



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 Written Answers

#### Refugee Support

**S5W-27711 Mark Ruskell (Green):** To ask the Scottish Government what funding streams it makes available for refugee support organisations, and what the timescale is for (a) applying for funding from these and (b) their delivery.

**Reply from Aileen Campbell:** The Scottish Government has a wide range of funding streams that refugee support organisations can apply to for appropriate projects. Through the equality budget, the Scottish Government allocated over £2.7 million to organisations supporting refugees and people seeking asylum from 2017 to 30 September 2020. Arrangements for future funding will be announced soon.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-27711>

## Human Trafficking

**S5W-27735 Jenny Marra (Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what work is being done to understand the critical enablers that facilitate human trafficking in Scotland and to identify access points used by criminal gangs, the transporters and online enablers of the criminal supply chain.

**Reply from Humza Yousaf:** The Scottish Government is committed to tackling human trafficking and exploitation by working in partnership with criminal justice agencies to improve the detection and disruption of perpetrators who facilitate human trafficking and exploitation, in line with Action Area Two of the Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy.

Police Scotland have developed an intelligence operation to assess threats and emerging trends using a number of methods including setting up the National Human Trafficking Threat Desk (NHTTD). The NHTTD monitors intelligence from a number of sources and develops an emerging threat picture which is used to inform operational activity. There are currently a number of live joint cross-border investigations including methods of travel, embarkation and disembarkation points and developing opportunities to disrupt the facilitators of human trafficking. Police Scotland also have four large-scale dedicated investigations across Scotland carrying out enquiries into human trafficking as well as a number of smaller investigations being conducted at Divisional level.

Border Force carried out a month long partnership intensification period at Glasgow Airport in November 2019 where at-risk flights were targeted. Analysts are currently compiling profiles on routing, types of exploitation, modes of transportation and connection to traffickers.

Operation Aidant, coordinated by the NCA, are human trafficking themed joint working intensification periods which take place six times a year. In 2020 the themes include ports and borders, labour exploitation, child trafficking, sexual exploitation and adult services websites.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-27735>

## Human Trafficking

**S5W-27736 Jenny Marra (Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government whether it considers the level of funding provided to charities supporting victims of human trafficking in April 2019 is sufficient to make evidence-based interruptions to the criminal supply chain active in human trafficking, and whether it has plans to renew and broaden the funding and scope of action once the current funding cycle ends at end 2020-21.

**Reply from Humza Yousaf:** The Scottish Government is clear that any form of human trafficking or exploitation is completely unacceptable, and funds services to provide vital support to victims of this crime.

In April 2019, Migrant Help and Trafficking Awareness Raising Alliance (TARA) were awarded a combined £1,032,160 for the current financial year to support victims of trafficking and exploitation across Scotland. In November 2019, the Scottish Government awarded a further £85,334 to reflect an increase in numbers accessing these services through the National Referral Mechanism. Officials are in regular contact with both organisations and levels of funding are continually under review.

The Scottish Government are also providing £120,000 this financial year to NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde to provide a national psychological trauma support service to adult trafficking victims. The Scottish Guardianship Service (SGS) has provided support to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, including victims of child trafficking, since 2010. The Scottish Government is providing SGS with funding of £300,000 in 2019-20.

The Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy, published in 2017, sets out the framework within which partners across Scotland are tackling human trafficking by supporting and protecting victims, disrupting the activities of perpetrators and addressing the conditions which foster trafficking.

Funding for these bodies is specifically for supporting victims of trafficking and exploitation; they are not directly involved in interrupting the criminal supply chain. However, a wide range of activity by the Scottish Government and partners has been undertaken to improve evidence-based interventions and address human trafficking in supply chains. Detail of this work can be found in the two annual progress reports on implementation of the Strategy:

<https://www.gov.scot/policies/human-trafficking/trafficking-and-exploitation-strategy/>.

Under the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015, the Strategy must be reviewed within three years of publication. A comprehensive engagement process to gather views from a variety of groups and individuals including survivors, support organisations and key partners is ongoing.

The current three-year funding agreement for Migrant Help and TARA runs until 31 March 2021 and decisions on future arrangements will be considered following the Strategy review and as part of the 2021-22 Draft Budget process.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-27736>

## Scottish Government Freedom of Information Release

**Questions concerning slavery and human trafficking legislation and prosecutions**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/foi-202000018223/>

## UK Parliament Ministerial Statements and Q&A

### House of Commons: Windrush Lessons Learned Review

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Priti Patel):** ... The Windrush lessons learned review gives voice to members of the Windrush generation who legally arrived in the UK to help rebuild post-war Britain. These men and women built their lives and their home in Britain. These people have done so much for this country, from staffing the NHS to rebuilding Britain. These are the very people who worked hard, paid their taxes and had every right to be in this country.

They contributed to our communities, culture and society, helping our public services and our economy to thrive. They made our country stronger, more vibrant and more successful as a nation. That is why we were all shocked to discover that they and their families were subject to such insensitive treatment by the very country they called home.

As this review makes clear, some members of the Windrush generation suffered terrible injustices, spurred by institutional failings, spanning successive Governments over several decades. That includes “ignorance and thoughtlessness towards the...race and the history of the Windrush generation”.

Today’s publication is part of an ongoing mission to put this right and ensure such events can never happen again, as there were far too many victims of Windrush.

Paulette Wilson was detained in an immigration removal centre and warned that she faced removal after living in the UK for 50 years. She spent decades contributing to the UK—working for a time in this very House—yet she was treated like a second-class citizen.

Junior Green had been in the UK for more than 60 years, raising children and grandchildren here, but after a holiday to Jamaica he was refused re-entry despite holding a passport

confirming his right to be in the UK. The injustice he suffered was compounded when, because of this action, he missed his mother's funeral.

Lives were ruined and families were torn apart. Now, an independent review has suggested that the Home Office's "institutional ignorance and thoughtlessness towards the issue of race and the history of the Windrush generation" contributed to it. This is simply unacceptable.

I have heard people speak of the decision making as a process that grinds people down to the extent that it makes them want to give up. I have heard people speak of being dismissed, and being labelled as a group of people who just do not matter and whose voice on this issue is irrelevant.

People have spoken to me of the indignity and inhumanity they still feel today following the experience of being made to feel unwelcome in their own country. They have described their experiences as unthinkable and unimaginable. However, there are people across the UK and even some Members of this House—including myself and the shadow Home Secretary—for whom this is unfortunately all too relatable.

There are lessons to learn for the Home Office, but also for society as a whole. Despite the diverse and open nature of our country, too many people still feel that they may be treated differently because of who they are or where their parents came from. Today's report, which suggests that in the Home Office there was an "institutional ignorance and thoughtlessness towards the issue of race and the history of the Windrush generation" is worrying for us all.

In her report, Wendy Williams is clear that lessons must be learned at all levels and by all political parties. She describes a set of measures that evolved under Labour, coalition and Conservative Governments. Those measures cover decades. She states that Ministers did not sufficiently question unintended consequences and that officials should and could have done more. We must all look to ourselves. We must all do better at walking in other people's shoes. We must all take responsibility for the failings that led to the unimaginable suffering of this generation.

Let me be clear, Mr Speaker. Nothing I can say today will undo the pain, suffering and misery inflicted on the Windrush generation. What I can do is say that on behalf of this and successive Governments, I am truly sorry for the actions that spanned decades. I am sorry that people's trust has been betrayed. We will continue to do everything possible to ensure that the Home Office protects, supports and listens to every single part of the community it serves.

Action has already begun. In recent months, I have met and listened to people whose lives were shattered. Since 2018, we have launched measures to put right the wrongs caused to individual members of the Windrush generation. We have taken action through practical measures to give those affected the assistance, certainty, reassurance and support they need. The Commonwealth citizens taskforce goes into communities to help and support people secure their legal status. More than 11,700 people have been granted a form of documentation that confirms their right to remain in the UK and guarantees their access to public services. Our vulnerable persons team has provided support to nearly 1,400 people, with approximately 120 people still receiving support. The team has supported more than 360 people to secure access to benefits.

To go some way in addressing the hardship suffered, the Home Office launched the Windrush compensation scheme. The scheme was designed in close consultation with members of the community and Martin Forde QC. Collectively, they have developed a compensation scheme that is straightforward to use and addresses the bespoke personal circumstances and needs of every applicant, with dedicated caseworkers assessing claims as quickly as possible. There is no cap on payments, dozens of which have already been made, and we encourage more applications. Those who are eligible will receive full compensation.

More than 100 community events have taken place so far. That includes more than 30

compensation scheme events across the country, from Southampton to Glasgow and Cardiff to Coventry. However, there are still people out there in need of our help who we have not yet reached. That is why in February, I extended the length of the compensation scheme by a further two years so that claims can be submitted until April 2023. I set up the Windrush stakeholder advisory group to rebuild links with communities to ensure that they are supported through compensation, but also to rebuild the trust that has been broken.

Today, I can confirm we will launch an expanded cross-Government Windrush working group to develop programmes to improve the lives of those affected. That may be through employment programmes, dedicated mental health support and specialist education and training schemes. To ensure that people know about the taskforce, the Windrush compensation scheme will have a dedicated communications campaign promoting the scheme. We will also open a £500,000 fund for grassroots organisations to promote these schemes, including provisions for specialist advice services. I would like to extend my personal thanks to Martin Forde QC for his support with the creation of the scheme.

I want to put on record my thanks to my predecessors—my right hon. Friends the Members for Bromsgrove (Sajid Javid) and for Maidenhead (Mrs May), and the former Member for Hastings and Rye—who worked hard to understand and undo the suffering when these issues first came to light, and other Members, including the right hon. Members for Tottenham (Mr Lammy) and for Normanton, Pontefract and Castleford (Yvette Cooper), who shone a necessary light on this injustice. I also want to thank the thousands of civil servants at the Home Office and across Government who work tirelessly every single day in challenging and demanding jobs to keep the public and our country safe. Whether on the frontline or working to develop policies for the future, their commitment to create a safer country for us all is commendable.

Since these injustices were brought to light, civil servants have used every endeavour to right the wrongs, giving people their correct status and supporting them in their financial compensation claims. However, it would be wrong for the Department to ignore Wendy Williams's finding that the Home Office's "institutional ignorance and thoughtlessness towards the issue of race and the history of the Windrush generation" contributed to this. This is not something that can be resolved with an apology or compensation.

I will review the recommendations that Wendy Williams makes in relation to the way the Home Office operates as an organisation. I will continue to look closely at its leadership, culture, practices and the way it views the communities it serves. Over the coming months, myself and Matthew Rycroft—the new permanent secretary—and the second permanent secretary will work together with our dedicated staff at all levels to reflect on the recommendations, including those relating to compliant environment policies and cultural change. Fundamentally, I want to make the Home Office a better place to work. That will include a clarification of the Department's purpose, mission and values, putting at its heart fairness, dignity and respect. We will put people before process.

The publication of this review is a small but vital step towards ensuring that the Home Office is trusted by all the people it serves. I encourage anyone who thinks that they have been affected by the Windrush scandal or who requires support or assistance to come forward. I will bring forward a detailed formal response in the next six months, as Wendy Williams has recommended, representing a new chapter for the Home Office. Let me assure the House that everyone at the Home Office will be asking the difficult questions needed to ensure that these circumstances can never arise again. ...

**Diane Abbott (Labour):** ... As the Home Secretary will know, the recommendations in this review have three main elements: that the Home Office must acknowledge the wrong that has been done; that it must open itself up to external scrutiny; and that it must change its culture, to recognise that migration and wider Home Office policy is about people, and whatever the objective, it should always be rooted in humanity.

The Home Secretary will be aware that the review points out: “Some ministers and senior officials spoken to in the course of this review do not appear to accept the full extent of the injustice done to the Windrush generation”, and that they say “the situation was unforeseen, unforeseeable and therefore unavoidable.”

More than one Member of this House foresaw the consequences of the hostile environment legislation years ago.

The review goes on to say that other Ministers and senior officials “have expressed the view that the responsibility really lay with the Windrush generation themselves to sort out their status.”

Will the Home Secretary agree that, whichever politicians or officials said those things—Wendy Williams quotes them in the review—they were disgraceful things to say? ...

The review wants the Department to publish a comprehensive improvement plan within six months. Is the Home Secretary willing to assure the House that there will be such a plan?

The review asks that the Home Office run a programme of reconciliation events with members of the Windrush generation. Does the Home Secretary commit to that?

Very importantly, the review says that the Home Office must look beyond the Caribbean, because persons from all over the Commonwealth who came to this country at that time would have been caught up in the same issues that the Windrush generation were caught up in. ...

Is the Home Secretary willing to commit commission officials to undertake a full review and evaluation of the hostile or compliant environment policy and its measures individually and serially? ...

I have heard the Home Secretary’s apology, but people will believe her apology when they see her genuinely seek to implement the recommendations in this review. My mother was a member of the Windrush generation, so I know that one of the aspects of the Windrush generation was that they really believed they were British. They had no reason not to believe that they were British when they came here with their passports, UK and Colonies. Let me assure the Home Secretary that, for the Windrush generation, it is not necessarily the money, or the loss, or the inconvenience, or even the tragedy of being deported. It is the insult to people who always believed that they were British, and who came here to rebuild this country, but who, because of the insensitivity and the structural issues in the Home Office, were treated in an utterly disgraceful and humiliating way. ...

**Reply from Priti Patel:** ... this is the time for us all across this House to come together to right the wrongs. I have made it clear in my statement already that not only will I review Wendy’s recommendations on how the Home Office operates as an organisation, looking closely at, yes, the leadership, the culture, the practices and how it needs to put people before process—I cannot emphasise that enough—but I will also look at how we review policies and cultural change going forward. ...

**Theresa May (Conservative):** May I first associate myself with the unqualified apology that the Home Secretary has given to the Windrush generation? I have given my own apology previously, but I do so again today. This generation came here, they were British, they were here legally, they worked to build our country and they should not have been treated in this way. ...

Wendy Williams says in her review that “a lack of insight into the community’s experience did delay an understanding of the problems being faced by the Windrush generation and led to opportunities being missed for resolving cases sooner.”

The Home Secretary referred to the fact that too many people still feel that they may be treated differently because of who they are or where their parents came from. Against that background, does she agree that the work of the race disparity audit, which I set up when I was Prime Minister, is absolutely critical in relation to this, and not just that that work should continue, but that every Department should act on the failings and the gaps in public sector provision for certain communities that are highlighted by that audit?

**Reply from Priti Patel:** ... I emphasise and echo the work that she has done, but

acknowledge her apology as well. She is absolutely right about the role of the race disparity audit. ... We should all as individuals be more conscious and aware not just of how we engage people, but of how we reach an understanding of communities and cultures, to help us all and to inform decision making and policies across Government in the future.

**Kenny MacAskill (SNP):** This is a welcome statement and a welcome start, but it is only a start. ... The tragedy is that the price paid by some is significant and the actions of Government have been shameful, so an apology is both right and overdue. ...

Will the Home Secretary ensure that those members of the Windrush generation who have been deported and who possess a different passport from the one that we in this Chamber have, but who are UK citizens the same as we are, are allowed to return? Will she also ensure that offenders from abroad who must be deported are rightly sent home, but that who possess a passport from Jamaica, Nigeria or wherever else, who have grown up in this country and are UK citizens, should be entitled to those rights? ...

**Reply from Priti Patel:** ... we still have work to do in reaching members of the community, and I called for other individuals who feel that they have been affected to come forward, so that we can secure their status and provide the compensation that may be due to them.

There is something more fundamental, though. No amount of compensation or any process now can resolve the injustices that have happened. My focus right now is fundamentally not only to ensure that the recommendations are reviewed and undertaken, but to work with colleagues and Wendy Williams to ensure that we do this in the right way to bring about the change that we all want to see. ...

**To read the lengthy question and answer session in full see**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2020-03-19/debates/2F98C354-FF0A-4E2B-81E3-0B645A84CAC6/WindrushLessonsLearnedReview>

*The Learned Lessons Review, referred to above, can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/873667/6.5577\\_HO\\_Windrush\\_Lessons\\_Learned\\_Review.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/873667/6.5577_HO_Windrush_Lessons_Learned_Review.pdf)

### **House of Lords: Windrush Lessons Learned Review**

**Baroness Williams of Trafford repeated the statement made in the House of Commons by Priti Patel.**

**Lord Rosser (Labour):** ... We cannot overstate how damning this review has been of the Government's "institutional ignorance and thoughtlessness towards the issue of race".

The way in which individuals and families were wrongly deported and deprived of their livelihoods caused enormous suffering. Now it can only be right that the Government pave the way for a complete change in how the Home Office operates, but apparently the Government cannot say that the recommendations of the review will be delivered in full in the most appropriate timeframe possible. ...

... last month, new migration statistics showed that fewer than one in 20 Windrush compensation claimants had received compensation. From that, it would seem clear that the Government are still failing the Windrush victims, at least in that regard, both in terms of the number of people the compensation is reaching and the level of payouts for lives disrupted or destroyed. Can the Government say how they will ensure that further victims receive the compensation they deserve, and receive it speedily?

On the wider issue of the hostile environment, can the Government today mark a change in direction and agree to put an end to this policy, beginning by ending deportation flights for foreign national offenders who have lived here since childhood, committing that the historic case review will include those who have committed offences, and keeping open the compensation scheme for as long as necessary?

One of the more damning lines of the report was that the scandal was "foreseeable and

avoidable". Scandals which will further arise if the Government continue with the hostile environment policy are also foreseeable and avoidable. Renaming the policy, which the Government have sought to do, does not bring about the necessary culture change. ... We do not want similar issues arising over citizenship rights in the light of our withdrawal from the EU, and neither will a future immigration policy based on devaluing the value and skills of many people help the situation, particularly when some of those so-called low-skilled and insufficiently paid personnel are now deemed to be vital key workers in the present crisis ...

**Baroness Ludford (Liberal Democrat):** ... In the Government's response, which is promised within six months, we on these Benches want the assurance of a thorough overhaul of the culture of disbelief and carelessness in the Home Office, so that its attitudes, assumptions and processes around immigration are, in the words of the report, "rooted in humanity", which is not the case at the moment. The Home Secretary surely cannot have needed this review to become aware of what the report calls the "ignorance and thoughtlessness towards the issue of race and the history of the Windrush generation within the department, which are consistent with some elements of the definition of institutional racism." ...

Surprisingly, the Statement says that "we were all shocked to discover" the insensitive treatment of the Windrush generation. That is not credible. The whole point of the hostile environment was to be brutal and send a harsh, intolerant message. ...

The Home Secretary failed to give my colleague in the other place, Wendy Chamberlain, the guarantee she sought that for the sake of public health during the coronavirus crisis no data would be passed from the NHS to the Home Office for immigration purposes, otherwise migrants with uncertain status could be deterred from seeking care or treatment. I now ask for clarity on such a guarantee. ...

To avoid a budding new Windrush scandal, will the Government now commit to automatically guaranteeing the rights of EU citizens to stay? Something that the report highlighted was the lack of documentary evidence that the Windrush generation had. We have persistently and consistently asked that EU citizens should at least get documentary proof. ...

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** ... One thing that comes out of this thoughtful report are the words of Wendy Williams herself, who says: "It is, in my view, extremely important that the department undertakes a period of profound reflection on the areas identified in this report ... to identify what they think needs to change, and how."

For the Home Secretary to take a view on that the following day in a knee-jerk way would be wrong. She is perfectly right to reflect on it and to respond in a considered way. ...

One thing that my right honourable friend the Home Secretary said today is that not only will people receive full compensation but there will not be a cap on compensation. ...

... Lady Ludford, asked why we cannot make the EU settlement scheme declaratory. It is precisely because the Windrush people were almost under that declaratory system that they could not prove that they had the right to be here, and it was when people were having to prove their right of settled status that things began to unravel. Of course, digital status now means that that status is on the record for ever. ...

**The Archbishop of Canterbury:** ... one of the historic failures of the Church of England—in many ways as bad as the hostile environment—was the terrible reception that we gave the Windrush generation, the vast majority of whom were Anglicans, when they came here. They were often turned away from Church of England churches, or were given a very weak welcome or no welcome at all. As a result, they went off and formed their own churches, which have flourished much better than ours. We would be so much stronger had we

behaved correctly. I have apologised for that, and I continue to do so and see the wickedness of our actions.

However, the recommendations, particularly recommendations 7 and 8, talk about reconciliation and understanding the nature of the groups being dealt with by the Home Office. Will it consider bringing in, talking with and using the services of the black-majority church leaders, often Pentecostal church leaders, who have been gracious, wise and strong in upholding their communities? They have much to teach us.

The same point is to be made on recommendation 6, which talks about the history and the need to understand colonial history. Many of these people will now be in their 80s and 90s; capturing the live voice of those with long experiences in this country and who have contributed so much is now time limited. ...

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** ... I did not realise that the Church of England gave the Windrush generation such an awful reception. ... we all need to look to ourselves to see where we have gone wrong. The report is not a blame game but a narrative over almost 70 years of where everyone failed these people. ...

**To read the question and answer session in full see**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Lords/2020-03-19/debates/5555C112-0E02-4056-B55D-15DC10CF2743/WindrushLessonsLearnedReview>

*The Learned Lessons Review, referred to above, can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/873667/6.5577\\_HO\\_Windrush\\_Lessons\\_Learned\\_Review.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/873667/6.5577_HO_Windrush_Lessons_Learned_Review.pdf)

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **British Nationality**

**Caroline Lucas (Green)** [27632] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many (a) adults and (b) children who are born in the UK have different citizenship status to their siblings owing to legislative changes through the (i) British Nationality Act 1981 and (ii) Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2006.

### **British Nationality: Children: Families**

**Caroline Lucas (Green)** [27633] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government has taken to (a) inform people who have a different citizenship status to their British siblings owing to the British Nationality Act 1981 of their status and (b) support them in applying for British citizenship.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** There is no available data on the number of people born in the UK who have a different citizenship status to their siblings.

The Government website contains detailed information about who may be eligible to apply for British citizenship, how they can make an application, and how applications are considered.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-10/27632/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-10/27633/>

### **British Nationality: Children**

**Caroline Lucas (Green)** [27634] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, if he will make it his policy to reintroduce legal aid for children's citizenship cases.

**Reply from Alex Chalk:** The government has recently changed the law to ensure

that separated migrant children needing legal advice on citizenship and non-asylum immigration matters now receive legal aid for these cases, subject to means and merits testing.

For other immigration and asylum matters legal aid may be available via the Exceptional Case Funding scheme (ECF) in any matter where failure to provide it would breach, or risk breaching, the European Convention on Human Rights or enforceable EU law, subject to the statutory means and merits tests.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-10/27634/>

### **British Nationality: Children**

**Sarah Owen (Labour)** [28769] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many citizenship applications for children have been processed in the most recent reporting period.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Home Office publishes data on citizenship in the <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release> Data on applications for British citizenship are published in tables Cit\_D01 and Cit\_D02 of the

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/managed-migration-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 December 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 citizenship.

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-12/28769/>

### **Migrant Help: Telephone Services**

**Anneliese Dodds (Labour Co-op)** [28747] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average time spent is (a) waiting to get through to and (b) on hold on a telephone call to Migrant Help.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Migrant Help have sustained an average call waiting time of less than a minute since 8<sup>th</sup> January.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-12/28747/>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Immigration Controls: Businesses**

**Caroline Nokes (Conservative)** [26851] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the proposed points-based immigration system, when the system will be open for applications from businesses wishing to register.

### **Migrant Workers: Veterinary Medicine**

**Caroline Nokes (Conservative)** [26857] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether vets will be able to transfer roles under the same sponsoring employer once they have arrived in the UK under the proposed points-based immigration system.

**Replay from Kevin Foster:** The Government published "The UK's Points-Based System: Policy Statement" on 19 February.

Employers not currently approved by the Home Office to sponsor migrants should consider applying now if they think they will want to sponsor skilled migrants, including from the EU, from early 2021.

In delivering on its manifesto commitments for a new points-based system, the

Government has considered relevant views, evidence, and analysis. We will keep labour market data under careful scrutiny and publish further detail in due course. A programme of engagement will begin this month to raise awareness of the new system, ensuring those affected by the changes are fully aware of what it means for them and understand how the system will operate.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-09/26851/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-09/26857/>

*The policy statement referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/866664/CCS207\\_CCS0120013106-001\\_The\\_UKs\\_Points-Based\\_Immigration\\_System\\_print.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/866664/CCS207_CCS0120013106-001_The_UKs_Points-Based_Immigration_System_print.pdf)

### **NHS: Migrant Workers**

**Matt Western (Labour)** [28677] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether he has had discussions with the Home Secretary on removing immigration restrictions on non-resident health and care workers to fill NHS vacancies; and if he will make a statement.

**Reply from Helen Whately:** The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care has regular discussions with the Secretary of State for the Home Department about the design of the future immigration system and its impact on the National Health Service.

The Government fully recognises the contribution that international health and care professionals make to the NHS, and we remain committed to ensuring that this country still attracts these skills to benefit the whole healthcare system. We have set out plans to introduce a new NHS visa, which will offer an attractive package for NHS staff. The details of this scheme will be announced by the Secretary of State for the Home Department in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-12/28677/>

### **Sponsorship: EU Nationals**

**Kate Green (Labour)** [26902] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what preparations the UKVI has made to process licence applications from businesses that wish to sponsor European nationals; and what assessment she has made of the preparedness of that organisation to undertake that work.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** UK Visas & Immigration continually monitors the effectiveness of the sponsor licensing operation to ensure process efficiency and customer delivery. The unit continues to meet performance standards and this is reflected in the sponsorship transparency data. The transparency data can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sponsorship-transparency-data-february-2020>

The requirements for the licensing operation to deal with licence applications from employees for the new UK points-based system has been factored into the implementation plan for the new system.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-09/26902/>

### **Visas: Sponsorship**

**Kate Green (Labour)** [26906] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department,

whether it will be possible to sponsor a migrant if they are paid less than £20,480 (a) under the New Entrant rate, (b) in a Shortage Occupation role or (c) in any other circumstances.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Government published “The UK’s Points-Based System: Policy Statement” on 19 February.

Following advice from the independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC), the Government will reduce the general salary threshold for skilled workers from £30,000 to £25,600. There will be a reduced rate for new entrants as well as for those with relevant PhDs and those coming to undertake occupations that are in shortage. In line with MAC advice, the precise thresholds for any occupation will generally be based on data from the Annual Survey of Hours and Employment which will be updated between now and the points-based system coming into operation in January 2021.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-09/26906/>

*The policy statement referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/866664/CCS207\\_CCS0120013106-001\\_The\\_UKs\\_Points-Based\\_Immigration\\_System\\_print.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/866664/CCS207_CCS0120013106-001_The_UKs_Points-Based_Immigration_System_print.pdf)

### Visas: Foreign Nationals

**Dave Doogan (SNP)** [28761] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many foreign national's visa applications have taken longer than one year to complete since 2015.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Information on our immigration routes with service standards and whether they have been processed against these standards is available as part of our transparency data, at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data#uk-visas-and-immigration>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-12/28761/>

### Visas: EU Nationals

**Pete Wishart (SNP)** [27506] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what visa requirements will apply after the transition period for individuals from other European countries wishing to volunteer for a period of one to two years in the UK.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Under the current Immigration Rules, there are a range of routes for specialist activities, including temporary charity workers.

There are no current plans to change these routes, though from January 2021, these routes will be opened to EEA and Swiss citizens.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-10/27506/>

### Veterans: Immigration

**Gareth Thomas (Labour Co-op)** [27949] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what estimate he has made of the number of UK veterans who have served for more than four years and are originally from commonwealth countries and who no longer have the right to remain in the UK; and if he will make a statement.

**Reply from Johnny Mercer:** The table below shows the total number of Commonwealth Service Personnel who have left the Regular Armed Forces with at least four years' service in each of the last 10 calendar years.

Calendar Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	*	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total	330	340	660	850		710	460	350	380	320	190

Source: Defence Statistics

Notes/Caveats

1. Regular Armed Forces comprise Full Time service personnel, including Nursing Services, but excluding Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS) personnel, Gurkhas, mobilised Reservists, Military Provost Guard Service (MPGS), Locally Engaged Personnel (LEP), Non-Regular Permanent Staff (NRPS), High Readiness Reserve (HRR) and Expeditionary Forces Institute (EFI) personnel. This data contains both trained and untrained personnel.
2. Nationality is recorded by the individual service person on the Joint Personnel Administration system at the time of exit. This does not capture personnel with dual nationalities, or personnel whose nationality has changed during the course of their service, or after their departure. Some people leave without making such a declaration which may include some Commonwealth personnel.
3. Length of service has been calculated using entry date on the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system. This may include previous periods of service, either in the Regular or Reserve forces, and some personnel may have left the Armed Forces and re-joined since, so they may not currently be a veteran.
4. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 in line with standard statistical policy. Figures ending in 5 are rounded to the nearest 20 to avoid bias.
5. \* A break in the series has been included as a different method for calculating outflow from the Armed Forces was used prior to 2013.

Under the Home Office's Appendix Armed Forces immigration rules, four years is the minimum length of Service upon discharge for Commonwealth citizens to be eligible to apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) in the UK (more commonly known as settled status). Individuals who choose to return to their country of origin upon discharge and have served for a minimum of four years can submit an application for Indefinite Leave to Enter (ILE) the UK within two years of discharge if they meet the Home Office criteria. Separate arrangements exist for those who are medically discharged as a result of their Service and have served less than four years.

Commonwealth citizens can also choose to apply for naturalisation as a British citizen while still serving and can count their Service (including overseas service) towards the Home Office's five-year UK residency criteria. Naturalisation negates the need to apply for ILR or ILE upon discharge.

UK immigration is a matter for the Home Office, and the Ministry of Defence does not hold information about which former Armed Forces personnel from the Commonwealth have made applications for naturalisation, for ILR or for ILE. Nor does the Ministry of Defence hold information on whether any such application has been successful.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-11/27949/>

### **Entry Clearances: Coronavirus**

**Alberto Costa (Conservative)** [28065] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that people with a multiple entry visa are not penalised for overstaying in the UK in the event that their home country is affected by covid-19.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Due to travel restrictions because of coronavirus, some individuals may be facing uncertainty in relation to the expiry date of their current visa or leave to remain in the United Kingdom.

We are taking steps to ensure foreign nationals will not be regarded as breaking their continuity of residence as a result of coronavirus and related travel restrictions.

Visas for Chinese nationals which were due to expire between 24 January and 30th

March 2020 have already been automatically extended until March 2020. We continue to monitor the situation in all countries and we are keeping this under constant review.

A coronavirus immigration helpline

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-immigration-guidance-if-youre-unable-to-return-to-china-from-the-uk#helpline>

has been set up for those who wish to discuss their circumstances. The freephone number is 0800 678 1767 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm).

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-11/28065/>

### **Immigrants: Coronavirus**

**Catherine West (Labour) [27046]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether additional support will be given to people with the Right to Remain in the UK but without access to public funds should they be treated for covid-19.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The testing and subsequent treatment for covid-19 have been added to the list of communicable diseases that qualify for free NHS treatment.

The Home Office has also put in place a range of measures to support those affected by travel restrictions associated with coronavirus. A dedicated coronavirus immigration helpline has been set up to deal with queries. The freephone number is 0800 678 1767 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm).

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-09/27046/>

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Anneliese Dodds (Labour Co-op) [29275]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department plans to continue to allocate funding to organisations that support vulnerable EU nationals to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme from the end of March 2020 until that scheme closes.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** On 6 March 2020, the Home Office announced a further £8 million of funding to help vulnerable EU citizens apply to the EU Settlement Scheme. There have already been more than 3.2 million applications to the EU Settlement Scheme and nearly 2.9 million granted status, with over a year left to go.

Last year, the Home Office awarded £9 million funding to 57 charities across the UK who have helped hundreds of thousands of vulnerable people already. The further £8 million of funding for the 2020-2021 financial year will ensure important information continues to get through to those hardest to reach.

The 57 charities currently funded by the Home Office will have their funding extended until the end of June 2020, to allow their work to continue during the bidding process for new funding. Successful organisations will be fully supported by the Home Office and will be able to speak to caseworkers directly to discuss individual cases.

As with all government funding, there will be a competitive bidding process to ensure the right support is provided to all parts of the UK and makes best use of public money.

The bid process will begin shortly and more details will be announced in due course. The EU Settlement Scheme was launched in March 2019 and gives EU citizens and their family members the status they need to live and work in the UK after 30 June 2021.

There is a wide range of support available online, over the phone and in person to help them apply. This includes a helpline open 7 days a week where 250 staff based

in Liverpool answer questions and help people apply. There are 1,500 Home Office staff working on the scheme in total.

Home visits and telephone support are available from a tutor for those lacking in digital skills or without internet access.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-13/29275/>

*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**

**Anneliese Dodds (Labour Co-op)** [29276] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans her Department has to publish data on numbers of people that convert from pre-settled status to settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The latest published figures show that the total number of applications received up to 31 January 2020 was more than 3.1 million, with over 2.7 million granted status (58% granted settled status and 41% granted pre-settled status).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/eu-settlement-scheme-statistics-january-2020>

Figures reported in the statistical publications account for applications to the system, including individuals making applications on more than one occasion. For example, an individual who has been granted pre-settled status can make a new application at a later stage to apply for settled status. As these are separate applications with separate outcomes, they are counted as separate applications and outcomes in the statistics.

This is consistent with how applications are reported across wider Home Office statistics.

Our initial analysis of applications suggest that repeat applications currently represent less than two per cent of all applications. This is a small percentage of the over 3 million applications we have received. To continue to meet user needs, the Home Office is exploring options for identifying and reporting follow-on applications (i.e. those moving from pre-settled to settled status) as part of our regular statistical publications.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-13/29276/>

*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**

**Kate Green (Labour)** [26905] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how employers will establish whether an EU national starting work between 1 January 2021 and 30 June 2021 should have obtained permission to work under the points-based system or is eligible for status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Employers will not be required to distinguish between those EU citizens who are eligible for the EU Settlement Scheme and new arrivals between 1 January 2021 and 30 June 2021. We have made it clear that all EU citizens can continue to use their passport or national identity card to evidence their right to work until 30 June 2021. This ensures those who are eligible for the EU Settlement Scheme but have not yet obtained status can continue to evidence their right to work.

More information is available on Gov.uk and we have a comprehensive programme of engagement with businesses of all sizes, across the UK, to ensure they fully

understand their obligations as employers of EU citizens.

Further guidance on right to work checks after 30 June 2021 will be issued in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-09/26905/>

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

### **Refugees: Children**

**Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [27054]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that children with disabilities and learning difficulties can apply to the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme (VCRS) has resettled over 1,747 refugees, including children and their families, from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

We work with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) who refer eligible cases to the UK for resettlement. VCRS cases are referred under the Children and Adolescents at Risk UNHCR resettlement submission category, which includes children with disabilities and other needs.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-09/27054/>

### **Asylum**

**Alex Norris (Labour Co-op) [28024]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her policy is on organising meetings for people seeking asylum in the UK with Government officials of their home countries.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** In line with our legal and international obligations, we do not share information on people seeking asylum in the UK with the Government officials of their home country or seek information in a way that could expose them, or any family who remain in that country, to serious risk.

It is Home Office policy to conduct re-documentation interviews with officials from receiving countries where an asylum claim has failed and all rights of appeal have been exhausted. These interviews are necessary to establish nationality and identity, and to enable a travel document to be produced to facilitate return, and are a standard part of the Home Office returns process. We do not disclose that the individual has claimed asylum

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-11/28024/>

### **Asylum**

**Anneliese Dodds (Labour Co-op) [28757]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has made an assessment of the effect of removing service standards from asylum claims on the time taken to conclude those claims for (a) adult claimants and (b) minors.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Until October 2018, there was a published Service Standard in place to decide 98% of straight-forward cases within six months from date of claim. Whilst the operation consistently achieved this for three years, the number of non-straight forward cases awaiting a decision grew rapidly and it became clear that the former service standard no longer best served those that used our services. For these reasons, former Ministers agreed that we should move away from the service standard to reprioritise cases in the short term, whilst we come to longer term arrangement for service standards that meet the needs of all

parties.

As a result, we moved away from the 6-month service standard to concentrate on older claims, cases with acute vulnerability and those in receipt of the greatest level of support, including Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC). That has meant some claims that would have been categorised as straightforward and received a decision within 6 months have waited longer.

However, it would be difficult to attribute this to changes to the service standard, as asylum intake has been significantly higher than expected levels since October 2018.. Published statistics show that there were 35,566 asylum applications in the UK (main applicants only) in the year ending December 2019, an increase of 21% from the previous year.

This means that despite a number of interventions, the number of claims awaiting a decision has grown.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-12/28757/>

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

### **Asylum: Children**

**Stephen Morgan (Labour)** [27596] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many unaccompanied asylum seeking children there are (a) in the care of Portsmouth City Council and (b) in the UK.

**Stephen Morgan (Labour)** [27597] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many unaccompanied asylum seeking children are being housed in unregulated care homes.

**Stephen Morgan (Labour)** [27600] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many people under the age of 18 under the care of Portsmouth City Council are being housed in unregulated care homes.

**Reply from Vicky Ford:** The latest figures relate to the 31 March 2019. The department holds information for England, but information for Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland is a matter for the devolved administrations.

There were 5,070 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children looked after by local authorities in England, of which 101 were looked after by Portsmouth local authority. 990 of the unaccompanied asylum-seeking children looked after by local authorities in England were placed in semi-independent living accommodation, a further 1,460 were living independently.

24 children (aged under 18 years) were looked after by Portsmouth local authority and were accommodated in semi-independent living accommodation, a further 37 were living independently.

Information on the numbers of children looked after in England, including information on the numbers who are unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and placements, is available in the annual statistical release 'Children looked after in England (including adoption) which is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-looked-after-in-england-including-adoption-2018-to-2019>.

While most children in care are placed in children's homes or foster care, independent and semi-independent settings can be the right choice for some older children, acting as a stepping stone towards independence and adult life. Given that the majority of unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) are aged 16 and over, UASC are more likely to benefit from high quality placements in these settings than the wider cohort of looked-after-children. We have launched a consultation on new measures to improve the quality of this provision, including introducing new national standards.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-10/27596/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-10/27597/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-10/27600/>

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

### **Asylum: Children**

**Stephen Morgan (Labour)** [27598] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment he has made of the effect of recent trends in the number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children under the care of Portsmouth City Council being housed in unregulated care homes on the (a) well-being, (b) integration and (c) safety of those children.

**Stephen Morgan (Labour)** [27601] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment he has made of the effect of recent trends in the number of people under the age of 18 under Portsmouth City Council's care being housed in unregulated care homes on the safety of those people.

**Stephen Morgan (Labour)** [27602] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps he is taking to reduce the use of unregulated care homes for the care of unaccompanied asylum seeking minors.

**Reply from Vicky Ford:** Every child growing up in care should have a safe and secure environment where they feel supported. Local authorities are required by the law to ensure that they meet the needs of their looked-after children, and they must ensure that care placements facilitate this.

Independent and semi-independent (unregulated) settings can play an important role in the care system in meeting the needs of older children, acting as a stepping stone towards independence and adult life. Such placements have benefited young people in Portsmouth, where one of the 8 Staying Close pilots is in place. The department has issued £1.6 million in the last two years to the 8 existing pilots, and has agreed a further £6 million for the next year to begin a national rollout. The Staying Close pilot in Portsmouth is supporting unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) care leavers to move towards independence by providing additional support in semi-independent living arrangements.

Through the safeguarding strategy for UASC, we are also committed to developing resources to support the recruitment of supported lodging hosts as a form of semi-independent accommodation. This will ensure that we continue to support local authorities to find the most appropriate placements to meet the needs of UASC.

While independent and semi-independent settings do form an important part of the care landscape, in meeting the needs of older children who are ready for this, we have made clear that we are concerned that the quality is not always good enough. We are particularly concerned about the number of children under the age of 16 being placed in this provision. It is unacceptable for any child to be placed in a setting that does not meet their needs for any amount of time.

We are moving quickly to take action on these issues, and have launched a consultation on reforms to the use of independent and semi-independent provision. The consultation covers proposals including banning the placement of children under 16 in this provision and introducing new mandatory quality standards.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-10/27598/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-10/27601/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-10/27602/>

### **Asylum: Appeals**

**Anneliese Dodds (Labour Co-op) [28752]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been wrongly removed to their country of origin after having their asylum claims refused while Appeal Rights Exhausted and have then been returned back to the UK, in each of the last five years.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The UK has a proud record of providing protection for asylum seekers fleeing persecution. Each case is considered sensitively, appropriately and on its individual merits. All available evidence is carefully and sensitively considered against a background of relevant case law and in light of published country information, which covers country specific issues.

The UK only ever returns those who both the Home Office and the courts are satisfied do not need our protection and have no legal basis to remain in the UK.

Providing the information requested in relation to number of people returned to the UK following removal would require a manual check of individual records and I am therefore not able to provide this to you. In a small number of cases each year individuals are brought back to the UK either by the Home Office or a Court for further consideration of their case. When this occurs, we review all circumstances with the Courts as appropriate.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-12/28752/>

### **Human Trafficking: Children in Care**

**Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [27059]** To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps his Department is taking to support children in care who are victims of trafficking.

**Reply from Vicky Ford:** The government provides Independent Child Trafficking Guardians (ICTGs). They are an independent source of advice for trafficked children, working with multi-agency partners to advocate on behalf of the child so that they are protected from further harm and to promote the child's recovery. Last year, ICTGs were successfully rolled out to one third of all local authorities in England and Wales and the Government remains committed to rolling ICTGs out nationally.

The 'Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010' were amended in 2014 to require that local authorities' duties to care for looked after children are fulfilled with particular regard to a child's circumstances and needs as a trafficked child. The Regulations apply to all children, regardless of their immigration status, nationality or documentation.

The departments statutory guidance 'Care of unaccompanied migrant children and child victims of modern slavery (2017)' sets out detailed steps that local authorities should take to care for children who are victims of modern slavery, including trafficking. It emphasises that care placement decisions should take particular account of protecting the child from any continued risk from traffickers and processes should be in place to monitor policies and performance relating to child victims of modern slavery. Responsible managers should understand the risks and issues facing child victims of modern slavery and review best practice in planning for the care of these children.

The statutory guidance 'Working together to safeguard children (2018)' actively promotes a child centred, multi-agency approach to safeguarding all children and specifically highlights the need to manage complex risks to children from exploitation by criminal gangs, including trafficking and modern slavery.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-09/27059/>

The regulations referred to above can be read at

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/441643/Children Act Guidance 2015.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/441643/Children_Act_Guidance_2015.pdf)

The guidance referred to above can be read at

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/656429/UASC Statutory Guidance 2017.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/656429/UASC_Statutory_Guidance_2017.pdf)

and

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/779401/Working Together to Safeguard-Children.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/779401/Working_Together_to_Safeguard-Children.pdf)

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

### Doctors: Refugees

**Baroness Finlay of Llandaff (Crossbench)** [HL2328] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many doctors who were refugees have been registered with the General Medical Council in each of the last three years.

**Reply from Lord Bethell:** The General Medical Council (GMC) does not hold information on the total number of refugees or former refugees that are on the medical register.

The following figures are based on doctors who declared their refugee status to the GMC.

2017	23
2018	30
2019	48

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-09/HL2328/>

## Press Releases

### Three million granted status under the EU Settlement Scheme

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/three-million-granted-status-under-the-eu-settlement-scheme>

### Supreme Court judgement relating to child trafficking

<https://www.supremecourt.uk/cases/docs/uksc-2018-0159-press-summary.pdf>

## New Publications

### Coronavirus (COVID-19) and immigration removal centres

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-and-immigration-removal-centres>

### Windrush lessons learned review by Wendy Williams

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/873667/6.5577 HO Windrush Lessons Learned Review.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/873667/6.5577_HO_Windrush_Lessons_Learned_Review.pdf)

### **EU Settlement Scheme Statistics, February 2020**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/873588/eu-settlement-scheme-statistics-february-2020.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/873588/eu-settlement-scheme-statistics-february-2020.pdf)

### **EU Settlement Scheme Statistics Tables, February 2020**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/873590/eu-settlement-scheme-statistics-february-2020.ods](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/873590/eu-settlement-scheme-statistics-february-2020.ods)

### **Statement of policy in relation to family reunion of unaccompanied children seeking international protection in the EU or the UK**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/873023/CCS0320269656-001\\_Statement\\_of\\_policy\\_in\\_relation\\_to\\_family\\_reunion\\_Web\\_Accessible.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/873023/CCS0320269656-001_Statement_of_policy_in_relation_to_family_reunion_Web_Accessible.pdf)

### **Shortage occupation lists: commissioning letter from the Home Secretary and letter of response from the MAC**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/873532/2020-03\\_Letter\\_from\\_the\\_Home\\_Secretary.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/873532/2020-03_Letter_from_the_Home_Secretary.pdf)

and

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/873534/2020-03\\_Letter\\_to\\_the\\_Home\\_Secretary.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/873534/2020-03_Letter_to_the_Home_Secretary.pdf)

## **News**

### **Windrush scandal: Home Office showed 'ignorance' of race**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-51961933>

### **Windrush review says Home office showed 'ignorance and thoughtlessness' on race**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18318551.windrush-review-says-home-office-showed-ignorance-thoughtlessness-race/>

### **Windrush report: call for inquiry into extent of racism in Home Office**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/mar/19/windrush-report-condemns-home-office-ignorance-and-thoughtlessness>

### **The Windrush review is unequivocal: institutional racism played its part**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/mar/21/windrush-institutional-racism-hostile-environment>

### **Windrush scandal shames the Home Office**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/mar/20/windrush-scandal-shames-the-home-office>

### **The Windrush scandal: a result of a hostile environment**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/mar/19/the-guardian-view-on-the-windrush-scandal-a-result-of-a-hostile-environment>

### **Home Office showed 'institutional ignorance and thoughtlessness' towards race, Windrush report finds**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/windrush-report-scandal-generation-news-racism-latest-a9411186.html>

**The Windrush scandal was no mistake – it was a failure on every level**  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/independentpremium/news-analysis/windrush-home-office-lessons-learned-review-a9411976.html>

**Priti Patel 'truly sorry' for 'serious harm' done by Home Office handling of Windrush scandal**  
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/03/19/priti-patel-says-truly-sorry-serious-harm-done-home-offices/>

**Home Office displayed 'elements' of 'institutional racism' in Windrush scandal, official inquiry finds**  
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/03/18/home-office-displayed-elements-institutional-racism-windrush/>

**Home Office ignorance led to Windrush scandal, says report**  
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/home-office-ignorance-led-to-windrush-scandal-says-report-sh6xd7xcf>

**Windrush review: Home Office must reform to avoid a repeat**  
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/comment/windrush-review-home-office-must-reform-to-avoid-a-repeat-fmkl886p>

**Priti Patel apologises as Windrush report condemns Home Office**  
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/priti-patel-apologises-as-windrush-report-condemns-home-office-h9c0qgs7z>

**Hundreds of EU nationals told they don't have right to stay in the UK, figures show**  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/eu-nationals-settlement-scheme-home-office-settled-status-brexit-a9412586.html>

**Asylum seekers failed by coronavirus lockdown**  
<http://thirdforcenews.org.uk/tfn-news/asylum-seekers-failed-by-coronavirus-lockdown>

**Letter to the Home Secretary calling for Suspension of Travel for Asylum Seekers Amid Coronavirus Outbreak**  
<https://www.paih.org/letter-to-the-home-secretary-calling-for-suspension-of-travel-for-asylum-seekers-amid-coronavirus-outbreak/>

**Coronavirus: Home Office urged to suspend 'hostile environment' amid fears infected migrants won't seek treatment**  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/coronavirus-uk-immigrants-hostile-environment-home-office-nhs-healthcare-treatment-a9404796.html>

**Channel migrants: Border Force stops two boats in Channel**  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-51937234>

**Essex lorry deaths: 39 Vietnamese people died of suffocation and overheating in container, inquest hears**  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/essex-lorry-deaths-vietnamese-people-container-suffocated-overheat-a9411846.html>

**I was arrested for smuggling a refugee into Britain but her story was a lie**  
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/i-was-arrested-for-smuggling-a-refugee-into-britain-but-her-story-was-a-lie-rzpnrzwhy>

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## Community Relations

### News

**NHS officials told me Muslim households are particularly vulnerable to coronavirus – it's important to understand why**  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/coronavirus-muslim-mosque-closure-prayer-nhs-a9411936.html>

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## Equality

### UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

#### **Employment: Ethnic Groups**

**Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated)** [HL2099] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the report by Carnegie UK Trust Race Inequality in the Workforce, published in February 2020, what assessment they have made of the finding that BAME individuals are more likely to have less stable working lives than their white peers.

**Reply from Lord Callanan:** For BAME individuals in the UK, employment rates are at a near record high at 66.8%, and the unemployment rate is at its lowest level since 1974 at 5.8%. However, we know that employment rates are still lower than for White individuals and that BAME individuals are more likely to have less stable working patterns. The Government is bringing forward the Employment Bill, legislating for a wide range of reforms to employment law that will improve working conditions in the UK, but particularly for the most vulnerable workers.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-02/HL2099/>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

[https://d1ssu070pg2v9i.cloudfront.net/pex/carnegie\\_uk\\_trust/2020/03/27160925/Race-Inequality-in-the-Workforce-Final.pdf](https://d1ssu070pg2v9i.cloudfront.net/pex/carnegie_uk_trust/2020/03/27160925/Race-Inequality-in-the-Workforce-Final.pdf)

### News

**Muslim students less likely to be awarded top class degrees**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2020/mar/18/muslim-students-less-likely-to-be-awarded-top-class-degrees>

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# Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

## Scottish Parliament Written Answer

### Tackling Islamophobia

**S50-04276 Anas Sarwar (Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to the findings of the recent inquiry by the Cross Party Group on Tackling Islamophobia, which reported that only one in five victims of anti-Muslim hate crime report it to the police.

**Humza Yousaf:** There's no place in Scotland for hate crime or prejudice, including Islamophobia. I welcome the findings of the inquiry and remain committed to continue to engage with the CPG as they take forward this important work. We recognise that the under reporting of hate crime remains a significant issue and more needs to be done to tackle Islamophobia in Scotland. Our Tackling Prejudice and Building Connected Communities Action Group has prioritised raising awareness of hate crime and encouraging reporting. We also recently consulted on the UK's All Party Parliamentary Group's definition of Islamophobia to support our work in this area.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S50-04276>

*The findings referred to above can be read at*

<https://secureservercdn.net/50.62.174.113/hnv.9d6.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Public-inquiry-into-Islamophobia-initial-findings.pdf>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

### Coronavirus: Discrimination

**Abena Opong-Asare (Labour) [26184]** To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps he is taking to tackle prejudice against the Asian community in relation to the spread of covid-19.

**Reply from Luke Hall:** The Government takes hate crime and discrimination of any kind very seriously. We are a tolerant and welcoming multicultural society. There is no excuse for targeting British Asian communities or anyone of any other background in this country. We have one of the strongest legal frameworks in the world to report, record and prosecute hate crime. I would encourage anyone who experiences hate crime to report it to the police.

The Government's Hate Crime Action Plan, published in October 2018, sets out a comprehensive programme of work across Government and the police. We fund hate crime reporting platforms, including True Vision, and we continue to engage with communities of all backgrounds and local leaders, including councils and the police, to make sure we are aware of any concerns communities may have and can provide targeted support.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-06/26184/>

*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](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 Answer

### Religious Hatred: Islam

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Conservative)** [HL2044] To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made in respect of their commitment to publish a definition of Islamophobia.

**The Earl of Courtown:** This Government remains committed to stamping out anti-Muslim hatred and all forms of hate crime. It is unacceptable for anyone to feel unsafe while practicing their religion and we continue to take a zero-tolerance approach to Islamophobia.

The definition proposed by the APPG is not in line with the Equality Act 2010 and could have consequences for freedom of speech. We recognise the importance of this matter and will interrogate the issue in further detail.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-02/HL2044/>

Information about the APPF definition can be read at

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

## Press Release

**Racist couple and two others guilty of banned hate group membership**

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/cps/news/racist-couple-and-two-others-guilty-banned-hate-group-membership>

## New Publications

**Race equality action plan: year two progress update**

<https://tinyurl.com/wkvvtuh>

**The Impact of Christchurch Terror Attack | Tell MAMA Interim report 2019**

<https://www.tellmamauk.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/The-Impact-of-the-ChristChurch-Attack-Tell-MAMA-Interim-Report-2019-PP.pdf>

## News

**Trevor Phillips, Islamophobia and the death of free speech**

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/18310084.stuart-waiton-trevor-phillips-islamophobia-death-free-speech/>

**Primary teacher banned from schools after he described Islam as 'cancer of the world'**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/primary-school-teacher-banned-philip-turner-somerset-islamophobia-facebook-a9409506.html>

**The Impact of Christchurch Terror Attack | Tell MAMA Interim report 2019**

<https://tellmamauk.org/the-impact-of-the-christchurch-terror-attack/>

**'Miss Hitler' and three others guilty of National Action membership**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-leeds-51966050>

**National Action: 'Miss Hitler' contestant and three fellow neo-Nazis convicted of terror offences**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/national-action-neo-nazi-terrorist-miss-hitler-alice-cutter-trial-a9345291.html>

**Chinese student in Glasgow 'racially abused over coronavirus'**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-51951563>

**Chinese students flee UK after 'maskaphobia' triggered racist attacks**

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2020/mar/17/chinese-students-flee-uk-after-maskaphobia-triggered-racist-attacks>

**Coronavirus: Teenager 'spat in face' of Chinese takeaway owner in racist attack**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/coronavirus-racist-attack-spit-chinese-takeaway-hertfordshire-hitchin-a9404746.html>

**Man charged over racist behaviour during Manchester derby**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/premier-league/man-city-united-racist-fan-derby-arrest-police-premier-league-a9406651.html>

**How to argue with a racist: Five myths debunked**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-51914782>

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## Other Scottish Parliament and Government

### Press Release

**New law to prevent female genital mutilation**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/new-law-to-prevent-female-genital-mutilation-1/>

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## Other UK Parliament and Government

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

#### **Meat: Ritual Slaughter**

**Christian Wakeford (Conservative)** [27039] To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps the Government is taking to ensure that religious exemptions for the slaughter of meat and poultry are (a) maintained and (b) protected.

**Reply from Victoria Prentis:** The Government accepts the right of Muslims and Jews to eat meat killed in accordance with their religious beliefs.

Since 1933 there have been provisions in UK law that permit the slaughter of animals without prior stunning in order to meet Jewish and Islamic religious requirements.

The Government has adopted stricter national regulations over the years which ensure extensive protections for animals slaughtered without stunning in accordance with religious rites. These are set down in the Welfare of Animals at

Time of Killing (England) Regulations 2015. These regulations continue to ensure that religious exemptions are maintained and protected.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-09/27039/>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

### Female Genital Mutilation Protection Orders

**Baroness Jenkin of Kennington (Conservative)** [HL2070] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many female genital mutilation protection orders were issued in (1) 2015, (2) 2016, (3) 2017, (4) 2018, and (5) 2019.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** FGM is a crime and it is child abuse. The Government will not tolerate a practice that can cause extreme and lifelong physical and psychological suffering to women and girls. We significantly strengthened the law in 2015 in order to improve protection for victims and those at risk, and to break down the barriers to prosecution.

The first UK conviction for FGM took place on 1 February 2019 and the perpetrator was sentenced to 11 years in prison. The Home Office does not collate information on prosecutions centrally. Information on FGM prosecutions can be found in the Violence Against Women and Girls Reports, which are published annually by the Crown Prosecution Service.

We have not previously collected data on the number of FGM cases received under the mandatory reporting duty. However, to improve understanding of the prevalence of so called 'honour-based' abuse, including FGM, the Government amended the police Annual Data Requirement (ADR) to require police forces, from April 2019, to record where a crime has been committed in the context of preserving the 'honour' of a family or community. This new collection is also capturing police recorded offences of FGM which were initially reported to the police under the mandatory reporting duty. Subject to data quality checks, we expect the first dataset under this new mandatory ADR collection to be published by autumn 2020.

The Government will continue to keep the changes made in the Serious Crime Act 2015 under review in order to ensure that they are working effectively.

The Ministry of Justice publishes quarterly statistics on the number of FGM Protection Orders (FGMPOs) issued by the family courts in England and Wales, which can be found via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/family-court-statistics-quarterly>.

The figures from 2015-2019 are set out in the table below. To note that FGMPOs were introduced in July 2015 and the figures for 2019 cover the period up to 30 September 2019. Figures for the final three months of 2019 will be published in due course.

2015	32
2016	64
2017	109
2018	143
2019	141
Total	489

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-02/HL2070/>

*The following four questions all received the same answer*

#### **Female Genital Mutilation: Children**

**Baroness Jenkin of Kennington (Conservative)** [HL2071] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many reports of cases of female genital mutilation, or suspected female genital mutilation, they have received under the mandatory reporting for under-18s duty in the Serious Crime Act 2015 since that Act received Royal Assent.

**Baroness Jenkin of Kennington (Conservative)** [HL2072] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the mandatory reporting of female genital mutilation for under 18s duty.

#### **Female Genital Mutilation**

**Baroness Jenkin of Kennington (Conservative)** [HL2073] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the outcome of criminalising female genital mutilation.

**Baroness Jenkin of Kennington (Conservative)** [HL2074] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there has been any increase in those who commit female genital mutilation being (1) prosecuted, and (2) found guilty, in the UK since the Serious Crime Act 2015 received Royal Assent.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** FGM is a crime and it is child abuse. The Government will not tolerate a practice that can cause extreme and lifelong physical and psychological suffering to women and girls. We significantly strengthened the law in 2015 in order to improve protection for victims and those at risk, and to break down the barriers to prosecution.

The first UK conviction for FGM took place on 1 February 2019 and the perpetrator was sentenced to 11 years in prison. The Home Office does not collate information on prosecutions centrally. Information on FGM prosecutions can be found in the Violence Against Women and Girls Reports, which are published annually by the Crown Prosecution Service.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-02/HL2071/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-02/HL2072/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-02/HL2073/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-02/HL2074/>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Female Genital Mutilation**

**Baroness Jenkin of Kennington (Conservative)** [HL2175] To ask Her Majesty's Government what (1) sexual and reproductive health and rights, and (2) female genital mutilation support, services exist for women with complications resulting from female genital mutilation in the UK.

#### **Genito-urinary Medicine**

**Baroness Jenkin of Kennington (Conservative)** [HL2176] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the case for expanding the provision of (1) sexual and reproductive health and rights, and (2) female genital mutilation support, services in the UK to support women and girls.

**Reply from Lord Bethell:** National Health Service referral pathways are in place locally to respond to the physical, mental and sexual health needs of women and girls who have undergone female genital mutilation (FGM) through maternity and

specialist paediatric services. Non-pregnant women over 18 can access a new pilot of eight FGM support clinics launched in September 2019 which provide a range of services, including deinfibulation if required.

Commissioning of FGM services is informed by NHS Digital's FGM enhanced dataset.

Local authorities in England are mandated to commission comprehensive open access sexual health services for people present in their area based on an assessment of local need.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-03/HL2175/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-03/HL2176/>

### **Female Genital Mutilation: Prosecutions**

**Baroness Jenkin of Kennington (Conservative)** [HL2495] To ask Her Majesty's Government what guidance they have issued for decisions about prosecuting individuals in relation to female genital mutilation offences.

**Reply from Lord Keen of Elie:** The CPS has legal guidance for all prosecutors dealing with potential cases involving female genital mutilation, which it keeps under review. This guidance has recently been revised to reflect the practical challenges in these cases and to provide clarification on piercing and cosmetic surgery. This was done in consultation with key stakeholders and published in autumn 2019.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-11/HL2495/>

### **Religious Freedom**

**Baroness Whitaker (Labour)** [HL2530] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the consistency with which the term "freedom of religion or belief" is used in their publications instead of "religious freedom"; and what steps they will take to ensure that only the term "freedom of religion or belief" is used.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The United Kingdom is committed to defending freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief as set out in international law. We attach great importance to referring to 'Freedom of Religion or Belief' in publications, as we assess this best captures the freedom to have a faith, belief, or no belief at all. On occasion, the British Government has referred to 'religious freedom' as a short-hand, but we strive to ensure that 'Freedom of Religion or Belief' is referred as often as practicable, particularly in formal publications.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-11/HL2530/>

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## **Health Information: Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

### **NHS**

#### **NHS Near Me (Scotland)**

Near Me is a video consulting service that enables people to have health and social care appointments from home or wherever is convenient. All you need is a device for making video calls like a smartphone and an internet connection. Near Me is a secure form of

video consulting approved for use by the Scottish Government and NHS Scotland.  
<https://www.nearme.scot/>

### **NHS Inform (Scotland)**

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19>

### **Healthcare for refugees and asylum seekers**

[https://www.nhsinform.scot/care-support-and-rights/health-rights/access/healthcare-for-refugees-and-asylum-seekers?mc\\_cid=adf08c03dd&mc\\_eid=c2de7982d8](https://www.nhsinform.scot/care-support-and-rights/health-rights/access/healthcare-for-refugees-and-asylum-seekers?mc_cid=adf08c03dd&mc_eid=c2de7982d8)

### **NHS (England and Wales)**

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

## **Scottish Parliament**

### **Scottish Parliament suspends public engagement in response to Covid-19 Coronavirus**

<https://www.parliament.scot/newsandmediacentre/114864.aspx>

## **Scottish Government**

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's speech 22 March 2020**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-speech-22-march-2020/>

### **Coronavirus in Scotland**

<https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/>

### **Coronavirus guidance for parents and families**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/supporting-parents-and-families/>

### **Helping communities affected by COVID-19**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/helping-communities-affected-by-covid-19/>

### **People advised to limit social contact**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/people-advised-to-limit-social-contact/>

### **NHS Scotland placed on emergency footing**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/nhs-scotland-placed-on-emergency-footing/>

## **UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers**

### **Covid-19**

**Robin Millar (Conservative):** ... Will [the Minister] please offer some guidance to the large number of religious communities—churches, mosques, gurdwaras—on what actually constitutes a large gathering of people?

**Matt Hamncock:** We address that in the advice, and this is a very important point. We have taken advice on how to respond to the crisis, including from our ethics committee, which includes representatives of the major religious faiths. It is true that we include religious groups in our advice about social contact. We have seen

from elsewhere in the world how sometimes it is through religious gatherings that the virus can spread so, with the deepest regret and the heaviest of heart, we include faith groups and gatherings of faith within the advice.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-03-16/debates/235689EC-0A18-4488-BFCF-9F012A1A0C1B/Covid-19#contribution-0C812EED-E27C-41E7-8983-DD345ADE8949>

### **Covid-19**

**Naz Shah (Labour):** Lots of my constituents in Bradford West in the Muslim and Jewish communities have concerns about burials because they want to bury as soon as somebody dies. Given that we might sadly lose people to the virus, what conversations has the Secretary of State had with religious institutions across the country in that regard?

**Reply from Matt Hancock:** The Communities Secretary leads on that question, because ultimately local authorities have an incredibly important role to play in making sure that such things happen smoothly. There are further powers in the Bill. The detail of those will be published tomorrow to try to make sure we have what we need to address that difficult situation.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-03-16/debates/235689EC-0A18-4488-BFCF-9F012A1A0C1B/Covid-19#contribution-26C5E139-4D28-43E1-B09D-8BD7E15BC1EF>

## **UK Government**

### **Government announces further measures on social distancing**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-further-measures-on-social-distancing>

### **Devolved administrations will receive £1.5 billion for coronavirus response**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/devolved-administrations-will-receive-15-billion-for-coronavirus-response>

### **Regulators urge safe giving to charities as communities respond to Coronavirus pandemic**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/regulators-urge-safe-giving-to-charities-as-communities-respond-to-coronavirus-pandemic>

## **Other Organisations**

### **Ethnic Minority National Resilience Network**

BEMIS Scotland are aware that ethnic minority communities across Scotland will need to self-isolate and may need additional support to access support agencies, emergency relief or make contact with broader community support initiatives.

Having spoken to communities across Scotland in the last number of days it has become apparent that the coming days and weeks will bring significant challenges for our communities.

- We have set up a dedicated online registration hub that will enable us to identify where you are and in turn make efforts to ensure that local support organisations and community response initiatives are able to respond to you. You can [register here](#).
- We have set up contacts with our networks across Scotland to offer a peer to peer support service and sharing best practice from local community responses. ...
- We are in the process of establishing a support groups for mental health/counselling

support with trained culturally skilled counsellors for supporting individuals and families with anxiety fearing isolation over the coming weeks and months. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://bemis.org.uk/coronavirus/>

**Coronavirus Community Assistance Directory: Find and offer help in your community**

<https://covid-19.scvo.org.uk/>

**Human rights and equality considerations in responding to the coronavirus pandemic:**

**Letter from the Equality and Human Rights Commission to the Prime Minister**

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/briefing-letter-to-government-covid-19-coronavirus-19-march-2020.pdf>

**Charities and Coronavirus: An update from the Scottish Charity Regulator**

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/news/charities-and-coronavirus-an-update-from-the-regulator/>

**Cancellation of church services**

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2020/cancellation-of-church-services-and-other-updates>

**Catholic Bishops announce decision to suspend Mass**

<https://scmo.org/news-releases/perma/1584525600/article/catholic-bishops-announce-decision-to-suspend-mass.html>

**Muslim Council of Scotland – Statement on COVID-19**

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=827761667743376>

**Muslim Council of Britain calls for the suspension of all congregational activities at UK mosques and Islamic centres**

<https://mcb.org.uk/press-releases/mcb-calls-for-the-suspension-of-congregational-activities-at-uk-mosques-and-islamic-centres/>

**Office of the Chief Rabbi: Extraordinary times call upon us to take extraordinary measures**

<https://twitter.com/chiefrabbi/status/1239992151628558337/photo/1>

**Scottish Council of Jewish Communities: Coronavirus epidemic – Community message**

[https://www.scojec.org/news/2020/20iii\\_community\\_message.pdf](https://www.scojec.org/news/2020/20iii_community_message.pdf)

## News

**Wages cover for businesses hit by virus outlined**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-51982005>

**Coronavirus: 'Only close family' at funerals, churches say**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-51944485>

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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>

Stage 3

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12591&i=113851#ScotParlOR>

Stage 3 debate

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12591&i=113818#ScotParlOR>

Bill passed

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12591&i=113853&c=2251894#ScotParlOR>

Bill as passed

[https://www.parliament.scot/S5\\_Bills/Female%20Genital%20Mutilation%20\(Protection%20and%20Guidance\)%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBill47BS052020.pdf](https://www.parliament.scot/S5_Bills/Female%20Genital%20Mutilation%20(Protection%20and%20Guidance)%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBill47BS052020.pdf)

### **UK Parliament**

#### **Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) Bill**

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

#### **Asylum Support (Prescribed Period) Bill**

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

#### **\*\* Coronavirus Bill**

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-21/coronavirus.html>

Bill as published

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-01/0122/20122.pdf>

Explanatory Notes

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-01/0122/en/20122en.pdf>

Memorandum from the Department of Health and Social Care to the Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee

[https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-01/0122/Delegated%20Powers%20Memorandum%20Coronavirus%20Bill\\_Final.pdf](https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-01/0122/Delegated%20Powers%20Memorandum%20Coronavirus%20Bill_Final.pdf)

Coronavirus bill: summary of impacts

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-bill-summary-of-impacts/coronavirus-bill-summary-of-impacts>

Notice of amendments

[https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-01/0122/amend/coronavirus\\_daily\\_cwh\\_0320.1-7.html](https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-01/0122/amend/coronavirus_daily_cwh_0320.1-7.html)

House of Lords Library: Coronavirus: emergency legislation

<https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/infocus/coronavirus-emergency-legislation/>

House of Commons Library: Coronavirus Bill: What is the sunset clause provision?

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/social-policy/health/coronavirus-bill-what-is-the-sunset-clause-provision/>

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

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-21/immigrationandsocialsecuritycoordinationeuwithdrawal.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>

## **\*\* Windrush Compensation Scheme (Expenditure) Bill**

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

Proposed amendments

[https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-01/0004/amend/WindrushCompensation\\_rm\\_cwh\\_0320.1-7.html](https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-01/0004/amend/WindrushCompensation_rm_cwh_0320.1-7.html)

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## **Consultations**

\*\* new or updated this week

**\*\* closes this week!**

**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>

**Race equality, employment and skills inquiry** (closing date 17 April 2020)

<https://yourviews.parliament.scot/ehrc/race-equality-employment-and-skills-inquiry/>

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

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

**Experiences of Islamophobia** (closing date not stated)

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

**Raising skills and standards of supporters of refugees and asylum seekers**

(closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/3R8SDYN>

**Police Scotland: Your view counts** (open all year)

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/decision-making/public-consultation/local-policing-consultation>

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## Job Opportunities

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

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

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## Funding Opportunities

\*\* new or updated this week

**Fife Centre for Equalities Diversity Week Activity Fund 2020**

*Closing date not stated*

Grants of up to £100 for charities, community and voluntary groups, sporting groups, and informal groups to host a one-off activity celebrating the diverse population of Fife during Fife Centre for Equalities Diversity Week 7-13 September 2020. For information and to apply see <https://tinyurl.com/stbmu24>

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## Events, Conferences, and Training

\*\* new or updated this week

**Talking Prejudice**

**EVENT CANCELLED** ~~23 March 2020 in Glasgow (9.30–4.00)~~

5 May 2020 in Inverness (9.30–4.00)

2 June 2020 in Stirling (9.30–4.00)

YouthLink event for youth workers and others working in diverse communities to hear from other professionals about the tools and services available to address hate crime and prejudice. For information about the Inverness event see <https://tinyurl.com/t5g6xnv> and for the Stirling event see <https://tinyurl.com/v29nlow>

**Advancing Human Rights & Inspiring Equal Citizens for Torture Survivors**

**EVENT POSTPONED** ~~24 March 2020 in Glasgow (9.30–3.30)~~

Freedom from Torture event to share learning and experiences from the Healing Neighbourhood Project, in relation to promoting human rights, equality, and the empowerment of torture survivors through community learning and development. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/wdpzwvn>

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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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