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking support EU nationals living in the UK that (a) lack mental capacity and (b) do not have a power of attorney with their application for settled status.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Home Office has put in place a comprehensive vulnerability strategy to ensure that the EU Settlement Scheme is accessible to all. A user group of external stakeholders who represent the needs of vulnerable individuals has been established to work with the Home Office to assess and understand relevant risks and issues and to ensure the right support arrangements are in place for applicants, including those who lack mental capacity.

The Home Office is working closely with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Department for Health and Social Care, NHS England as well as with stakeholders including the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, the Care Provider Alliance and Local Government Association. This collaboration ensures local authorities and partners can work together to identify and support those without mental capacity to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme.

Applicants who need additional support, or those who are assisting them, can call the Settlement Resolution Centre or contact one of the 57 voluntary and community grant funded organisations who can provide immigration advice to individual applicants.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-29/9715/>

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

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

Immigration: EU Nationals

Jo Stevens (Labour) [9716] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the adequacy of the application process for settled status for EU nationals living in the UK that are homeless.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Home Office has put in place measures to ensure that the EU Settlement Scheme is accessible to all vulnerable applicants, including those who are homeless.

A user group of external stakeholders who represent the needs of potentially vulnerable individuals, including those who are homeless, has been established to work with the Home Office to ensure the right support arrangements are in place. There is provision in policy to allow for a wide range of evidence to be provided by applicants in order to prove their residence, including confirmation from a charity or support group. There is also provision for applicants to apply without the standard evidence of identity and nationality where they can not provide it due to compelling practical or compassionate reasons or circumstances beyond their control, which may include being homeless or destitute.

The Home Office has introduced a range of support including up to £9 million grant funding for 57 voluntary and community organisations, to ensure those that require the most support to apply to the scheme can access it. This includes funding allocated to charities that support the homeless.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-29/9716/>

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

Immigration: EU Nationals

Deidre Brock (SNP) [4360] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many calls the helpline for EU citizens applying for settled status received in the latest period for which figures are available.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: We do not currently publish data on calls into the Settlement Resolution Centre. We do ensure that resource allocated is maximised to allow our dedicated teams to answer and support as many callers as possible to assist them through the EU Settlement scheme process. Our current average answer time is 25 seconds. (January 2020)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-16/4360/>

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: EEA Nationals

Afzal Khan (Labour) [8462] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reasons applications by third country dependents of EEA nationals to the EU Settlement Scheme frequently take longer to process than applications by EEA nationals.

Afzal Khan (Labour) [8463] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reasons applicants to the EU Settlement Scheme who are third country dependents of EEA nationals are required to provide more extensive evidence than proof of their relationship with an EEA national residing in the UK.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Our aim is to process all applications to the EU Settlement Scheme as expeditiously as possible. Complete applications are usually processed in around five working days. More information about processing times for applications under the scheme is available here:

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

Where a non-EEA national is applying as the family member of an EEA citizen and does not already hold a permanent residence document, they must provide evidence of the family relationship for the relevant period, and in some cases, evidence of their dependency on the EEA citizen during the relevant period. The

non-EEA national applicant will also need to provide proof of the identity and nationality of the EEA citizen and evidence of that person's residence or status in the UK. Such cases can therefore be more complex and take longer for caseworkers to process.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-27/8462/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-27/8463/>

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

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

Immigration: EU Nationals

Afzal Khan (Labour) [8461] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what security mechanisms are in place to ensure data belonging to an individual granted settled or pre-settled status and stored by her Department under the EU Settlement Scheme cannot be (a) tampered with, (b) stolen and (c) accessed without the individual's consent.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Home Office takes the security and integrity of all our data extremely seriously. Our staff are security cleared, and controls applied to data such that only those who have a valid business need to access data can do so.

Security audits are performed to ensure controls and processes are followed, and The Home Office monitors systems for abuse and misuse.

We engage independent third parties, accredited by the National Cyber Security Centre, to perform tests upon our networks and systems, to test cybersecurity controls.

The online service for those granted under the EU Settlement Scheme allows an individual to share their immigration status with an employer or third party, and in keeping with GDPR legislation, this process is initiated by the individual with their consent.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-27/8461/>

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

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

Immigration: EU Nationals

Alex Norris (Labour Co-op) [10446] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans her Department has to update the (a) Right to work checks and (b) Right to rent document checks guidance to allow digital forms of identification to be accepted.

Reply from Kevin Foster: When an individual undergoes a right to work or right to rent check they are not just evidencing their identity, they must also demonstrate their entitlement to work or rent.

The Home Office is transforming the way migrants demonstrate their immigration status and right to work and rent in the UK. The digital online status checking service for employers conducting right to work checks was launched on 6 April 2018. In January 2019, we amended secondary legislation and issued new guidance to employers which sets out how they can use the online service in complying with their responsibilities under the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 on the prevention of illegal working.

The Home Office is planning to launch an online digital right to rent status checking service to support landlords in conducting right to rent checks.

The Government is also working to develop proposals for a digital identity system that would enable people to prove their identity easily and securely, without the need to provide physical documents, and to meet the demands of the digital age.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-30/10446/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Alex Norris (Labour Co-op) [11546] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans her Department has to update the (a) Right to work checks guidance and (b) Right to rent document checks guidance to enable digital forms of identification to be accepted.

Reply from Kevin Foster: When an individual undergoes a right to work or right to rent check they are not just evidencing their identity, they must also demonstrate their entitlement to work or rent.

The Home Office is transforming the way migrants demonstrate their immigration status and right to work and rent in the UK. The digital online status checking service for employers conducting right to work checks was launched on 6 April 2018. In January 2019, we amended secondary legislation and issued new guidance to employers which sets out how they can use the online service in complying with their responsibilities under the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 on the prevention of illegal working.

The Home Office is planning to launch an online digital right to rent status checking service to support landlords in conducting right to rent checks.

British citizens will continue to evidence their right to work or right to rent by providing their passport or other acceptable documents, as set out in the published code of practice.

The Government is also working to develop proposals for a digital identity system that would enable people to prove their identity easily and securely, without the need to provide physical documents, and to meet the demands of the digital age.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-03/11546/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Musicians: EEA Nationals

Stephen Timms (Labour) [2410] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the status will be of visiting musicians from EEA countries on 1 January 2021 in the event that the UK does not reach an agreement with the EU by the end of 2020.

Stephen Timms (Labour) [2411] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions she has had with Cabinet colleagues on the immigration arrangements for visiting musicians from EEA countries after the UK leaves the EU; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Government has announced that, at the end of the transition period, EEA and Swiss nationals will be able to continue to travel to the UK for holidays or short-term trips, without needing a visa.

The Home Office is currently engaging with other government departments, including DCMS, to ensure that the future immigration system continues to support the thriving cultural sector in the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-13/2410/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-13/2411/>

Undocumented Migrants

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [8178] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to encourage people residing illegally long-term in the UK to (a) normalise their immigration status or (b) return to their homeland.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Those without leave to remain in the UK should make arrangements to return to their home country. A Voluntary Return Service exists to support those wishing to leave the UK, and can include assistance with organising travel and reintegration support in their country of return.

The Home Office works with stakeholders including Local Authorities, non-profit organisations and other government departments to raise awareness of the service and support families and individuals without status return to their home country.

The department also engages with diaspora communities to raise awareness of the risks and consequences of illegal migration, and the options to regularise stay or to return voluntarily to their country of origin.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-27/8178/>

Undocumented Migrants: Employment

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [10370] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many civil penalties have been issued under section 15 of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 since July 2016; what the total value is of those penalties; and how much has been collected of that total to date.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Data on the number of penalties issued under section 15 of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006, and the total value of those penalties are published on gov.uk. The latest published figures up to the end of June 2019 can be found at:

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

A total of 5,856 civil penalties were issued between July 2016 and June 2019, with a total value of £100.1m.

The Home Office does not publish data on the total amount collected.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-30/10370/>

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Afzal Khan (Labour) [1927] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reasons there was a sixfold increase in the number of migrants crossing the English Channel in 2019 compared to the previous year.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Home Office works closely with partners in the UK and overseas to strike people smuggling at source – identifying and dismantling the organised crime groups that facilitate illegal immigration.

Last year, more than 35,000 attempts to cross the Channel illegally were prevented at our juxtaposed controls in northern France and Belgium.

It is an established principle that those seeking asylum should claim it in the first safe country they reach and, since January 2019, we have returned over 125 migrants who entered the UK illegally via small boat to Europe.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-10/1927/>

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Natalie Elphicke (Conservative) [1424] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many suspected migrants have been detected entering the UK by small boat across the Dover straits in each year since 2015.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Small boats crossing the English Channel were an infrequent phenomenon prior to 2018. Incidences involving small boats, as a result, were not recorded with this level of granularity.

However, information was provided to the Home Affairs Select Committee (HASC) on 5th March 2019 which gave the number of migrants detected entering the UK by small boats from January 2018 to February 2019 as 428.

On 22 July 2019 the then Home Secretary Sajid Javid provided an additional figure to Home Affairs Select Committee that up to 21 July 2019, 725 migrants had crossed the English Channel.

We anticipate publication of 2019/2020 data in the coming months.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-08/1424/>

The information to the Home Affairs Committee, referred to above, can be read at

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

and at Q894 at

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/home-affairs-committee/the-work-of-the-home-secretary/oral/103955.html>

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Helen Hayes (Labour) [9737] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate her Department has made of the number of adult migrants who have illegally crossed the English channel from France and who have subsequently been granted asylum in the UK in each year since 2015.

Helen Hayes (Labour) [9738] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate her Department has made of the number of (a) accompanied and (b) unaccompanied child migrants who have illegally crossed the English channel from France and who have subsequently been granted asylum in the UK in each year since 2015.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Information regarding migrants crossing the English Channel was provided to the Home Affairs Select Committee on 5 March 2019 which gave the number of migrants detected entering the UK by small boats from January 2018 to February 2019 as 428.

On 22 July 2019 the then Home Secretary Sajid Javid provided an additional figure to Home Affairs Select Committee that up to 21 July 2019 725 migrants had crossed the English Channel.

The Home Office does not routinely publish breakdowns of asylum claims by method of arrival or type of claim.

In its quarterly Immigration Statistics, published on 28 November 2019 the Home Office published data regarding the number of asylum applications made. The total number of adults claiming asylum since 2015 to year ending September 2019 is given as 136,995 ...

In its quarterly Immigration Statistics, published on 28 November 2019 the Home Office published data regarding the number of asylum application made. The total number of unaccompanied minors claiming asylum since 2015 to year ending September 2019 is given as 15,554. The total number of accompanied minors claiming asylum since 2015 to year ending September 2019 is given as 16,886.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-29/9737/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-29/9738/>

The information to the Home Affairs Committee, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-committees/home-affairs/Correspondence-17-19/19-03-05-Letter-from-Sir-Philip-Rutnam-KCB-Permanent-Secretary-Home-Office-Migrant-boats-in-the-channel.pdf>

and at Q894 at

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/home-affairs-committee/the-work-of-the-home-secretary/oral/103955.html>

The immigration statistics referred to above can be read at

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/bulletins/migrationstatisticsquarterlyreport/november2019/pdf>

Refugees: Young People

Alex Norris (Labour Co-op) [7253] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the potential merits for the integration of refugees of changing the definition of family to include children aged over 18 in the refugee family reunion rules.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Family connections are an important enabler of integration. However, amending Government policy on family reunion without careful thought could significantly increase the numbers who could qualify to come here, not just from conflict regions but any country from which someone is granted protection. This risks reducing our capacity to assist the most vulnerable refugees. Our policy makes clear that there is discretion to grant visas outside the Immigration Rules, which caters for extended family members in exceptional circumstances – including young adult sons or daughters who are dependent on family here and living in dangerous situations.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-23/7253/>

UK Visas and Immigration: Staff

Alex Cunningham (Labour) [9022] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many officials were responsible for examining and making decisions on asylum applications at the end of 2019.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The number of officials across the department who were responsible for examining and making decisions on asylum applications at the end of 2019 is not held in a reportable format. To obtain this information would require detailed reporting against multiple cost centres and could only be obtained at disproportionate costs.

Decisions on asylum claims are made by decision makers in Asylum Operations. All staff are maintained at a level that allows the Home Office to progress cases and make timely decisions.

All asylum claims lodged in the UK are carefully considered on their individual merits against a background of relevant case law and up to date country information.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-28/9022/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [2559] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average duration of the asylum procedure at first instance is in the UK.

Asylum: Middle East

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [2560] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average duration of the asylum procedure at first instance in the UK is for (a)

Syrian nationals, (b) Afghan nationals and (c) Iraqi nationals.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Information regarding the average duration of the asylum procedure at first instance in the UK, and the average duration of the asylum procedure of those who are Syrian nationals, Afghan nationals and Iraqi nationals is not held centrally and to obtain it would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold.

However, information relating to the percentage of asylum applications processed within 6 months can be found on table ASY_10 of the Asylum Transparency data, published 22nd August 2019:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-transparency-data-august-2019>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-13/2559/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-13/2560/>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Legal Aid Scheme: Asylum

Bambos Charalambous (Labour) [9116] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many requests for legal assistance were made by asylum applicants during the first instance procedure in 2019.

Bambos Charalambous (Labour) [9117] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many requests were made for legal assistance by asylum applicants during the first instance procedure by (a) regular, (b) accelerated, (c) border and (d) Dublin procedures in 2019.

Bambos Chalambous (Labour) [9118] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many requests for legal assistance by asylum applicants during the first instance procedure were granted in 2019.

Reply from Wendy Morton: Information on the total number requests for this type of legal assistance is not held. Such assistance when provided by legal aid is funded under the 'Legal Help' scheme, where the decision on whether or not to grant funding is taken by the legal aid provider, and hence refusals are not reported to the Legal Aid Agency.

The data on the number of grants of this type of legal aid in 2019 is not available, as this is not broken down to the level of detail required until a claim for payment is submitted.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-28/9116/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-28/9117/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-28/9118/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Appeals

Bambos Charalambous (Labour) [9114] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what the average duration of appeal proceedings on first instance decisions on asylum applications was in the last twelve months for which data is available.

Asylum: Middle East

Bambos Charalambous (Labour) [9115] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what the average duration of appeal proceedings was against first instance decisions on asylum

applications for (a) Syrian, (b) Afghan and (c) Iraqi in the last 12 months for which data is available.

Reply from Chris Philp: The average clearance time, from receipt to disposal, of an asylum appeal in the First-tier Tribunal Immigration and Asylum Chamber, over the last 12 months for which data are available (1 October 2018 to 30 September 2019), was:

All nationalities	29 weeks
Syrian nationals	34 weeks
Afghan nationals	31 weeks
Iraqi nationals	20 weeks

These figures are from internal management information extracted from the tribunal's case management system. They do not form part of the published statistics.

Tribunal statistics are published on a quarterly basis and are available at:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/tribunals-statistics

HM Courts & Tribunals Service has worked extensively to reduce the outstanding caseload and improve timeliness in the Immigration and Asylum Chamber. This has seen the live caseload in the First-tier Tribunal reduce by more than two-thirds, from 64,800 to 20,300 between July 2016 and September 2019. The average duration across all case types has also improved from 52 weeks in the period July to September 2017 to 34 weeks in the period July to September 2019.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-28/9114/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-28/9115/>

Asylum: Advisory Services

Christine Jardine (Liberal Democrat) [9130] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to improve the transparency and accountability of providers on their performance against the targets set under the Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility contract.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: AIRE is the new Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility service provided by Migrant Help. The AIRE contract contains a number of formal performance measures, including Key Performance Indicators, which provide a mechanism by which the effectiveness of contract delivery can be measured. These are monitored in formal monthly and quarterly contract governance meetings. Measures can be taken where performance falls short of the standards we set.

We are providing regular updates on performance, particularly in relation to call waiting times to Local Authorities and Voluntary Sector partners.

Further information about the performance measures within the contract can be found in the contracts, published here:

<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/028be8bb-3c69-494d-bfdd-59c2e1b34379?p=@UFQxUIRRPT0=NjJNT08=>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-28/9130/>

Migrant Help

Catherine West (Labour) [8418] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has made an assessment of the effectiveness of its contract with Migrant Help.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: AIRE is the new Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility

service. The AIRE contract with Migrant Help contains a number of formal performance measures, including Key Performance Indicators, which provide a mechanism by which the effectiveness of contract delivery can be measured. These are monitored in formal monthly and quarterly contract governance meetings. Measures can be taken where performance falls short of the standards we set.

The services within the new AIRE contract represent a new method of delivering advice and guidance to asylum seekers and look to provide a single point of contact for issues, feedback and requests for guidance and assistance, which has not previously existed. During the early months of the contract volumes of people accessing the service were in excess of those predicted.

The Home Office has been working closely with Migrant Help, including through the formal governance set out in the contract and, through the transition period to the new contracts. We will continue to monitor performance and the effectiveness of the contracts through the monthly Contract Management Groups and quarterly Strategic Review Management Boards.

Further information about the performance measures within the contract can be found in the contracts, published here:

<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/028be8bb-3c69-494d-bfdd-59c2e1b34379?p=@UFQxUIRRPT0=NjJNT08=>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-27/8418/>

Asylum: Children

Helen Hayes (Labour) [2650] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied asylum seeking children were detained in the UK in 2019.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Unaccompanied children are not detained for consideration of their asylum claim.

On occasion, new information may come to light or new concerns raised, indicating a person who has been detained as an adult may be a child. In such circumstances we would seek to release them into the care of local authority children's services at the earliest safe opportunity for an age assessment.

Information on the number of occurrences of people leaving detention by nationality, age, sex, reason for leaving detention and length of detention can be found in table Det_D03 of the detention data tables, which can be found in the latest release of 'Immigration Statistics', available from GOV.UK at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/returns-and-detention-datasets>

The figures do not distinguish between accompanied and unaccompanied children.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-13/2650/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: Children

Afzal Khan (Labour) [6160] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many children were reunited with relatives in the UK under paragraph 319X of the Immigration Rules in (a) 2018 and (b) 2019.

Asylum: Families

Afzal Khan (Labour) [6161] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to remove the application fee for family reunions under paragraph 319X of the Immigration Rules.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Within the published visa tables, decisions on applications made under paragraph 319X of the Immigration Rules are included in the 'Dep. joining or accompanying: Other' category, which also includes applicants

in other routes covered by this category. The latest figures available are up to July to September 2019 and can be found in the Visa table Vis_D02 of the managed migration detailed datasets, available at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/managed-migration-datasets>.

The Home Office sets visa, immigration and citizenship fees at a level that helps provide the resources necessary to operate the Border, Immigration and Citizenship (BIC) system. Fee-setting criteria is set out in Section 68(9) of the Immigration Act 2014, full details of which can be reviewed via the following link:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/22/section/68>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-21/6160/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-21/6161/>

Asylum: Children

David Lammy (Labour) [7102] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department will take to facilitate child refugees being reunited with parents living in the UK after the UK leaves the EU.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Government remains resolutely committed to the principle of family reunion.

When the UK leaves the EU, we will cease to participate in EU instruments at the end of the transition period, including the Dublin Regulation. This means that the ability of unaccompanied children under Dublin to reunite with family will end, unless a replacement agreement is negotiated. The Government has been clear that it is committed to seeking such an agreement with the EU, thereby ensuring these children can continue to reunite with family once we are out of Dublin. The Home Secretary wrote to the European Commission on 22 October to begin negotiations.

The UK will continue to be bound by the Dublin Regulation provisions during the transition period, allowing us to continue to transfer family reunion cases to the UK throughout 2020, and we will continue to process all family reunion requests that have been submitted but not completed under Dublin before the end of the transition period.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-23/7102/>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Asylum: Detainees

Kate Green (Labour) [9005] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum applicants were detained in the UK in 2019 under each criterion for detention.

Kate Green (Labour) [9006] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many (a) victims of trafficking, (b) victims of torture and (c) people with other special reception needs were detained in the UK, by need, in 2019.

Kate Green (Labour) [9008] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average length of detention was for detained asylum seekers in 2019.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Migrants, including asylum claimants, may be detained for immigration purposes only in accordance with Home Office detention policy, as set out in Detention general guidance and adults at risk in immigration detention. The detention decision must always be made on the basis of the individual's particular circumstances and eligibility for detention.

If at any time it is concluded that a particular detainee's ongoing detention would

not be appropriate, the individual must be released, with bail conditions appropriate to their particular circumstances.

Most people detained under immigration powers spend only short periods in detention. At any one time, 95% of those liable to be detained, are instead managed in the community.

We do not currently hold the data in the format you have requested, however published data on the number individuals held in immigration detention can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-december-2018/how-many-people-are-detained-or-returned>

The Home Office records the number of all individuals referred to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and this information is published quarterly and can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/national-referral-mechanism-statistics-quarter-2-2019-april-to-june>

This information does not distinguish between those detained under immigration powers and those living in the community nor does it make the distinction between those accepted/not accepted as being victims of torture within the Rule 35 process under the Detention Centre Rules 2001.

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

The Home Office do however, centrally record the number of Rule 35 reports raised by Doctors under the Detention Centre Rules 2001 and the number of those who were released as a result. This information is published quarterly in Immigration Enforcement Transparency data found at

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

The Home Office do hold records of the number of Adults at Risk identified but could not break this down further to identify persons with specific requirements.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-28/9005/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-28/9006/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-28/9008/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Kate Green (Labour) [9007] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average length of detention was for detained migrants in 2019.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office publishes data on length of detention in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. The median length of detention of people in the immigration detention estate as at 31 September 2019 was between 15 and 28 days, and of people leaving the detention estate in year ending September 2019 was between 8 and 14 days. Banded length of detention figures are published in Det_D02 and Det_D03 of the [Detailed Detention datasets](#) .

Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data relates to the year ending September 2019. Additionally, the Home Office publishes a high-level overview of the data in the '[summary tables](#)'.

The 'contents' sheet contains an overview of all available data on detention. Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the ['Research and statistics calendar'](#)

Q4 2019 figures will be released on 27th February 2020.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-28/9007/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Deportation: Jamaica

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [9709] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she has taken to ascertain the safety of individuals involuntarily removed on the charter flight to Jamaica, which took place on 6 February 2019, after they reached Jamaica.

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [9710] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the safety of people involuntarily removed to Jamaica on charter flights.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office does not routinely monitor the treatment of people once they are removed from the UK. Returns are only undertaken when the Home Office and courts deem it is safe to do so.

All asylum and human rights claims from Jamaican nationals are carefully considered on their individual merits in accordance with our international obligations. Each individual assessment is made against the background of the latest available country of origin information and any relevant caselaw.

Country of origin information is based on evidence taken from a wide range of reliable sources, including reputable media outlets; local, national and international organisations, including human rights organisations; and information from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Where a person is found not to need protection, they usually have a right of appeal to the courts. The Home Office only seeks to return those whose asylum claim has been unsuccessful. By definition, they do not need protection and not at risk on return.

The UK is under no obligation to monitor the treatment of unsuccessful asylum seekers who have returned to their country of origin. They are, by definition, foreign nationals who have been found as a matter of law not to need the UK's protection, and who have no legal basis of stay in the UK. It would be inappropriate for the UK to assume any ongoing responsibility for them when they return to their own country.

Should the Home Office receive any specific allegations that a returnee has experienced ill-treatment on return to their country of origin, these would be investigated in partnership with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO).

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-29/9709/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-29/9710/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Net Migration

Lord Green of Deddington (Crossbench): To ask Her Majesty's Government how they plan to reduce net migration in the current Parliament.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford): My Lords, as outlined in the Government's manifesto, we will shortly set out plans

for a new immigration system that will give us full control over who comes in and goes out of the UK and will lead to an overall reduction in numbers.

Lord Green of Deddington: ... I speak for 30 million UK adults who wish to see immigration reduced. ...

Last week, the Migration Advisory Committee made some recommendations that, on its own admission, would result in 16 million jobs becoming open to worldwide competition. Clearly a rapid increase in immigration is a considerable risk, as indeed has happened on a number of occasions, so will the Government, as a precaution, take powers to introduce a cap should that prove necessary?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, we will introduce a new, points-based immigration system, and of course we will have the immigration and social security co-ordination Bill later this year. Noble Lords will know that reviewing legislation, having introduced it, will be at the top of the Government's mind when they look at their overall priority of bringing the numbers down.

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour): My Lords, what assessment has been made on provision of care if net migration is reduced? There is real concern in the care sector, as well as in the health sector, that it could cause problems if the noble Lord's aim of reducing net migration were achieved in that sector.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: It is fair to say that the Government want to import the skills needed for the gaps in the market. We are looking to reduce low-skilled migration overall but will introduce a points-based system focused on skills and talents. That combination will mean that overall numbers will come down, I hope.

Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat): What assumptions have the Government made about people leaving the UK—in other words, emigration, which is a component of net migration?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: There is now net positive migration, which has been pretty much steady over the last few years, so we are not currently seeing net emigration.

Lord Singh of Wimbledon (Crossbench): My Lords, does the Minister agree that a sure way to reduce potential immigration is to consider refugees fleeing from local conflicts ...

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The noble Lord will agree that, as a country, we are absolutely committed to giving people our safety and refuge where they need it and are fleeing war-torn countries. That goes to our values as citizens, and it will continue.

The Lord Bishop of Durham: My Lords, while the MAC's recommendation to reduce the salary cap to £26,500 is welcome, does the Minister agree that there has been a failure to recognise regional differentiation and areas of employment like social care where the levels of pay are much lower? That has not been taken adequately seriously by the MAC.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: There have been several looks at the shortage occupation list. In fact, there does not tend to be a terribly big regional variation between the needs of Scotland, England, Northern Ireland and Wales: the list is pretty similar across the nations. Of course, someone taking up a job in Scotland through a regional shortage occupation list could then just migrate further south if such a system were introduced.

Lord Lansley (Conservative): My Lords, what conclusion do the Government draw from the fact that my home city of Cambridge is one of the places in the country with the highest level of inward migration and the city with the highest level of employment in Europe?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: ... Cambridge is a city with a huge number of people doing research and innovation, and with the best university in the country, I would say—apart from Oxford; ... That is why Cambridge attracts such inward migration within the UK.

Lord Rosser (Labour): Despite the Minister's assiduously giving an impression to the

contrary, will she confirm that the only reason the net migration figure has not been much lower since 2010 has been a—many would say correct—government policy not to reduce net migration from non-EU countries, over which the Government have had control, which has been higher than net migration from EU countries? Will she also confirm that the only reason that net migration might not be lower in future is exactly the same as has applied to net migration over the past decade: a de facto government policy decision that it would not be in Britain's interests to go down that road?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government are absolutely clear that we want the brightest and best to come to work and live in this country. Following our exit from the European Union, non-EU citizens will be treated just the same as EU citizens.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, if we want a cap on net triggers, what about a cap on what is happening in Syria, in Afghanistan and in terms of climate change? These are things we must respond to, if we have any heart at all. Will the Minister go along with this: we must prepare for increased numbers instead of reduced numbers?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I do not know to which cap the noble Lord refers. We certainly have some very ambitious targets for the people who need our refuge and support from that region. The Prime Minister has already pledged that the UK will take 5,000 refugees from the broader region than just Syria, in this year alone, which is a very generous offer.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-02-03/debates/A412C3CE-D62E-49B3-9A76-F7AD64055D4C/NetMigration>

The MAC recommendations referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/860669/PBS_and_Salary_Thresholds_Report_MAC.pdf

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Arts: Visas

The Earl of Clancarty (Crossbench) [HL736] Her Majesty's Government, further to the statement by the Minister for Sport, Media and Creative Industries on 21 January (HC Deb, col 56WH) that "it is essential that free movement is protected for artists post 2020", how they intend to protect such free movement; and whether such protection will cover freelance workers in other creative and specialist fields.

Reply from Baroness Barran: The UK's creative industries deliver around 12 per cent of the UK's total exports in services, and have grown rapidly in recent years. The government is committed to ensuring this growth continues.

DCMS has engaged extensively with union bodies, artists and cultural organisations to help understand the needs of the creative and cultural sector, including freelancers who make up a significant proportion of people in these sectors.

Recognising the depth of the UK-EU relationship, the UK is seeking reciprocal mobility arrangements with the EU in a defined number of areas. For example, to allow business professionals to provide services, or tourists to continue to travel visa-free. This is in line with the arrangements that the UK might want to offer other close trading partners in future, where they support new and deep trade deals. This is subject to wider negotiations with the EU.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-01-23/HL736/>

Asylum: Costs

Lord Marlesford (Conservative) [HL703] Her Majesty's Government what is the average annual cost to public funds of (1) adult asylum applicants, and (2) unaccompanied children seeking asylum.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Asylum costs are published as part of the Home Office transparency data

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-transparency-data-august-2019>

Please see table attached. The information is not broken down to provide individual costs for asylum applicants and unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-01-22/HL703/>

Asylum

Lord Marlesford (Conservative) [HL702] Her Majesty's Government how many applications for asylum (1) were received, (2) were granted, (3) were refused, and (4) resulted in deportation, in each of the last ten years.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office publishes data on the outcomes of asylum applications in the

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

Data on the number of asylum applications received, granted, refused and those who have applied and have been returned are published in tables Asy_D04 of the 'Outcome analysis of asylum applications'. Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data relates to the year ending December 2018. Additionally, the Home Office publishes a high-level overview of the data in the 'summary tables'. The 'contents' sheet contains an overview of all available data on asylum and resettlement.

Note: The number of cases which have outcomes that are 'not yet known' will be higher for more recent years as cases are still progressing. These will reduce over time. As a result, data are not comparable over time.

Additional statistics on the number of asylum applications raised each year can be found in table Asy_D01, the number of initial decisions (broken down by grant or refusal) can be found in Asy_D02, and the number of 'asylum related' returns can be found in table Ret_05 of the returns summary tables.

Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the 'Research and statistics calendar'

A summary of the data from Asy_D04, can be found in Annex A.

[Annex A - Table](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-01-22/HL702/>

Asylum: Children

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL638] Her Majesty's Government how many unaccompanied children, in addition to those admitted under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016, (1) have arrived in the UK since the passage of that Act from (a) Europe, and (b) outside of Europe; and (2) how many were received by (i) hospitals, (ii) local authorities, (iii) their own families, and (iv) other carers.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Information on the number of asylum claims lodged by unaccompanied children in each quarter, and the number of children resettled in the UK (not broken down by unaccompanied / accompanied) is available in the Home Office's published immigration statistics –

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/848254/asylum-applications-datasets-sep-2019.xlsx

These statistics include the nationality of asylum claimants but not the country from which they arrived, which would only be available at disproportionate cost. In addition, the exact location of where each child is first encountered is not recorded centrally. Irrespective of where unaccompanied children first present, a local authority will assess whether they need to be provided with support under the Children Act 1989.

The Home Office also publishes information on the number of asylum claimants transferred to the UK from EU Member States under the Dublin Regulation –

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/781310/asylum5-dec-2018-tables.ods

[Asylum-applications-datasets-sep-2019.xlsx](#)

[Asylum - Dec 2018 - Tables](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-01-21/HL638/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Kate Green (Labour) (146) EU Settlement Scheme – That this House is concerned that the EU Settlement Scheme does not deliver sufficient assurance of their future status to all EU nationals resident in the UK; notes that some EU nationals and non-EU family members will be unable to obtain their status for a number of reasons, including a lack of awareness or understanding about the scheme, misconceptions about who needs to apply, difficulties evidencing residency or identity and confusion around deadlines; recognises that hundreds of thousands of EU nationals and non-EU family members, especially marginalised groups such as older and disabled people are at risk of falling out of status; further is concerned that EU nationals left without status will be denied the right to work, rent accommodation or access free healthcare will be criminalised for attempting to engage in any of these activities, and will become vulnerable to detention and removal; notes that no comparable application scheme anywhere has ever succeeded in reaching 100 per cent of its audience; believes it is vital to remove the cliff-edge scenario which will result in hundreds of thousands of people losing status overnight; and calls on the Government to deliver on its promise that EU nationals will be welcome to stay in the UK by bringing forward legislation to grant automatic settled status to all EU nationals and non-EU family members resident in the UK.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/54603/eu-settlement-scheme>

Press Releases

More than 3 million applications to the EU Settlement Scheme

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-than-3-million-applications-to-the-eu-settlement-scheme>

Windrush Compensation Scheme extended by 2 years

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/windrush-compensation-scheme-extended-by-2-years>

New Publications

EU Settlement Scheme quarterly statistics, December 2019

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/863776/eu-settlement-scheme-statistics-quarterly-december-2019-hosb0520.pdf

Updated Guidance: UK asylum, migration and integration fund 2014 to 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-asylum-migration-and-integration-fund-2014-to-2020>

Letter from Kevin Foster MP to Yvette Cooper MP regarding changes to the Windrush Compensation Scheme

<http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2020-0051/Letter from Kevin Foster to Yvette Cooper Windrush Compensation.pdf>

Windrush Compensation Scheme: impact assessment

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/864199/Windrush_compensation_policy_Impact_Assessment.pdf

The Immigration Health Surcharge

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-7274/CBP-7274.pdf>

The Home Office response to the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration's report: An Inspection of the Home Office's Network Consolidation Programme and the "onshoring" of visa processing and decision making to the UK

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/862274/Network_consolidation_ICIBI_formal_response.pdf

Migration and Scotland

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CDP-2020-0030/CDP-2020-0030.pdf>

News

Immigration: Salary threshold set to be lowered

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-51430811>

Skilled immigration to the UK will rise under reforms

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/skilled-immigration-to-the-uk-will-rise-under-reforms-659gzkpw>

Immigration rules that will give Britain the people it needs

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/immigration-rules-that-will-give-britain-the-people-it-needs-z6g8qfc9>

Romanians and Poles make up a third of EU nationals seeking to settle in the UK, figures show

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/02/06/romanians-poles-make-third-eu-nationals-seeking-settle-uk-figures/>

The latest EU settlement figures explode the myth of Britain as a xenophobic island

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/02/07/latest-eu-settlement-figures-explode-myth-britain-xenophobic/>

Scottish builders in 'clearing house' bid for EU workers

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/scottish-builders-in-clearing-house-bid-for-eu-workers-v3zf7rhk7>

Windrush: Call to review deportation of foreign-born offenders

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-51409739>

Windrush: Campaigners criticise 'paltry' payouts

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-51408923>

Boris Johnson insists first deportation of Caribbean nationals since Windrush scandal must go ahead

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/boris-johnson-deport-caribbean-flight-windrush-scandal-immigration-a9319336.html>

Jamaica deportations 'must be halted until Windrush report published'

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/feb/07/jamaica-deportations-must-be-halted-until-windrush-report-published>

MPs launch fresh bid for right to work

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/mps-launch-fresh-bid-for-right-to-work/>

MP launches new legal bid to allow asylum seekers to work after six months

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/asylum-seeker-work-visa-refugee-migration-snp-scotland-legal-a9317616.html>

Channel migrants: Ninety rescued from small boats

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-51401115>

Record number of migrants intercepted crossing English Channel in single day

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/record-number-of-migrants-intercepted-crossing-english-channel-in-single-day-1-5087619>

Record 100 migrants attempt to cross the Channel in one day as bad weather causes people backlog

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/02/07/record-100-migrants-attempt-cross-channel-one-day-bad-weather/>

More than 100 migrants picked up trying to enter UK by crossing English Channel in one day

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/migrants-english-channel-home-office-border-force-record-number-a9324191.html>

102 migrants try to cross Channel as Storm Ciara approaches

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/feb/07/102-migrants-try-to-cross-channel-as-storm-ciara-approaches>

More than 100 migrants caught crossing Channel in one day

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/more-than-100-migrants-caught-crossing-channel-in-one-day-8qxc8bt8m>

Young immigrant carers can now claim allowance

<http://thirdforcenews.org.uk/tfn-news/young-immigrant-carers-can-now-claim-allowance>

TOP

Community Relations

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Schools: Admissions

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Conservative) [HL603] Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to promote (1) racial, and (2) religious, integration in schools.

Lord Agnew of Oulton: Education plays a vital role in promoting integration and preparing our children and young people for life in a modern and diverse Britain.

All schools must promote community cohesion and are required to actively promote our shared values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs. Promotion of these values is part of Ofsted's inspection framework and the department has published guidance to schools on promoting these important values as part of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Schools are also required to comply with the relevant provisions of the Equality Act 2010.

In 2016, the department also launched the Educate Against Hate website, through which we continue to provide free resources for teachers and school leaders to support their promotion of these values. This includes the department's Respectful School Communities toolkit; a self-review and signposting tool to support schools to develop a whole-school approach which promotes respect and discipline, helping to combat bullying, harassment and prejudice of any kind.

The department also funds a number of specific initiatives to support schools in addressing these issues. This includes the provision of over £2.8 million of funding between September 2016 and March 2020 to four anti-bullying organisations, to support schools to tackle bullying – including projects focused on targeted bullying of particular groups, such as those who are victims of hate-related bullying, and projects which encourage children and young people to think about the importance of tackling prejudice and discrimination.

As part of our commitments in the Government's Integrated Communities Action Plan, the department is also funding an expanded national school linking programme, which seeks to encourage meaningful social mixing between different types of schools and foster understanding of those with different backgrounds, faiths and beliefs. In the last year, the Linking Network has worked with over 540 schools, leading to over 22,500 pupils taking part in activities supporting integration. As part of this same package, the department has also strengthened expectations for all new free schools on the promotion of community cohesion and integration, to make sure they are doing all that they can to ensure children and young people are able to participate fully in life in modern Britain.

The department is also introducing health education for pupils receiving state-funded primary and secondary education, alongside relationships education in all primary schools, and relationships and sex education (RSE) in all secondary schools. Mental wellbeing is a core component of the new health education curriculum, as well as being embedded in (RSE). Schools will be required to teach about a range of issues which will be relevant to wellbeing, including bullying, respectful relationships and online relationships.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-01-21/HL603/>

TOP

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Transplant Surgery: Ethnic Groups

Dan Jarvis (Labour) [9031] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to ensure that waiting times for BAME patients for organ transplants are reduced after the introduction of the Organ Donation (Deemed Consent) Act 2019.

Reply from Caroline Dinenge: NHS Blood and Transplant works closely with black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities to encourage more people to register to donate and to address barriers to organ donation. Since its launch in April 2019, NHS Blood and Transplant's communication campaign has developed specific materials to resonate with diverse audiences and communities, including translating materials into different languages and taking into account different faith and beliefs. In addition, the BAME Community Investment Scheme provides small grants to community-led organisations to raise awareness of the law change and the Government has so far provided £200,000 of funding for 26 projects.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-28/9031/>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Police: Equality

Dawn Butler (Labour) [8190] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to increase diversity in the police force.

Dawn Butler (Labour) [8192] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of the police introducing affirmative action to tackle failures on diversity in police forces.

Police: Racial Discrimination

Dawn Butler (Labour) [8191] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of whether institutional racism exists in the police force.

Reply from Kit Malthouse: Trust and legitimacy are vital elements of British policing by consent. The police have worked hard to improve equality and diversity in policing. The workforce is more representative than ever before and there is a Code of Ethics in place. While recognising these significant improvements, we are not complacent.

Our drive to recruit 20,000 officers over three years gives us a significant opportunity to attract a wide range of people into a career in policing and support the police to become even more representative of the communities they serve. Work is already underway by forces and key partners to ensure they can attract a more representative workforce as part of the uplift in officer numbers.

The College of Policing has delivered a major programme of work to support forces in their efforts to address under-representation in the recruitment, retention and progression of officers, including those from BAME backgrounds, and has published advice on the lawful use of positive action to address under-representation in policing. This work includes measures to improve diversity at the most senior levels in policing, where there is the greatest disparity.

The Government has also supported innovative schemes such as Police Now which are making the police workforce more diverse than ever before; showing that we can attract the brightest and best into policing, whilst introducing new perspectives into policing from some of the country's most challenging neighbourhoods.

The National Police Chiefs' Council published its first Diversity, Equality and Inclusion strategy in October 2018. This is complemented by a workforce representation toolkit which includes practical actions forces can take to increase

the recruitment, retention and progression of officers from under-represented groups in policing. This is a welcome demonstration of policing taking the lead in implementing action to increase diversity and In addition, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) has agreed to focus more closely on how forces are performing on diversity and inclusion as part of its next round of Integrated Peel Assessments this year.

The Equality Act 2010 includes positive action provisions to enable employers to address identified under-representation of protected groups in the workplace, as is the case for BAME officers in the police. There is much greater scope than has been the case so far for the police to use the positive action provisions of equalities legislation to improve BAME recruitment and progression.

Some forces (such as the Metropolitan Police Service, Bedfordshire Police, West Midlands Police and Greater Manchester Police) have made significant improvements in the rate of BAME joiners through successful positive action measures. Other forces should be learning the lessons of the successful measures being used in these forces.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-27/8190/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-27/8192/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-27/8191/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Equal Pay: Ethnic Groups

Baroness McGregor-Smith (Conservative) [HL700] Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to introduce legislation to address the ethnicity pay gap; and if so, when such legislation will be introduced.

Reply from Lord Duncan of Springbank: The Government ran a consultation from October 2018 to January 2019 on Ethnicity Pay Reporting and received over 300 detailed responses. BEIS Ministers and officials have met with businesses and representative organisations to understand the barriers towards reporting and what information could be published to allow for meaningful action to be taken. We have also run voluntary methodology testing with a broad range of businesses to better understand the complexities outlined in the consultation using real payroll data and will share next steps in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-01-22/HL700/>

News

Sir Keir Starmer calls for all-BAME shortlists as he proposes major reforms to make Labour 'truly representative'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/02/04/sir-keir-starmer-calls-all-bame-shortlists-proposes-major-reforms/>

Diversity in gaming: Industry promises to improve

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/newsbeat-51364212>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Ministry of Justice: Hate Crime

Scott Benton (Conservative) [8478] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what statistics his Department holds on hate crime.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Ministry of Justice publishes information regarding prosecutions, convictions and sentencing for hate crime offences specifically defined in legislation, i.e. 'racially or religiously aggravated' offences. The court outcomes for these offences can be found here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/802314/outcomes-by-offence-tool-2018.xlsx

(using the pivot table, filter by 'Offence' for offences starting with 'racially or religiously aggravated...' and select all that appear).

Other hate crime offences are prosecuted under the specific offence in legislation that they fall under and the 'hate' element is an aggravating factor in that crime rather than the offence itself but these cannot be separately identified in the data.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-27/8478/>

Arrests: Hate Crime

Edward Leigh (Conservative) [4296] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people were arrested for hate speech in (a) 2016, (b) 2017, and (c) 2018.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The term 'hate speech' does not have any legal meaning, nor does it relate to a criminal offence in the UK. For any example of hate speech to be treated as a hate crime it would need to meet the police and Crown Prosecution Service definition of a hate crime.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-16/4296/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Antisemitism: Yorkshire and the Humber

Dan Jarvis (Labour) [8294] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many incidents of antisemitic hate crime took place in (a) South Yorkshire and (b) Yorkshire and the Humber in 2019.

Hate Crime: Islam

Dan Jarvis (Labour) [8295] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many incidents of Islamophobic hate crime took place in (a) South Yorkshire and (b) Yorkshire and the Humber in 2019.

Reply from Kit Malthouse: The Home Office collects data on the number of religious hate crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales by perceived religion of the victim.

The latest available data, for 2018/19, can be found in 'Hate Crime, England and Wales, 2018/19' which can be accessed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2018-to-2019>

The number of religious hate crimes for 2018/19, where the perceived religion of the victim was Jewish or Muslim, recorded by South Yorkshire Police and for the Yorkshire and Humber region are shown in the table.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-27/8294/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-27/8295/>

Antisemitism: North West

Scott Benton (Conservative) [9155] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what estimate he has made of the number of anti-Semitic incidents recorded in the North West in each of the last 10 years.

Reply from Luke Hall: Antisemitism has absolutely no place in our society, which is why we are taking a strong lead in tackling it in all its forms.

We recognise that there has been an increase in antisemitic incidents across the country. Home Office Official Statistics for hate crime, which report police recorded data, show that 18% of religiously motivated hatred was directed towards Jews, compared with 12 per cent in 2017/18. ['Hate Crime, England and Wales, 2018 to 2019' (Oct, 2019)].

We are also aware that Greater Manchester had the highest number of antisemitic incidents outside Greater London over last 10 years (2008-2018) according to the Community Security Trust, who are one of our key partners in tackling antisemitism and the main body reporting on the number of incidents each year.

That is why we became the first country in the world to adopt the working definition of antisemitism as set by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance. We are making sure the police record hate crimes disaggregated by faith and our refreshed Hate Crime Action Plan reaffirms our commitment to combating antisemitism. We are working with partner organisations across England to make sure Jewish communities feel safe and are pressing for public sector institutions to adopt the IHRA definition.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-28/9155/>

The Home Office statistics referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/839172/hate-crime-1819-hosb2419.pdf

The Action Plan referred to above can be read at

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

The IHRA working definition of antisemitism, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/working-definition-antisemitism>

Antisemitism: Education

Royston Smith (Conservative) [9085] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps the Government is taking to educate young people on the Holocaust.

Reply from Nick Gibb: The Department is fully committed to Holocaust education. Every young person should learn about the Holocaust and the lessons it teaches us today, which is why it is unique in being the only subject named as a compulsory part of the history curriculum.

The Department further supports pupils' and teachers' understanding of the Holocaust by providing funding for the Holocaust Educational Trust's Lessons from Auschwitz project - £2,126,437 in 2019-20 and £2,193,675 in 2020-21 and to the UCL Institute of Education's Centre for Holocaust Education - £500,000 in both 2019-20 and 2020-21, match funded by the Pears Foundation. Additionally, £1.7 million for the 2019-20 financial year is being provided for the Bergen-Belsen Commemoration Programme to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-28/9085/>

Racial Discrimination

Sarah Owen (Labour) [9149] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many reported incidents of racism have occurred in each year since 2010.

Reply from Kit Malthouse: The Home Office collects and publishes statistics annually on the number of hate crime offences recorded by the police in England and Wales, broken down by monitored strand (including race) in the 'Hate Crime, England and Wales' statistical bulletin.

The latest available data, covering the period 2011/12 (when the data collection began) to 2018/19, can be found in 'Table 2' of the data tables, available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2018-to-2019>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-28/9149/>

Vandalism: Religious Buildings

Andrea Jenkyns (Conservative) [426] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to recent acts of vandalism on a Synagogue and a Mosque in London, if she will introduce further measures to protect religious buildings and congregations.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Attacks on places of worship are completely unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Through the Government's Places of Worship Protective Security Funding Scheme, and the Jewish Communities Protective Security Grant, the Government provides reassurance and appropriate measures to better protect all faith groups from hate crime. Funding for the Places of Worship scheme has been increased in the current year to £1.6 million (double the amount awarded last year), and the Chancellor has announced a further increase to £3.2 million for 2020/21.

Tackling faith related hate crime is a key commitment in the Cross-Government Hate Crime Action Plan, and we regularly engage with faith representatives and organisations.

In addition, we have committed £5 million over three years for the provision of security training to places of worship, and we have committed to consult with communities on what more can and should be done to protect faith communities.

We have also asked the Law Commission to conduct a wide-ranging review into hate crime, looking at the breadth of hate crime legislation, and whether new strands should be introduced.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-06/426/>

Information about the Places of Worship Protective Security Funding Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/places-of-worship-protective-security-funding-scheme-open-for-applications>

Information about the Jewish Communities Protective Security Grant, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/funding-for-tighter-security-to-protect-jewish-schools-from-anti-semitism>

The Action Plan referred to above can be read at

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

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Religious Hatred

Lord Vinson (Conservative) [HL728] Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to review the definition used by the Crown Prosecution Service and the National Police Chiefs' Council to identify religiously motivated incidents or crimes, in particular regard to the relevance of section 29J of the Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006.

Baroness Williams of Trafford: It is for the police, prosecutors and the courts to determine how to apply the legal provisions relevant to religiously motivated hate crimes.

The Law Commission has been commissioned by the Government to undertake a review of the legislation related to hate crime. The Law Commission are scheduled to conduct a public consultation this spring as part of this, and to report to Ministers in early 2021.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-01-22/HL728/>

Section 29J of the Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006, referred to above, can be read at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/1/schedule>

The review referred to above can be read at <https://www.lawcom.gov.uk/project/hate-crime/>

Religion: Freedom of Expression

Lord Vinson (Conservative) [HL727] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Viscount Younger of Leckie on 21 January (HL187), what criteria they use to assess what constitutes a "legitimate criticism" of a religion when investigating any incident that has been reported by someone who has perceived it to "be motivated by a hostility or prejudice based on a person's religion or perceived religion"; and what steps they take to ensure freedom of expression is upheld.

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: Once a hate crime has been reported it is for the police to investigate whether a hate crime has been committed, in line with the relevant legislation, and to refer cases to the Crown Prosecution Service to decide whether there should be a charge.

In order for a crime to be charged and prosecuted as a hate crime, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) uses the legal definitions contained in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (CDA 1998) and the Criminal Justice Act 2003 (CJA 2003).

The CPS assesses each case on its individual facts and circumstances. Prosecutions can only be brought in line with legislation and in accordance with the Code for Crown Prosecutors.

The CPS legal guidance on hate crime recognises the right to freedom of expression set out in Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights. The legal guidance makes it clear that it is not only speech which is well-received and popular that is protected but also speech which is potentially offensive, shocking or disturbing. The CPS seeks to balance the right to freedom of speech and expression against the duty of the state to act proportionately.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-01-22/HL727/>

The answer referred to above can be read at <https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-01-07/HL187/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Religious Hatred: Islam

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Conservative) [HL840] To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect to publish their definition of Islamophobia.

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Conservative) [HL900] To ask Her Majesty's Government when they intend to appoint a second adviser on the matter of defining Islamophobia.

Viscount Younger of Leckie: It is unacceptable for anyone to feel unsafe while practising their religion, and this government will never allow prejudice and discrimination of any kind against the Muslim community.

We will continue to take a zero-tolerance approach to anti-Muslim hatred and recognise the importance of this matter. We will continue to explore and interrogate the issue of publishing a definition of Islamophobia in further detail.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-01-28/HL840/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-01-29/HL900/>

Press Release

Football fan who made monkey gestures at black player convicted of hate crime

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/west-midlands/news/football-fan-who-made-monkey-gestures-black-player-convicted-hate-crime>

New Publication

Antisemitic Incidents Report 2019

<https://cst.org.uk/public/data/file/9/0/IncidentsReport2019.pdf>

News

Caption mix-ups 'show lack of respect' for black MPs

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-51374401>

Antisemitic Incidents Report 2019

<https://cst.org.uk/news/blog/2020/02/06/antisemitic-incidents-report-2019>

Anti-Semitic abuse at record high, says charity

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-51387844>

Anti-semitic attacks and abuse hit a record high as Labour rows are blamed for fuelling surge

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/02/05/anti-semitic-attacks-abuse-hit-record-high-labour-rows-blamed/>

Antisemitic incidents hit new high in 2019, according to study

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2020/feb/06/antisemitic-incidents-hit-new-high-in-2019-according-to-study>

Antisemitic incidents reach record high for fourth year

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/antisemitic-incidents-reach-record-high-for-fourth-year-35bmzcf3q>

Antisemitic incidents peaked during general election as ‘Labour supporters blamed Jews for defeat’

<https://www.independent.co.uk/independentpremium/uk-news/antisemitism-labour-general-election-corbyn-cst-uk-hate-crime-a9320116.html>

Anti-semitism pledge made by West Lothian Council

<https://www.linlithgowgazette.co.uk/news/people/anti-semitism-pledge-made-by-west-lothian-council-1-5085761>

Mere reprimand expected in SNP anti-Semitism probe

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/mere-reprimand-expected-in-snp-anti-semitism-probe-1-5087835>

Tory inquiry imam in free-speech row

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/tory-inquiry-imam-in-free-speech-row-vwg9w3m9m>

White supremacist posters appear around UK town

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/white-supremacist-posters-ipswich-removed-council-a9316216.html>

Police launch investigation into Brexit Day letter saying foreigners had 'infected' the country

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/02/04/police-launch-investigation-brexit-day-letter-saying-foreigners/>

Brexit day poster: Residents stage anti-racism protest over notice at flats telling tenants to speak English or leave

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/brexit-day-poster-racist-norwich-english-european-tower-block-a9314881.html>

Asians ‘shunned’ over virus fears

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/asians-shunned-over-virus-fears-whfptm3nh>

We must do more to overcome racism in film, says Joaquin Phoenix

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/we-must-do-more-to-overcome-racism-in-film-says-phoenix-32cgz5x9s>

'My African name stopped me getting job opportunities'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-51371670>

Pupil repeatedly sent home from school over afro hair wins £8,500 payout

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/afro-hair-discrimination-student-legal-action-payout-ruby-williams-urswick-school-a9323466.html>

As white sports lecturers, we're learning how to make our classroom less racist

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2020/feb/06/as-white-sports-lecturers-were-learning-how-to-make-our-classroom-less-racist>

Alfredo Morelos: Racist abuse won't force me out of Rangers

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/sport/18206316.alfredo-morelos-racist-abuse-wont-force-rangers/>

Morelos abuse shows racism still a problem in Scotland, says Gerrard

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2020/feb/04/rangers-alfredo-morelos-steven-gerrard-says-abuse-shows-racism-still-problem-scotland>

Steven Gerrard: It's not just Alfredo Morelos who suffers

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/steven-gerrard-its-not-just-alfredo-morelos-who-suffers-80q2j36z5>

Wolves fan guilty of making racist 'chimp-like' gestures towards England striker and spitting on rival fans during defeat to Chelsea

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/chelsea-racism-tammy-abraham-monkey-chimp-guilty-wolves-josef-smith-a9322071.html>

Brighton fan jailed for racist abuse at Tottenham game

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-sussex-51357532>

Bournemouth hand fan, 17, lifetime ban for racist abuse at Tottenham

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/football/51405507>

Teenage Bournemouth fan gets three-year stadium ban for racist abuse

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2020/feb/06/teenage-bournemouth-fan-gets-three-year-stadium-ban-for-racist-abuse>

Two fans of Premier League clubs are banned for racial abuse

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/two-fans-of-premier-league-clubs-are-banned-for-racial-abuse-k3qc809fd>

Celtic accuse Sky over Alfredo Morelos

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/celtic-accuse-sky-over-alfredo-morelos-lj7gz77wl>

Football racism: 'You don't know what it's like'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bbcthree/article/1dd50528-435a-41fd-ba9f-9f955a819751>

Tom Pope: Port Vale striker charged by FA over alleged antisemitic tweet

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/football-league/tom-pope-port-vale-fa-antisemitic-tweet-latest-news-a9319186.html>

Either you are against racism or you're not

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/either-you-are-against-racism-or-youre-not-wrkhj2w3>

Confront racists with science and you'll win

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/confront-racists-with-science-and-you-ll-win-says-writer-adam-rutherford-0mwkq2sz>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Faith Schools: Islam

Lord Pearson of Rannoch (Non-affiliated) [HL646] Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Agnew of Oulton on 16 January (HL157), whether they assess what is being taught in madrasas in the UK; if so, how; and what plans they have to introduce inspections for such schools.

Lord Agnew of Oulton: As stated in my answer of 16 January, religious settings such as madrasas would generally be considered an out-of-school setting. As a large and diverse sector these settings are not captured by a single dedicated regulatory framework; and as such, are not subject to assessment or inspection by the department or Ofsted.

There are currently a number of legal powers in place to protect children attending these settings – for example, child protection legislation, health and safety and fire safety law – and there are no plans by the department, at this time, to introduce a new system of regulation or inspection of these settings.

However, the department is taking forward a package of measures aimed at enhancing the safeguarding of children in this sector. This includes a £3 million pilot scheme outlined in my previous response, which will be used to inform the development of best practice on how existing legal powers, held by local authorities and other agencies, can best be used to identify and intervene in out-of-school settings of concern. This work started in summer 2018 and is due to conclude in March 2020.

Alongside this, we have also been developing a voluntary code of practice for out-of-school setting providers to support them to understand what they need to do to run a safe setting. There is accompanying guidance for parents and carers to help them make more informed choices when considering out-of-school settings for their children, as well as understanding the steps they can take where they have concerns. We consulted on these documents last year and will respond and publish the final guidance in due course. The consultation can be found here:

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/regulatory-framework-unit/out-of-school-settings-voluntary-safeguarding-code/>

HL646_guidance_OSS

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-01-21/HL646/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-01-07/HL157/>

Press Release

The Future Relationship between the UK and the EU

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/the-future-relationship-between-the-uk-and-the-eu>

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New Publication

Updated Guidance: How OSCR [the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator] deals with concerns and inquiries

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/media/1768/2014-12-22-oscr-inquiry-policy-document.pdf>

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Other News

Campaign launched to recruit new special constables

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/whats-happening/news/2020/february/police-scotland-launches-campaign-to-recruit-new-special-constables>

Female genital mutilation (FGM): an increasingly important healthcare challenge in the UK

<https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/thebirminghambrief/items/2020/02/female-genital-mutilation-fgm-an-increasingly-important-healthcare-challenge-in-the-uk.aspx>

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Children (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/112632.aspx>

Civil Partnership (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/112997.aspx>

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/2019-20/asylumseekerspermissiontowork.html>

First Reading, House of Commons

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-02-05/debates/74BAB0C2-631C-4246-8BD4-DE588D33EC45/PointsOfOrder>

Asylum Support (Prescribed Period) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/asylum-support-prescribed-period.html>

Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/immigrationcontrolgrosshumanrightsabuses.html>

Marriage (Approved Organisations) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/marriageapprovedorganisations.html>

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/refugeesfamilyreunion.html>

**** Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (Legal Advice and Appeals) Bill**

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/unaccompaniedasylumseekingchildrenlegaladviceandappeals.html>

First Reading, House of Lords

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-02-04/debates/EC07C875-6033-4624-B43E-E76CE66D5BC5/UnaccompaniedAsylumSeekingChildren\(LegalAdviceAndAppeals\)Bill\(HL\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-02-04/debates/EC07C875-6033-4624-B43E-E76CE66D5BC5/UnaccompaniedAsylumSeekingChildren(LegalAdviceAndAppeals)Bill(HL))

Windrush Compensation Scheme (Expenditure) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/windrushcompensationschemeexpenditure.html>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

Defamation and Malicious Publications (Scotland) Bill (closing date 13 March 2020)

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/114208.aspx>

Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill (closing date 17 March 2020)

<https://tinyurl.com/sxarzv4>

Harassment and sexual misconduct in higher education (closing date 27 March 2020)

<https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/media/76f6bdd3-bb14-4956-b089-cd1598323d55/consultation-on-harassment-and-sexual-misconduct-in-higher-education.pdf>

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 Opportunity

** new or updated this week

**** Scottish Refugee Council Small Grants Scheme**

Closing date for applications: 8 March 2020

Grants of up to £1,000 to help community groups across Scotland involved in providing integration projects and services for refugees and asylum seekers, to deliver an event or activity which will help the group to strengthen connections, partnerships and networks with other communities in their local area. For information and an application form see <https://tinyurl.com/qqh6klq>

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

BME Women's Experiences of Gender Based Violence

12 February 2020 in Edinburgh (10.00–4.00)

Scottish Women's Aid/Shakti training to raise awareness of the varied issues for black and minority ethnic women and their children experiencing domestic abuse, forced marriage and other types of gender based violence, and explore the social, cultural, and religious factors which impact upon BME women's experiences of gender based violence. For information see <https://womensaid.scot/training-event/bme-womens-experiences-of-gender-based-violence-2/>

**** this week!**

Evidencing and Mainstreaming Equality Data

12 February 2020 in Kirkcaldy (9.30–4.00)

Fife Centre for Equalities training for service providers wishing to improve the quality and usage of their data as a resource to actively promote equality. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/smzko4q>

**** this week!**

Three mottos to guide our approach to equality, diversity & inclusion

13 February 2020 in Glasgow (1.00–4.30)

2 June 2020 in Glasgow (1.00–4.30)

Interfaith Scotland course considering diversity in its widest sense including 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 see <https://interfaithscotland.org/get-involved/training> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

The Gathering

19 and 20 February in Edinburgh

Scotland's largest free voluntary sector event in the UK, a place for everyone working in the sector to network, showcase what they do and learn from each other. For information see <https://scvo.org/the-gathering-2020>

Strengthening Scotland's charity sector

19 February 2020 at the Gathering in Edinburgh (10.00–11.00)

Discussion with the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government, Maureen Mallon OSCR and Anna Fowle SCVO about how, together, we can strengthen the brand of charity, its role and potential in an ever changing world. For information see

<https://scvo.org/the-gathering-2020/event-programme/strengthening-scotlands-charity-sector/>

Counting Scotland: the census, the population and the future

19 February 2020 at the Gathering in Edinburgh (2.00–3.00)

National Records of Scotland presentation to highlight how Scotland's population is changing; how we think it will change further and the implications this has for the third sector and others. We will be highlighting the various statistical information we publish, free of charge, which is available to the third sector. For information see

<https://scvo.org/the-gathering-2020/event-programme/counting-scotland-the-census-the-population-and-the-future/>

Brexit & the voluntary sector

20 February 2020 at the Gathering in Edinburgh (9.30–10.30)

Civil Society Brexit Project session to provide insight into the main changes, challenges & concerns around Brexit for organisations in Scotland. For information see

<https://scvo.org/the-gathering-2020/event-programme/brexit-the-voluntary-sector/>

Telling your charity's story with impact

20 February 2020 at the Gathering in Edinburgh (11.15–12.15)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator event to explore the benefits of a good trustee annual report and how charity trustees can plan for and prepare an excellent report that helps the charity in many ways. For information see <https://scvo.org/the-gathering-2020/event-programme/telling-your-charitys-story-with-impact/>

Interpreting culture – improving cross-cultural communication

10 March 2020 in Glasgow (1.00–4.30)

Interfaith Scotland course on cultural diversity to explore how cultural background influences behaviour, values, and beliefs, and how to improve our inter-cultural communication. For information see <https://interfaithscotland.org/get-involved/training> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

**** Researching migrant and ethnic minority communities in Scotland**

18 March 2020 in Aberdeen (12.00–3.30)

School of Nursing and Midwifery at Robert Gordon University Symposium to discuss the influence of policy on research with migrant and ethnic minority communities. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/stry5vl>

Working with people from diverse religion & belief identities

22 April 2020 in Glasgow (1.00–4.30)

Interfaith Scotland course on improving confidence in discussing and responding to the religion and belief of those we work with. Includes the core beliefs and cultural practices of the main faiths, and individual needs that may arise from a person's faith or belief identity.

For information see <https://interfaithscotland.org/get-involved/training> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

Organising interfaith events and enabling dialogue

7 May 2020 in Glasgow (1.00–4.30)

Interfaith Scotland course on how to arrange events that bring together people of many faiths and philosophies for meaningful and respectful dialogue, including practical considerations for their success, and creating an environment that respects difference while seeking mutual understanding. For information

see <https://interfaithscotland.org/get-involved/training> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

3rd International Conference on Migration and Mobilities

8–10 July 2020 in St Andrews

The conference is orientated around the four themes that reflect key contemporary conceptual and policy concerns: internal migration and urban change, forced migration and bordering, visualising mobilities, and European migration in turbulent politics. For information see <http://www.imigmob2020.org/home>

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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://www.freedomfromtorture.org/>

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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