



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.

### Contents

[Immigration and Asylum](#)

[Community Relations](#)

[Equality](#)

[Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination](#)

[Other Scottish Parliament and Government](#)

[Other UK Parliament and Government](#)

[Health Information: Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

[Other News](#)

[Bills in Progress](#)

[Consultations](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

[Funding Opportunities](#)

[Events, Conferences, and Training](#)

[Useful Links](#)

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.

Please send information for inclusion in MEMO to [MEMO@scojec.org](mailto:MEMO@scojec.org) and [click here](#) to be added to the mailing list.

## Immigration and Asylum

### Scottish Parliament Motion

**S5M-22067 Mary Fee (Labour): World Refugee Day** – That the Parliament notes that 20 June 2020 is World Refugee Day; recognises that this annual event seeks to raise awareness of the struggles that refugees face as they escape areas that are not safe for them to live, celebrates the unique gifts and talents that they bring to the communities that they settle in and encourages connections and friendships between people in the hope of making integration easier for all refugees and to remind everyone of the international obligations enshrined in the UN Refugee Convention; understands that this year marks 20 years of Refugee Festival Scotland; notes that, after welcoming 21,200 attendees in 2019, this will be celebrated online to highlight and celebrate the contributions that refugees in Scotland make to communities; supports the work of the Paisley-based charity, Pachedu, which works to tackle social isolation by offering help to refugees as they settle

in Renfrewshire; commends the work of the Scottish Refugee Council and its numerous campaigns, including those that aim to provide safe and appropriate asylum accommodation without fear of eviction; believes that this work is vital to the efforts to support refugees in Scotland; encourages people to take part in the international online celebrations, and resolves to renew its commitment to supporting refugees in Scotland in every way.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-22067>

## UK Parliament Debate

### **Covid-19: Asylum Seeker Services in Glasgow**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-06-17/debates/3D0E2AD4-B458-4769-87EB-05ECB355868A/Covid-19AsylumSeekerServicesInGlasgow>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answer

### **Prime Minister's Questions**

**Keir Starmer (Labour):** I want to return to ... the immigration health surcharge for NHS and care workers. Following Prime Minister's questions on 20 May, the Government announced that they would drop that deeply unfair charge—that is nearly a month ago. Nothing has happened. The British Medical Association, the Royal College of Nursing, the Royal College of Physicians and Unison have all written to the Prime Minister, so he must know about this. One doctor was quoted on Monday as saying: "My colleagues who have applied, even yesterday, one of them said he had to pay for himself, his wife and four kids so that is £6,000...The Home Office is...saying that...nothing has been implemented". These are people on the frontline. The Prime Minister said he would act. When is he going to do so?

**The Prime Minister:** I am genuinely grateful for an important question, because it is vital that people who are working on the frontline, and NHS workers in particular, get the support that they need. That is why I said what I said a few weeks ago. What I can tell the right hon. and learned Gentleman is that NHS or care workers who have paid the surcharge since 21 May will be refunded, and we are getting on with instituting the new arrangements as fast as we possibly can.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-06-17/debates/D91FE96D-8668-4B3C-AC27-A9CE9E961015/Engagements#contribution-56ADAD38-3DF7-4856-88BA-89E2202C8A97>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

### **Hong Kong: Immigration**

**James Gray (Conservative)** [58623] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will grant Hong Kong Locally Employed Personnel who were full members of the UK armed services before 1997 the same immigration status as applies to Gurkha soldiers.

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

The Immigration Rules which apply to those who have served in the Brigade of Gurkhas were introduced on the basis of the unique nature of the Gurkhas' service.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-11/58623/>

### **British Nationality: Assessments**

**Patrick Grady (SNP)** [57246] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the potential merits of enabling people to take the Life in the UK test virtually during the covid-19 pandemic

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** During Covid 19 we have been working closely with all our providers to restart the provision of our services. The knowledge of Life in the UK (LitUK) service reopened on 1st June 2020 in England only. This service recommenced with processes to ensure social distancing and health and safety measures are in place. Consideration of opening test sites in the rest of the United Kingdom is pending decisions by the individual devolved authorities.

We have previously considered remote testing and prior to the award of the recent contract. Remote testing was not considered appropriate as anti-fraud measures have to be maintained at all times to protect the integrity of the test.

We may however consider remote testing in the future as and when suitable technology is available and we are confident the integrity of tests can be maintained.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-09/57246/>

### **British Nationality: Assessments**

**Patrick Grady (SNP)** [57247] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the covid-19 outbreak and pursuant to the Answer of 20 May 2020 to Question 47382, how long will applications for indefinite leave to remain in the UK be held to allow applicants to complete a life in the UK test, once testing resumes.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Individuals can continue to apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain and their application will be held until testing resumes, with their existing leave continuing until their application is decided.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-09/57247/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-15/47382/>

### **Migrant Workers: British Nationality**

**Neil Coyle (Labour)** [43034] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to grant UK citizenship to non-UK nationals working in frontline roles in health and social care who have helped tackle the covid-19 outbreak.

**Kevin Foster:** The requirements for British citizenship are set out in the British Nationality Act 1981. It is not possible to grant citizenship to someone who does not meet those requirements. Some countries do not allow dual citizenship so the idea of an automatic grant of citizenship as suggested would not be practicable.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-04/43034/>

### **Immigrants: Coronavirus**

**John Spellar (Labour)** [57079] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what his policy is on the return to the UK of people with leave to remain in the UK.

**Reply from Nigel Adams:** Our objective remains to bring home British travellers

who want to return to the UK, as soon as possible. From the outset, our priority for the charter flight programme has been getting British travellers home. But after we launched the charter flight programme, it became clear that there were people with Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) who normally reside in the UK and wanted to get back, particularly in India and Pakistan. Where possible, we are working to help vulnerable UK residents with ILR provided that they have lived in the UK within the last year. This is beyond the scope of our standard consular assistance, where such assistance is usually just for British nationals, but these are exceptional times.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-09/57079/>

### **Immigrants: Coronavirus**

**Emma Lewell-Buck (Labour)** [58713] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to the Answer of 4 June 2020 to Question 52025 on Unemployment: Immigrants, what support her Department is providing for people who fall outside of all of the coronavirus financial support packages as a result of no recourse to public funds being a condition of their indefinite leave to remain settlement status.

**Reply from Justin Tomlinson:** Non-UK nationals and family members who are issued with a residence permit with a NRPf condition are not eligible to access taxpayer-funded benefits such as Universal Credit, Child Benefit or housing assistance for the duration of their leave. Public funds does not include contributions-based benefits and the State Pension. DWP has no powers to award taxpayer-funded benefits to an individual whose Home Office immigration status specifies no recourse to public funds. The Home Office determine whether persons granted leave to enter or remain in the UK are eligible to access public funds. However, as part of its response to COVID-19, the government announced in the Budget on 11 March that it would provide local authorities in England with £500 million of new grant funding to support economically vulnerable people and households in their local area.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-11/58713/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-01/52025/>

### **Immigrants: Finance**

**Patrick Grady (SNP)** [55705] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will publish the instruction to caseworkers that was ordered to be published in paragraph 76(b) of the judgment of W&J v Secretary of State for the Home Department (CO/3036/2019).

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Updated guidance to caseworkers containing this instruction was published on 29 May in line with paragraph 76(b) of the judgment of W&J v Secretary of State for the Home Department:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/family-life-as-a-partner-or-parent-private-life-and-exceptional-circumstance>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-05/55705/>

*The judgement referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/R-W-a-child-by-his-Litigation-Friend-J-v-SSHD-Judgment-UPDATED.pdf>

## Visas

**Ian Murray (Labour)** [57177] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 1 June 2020 to Question 51863 on Visas, whether she plans to introduce a further extension of visas for people that are unable to travel home after 31 July 2020.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Individuals who are in the UK legally and whose visa expires between 24 January 2020 and 31 July 2020 can have their visa extended to 31 July 2020, if they cannot leave the UK because of travel restrictions or self-isolation related to coronavirus.

This is being kept under regular review in case further extensions are necessary. The latest information can be found on GOV.UK at:

[www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-uk-visa-applicants-and-temporary-uk-residents](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-uk-visa-applicants-and-temporary-uk-residents)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-09/57177/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-01/51863/>

## Visas: Coronavirus

**Gavin Robinson (DUP)** [39537] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what support her Department is offering to visa applicants whose eligibility for a visa has been negatively affected by the covid-19 outbreak.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Home Office has put in place a range of measures to support those affected by the covid-19 outbreak, full details of which are published on GOV.UK at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-uk-visa-applicants-and-temporary-uk-residents>.

These are unprecedented times and we may make further adjustments to requirements where necessary and appropriate, to ensure people are not unduly affected by circumstances beyond their control.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-24/39537/>

## Marriage: Visas: Coronavirus

**Rosena Allin-Khan (Labour)** [56103] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans her Department has to extend the fiancée visa for people who are unable to (a) give notice to marry and (b) marry during the covid-19 outbreak.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Home Office has put in place a range of measures to support those affected by the Covid-19 outbreak. We continue to monitor the situation closely and take these exceptional circumstances into account.

A fiancé, fiancée or proposed civil partner whose wedding or civil partnership is delayed due to Covid-19 can request an extension until 31 July by updating their records with the Coronavirus Immigration Team.

([https://gov.smartwebportal.co.uk/homeoffice/public/ho\\_form.html](https://gov.smartwebportal.co.uk/homeoffice/public/ho_form.html))

The family Immigration Rules allow for an extension of leave if there is good reason for a wedding or civil partnership not taking place during the initial six-month period of leave to enter. Restrictions on giving notice to marry or delay to a wedding or civil partnership due to Covid-19 will be considered a good reason under this policy. They may otherwise be eligible to remain on the basis of exceptional circumstances.

These are unprecedented times and we may make further temporary adjustments

to requirements where necessary and appropriate.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-08/56103/>

### **Visas: Married People**

**Patrick Grady (SNP) [58004]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reasons guidance was removed from her Department's website that stated that non-EU spouses of British nationals would not be disadvantaged in their application for a spouse visa if they cannot meet their income requirement due to the covid-19 outbreak.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Home Office has put in place a range of measures to support those affected by the Covid-19 outbreak. We continue to monitor the situation closely and take these exceptional circumstances into account.

To ensure a spouse or partner applying for entry clearance, leave to remain or indefinite leave are not unduly affected by circumstances beyond their control, for the purpose of the minimum income requirement:

- A temporary loss of employment income between 1 March and 31 July 2020 due to Covid-19, will be disregarded provided the requirement was met for at least six months up to March 2020.
- An applicant or sponsor furloughed under the Government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme will be deemed as earning 100% of their salary.
- A temporary loss of annual income due to Covid-19 between 1 March 2020 and 31 July 2020 will generally be disregarded for self-employment income, along with the impact on employment income from the same period for future applications. Income received via the Coronavirus Self-Employment Income Support Scheme will also be taken into account.
- Evidential flexibility may be applied where an applicant or sponsor experiences difficulty accessing specified evidence due to Covid-19 restrictions.

The minimum income requirement can also be met in several ways in addition to or instead of income from employment or self-employment. For example, income from the couple's investments, property rental or pension may also be taken into account, together with their cash savings.

These concessions are set out for customers on GOV.UK and are available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-uk-visa-applicants-and-temporary-uk-residents>

An earlier draft of the guidance was uploaded to GOV.UK, but was quickly replaced with the correct version, thereby ensuring our guidance is as clear as possible on how a spouse or partner will not be disadvantaged.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-10/58004/>

### **Visas: Married People**

**Patrick Grady (SNP) [58005]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that non-EU spouses of British nationals will not be disadvantaged in their application for a spouse visa if they cannot meet their income requirement due to the covid-19 outbreak.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Home Office has put in place a range of measures to support those affected by the Covid-19 outbreak. We continue to monitor the situation closely and take these exceptional circumstances into account.

To ensure a spouse or partner applying for entry clearance, leave to remain or indefinite leave are not unduly affected by circumstances beyond their control, for the purpose of the minimum income requirement:

- A temporary loss of employment income between 1 March and 31 July 2020 due to Covid-19, will be disregarded provided the requirement was met for at least six months up to March 2020.
- An applicant or sponsor furloughed under the Government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme will be deemed as earning 100% of their salary.
- A temporary loss of annual income due to Covid-19 between 1 March 2020 and 31 July 2020 will generally be disregarded for self-employment income, along with the impact on employment income from the same period for future applications. Income received via the Coronavirus Self-Employment Income Support Scheme will also be taken into account.
- Evidential flexibility may be applied where an applicant or sponsor experiences difficulty accessing specified evidence due to Covid-19 restrictions.

These concessions are set out for customers on GOV.UK here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-uk-visa-applicants-and-temporary-uk-residents>

The minimum income requirement can also be met in several ways in addition to or instead of income from employment or self-employment. For example, income from the couple's investments, property rental or pension may also be taken into account, together with their cash savings.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-10/58005/>

#### **Visas: Married People**

**Feryal Clark (Labour)** [58107] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reason the phrase If you have experienced a loss of income due to coronavirus, you will not be disadvantaged was removed from her Department's advice for spouse visa applicants and their sponsors published on 8-9 June 2020.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** On 10 June we updated the GOV.UK pages with guidance on the minimum income requirement. An early draft of the guidance was incorrectly uploaded to GOV.UK, which was then quickly replaced with the correct version, thereby ensuring our guidance is as clear as possible on how a spouse or partner will not be disadvantaged from an immigration perspective from the Covid-19 pandemic.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-10/58107/>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Overseas Students: Visas**

**Daniel Zeichner (Labour)** [57223] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether international students who have to start their courses online as a result of the covid-19 outbreak will be eligible for the Graduate Route visa despite spending less time than is required physically in the UK under the terms of that visa.

**Steve McCabe (Labour)** [55849] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether international students who start their courses online due to the covid-19 outbreak and spend less than 11 months studying in the UK will be eligible for the graduate route visa.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Graduate route will be introduced in the summer of 2021. We have been clear no migrant will be penalised due to circumstances outside their control related to Covid-19, including where they have had to start their courses online as a result.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-09/57223/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-08/55849/>

### **Entry Clearances: Overseas Students**

**Daniel Zeichner (Labour)** [57224] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to extend the application window for Tier 4 visas from three to six months, in order for international students beginning their courses online to know that they will be eligible for a visa to enter the UK before they begin studying.

**Kevin Foster:** Students are currently permitted to apply up to three months in advance of the course start date listed on the Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS). Students commencing a course of study outside the UK, are not required to hold a visa to commence the course. All provisions are being kept under regular review in light of the situation with Covid-19 (Coronavirus).

Visa Application Centres (VAC) are starting to re-open which will enable students to submit their applications and enrol biometrics.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-09/57224/>

### **Visas: Musicians**

**Hilary Benn (Labour)** [55870] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the challenges of the points-based immigration system for (a) musicians and promoters from the EU and (b) for musicians from the UK as a result of the stated intention of reciprocity between the UK and EU countries.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Overseas musicians and performers make an important contribution to the UK's creative sector.

We have set out the Government's plan to introduce a future points-based immigration system which will enable the most talented people from around the world to come to the UK in all parts of the economy, including the creative sector.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-08/55870/>

*Information about the points-based system referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uks-points-based-immigration-systempolicy-statement/the-uks-points-based-immigration-system-policy-statement>

### **Visas: Arts**

**Hilary Benn (Labour)** [55871] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of (a) extending the three month concession for non-visa nationals using the Tier 5 Temporary Worker – Creative or Sporting route to six months and (b) allowing the Tier 5 route for multiple entries to the UK.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Overseas musicians and performers make an important contribution to the UK's creative sector. We have set out plans to introduce a future points-based immigration system which will enable these creative workers to come to the UK to perform and take part in events. There are a range of provisions for visiting artists, entertainers and musicians, each offering various lengths of leave suited to their individual needs. The Immigration Rules for creative workers already make provisions for multiple entries to the United Kingdom.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-08/55871/>

*Information about the points-based system referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uks-points-based-immigration-systempolicy-statement/the-uks-points-based-immigration-system-policy-statement>

### Visas: Musicians

**Hilary Benn (Labour)** [55872] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will (a) extend the Permitted Paid Engagement (PPE) route from 30 days to 90 days to allow for longer tours and opera seasons for musicians and (b) allow the PPE route for multiple entries to the UK.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** There are no plans to extend the Permitted Paid Engagement route from 30 days to 90 days. The PPE visit visa already allows, whilst valid, multiple entries to the UK. Currently, visiting artists, entertainers and musicians can perform at events, take part in competitions and auditions, make personal appearances and take part in promotional activities for up to 6 months without the need for formal sponsorship or a work visa. They can also receive payment for appearances at permit free festivals for up to 6 months, or for up to one month for specific engagements, under the Visitor route.

Artists wishing to come to the UK for longer-term work will need to do so under the points-based system. There will continue to be special arrangements for creative workers, which in future will encompass both EEA and non-EEA citizens.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-08/55872/>

*Information about the points-based system referred to above can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uks-points-based-immigration-system-policy-statement/the-uks-points-based-immigration-system-policy-statement>*

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### Migrant Workers: Visas

**Hilary Benn (Labour)** [55873] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps UK Visas and Immigration is taking to reduce the time it takes to assess and issue a visa to foreign nationals seeking to work in the UK at short notice; and if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of introducing a short-term visa for last-minute employment.

### Visas: Musicians

**Hilary Benn (Labour)** [55874] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will simplify the application process for visa applicants for the purposes of musical performances who have previously secured successful applications.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** We continually review our global visa operation to improve performance and ensure value for money while maintaining excellent customer service.

The Home Office's priority is to maintain a safe and secure border. Visas are only issued where an applicant meets the requirements of the UK's Immigration Rules and entry clearance applications are subject to an extensive range of mandatory and discretionary checks (including an applicant's previous immigration history).

In normal circumstances we can offer priority and super priority services,

(<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/visa-decision-waiting-times-applications-outside-the-uk> )

however, these were suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Some UK Visa Application Centres are reopening where local restrictions allow and where it is safe to do so, but ongoing global restrictions mean some UKVI services – including priority and super priority services – remain closed. This is under regular review, and we will resume normal services as soon as it is safe to do so.

The Home Office set out proposals for the UK's future Points-Based Immigration System in a Policy Statement published on 19 February:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uks-points-based-immigration-system-policy-statement>

These proposals will transform the way in which all migrants come to the UK and will deliver a better customer experience.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-08/55873/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-08/55874/>

### **Visas: Turkey**

**Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [58750]** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many grants under the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme have been issued to applicants that hold a Turkish Businessperson visa.

**Reply from Jesse Norman:** Applications for the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) opened on 13 May. By 11 June 2020, HMRC had received:

- 2.1m claims representing a total of £6.1bn in England;
- 146k claims representing a total of £425m in Scotland;
- 102k claims representing a total of £273m in Wales; and
- 69k claims representing a total of £198m in Northern Ireland.

HMRC have published tables showing the number of individuals claiming the SEISS by 31 May 2020 which can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/self-employment-income-support-scheme-statistics-june-2020>

HMRC do not hold data on whether SEISS applicants hold a Turkish Businessperson visa and so cannot provide this information.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-11/58750/>

### **Doctors: Migrant Workers**

**Barry Gardiner (Labour) [57056]** To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether medical doctors arriving from abroad to work in the UK may avoid having to quarantine for 14 days by submitting to a test for covid-19 antigens.

**Reply from Helen Whately:** The Health Protection (Coronavirus, International Travel) (England) Regulations 2020 include an exemption for registered healthcare professionals from the requirement to quarantine, if they are required to return to, or start work within 14 days of arrival in the United Kingdom.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-09/57056/>

### **Migrant Workers: Linlithgow and East Falkirk**

**Martyn Day (SNP) [58023]** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many migrants without settled status or indefinite leave to remain in Linlithgow and East Falkirk constituency earn less than £25,600 annually.

**Reply from Chloe Smith:** The information requested falls under the remit of the UK Statistics Authority. I have therefore asked the Authority to respond. ...

Unfortunately, we do not have any information available regarding whether someone has settled status or leave to remain.

Estimates of the number of people in local areas, such as parliamentary constituencies, are available from the Annual Population Survey (APS), which is a survey of people resident in households. The APS also asks respondents about their income.

For the purposes of this question, we are able to provide estimates of those who report a non-UK nationality. Additionally, the APS does not collect information about the income of the self-employed and so the estimates below exclude those who

report a non-UK nationality who are self-employed.

Table 1 gives estimates of the number of people with a non-UK nationality who have no earnings or earn less than £26,500 annually in Linlithgow and East Falkirk from the APS for the twelve month period January to December 2019, which is the latest period available. This estimate has also been broken down to show how many of these are employees, not in employment, or are under 16 years of age.

As with any sample survey the estimates are subject to sampling variability, with the quality of estimates indicated in the table through shading

Table 1: Number of people with a non-UK nationality who have no earnings or earn less than £26,500 annually in Linlithgow and East Falkirk, January to December 2019<sup>1</sup>

	Level (thousands)
Total	5
Employees	2
Not in Employment	2
Under 16	1

Source: ONS, Annual Population Survey

<sup>1</sup> Quality indicator: Shaded estimates are based on a small sample size. This may result in less precise estimates, which should be used with caution. Unshaded estimates are based on a larger sample size. This is likely to result in estimates of higher precision, although they will still be subject to some sampling variability.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-10/58023/>

### Immigration: EU Nationals

**Alberto Costa (Conservative)** [56036] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Latvian nationals have applied to the EU Settlement Scheme; and if her Department will provide a geographical breakdown by region of where those applications were made from.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The latest published figures show the total number of applications to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) received up to 30 April 2020 was more than 3.5 million (3,536,000), of which 99,800 were from Latvian nationals. The latest figures can be found in the Home Office's 'EU Settlement Scheme monthly statistics' available at:

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

Published information on EUSS applications by the applicant's nationality, region and local authority in the United Kingdom (up to 31 March 2020), can be found in the Home Office's 'EU Settlement Scheme quarterly statistics', local authority statistics tables, specifically table EUSS\_LA\_01, available at:

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-08/56036/>

*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

**Claire Hanna (SDLP)** [58832] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what interim policy is in place to prevent the family members of Northern Ireland born citizens from being adversely affected by immigration controls before the opening of the EU settlement scheme to those applicants on 24 August 2020; and what arrangements are in place for people whose current visa expires before that date but who qualify for and intend to apply under that scheme that they will not be considered an overstayer.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The statement of changes to the Immigration Rules laid before Parliament on 14 May will amend the EU Settlement Scheme so family members of the people of Northern Ireland can apply for immigration status on broadly the same terms as family members of Irish citizens. This delivers the commitment made in the New Decade, New Approach agreement which restored the Northern Ireland Executive in January 2020.

Family members of the people of Northern Ireland will be able to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme from 24 August.

Family members of the people of Northern Ireland who cannot already apply to the EU Settlement Scheme and want to come to the UK or extend their current stay before 24 August can make an application under an existing immigration route.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-11/58832/>

*The Statement of Changes to Immigration Rules referred to above can be read at [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/885021/CCS207\\_CCS0520583832-001\\_Statement\\_of\\_changes\\_in\\_Immigration\\_Rules\\_CP\\_232\\_PRINT.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/885021/CCS207_CCS0520583832-001_Statement_of_changes_in_Immigration_Rules_CP_232_PRINT.pdf)*

*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**

**Claire Hanna (SDLP)** [59264] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what safeguards her Department has put in place for the family members of Northern Ireland-born citizens who following changes to the Immigration Rules announced on 14 May 2020 now qualify for the EU settlement scheme but have a current visa that will expire before 24 August 2020.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The statement of changes to the Immigration Rules laid before Parliament on 14 May will amend the EU Settlement Scheme so that family members of the people of Northern Ireland can apply for immigration status on broadly the same terms as family members of Irish citizens. This delivers the commitment made in the New Decade, New Approach agreement which restored the Northern Ireland Executive in January 2020.

Family members of the people of Northern Ireland will be able to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme from 24 August.

Family members of the people of Northern Ireland who cannot already apply to the EU Settlement Scheme and want to come to the UK or extend their current stay before 24 August can make an application under an existing immigration route.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-12/59264/>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Asylum: Coronavirus**

**Barry Sheerman (Labour Co-op)** [49593] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions she has had with Cabinet colleagues on supporting the financial welfare of asylum seekers during the covid-19 outbreak.

### **Asylum: Finance**

**Catherine West (Labour)** [49796] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 20 May 2020 to Question 41562 on asylum support, when the review will be concluded; and if she will make a statement.

**Alex Norris (Labour Co-op)** [57327] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the suitability of the level of financial support for people in the asylum system during the covid-19 outbreak.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** We have been reviewing the level of the cash allowances provided to asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute, as we do each year to ensure that they remain capable of meeting their essential living needs.

As a result of this work, the standard allowance has been raised to £39.60 per week from £37.75 per week, an increase of around 5%. The increase is significantly higher than the current general rate of inflation, which Office of National Statistics data shows was only 0.8% in the 12 months period to April 2020. Food inflation over the same period was only 1.4% and the data actually shows that, despite Covid-19, food prices fell between March to April 2020. In addition to asylum support payments, asylum seekers are provided with free accommodation, utilities are paid for, council tax is paid for, they have free access to the NHS and their children have free access to education.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-20/49593/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-20/49796/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-09/57327/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-29/41562/>

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

#### **Asylum: Housing**

**Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat)** [59202] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will extend the suspension of evictions from asylum accommodation beyond the 30 June 2020 deadline.

#### **Asylum: Finance**

**Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat)** [59203] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions her Department has had with representatives from (a) civil society and (b) faith organisations on the next phase of support for people in the asylum system during the covid-19 outbreak.

#### **Refugees: Coronavirus**

**Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat)** [59204] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what support her Department provides to help people granted refugee status access mainstream (a) welfare benefits and (b) accommodation during the covid-19 outbreak.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The decision to suspend the cessation of support will be reviewed before the end of June.

A comprehensive cessation plan, on how to recommence support cessations and evictions is being worked through with discussions with Local Authorities, Other Government Departments and Stakeholders, which included members of the voluntary and community sector.

Generally, upon receipt of a “positive” cessation a person is given 28 days’ notice and is referred to the Department of Work and Pensions to apply for benefits if they require them and to Local Authorities for housing assistance. During the Covid 19 crisis newly granted refugees have been continuing to receive support and accommodation while their applications to mainstream benefits have been considered.

All people currently accommodated within our accommodation can receive advice

on asylum support and have access to our Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility (AIRE) provider, Migrant Help. They can contact Migrant Help 24 hours a day on a freephone number if they need assistance or guidance.

We remain committed to working closely with the accommodation providers and communicating with local authorities to relieve pressure and capacity as much as possible and ensure that health guidance is being followed.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-12/59202/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-12/59203/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-12/59204/>

### **Legal Aid Scheme: Asylum**

**Karl Turner (Labour)** [57186] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many civil legal aid claims for asylum appeal cases exceeded the escape fee from legal aid providers in (a) London and (b) England and Wales.

#### **Reply from Alex Chalk:**

Financial Year	London Escape Claims	All Escape Claims
2016-17	415	469
2017-18	462	507
2018-19	528	600
2019-20*	347	404

\*Please note: The figures for the year 2019-20 covers only the months April to December 2019.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-09/57186/>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Asylum: Northern Ireland**

**Gavin Robinson (DUP)** [56001] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions she has had with the Northern Ireland Executive on ensuring that relevant authorities are equipped to deal with a potential increase in the number of asylum seekers after the end of the transition period.

**Gavin Robinson (DUP)** [56002] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions she has had with the Northern Ireland Executive on plans to lift the current suspension on asylum case decision-making to ensure that (a) the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and Health Trusts and (b) other stakeholders are equipped to meet additional demand in the next six months.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office have not currently suspended asylum case decision making. Following health advice and government guidance we temporarily suspended evictions for asylum seekers who had a decision on their claim and continued to support them.

We have been engaging with the NI Executive on asylum matters through the Covid-19 pandemic and will continue to do so.

A comprehensive cessation plan, on how to recommence support cessations and evictions is being worked through with discussions with Local Authorities, Other Government Departments and Stakeholders.

We remain committed to working closely with the accommodation providers and communicating with local authorities to relieve pressure and capacity as much as

possible and ensure that health guidance is being followed.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-08/56001/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-08/56002/>

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

### **Immigrants: Detainees**

**Nadia Whittome (Labour)** [58843] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has completed their review of every person detained under immigration powers in relation to the covid-19 outbreak.

**Nadia Whittome (Labour)** [58844] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people in immigration detention have been (a) released and (b) granted bail without submitting a bail application as a result of reviews during the covid-19 outbreak.

**Nadia Whittome (Labour)** [58847] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many adults in immigration detention are classified as (a) adults at risk, (b) clinically vulnerable, and (c) extremely clinically vulnerable.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** All individuals in detention from 23 March were reviewed to see if they were at a heightened risk from COVID-19, following guidance setting out the action that case workers should take in response to COVID-19. This reflected Public Health England guidance issued on 16 March 2020. Detained cases have continued to be reviewed in light of updated guidance, and in accordance with detention guidance and known country situations.

The Government published statistics relating to COVID-19 and the immigration system on gov.uk, on 28 May and the latest Immigration Statistics publication includes the numbers of individuals detained under immigration powers in prisons.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-11/58843/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-11/58844/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-11/58847/>

*The guidance referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-publishes-updated-covid-19-industry-guidance>

*The statistics referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/887808/statistics-relating-to-covid-19-and-the-immigration-system-may-2020.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/887808/statistics-relating-to-covid-19-and-the-immigration-system-may-2020.pdf)

### **Immigrants: Detainees**

**Caroline Lucas (Green)** [57167] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people are (a) being held in immigration detention centres and (b) required to report to her Department for immigration enforcement purposes; what steps her Department are taking to help protect those people from covid-19; and if she will make a statement.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office publishes data on people in detention in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release'

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

Data on the number of people detained under immigration powers at the end of each quarter, by location are published in table Det\_D02 of the immigration detention detailed datasets

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

Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. Additionally, the Home Office publishes a high-level overview of the data in the 'summary tables' (attached). The 'contents' sheet contains an overview of all available data on detention.

A statistical report Statistics relating to Covid-19 and the immigration system, May 2020

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/statistics-relating-to-covid-19-and-the-immigration-system-may-2020>),

released on 28 May 2020 provides further high-level information relating to immigration detention and Covid-19 up to the end of April.

Figures covering the second quarter of 2020, including those detained as at 30 June 2020 will be released on 27 August 2020. Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the 'Research and statistics calendar'

([https://www.gov.uk/search/research-and-statistics?content\\_store\\_document\\_type=upcoming\\_statistics&organisations%5B%5D=home-office&order=release-date-oldest](https://www.gov.uk/search/research-and-statistics?content_store_document_type=upcoming_statistics&organisations%5B%5D=home-office&order=release-date-oldest)).

The decision to pause face to face reporting came into effect 23 March 2020. Since closing to the public, we have embarked on a programme of contact with those required to report using telephone, SMS and email. As lockdown measures start to ease, reporting centres will begin to open with social distancing and other appropriate measures in line with Public Health England (PHE) guidance to keep those that we require to report safe.

The safety and health of people in the detention estate are of the utmost importance. We are following all PHE guidance and have robust contingency plans in place. Further guidance on managing COVID-19 in immigration removal centres was published on gov.uk on 5 June

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

As of 17 June 2020, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in immigration removal centres.

[Detention Summary Tables](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-09/57167/>

*The following five questions all received the same answer*

#### **Immigrants: Detainees**

**Holly Lynch (Labour)** [38482] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people are as at 21 April 2020 detained in immigration detention centres.

**Holly Lynch (Labour)** [38483] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will publish the nationalities of people as at 21 April 2020 detained in immigration detention centres.

**Holly Lynch (Labour)** [38484] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of people detained in immigration detention centres are foreign national offenders as at 21 April 2020.

**Holly Lynch (Labour)** [38485] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of people detained in immigration detention centres have been held for longer than 28 days in the latest period for which figures are available.

**Holly Lynch (Labour)** [38486] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department,

how many under 18 year olds are detained in immigration detention centres; and if she will publish a breakdown of the ages of people detained that are under 28 years old as at 21 April 2020.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office publishes data on people in detention in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release'.

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

Data on the number of people detained under immigration powers, broken down by nationality, age, and length of detention are published in table Det\_D02 of the immigration detention detailed datasets.

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

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 March 2020. Additionally, the Home Office publishes a high-level overview of the data in the 'summary tables'. The 'contents' sheet contains an overview of all available data on detention.

A statistical report Statistics relating to Covid-19 and the immigration system, May 2020,

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/statistics-relating-to-covid-19-and-the-immigration-system-may-2020>

released on 28 May 2020 provides further high-level information relating to detention and Covid-19 up to the end of April.

Figures covering the second quarter of 2020 will be released on 27 August 2020. Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the 'Research and statistics calendar'.

[https://www.gov.uk/search/research-and-statistics?content\\_store\\_document\\_type=upcoming\\_statistics&organisations%5B%5D=home-office&order=release-date-oldest](https://www.gov.uk/search/research-and-statistics?content_store_document_type=upcoming_statistics&organisations%5B%5D=home-office&order=release-date-oldest)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-21/38482/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-21/38483/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-21/38484/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-21/38485/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-21/38486/>

### **Detention Centres: Hygiene**

**Nadia Whittome (Labour)** [58845] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of availability of adequate hygiene facilities in immigration removal centres.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The safety and health of people in the detention estate are of the utmost importance. We are following all Public Health England guidance on COVID-19 and have robust contingency plans in place, including measures such as shielding and use of personal protective equipment.

Basic hygiene is a key part of tackling COVID-19. Handwashing facilities are available in all immigration removal centres and we are working closely with suppliers to ensure we have an adequate supply of soap and cleaning materials.

The arrangements in place are subject to regular review by Home Office staff and suppliers at each IRC.

In addition, each centre has posters and leaflets to inform staff and detainees about the importance of handwashing and social distancing to minimise the risk from COVID-19. Detainees are also able to speak to staff directly for advice on the protective measures in place.

Guidance on managing COVID-19 in immigration removal centres was published on gov.uk on 5 June

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

As of 12 June 2020, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in immigration removal centres.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-11/58845/>

### **Deportation: Coronavirus**

**Thangam Debbonaire (Labour)** [39826] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to pursue deportation proceedings during the covid-19 outbreak.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Removals of foreign national offenders and those who have no lawful basis to stay in the UK are still taking place where routes are available, and Immigration Enforcement are following the latest guidance from Public Health England.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-24/39826/>

## **UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers**

### **Social Security Benefits: Immigrants**

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL5483] To ask Her Majesty's Government what public funds are available to those who have no recourse to ordinary benefits.

**Reply from Baroness Stedman-Scott:** Non-UK nationals and family members who are issued with a residence permit with a No Recourse to Public Funds condition are not eligible to access taxpayer-funded benefits such as Universal Credit, Child Benefit or housing assistance for the duration of their leave. Public funds do not include contributions-based benefits and the State Pension. The Department has no powers to award taxpayer-funded benefits to an individual whose Home Office immigration status specifies no recourse to public funds. The Home Office determine whether persons granted leave to enter or remain in the UK are eligible to access public funds.

However, as part of its response to COVID-19, the Government announced in the Budget on 11 March that it would provide local authorities in England with £500 million of new grant funding to support economically vulnerable people and households in their local area.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-09/HL5483/>

### **Visas: Married People**

**Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle (Green)** [HL5156] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend (1) to reduce, (2) to waive, or (3) to eliminate, the minimum income requirement for UK citizens wishing to bring a foreign spouse or partner

(and where relevant children) to the UK in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular for loss of income as a result of the lockdown to be accounted for in calculating the income requirement.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office has put in place a range of measures to support those affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. We continue to monitor the situation closely and take these exceptional circumstances into account.

To ensure a spouse or partner and relevant dependent children applying for entry clearance, leave to remain or indefinite leave are not unduly affected by circumstances beyond their control, for the purpose of the minimum income requirement:

- A temporary loss of employment income between 1 March and 31 July 2020 due to COVID-19, will be disregarded provided the requirement was met for at least six months up to March 2020.
- An applicant or sponsor furloughed under the Government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme will be deemed as earning 100% of their salary.
- A temporary loss of annual income due to COVID-19 between 1 March 2020 and 31 July 2020 will generally be disregarded for self-employment income, along with the impact on employment income from the same period for future applications. Income received via the Coronavirus Self-Employment Income Support Scheme will also be taken into account.
- Evidential flexibility may be applied where an applicant or sponsor experiences difficulty accessing specified evidence due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The minimum income requirement can also be met in several ways in addition to or instead of income from employment or self-employment. For example, income from investments, property rental or pension may also be taken into account, together with cash savings.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-03/HL5156/>

#### **Overseas Students: Visas**

**Lord Bradley (Labour)** [HL4917] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that all overseas student visa applications are processed in time to enable these students to register to study at UK universities in the 2020–21 academic year.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** UKVI have ensured that sufficient casework capacity is in place and are engaging with the Education Sector, to plan to meet the demands of the student market for Autumn enrolments. UKVI are also working with their Commercial Partners to enable this within the confines of international restrictions in place because of COVID-19.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-02/HL4917/>

#### **Rough Sleeping: Roma**

**Baroness Whitaker (Labour)** [HL5147] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the task force on rough sleeping led by Dame Louise Casey will provide specific support for Roma rough sleepers to ensure that possible language barriers and concerns about dealing with officials are overcome.

**Reply from Lord Greenhalgh:** We want to ensure local areas have the tools they need to meet the diverse needs of anyone who has been sleeping rough, regardless of their background.

The recently announced taskforce spearheaded by Dame Louise Casey will work with local government, charities, businesses, faith and community groups, and

other public sector partners across the country, leading the next phase of the Government's support for rough sleepers during the pandemic.

The Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government maintains close contact with Roma stakeholder groups. Through this continued stakeholder engagement, we ensure all our policy approaches are informed by a wide range of considerations and meet the needs of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities in the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-02/HL5147/>

### **Undocumented Migrants: English Channel**

**Lord Maginnis of Drumglass (Independent Ulster Unionist) [HL5035]** To ask Her Majesty's Government what evidence they have about whether French border patrol ships are systematically monitoring or shadowing migrant boats across the English Channel into UK waters; and what that evidence shows, if anything, about the outcome when such boats reach the English coast.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Border Force vessels covering the South East Channel are usually tasked to identify migrant events by the Coastguard, with the priority being search and rescue and the safety of life. Border Force work closely with the Coastguard and French authorities to ensure we provide an effective response to migrant events at sea. Migrants undertaking these dangerous journeys in unsuitable and overloaded small boats are putting the lives of themselves and others at considerable risk and the priority for all assets deployed at sea is safety.

At sea, under international law, the preservation of life is paramount. In some cases, French boats will remain with migrants if they refuse rescue. But we are clear no-one should be crossing at all and we are developing plans to reform policies and laws to help to stop these crossings completely.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-02/HL5035/>

### **Undocumented Migrants: Coronavirus**

**Lord Maginnis of Drumglas (Independent Ulster Unionist) [HL5036]** To ask Her Majesty's Government how many illegal migrants coming to the UK via France were apprehended by UK authorities (1) since the COVID-19 lock-down began, and (2) in each month since May 2018; and what percentage of those apprehended in each of those months have been successfully repatriated.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We do not routinely publish the information you have requested, we are unable to provide this information, as it could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

The number of migrants arriving in the UK crossing the Channel by small boats for the months of January to March 2020 is approx. 450. These are provisional figures based on operational management information. The figures for April and May have not passed through a data quality check and cannot be assured. The final figures for all months will be published at a later date, once they have been verified and fully quality assured.

The UK continues to work closely with France and other countries to return migrants who have entered the UK by small boat in order to provide a strong deterrent against these dangerous crossings.

Since January 2019, over 155 people who entered the UK illegally on small boats have been returned to Europe. However, as a result of COVID-19 the vast majority of EU member states have temporarily paused accepting returns under the Dublin Regulations, but we are tracking those individuals and where appropriate will seek to return them when routes are available

It is the policy of this Government to return those not in need of protection.

The majority of countries who are signatories to the Dublin Regulations which governs the return of those seeking asylum in the UK to a third country have announced temporary suspension of transfers to and from all EU Member States due to the Corona virus.

Returns to third-countries can still take place where there is a suitable route of return.

We are ready to resume Dublin returns as soon as travel restrictions are lifted

The Home Office publishes data on the number of asylum seekers transferred under the Dublin regulation in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release' (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>). Data on the number of asylum seekers transferred out of the UK under the Dublin Regulation, broken down by the EU member state they have been transferred to are published in tables Dub\_D01 of the asylum and resettlement detailed datasets

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/asylum-and-resettlement-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.

Please note, that we do not publish the breakdowns of the nationality of those being transferred under the Dublin regulation.

Additionally, the Home Office publishes a high-level overview of the data in the 'summary tables' (attached). The 'contents' sheet contains an overview of all available data on asylum and resettlement.

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

([https://www.gov.uk/search/research-and-statistics?keywords=immigration&content\\_store\\_document\\_type=upcoming\\_statistics&organisations%5B%5D=home-office&order=relevance](https://www.gov.uk/search/research-and-statistics?keywords=immigration&content_store_document_type=upcoming_statistics&organisations%5B%5D=home-office&order=relevance) ).

Full guidance on Dublin III Regulation was published on 30/04/2020 and can be found via the link below:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/882400/Dublin-III-regulation-v3.0ext.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/882400/Dublin-III-regulation-v3.0ext.pdf)

[Asylum summary tables](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-02/HL5036/>

### **Undocumented Migrants: France**

**Lord Maginnis of Drumglas (Independent Ulster Unionist)** [HL5037] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) whether France has taken effective action to apprehend those who accommodate illegal migration to the UK, and (2) how many arrests and convictions of such people traffickers have been recorded and reported by France over the past two years.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office liaises directly with the French Interior Ministry on addressing the issue of illegal migration, engaging at an official, diplomatic level and supported at an operational level through regular UK-French Migration Committees.

Through joint-working with France, the UK has funded the continued deployment of French law enforcement along the coast of northern France, who are patrolling constantly in order to detect attempted crossings by migrants. Funding has been allocated, among other projects, for further security improvements at ports in northern France and on the ground, which includes drones, specialist vehicles and detection equipment to stop small boats leaving European shores.

Intelligence flows are also key to dismantling the organised crime groups behind crossings. We have restructured and repurposed our approach to support to better inform and direct how and where law enforcement is deployed.

We do not hold data on French arrests and convictions.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-02/HL5037/>

### **Undocumented Migrants: France**

**Lord Maginnis of Drumglas (Independent Ulster Unionist) [HL5038]** To ask Her Majesty's Government what financial payments the UK has made to France to assist in the prevention of illegal migration in each of the last five financial years.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The UK and France maintain a longstanding relationship on tackling illegal migration at the shared border; since 2015 the UK has committed several funding packages to supporting this work. In 2015, both countries signed a Joint Declaration which committed £10 million towards security reviews of the juxtaposed controls and to moving migrants into reception centres across France. This was followed by payments in 2016 (£17 million) and 2017 (£36 million) to further strengthen the border and maintain the operation of the juxtaposed controls.

In January 2018 both countries signed the Sandhurst Treaty. The UK made a commitment of €50 million (£45.5m) to implement the terms of the Treaty, which adopted a "whole of route approach" to tackling illegal migration. This was followed in 2019 by the signature of the Joint Action Plan on Combatting Illegal Migration Involving Small Boats. Under paragraph 11 of this plan, the UK committed €3.6m (approximately £3.25m) to tackling the issue. This was supplemented with a further €2.5m (£2.25m) in the 19/20 Financial Year, which was dedicated to the deployment of gendarme reservists and further strengthening preventive security measures at the French coast.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-02/HL5038/>

### **Legal Aid Scheme: Refugees**

**Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL4994]** To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to reintroduce legal aid for refugee family reunion cases.

**Reply from Lord Keen of Elie:** Legal aid for refugee family reunion may be available under the Exceptional Case Funding (ECF) scheme, where failure to provide legal aid would mean there is a breach or a risk of breach of the individual's human rights, and subject to means and merits tests.

Last year we amended the scope of legal aid so that separated migrant children are able to receive civil legal aid for applications by their family members and extended family members. This includes entry clearance, leave to enter, or leave to remain in the UK, made under the immigration rules or outside the rules on the basis of exceptional circumstances or compassionate and compelling circumstances.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-02/HL4994/>

### **Refugees: Families**

**Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL4993]** To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to expand the eligibility criteria for family reunion refugee status to include adult refugees sponsoring their (1) adult children, (2) parents, and (3) siblings under the age of 25; and whether they will allow unaccompanied children now in the UK to sponsor their parents and siblings under the age of 25.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government already provides a

safe and legal route to bring refugee families together through its family reunion policy. This allows a partner and children under 18 of those granted protection in the UK to join them here, if they formed part of the family unit before the sponsor fled their country.

Refugees can also sponsor adult dependent relatives living overseas to join them where, due to age, illness or disability, that person requires long-term personal care that can only be provided by relatives in the UK. There are separate provisions in the Rules to allow extended family to sponsor children to come here where there are serious and compelling circumstances.

Further, there is discretion to grant visas outside the Immigration Rules, which caters for extended family members in exceptional circumstances – including young adult sons or daughters who are dependent on family here and living in dangerous situations.

It is the Government's view that if children were allowed to sponsor family, this would risk creating incentives for more children to be encouraged, or even forced, to leave their family and risk hazardous journeys to the UK. This plays into the hands of criminal gangs who exploit vulnerable people and goes against our safeguarding responsibilities.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-02/HL4993/>

### **Refugees: Children**

**Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat)** [HL4979] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Draft Working Text for an Agreement between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the European Union on the transfer of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children makes it a mandatory obligation to (1) ensure family reunion, and (2) confer rights enforceable through domestic legal systems

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The UK published the draft legal text of our proposed agreement with the EU on the family reunion of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children on 19 May.

Under the terms of the draft legal text, the UK would act on requests from sending states where we are satisfied that the criteria for transfer as set out in the draft legal text are met. It is only right that all transfers are in a child's best interests and the legal text makes that clear. A transfer could be rejected, for example, where there are safeguarding concerns or failure to establish a proven family link as these transfers would not be in a child's best interests.

With regards to conferral of rights enforceable through domestic legal systems, the UK will abide by its international agreements and implement it in domestic law as appropriate. An individual's rights come from the UK's implementation of an international agreement, not from the agreement itself – this is standard practice for all international agreements.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-02/HL4979/>

*The draft agreement referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/886020/DRAFT\\_Agreement\\_on\\_the\\_transfer\\_of\\_unaccompanied\\_asylum-seeking\\_children.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/886020/DRAFT_Agreement_on_the_transfer_of_unaccompanied_asylum-seeking_children.pdf)

### **Asylum: Finance**

**Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour)** [HL5030] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 27 May (HL4183), whether the outcomes of the review of asylum support will be published by the end of June.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We review the level of financial support provided to asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute annually, using a methodology that has been in place since 2014 and which the courts have agreed is rational and lawful. The methodology takes account of the costs of food, clothes, toiletries and other items.

The standard weekly allowance has been raised to £39.60 from £37.75, an increase of around 5%, because the methodology showed this is now the amount the average asylum seeker needs to meet their essential living needs. This increase is considerably higher than current year to year rise in general inflation, which was reported to be 0.8% in April.

This allowance is only one part of the package of support provided. We also provide free accommodation, utilities are paid for, council tax is paid for, and there is free access to the NHS and free education for their children.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-02/HL5030/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-12/HL4183/>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Asylum: Nutrition**

**Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle (Green)** [HL5279] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 20 May (HL4160), whether a (1) breakfast of one slice of white bread with a small serving of butter and jam, and (2) dinner of chips, a slice of pizza without vegetables and a small serving of lettuce and half a tomato, reportedly served at Urban House Initial Accommodation Centre in Wakefield, meets the NHS Eatwell guidelines; and if so, what plans they have to review those guidelines.

**Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle (Green)** [HL5280] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the availability of meals for those with specific diet requirements, in particular for those who (1) are pregnant, (2) have diabetes, and (3) have coeliac disease, at Urban House Initial Accommodation Centre in Wakefield; and what discussions they intend to have with that Centre about the provision of such meals.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government strongly refutes the inaccurate reporting in relation to the food available at Urban House in Wakefield and the Home Office is in regular dialogue with its service providers around the services provided in Initial Accommodation.

Residents at Urban House in Wakefield are provided with three meals a day and the menu in use has been approved by a dietician and aligns with the NHS Eatwell guidance. The menu presents a list of options from which residents can choose.

The menu has been checked to ensure it aligns with medical, cultural and religious requirements as is required under the Asylum Accommodation and Support Contracts. In addition to the main meals provided, additional food is available throughout the course of the day for the residents.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-04/HL5279/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-04/HL5280/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-06/HL4160/>

## Asylum: Sri Lanka

**Lord Naseby (Conservative)** [HL5052] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Sri Lankan nationals sought asylum in the UK in (1) 2018, and (2) 2019, and how many were successful.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office publishes data on asylum applications in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release' (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>).

Data on the number of asylum applications from Sri Lankan nationals and the initial decision on such applications are published in the asylum and resettlement detailed datasets

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/asylum-and-resettlement-datasets>).

Table Asy\_D01 contains information on the number of asylum applications. Table Asy\_D02 contains information on initial decisions on such applications. In addition to those granted at initial decision, some will be granted following appeal. Data on the number of appeals lodged can be found in Asy\_D06, and data on the outcome of such appeals in Asy\_D07.

Additionally, the Home Office publishes a high-level overview of the data in the 'summary tables' (attached). The 'contents' sheet contains an overview of all available data on asylum and resettlement. The latest data relates to the year ending March 2020.

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

([https://www.gov.uk/search/research-and-statistics?keywords=immigration&content\\_store\\_document\\_type=upcoming\\_statistics&organisations%5B%5D=home-office&order=relevance](https://www.gov.uk/search/research-and-statistics?keywords=immigration&content_store_document_type=upcoming_statistics&organisations%5B%5D=home-office&order=relevance))

[Asylum summary tables](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-02/HL5052/>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### Immigrants: Detainees

**Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour)** [HL5218] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many new detentions under immigration powers there have been since 23 March; in which centres people were so detained and what was their country of origin; and of these how many involved (1) people transferred from prisons into immigration detention at the end of their prison sentences, (2) people detained after chance encounters with immigration enforcement, and (3) planned detentions.

**Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour)** [HL5219] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many transfers of detainees, whether from a prison to an immigration removal centre or from one immigration removal centre to another, have occurred since 23 March.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government published statistics relating to COVID-19 and the immigration system on gov.uk

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/statistics-relating-to-covid-19-and-the-immigration-system-may-2020>),

on 28 May and the latest Immigration Statistics publication

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2020>)

includes the numbers of individuals detained under immigration powers in prisons. Since the UK lockdown was announced on 23 March 2020 (up to the 30 April 2020), 295 people have entered detention, 231 of which were clandestine entrants held by UKVI for processing before being dispersed through appropriate routes. Those

being held for processing spend very short periods of time at a short-term holding facility and can only be held for a maximum of seven days. This does not include those who were transferred to the detention estate from prison. Statistics on people in immigration detention during the second quarter of 2020 (April to June) will be published in August in the immigration statistics quarterly release.

Immigration offenders encountered by Immigration Enforcement by chance or as part of a planned operation, will be considered for detention for the purpose of removal, on a case-by-case basis, by applying the published detention and adults at risk in immigration detention policies. Information on the current situation in any given country is used when making decisions to detain.

The safety and health of people in the detention estate are of the utmost importance. We are following all Public Health England guidance and have robust contingency plans in place. As of 17 June 2020, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in immigration removal centres.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-03/HL5218/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-03/HL5219/>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Immigrants: Detainees**

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL5095] To ask Her Majesty's Government what support was provided to those released from immigration removal centres as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL5096] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether those released from immigration removal centres as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic were required to provide the address at which they would be living on their release.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We remain committed to providing support and accommodation to those who need it. In light of the pandemic, we have introduced temporary measures to continue supporting those who would normally have had their accommodation and financial assistance stopped until at least the end of June when we will review the situation.

We are ensuring local authorities are supported, with £3.2 million in targeted funding to help support individuals who are sleeping rough off the streets, and an additional £3.2 billion provided to local authorities as part of the wider government response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding has been provided to help local authorities to reduce risks to public health and to support individuals on the basis of need.

In addition, local authorities may provide basic safety net support, regardless of immigration status, if it is established that there is a genuine care need that does not arise solely from destitution, for example, where there are community care needs, migrants with serious health problems or family cases where the wellbeing of a child is in question.

The legal position on those with no recourse to public funds has not been amended. People granted refugee status in the United Kingdom are able to access the mainstream benefits in the same way as a British Citizen.

Asylum seekers who would otherwise be unable to support themselves are provided with accommodation and financial assistance to meet their essential living needs.

Individuals released from immigration detention will usually be subject to certain conditions which may require a person to report to a Home Office reporting centre at regular intervals or to remain living at the same address. Any foreign national

offender released into the community on bail is subject to conditions and additional monitoring is available, including electronic tagging and telephone contact.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-02/HL5095/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-02/HL5096/>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Immigrants: Detainees**

**Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour)** [HL5215] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people are currently detained under immigration powers in (1) immigration removal centres, and (2) prisons, in the UK.

### **Deportation**

**Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour)** [HL5216] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many removals and deportations from the UK have been effected since 23 March, and to which countries.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office publishes data on people in detention and returns from the UK in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release'

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

Data on the number of people in detention under immigration powers by quarter and nationality are published in table Det\_D02 of the immigration detention detailed datasets

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

Data on the number of returns from the UK by type of return and destination are published in Ret\_D02 of the returns detailed datasets

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

The term 'deportations' refers to a legally-defined subset of returns which are enforced either following a criminal conviction or when it is judged that a person's removal from the UK is conducive to the public good. Information on those deported is not separately available and therefore the published statistics refer to all enforced returns. Additionally, the Home Office publishes a high-level overview of the data in the 'Summary tables'

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/immigration-statistics-data-tables-year-ending-march-2020#returns>).

The 'contents' sheet contains an overview of all available data on detention.

A statistical report Statistics relating to Covid-19 and the immigration system, May 2020

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/statistics-relating-to-covid-19-and-the-immigration-system-may-2020>),

released on 28 May 2020 provides further high-level information relating to detention and Covid-19 up to the end of April.

Figures covering the second quarter of 2020 will be published in the next Immigration Statistics release on 27 August 2020. Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the 'Research and statistics calendar'

([https://www.gov.uk/search/research-and-statistics?content\\_store\\_document\\_type=upcoming\\_statistics&organisations%5B%5D=home-office&order=release-date-oldest](https://www.gov.uk/search/research-and-statistics?content_store_document_type=upcoming_statistics&organisations%5B%5D=home-office&order=release-date-oldest)).

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-03/HL5215/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-03/HL5216/>

### **Deportation**

**Lord Pearson of Rannoch (Non-affiliated)** [HL5066] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many deportation orders (1) were issued, (2) were appealed, and (3) failed on appeal, in each year from 2014 to 2019; and in each of those years, how many people were deported.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Providing the information requested would require a manual check of individual records which could only be done at disproportionate cost.

The Home Office does routinely publish statistics on the number of Foreign National Offenders removed from the UK. This information can be found by accessing the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2020/list-of-tables>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-02/HL5066/>

### **Deportation: Coronavirus**

**Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour)** [HL5217] To ask Her Majesty's Government to which countries it is currently not possible to remove or deport people as a result of COVID-19 global travel restrictions; and whether they will publish a weekly list of these countries, updated with any new changes.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office continues to monitor the on-going changes to international flight restrictions and entry requirements imposed by receiving countries caused by the global response to COVID-19.

Enforced and voluntary returns continue on a case by case basis where we are able to do so. Given the difficulty of returning to many countries in the current situation and the constantly evolving conditions worldwide, it would not be practical to publish a list of countries where return is still not possible..

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-03/HL5217/>

### **Deportation: Zimbabwe**

**Lord Oates (Liberal Democrat)** [HL5234] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to suspend all removals of Zimbabwe citizens from the UK in the light of the political, economic and humanitarian situation in that country.

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

The Home Office only seeks to return those whose claims have been unsuccessful and who, by definition, do not need our protection and are not at risk on return. We work closely with other countries to ensure people are returned safely and with dignity.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-03/HL5234/>

## UK Parliament Early Day Motion

**Christine Jardine (Liberal Democrat) (606) Refugee resettlement** – That this House notes that there are an estimated 26 million refugees and 3.5 million asylum seekers around the world today; celebrates the successful resettlement of 20,000 refugees in the UK since 2014 under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS); notes that the Government committed to resettle a further 3,000 refugees under the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme (VCRS) by 2020, but that as of 31st March 2020 only 1,826 people had been resettled under the VCRS, including just 1,055 children; regrets that the Government has not yet set out details of the new global resettlement programme it has announced to replace the VPRS, VCRS and the Gateway Protection Programme; further regrets that the Government has not made a new commitment to relocate unaccompanied refugee children from elsewhere in Europe following the closure of the scheme under Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016; believes that the UK must continue to provide safe, legal routes to sanctuary for refugees; and calls on the Government to urgently set out a new long-term commitment to continue resettling vulnerable refugees in the UK and to commit to resettling a further 10,000 refugee children from elsewhere in Europe over the next 10 years.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/57118/refugee-resettlement>

## Press Releases

**Nation pays tribute to the Windrush Generation and their descendants**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nation-pays-tribute-to-the-windrush-generation-and-their-descendants>

**Welsh Government: Celebrating Refugee Week 2020**

<https://gov.wales/written-statement-celebrating-refugee-week-2020>

## New Publications

**EU Settlement Scheme Statistics, May 2020**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/893070/eu-settlement-scheme-statistics-may-2020.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/893070/eu-settlement-scheme-statistics-may-2020.pdf)

**Health protocol pre-entry health assessments for UK-bound refugees**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/892799/Badged\\_HA\\_protocol\\_IOM\\_HO\\_PHE\\_-\\_June\\_2020.odt.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/892799/Badged_HA_protocol_IOM_HO_PHE_-_June_2020.odt.pdf)

**Letter from Kevin Foster to Edward Leigh and Graham Stringer regarding the committee stage of the Immigration and Social Security Coordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill: measures for partners or spouses subject to the minimum income requirement under the family Immigration Rules, who experience a temporary loss of income due to COVID-19**

[http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2020-0315/letter\\_from\\_Kevin\\_Foster\\_to\\_ISSC\\_Bill\\_committee.pdf](http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2020-0315/letter_from_Kevin_Foster_to_ISSC_Bill_committee.pdf)

**Beyond Belief: How the Home Office fails survivors of torture at the asylum interview**

[https://freedomfromtorturestories.contentfiles.net/media/documents/Beyond\\_Belief\\_report.pdf](https://freedomfromtorturestories.contentfiles.net/media/documents/Beyond_Belief_report.pdf)

## News

### **Coronavirus: All foreign NHS staff 'should get free visa extension'**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-53043267>

### **'What about my wife and child?': The migrant health workers risking their lives yet excluded from visa extension scheme**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/coronavirus-home-office-visa-extension-home-affairs-select-committee-a9566766.html>

### **Ministers accused of 'betrayal' over NHS surcharge for migrants**

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/jun/18/ministers-accused-of-betrayal-over-nhs-surcharge-for-migrants>

### **Illegal immigration: No recent figure for UK, report finds**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-53075318>

### **Home Office has no idea how many illegal immigrants are in the UK, says National Audit Office**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/06/16/home-office-has-no-idea-many-illegal-immigrants-uk-says-national/>

### **Fight against illegal immigration hindered by lack of reliable figures**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/fight-against-illegal-immigration-hindered-by-lack-of-reliable-figures-69zwwlck7>

### **Channel migrants try to cross English Channel in fog**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-53067426>

### **Thousands of refugees set to be evicted from Home Office accommodation within two weeks**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/refugees-asylum-seekers-coronavirus-evicted-accommodation-home-office-a9569396.html>

### **Survey shows desire for new approach to refugee protection in Scotland**

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/survey-shows-desire-for-new-approach-to-refugee-protection-in-scotland/>

### **As a refugee, I know how we contribute to British society**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jun/15/as-a-refugee-i-know-how-we-contribute-to-british-society>

### **World Refugee Day message from Sabir Zazai, CEO, Scottish Refugee Council**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pHot3PQZ6Wo>

### **I Hear You | World Refugee Day 2020**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1tLN5j9su5g>

### **Almost 80 million people forced to flee their homes in 2019, according to UN**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/global-health/climate-and-people/almost-80-million-people-forced-flee-homes-2019-according-un/>

TOP

## Community Relations

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

#### **Schools: Community Relations**

**Naz Shah (Labour)** [57232] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, with reference to the recommendations made in the Integrated Communities Strategy green paper published by his Department on 14 March 2018 on social mixing for children from different backgrounds, what steps he is taking to improve social mixing between pupils of different ethnicities in schools in line with those recommendations.

**Reply from Luke Hall:** We set out an ambitious programme of actions in our Integrated Communities Action Plan to support the education sector to drive forward integration, as part of a cross-government commitment to building strong integrated communities

We recognise the important role that young people play in this agenda and the significance of forging meaningful connections and relationships with people from different backgrounds.

As part of this, we committed to working with the National Citizen Service Trust and DCMS to support social mixing opportunities for young people in areas of high segregation. We are also continuing to work with DfE to support the National Schools Linking Programme.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-09/57232/>

*The Green Paper referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/777160/Integrated\\_Communities\\_Strategy\\_Government\\_Response.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/777160/Integrated_Communities_Strategy_Government_Response.pdf)

*The Action Plan referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/778045/Integrated\\_Communities\\_Strategy\\_Govt\\_Action\\_Plan.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/778045/Integrated_Communities_Strategy_Govt_Action_Plan.pdf)

#### **Integrated Communities Innovation Fund**

**Naz Shah (Labour)** [57234] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, whether he has plans to extend the Integrated Communities Innovation Fund beyond 2020.

**Luke Hall:** We know that the causes of poor integration are complex and we have to admit that it will take generational change to truly deliver the well-integrated communities that we want to see. But first we need to know what works.

The Integrated Communities Innovation Fund (2019/20) supported 16 projects to test innovative approaches to integration and generate important learning on how to bridge divides and bring communities together.

The purpose of the Innovation Fund was to trial new approaches and address this evidence gap. In order to understand which interventions have been effective, we now need to review the findings. A national evaluator will compile this evidence, which will be shared widely and used to inform future policy.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-09/57234/>

TOP

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

#### **Ethnic Groups: Equality**

**Sajid Javid (Conservative)** [57945] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many full-time equivalent officials were employed by the Government in the Racial Disparity Unit on June 10 (a) 2020, (b) 2019 and (c) 2018.

**Reply from Chloe Smith:** The Race Disparity Unit became a fixed team in 2019. On 10 June 2020 there were 25 full-time equivalent officials; on 10 June 2019 there were 26 full-time equivalent officials.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-10/57945/>

#### **Mortality Rates: Ethnic Groups**

**Philip Davies (Conservative)** [58666] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what the mortality rates were for each ethnic group in each of the last five years.

**Reply from Chloe Smith:** The information requested falls under the remit of the UK Statistics Authority. I have therefore asked the Authority to respond. ...

Collecting information on the ethnic profile of individuals dying with COVID-19 presents practical and methodological challenges. This is because ethnicity is a self-identification measure reflecting how individuals define themselves, and guidance on the collection of ethnic group data in the UK states that responses on ethnicity should be answered by the individual directly, particularly if they are an adult<sup>1</sup>.

Since ethnicity is not collected on the death certificate, this means that estimating mortality differentials by ethnic group requires the use of the census mortality linked dataset. In this dataset, we have managed to link 90% of deaths to an individual who participated in the 2011 Census, based on the linkage keys. This means the dataset is representative of the risk of death to the population that is being followed up.

Using the census mortality linked dataset, we have published analysis of deaths involving COVID19 by ethnic group for the period between 2 March and 10 April<sup>2</sup>. We will be publishing an extension to this analysis on Friday 19 June, which includes deaths that occurred up to 15 May.

The dataset does not, however, directly measure emigrations since the 2011 Census, which is likely to be variable across ethnicities. This has the potential to introduce bias and underestimate the mortality risk because denominators do not represent the true population at risk at the start of the period reported in the analysis. More information about the methodology developed to reduce these limitations of the dataset can be found in section 7: 'Strengths and Limitations' of the report<sup>3</sup>.

We have not yet used this dataset to investigate mortality patterns by ethnic group for the past five years. However, we plan to use it to investigate mortality contrasts between 2011 and 2019, covering analysis for all causes and selected causes of deaths. This work will commence following the 19 June publication, which we will send to you.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ons.gov.uk/methodology/classificationsandstandards/measuringequality/ethnicgroupnationalidentityandreligion>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/articles/coronavirusrelateddeathsbyethnicgroupenglandandwales/2march2020to10april2020>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/articles/coronavirusrelateddeathsbyethnicgroupenglandandwales/2march2020to10april2020#strengths-and-limitations>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-11/58666/>

### **Pregnancy: Ethnic Groups**

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [59598] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to reduce mortality rates of black women in childbirth.

**Reply from Nadine Dorries:** The Department is funding the Maternal and Neonatal Policy Research Unit at the University of Oxford to investigate the factors associated with the excess perinatal mortality experienced by black, Asian and minority ethnic babies; and identify the factors associated with the excess risk of maternal death for black and South Asian women.

The NHS Long Term Plan outlines plans to reduce health inequalities and address unwarranted variation in maternity care. This work is led by NHS England through the Maternity Transformation Programme.

Targeted and enhanced continuity of care from the same midwife, or group of midwives can significantly improve outcomes for women. The NHS Long Term Plan sets out that 75% of black women will receive continuity of care from midwives by 2024.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-15/59598/>

### **Equal Pay: Ethnic Groups**

**Dawn Butler (Labour)** [57922] To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, if the Government will set a date for mandatory Ethnicity Pay Gap Reporting.

**Reply from Paul Scully:** The Government ran a consultation from October 2018 to January 2019 on Ethnicity Pay Reporting and received over 300 detailed responses. The Government has met with businesses and representative organisations to understand the barriers towards reporting and what information could be published to allow for meaningful action to be taken. We have also run voluntary methodology testing with a broad range of businesses to better understand the complexities outlined in the consultation using real payroll data.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-10/57922/>

### **Civil Service: Ethnic Groups**

**Dawn Butler (Labour)** [57923] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, if he will make an assessment of the potential merits of merging the four cross-departmental BAME staff networks in the Civil Service to improve efficiency.

**Reply from Chloe Smith:** These networks are led by civil servants on a voluntary basis, and the network leaders themselves felt that maintaining separate networks was important.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-10/57923/>

### **Ethnic Groups: Equality**

**Yasmin Qureshi (Labour)** [59405] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what steps the Racial Disparity Unit has taken to reduce racial disparities at local government level; and what assessment he has made of the effect on analysis by that Unit of including regional data categories.

**Reply from Chloe Smith:** The Unit engages local authorities to support their work to use data to identify and act on areas of local challenge. It is working to improve local authority data it holds to give an overview on the experiences and outcomes of different ethnic groups, and to support delivery of the levelling-up agenda.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-15/59405/>

### **Police: Ethnic Groups**

**Harriet Harman (Labour) [58600]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to increase the number and proportion of police officers from a black and ethnic minority background in (a) the Metropolitan Police Service and (b) police forces in England and Wales.

**Reply from Kit Malthouse:** Police forces have worked hard to improve equality and diversity in policing and the workforce is more diverse than ever before, however we know that we cannot be complacent. Our drive to recruit 20,000 officers gives us a significant opportunity to attract a wide range of people into a career in policing and support the police to become more representative of the communities they serve.

At 31 March 2019, there were 8,329 black, Asian and minority ethnic officers representing 6.9% of all police officers in England and Wales, compared with 4.7% in 2010.

The Metropolitan Police Service has the highest proportion of black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) officers in England and Wales (15.0%) and had almost 4,500 BAME officers in total. One in four new recruits joining the Metropolitan police were from a black, Asian and minority ethnic background in 2018/19.

We continue to work across policing to support forces in addressing under-representation in the recruitment, retention and progression of officers, including those from BAME backgrounds.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-11/58600/>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Metropolitan Police: Ethnic Groups**

**Harriet Harman (Labour) [58598]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of police officers in the Metropolitan Police Service are of a black or ethnic minority background.

**Harriet Harman (Labour) [58599]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of police officers at Chief Superintendent level or above in the Metropolitan Police Service are of a black or ethnic minority background.

**Reply from Kit Malthouse:** The Home Office collects and publishes data on the ethnicity and rank of police officers in England and Wales, broken down by Police Force Area, on an annual basis. The latest available data, covering the situation as at 31 March 2019, can be found in the Open Data Tables, published alongside the 'Police Workforce, England and Wales' statistics, available here:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/817735/open-data-table-police-workforce-ethnicity.ods](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/817735/open-data-table-police-workforce-ethnicity.ods)

Data as at 31 March 2020 are due to be published in July 2020.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-11/58598/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-11/58599/>

### Nurses: Ethnic Groups

**Matthew Offord (Conservative)** [54899] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how many people are employed as a (a) staff nurse, (b) senior staff nurse, (c) ward manager and (d) senior ward manager in England, by ethnicity.

**Reply from Helen Whately:** The Department holds data on the breakdown of staff nurses by ethnicity.

The data in the following table is taken from the Hospital and Community Health Services workforce statistics: 'Staff with a Job Role of Staff Nurse by Ethnicity', in National Health Service trusts and clinical commissioning groups in England, as at 29 February 2020, headcount.

Ethnic Category	Headcount
All Ethnic Categories	172,145
Asian or Asian British	26,034
Black or Black British	17,155
Chinese	627
Mixed	2,731
White	106,261
Any Other Ethnic Group	10,725
Discontinued codes	45
Not Stated	6,692
Unknown	1,875

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-04/54899/>

### Pupil Exclusions: Ethnic Groups

**Imran Hussain (Labour)** [59501] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many pupils were excluded in each local authority in each year since 2010 by ethnicity.

**Reply from Nick Gibb:** The National Statistics release 'Permanent and fixed-period exclusions in England 2017 to 2018' includes information on the number and rate of permanent and fixed period exclusions.

The release is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/permanent-and-fixed-period-exclusions-in-england-2017-to-2018>.

The underlying data includes information on exclusions by local authority. The data can be filtered to show local authority, year and school type. There is also a metadata file in the same area that gives details of the data files.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-15/59501/>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

### History: Education

**Rupa Huq (Labour)** [57301] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if he will make it his policy to include in the school curriculum mandatory lessons on (a) black history and (b) UK colonial history.

**Reply from Nick Gibb:** The Department is committed to an inclusive education system which recognises and embraces diversity and supports all pupils and students to tackle racism and have the knowledge and tools to do so.

The national curriculum is a framework setting out the content of what the Department expects schools to cover in each subject. The curriculum does not set out how curriculum subjects, or topics within the subjects, should be taught. The

Department believes teachers should be able to use their own knowledge and expertise to determine how they teach their pupils, and to make choices about what they teach.

As part of a broad and balanced curriculum, pupils should be taught about different societies, and how different groups have contributed to the development of Britain, and this can include the voices and experience of Black people. The flexibility within the history curriculum means that there is the opportunity for teachers to teach about Black history across the spectrum of themes and eras set out in the curriculum. For example, at Key Stage 1, schools can teach about the lives of key Black historical figures such as Mary Seacole and Rosa Parks or others; and at Key Stage 3, cover the development and end of the British Empire and Britain's transatlantic slave trade, its effects and its eventual abolition. The teaching of Black history need not be limited to these examples.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-09/57301/>

### **Football: Equality**

**Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated)** [HL5426] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to promote diversity in football.

**Reply from Baroness Barran:** It is vital that diversity is promoted in all levels of sport and the Government is committed to doing so.

The Government, through Sport England, is investing £2 million per year into the FA to support their work in ensuring the coaching workforce in football is more representative of wider society. This includes providing bursaries to develop coaching abilities from the grassroots to the elite levels of the game.

Government's sport and physical activity strategy 'Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation' has diversity and inclusion at its heart. The Government remains supportive of a number of anti-racism initiatives that work with English football from grassroots to the elite, which include Show Racism the Red Card and Kick it Out. The Government also supports the steps the football authorities (the FA, the Premier League and the English Football League) have taken during the current season to combat discrimination. This included actions targeted at and around football grounds such as, improving reporting systems, providing better training and support for referees and stewards; and improving the quality of CCTV around stadia.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-08/HL5426/>

*The strategy referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/486622/Sporting\\_Future\\_ACCESSIBLE.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/486622/Sporting_Future_ACCESSIBLE.pdf)

## **News**

**How the City's 'middle management' problem is stifling racial equality**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2020/06/15/citys-middle-management-problem-stifling-racial-equality/>

**Rev Aftab Gohar is the first South Asian Presbytery Moderator**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18519091.rev-aftab-gohar-first-south-asian-presbytery-moderator/>

**TOP**

# Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

## Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

### **Racism (Education System)**

**Keith Brown (SNP):** To ask the Scottish Government how issues relating to racism are addressed within the Scottish education system. (S5O-04430)

**Reply from the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills (John Swinney):** Helping children and young people to develop as responsible global citizens is a key feature of the curriculum in schools in Scotland. Learning about current and past attitudes and values and historical events, and their impact on society today, is a key element of the curriculum.

We all need to be vigilant in challenging any racist and abusive behaviour in our schools. Where it occurs, it must be challenged through educating children about all faiths and belief systems, and ensuring that they learn tolerance, respect and equality, and about healthy relationships.

**Keith Brown:** The cabinet secretary will be aware that there is substantial strength of feeling in Scotland following the Black Lives Matter protests and the highlighting of the need to face up to our colonial past. Many schools are making efforts to introduce anti-racism learning. An example of those is Alva academy, in my constituency, which has been awarded the status of a vision school for Holocaust education.

I understand that dealing with the coronavirus pandemic must be the Scottish Government's overriding concern at the moment. However, will the cabinet secretary consider how the Government might encourage further diversification in the curriculum, so that Scottish children are fully aware of Scotland's history, not least its shameful roles in slavery and colonisation?

**Reply from John Swinney:** I congratulate Alva academy on the prestigious award that it has received on achieving the status of a vision school for Holocaust education. On Tuesday I had the pleasure of discussing a range of educational issues with headteachers from the Clackmannanshire local authority area and Scott McEwan, the headteacher of Alva academy, was one of the participants. It is a great credit to the school that it has achieved that status.

While Scotland's curriculum is not prescriptive, it provides teachers with a flexible framework through the experiences and outcomes contained in the curriculum for excellence. Such a framework allows teachers and schools to teach what is appropriate for the learners in their own classrooms, schools and local authority areas. Education Scotland's national improvement hub contains materials to support teaching about slavery. The experiences and outcomes in social studies offer opportunities to teach black history. However, I acknowledge the significance of the issues that have been raised by the Black Lives Matter movement, so I intend to look afresh at our materials to ensure that the guidance and the experiences and outcomes adequately address the point that Mr Brown has raised.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12702&i=114932#ScotParlOR>

### **Racism and Slavery (School Education)**

**John Mason (SNP):** To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the Black Lives Matter campaign, how dealing with racism and Scotland's links with slavery are taught in schools. (S5O-04431)

**Reply from the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills (John Swinney):** Diversity, equality and respect for others are at the heart of policies supporting school education in Scotland. Learning about current and past attitudes, values and historical events and their impact on society today forms part of the curriculum in Scottish schools.

The curriculum for excellence experiences and outcomes provide opportunities to teach black history by exploring a variety of issues, including slavery, human trafficking and exploitation. In addition, the study of slavery can form part of national 5, higher and advanced higher history national qualification courses.

**John Mason:** At the weekend, I was listening to someone speak about his experience of growing up in Scotland as a mixed race or biracial young person. Some of those folk can face particular challenges in our schools and elsewhere. Does the cabinet secretary think that there is adequate support on such issues for young people in our schools?

**Reply from John Swinney:** The fundamental answer to Mr Mason's question must lie in the application of the values that are at the heart of our curriculum and which are also engraved on the mace that sits in front of the Presiding Officer: wisdom, justice, compassion and integrity. We look to each individual school to ensure that such values are instilled and reflected in its ethos.

Although I am not doing so just now, for obvious reasons, I usually spend a vast amount of my time in schools around the country. What I see there, at first hand, is the translation of those values from our mace here in the Parliament into the ethos and the values of our schools. Many of the questions that Mr Mason has, fairly, raised with me can be confronted there, to ensure that young people have an experience that educates and equips them to address, handle and respect the diversity that exists in our society. That must be part of the ethos of individual schools, because it must be part of the ethos of our society.

Learning about what leads to and prompts the disgraceful events that we saw in George Square in Glasgow last night is an important part of the current appreciation that young people in our education system must understand.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12702&i=114933#ScotParlOR>

### **Protests: Glasgow**

**Sandra White (SNP):** The minister will be aware of Tommy Ga-Ken Wan, a Scottish-Chinese gentleman who is a photographer in Glasgow. He was racially abused and punched on the head. According to Tommy, the police threatened him with action if he did not leave. A staff member for *The Herald*, who was also there, said: "Went along to #GeorgeSquare today—folk patrolling the perimeter threatening people who are taking photos ... After being approached by a few men I deleted most of my pictures".

Can the cabinet secretary outline what action the police can and should take in such circumstances and why no action was taken on Sunday against those thugs?

**Reply from Humza Yousaf:** I was deeply moved by Tommy Ga-Ken Wan's comments and the story of the disgraceful incident that he had to face. As someone who has also publicly faced racist abuse, I know how hurtful it can be. I read his account in the *Glasgow Times* this morning. I was deeply moved by it and ashamed that we live in a country where someone has to suffer that racial abuse. I offer solidarity to Tommy during this difficult time.

Over the years, including before I was justice secretary but particularly during my time in this role, I have spoken about hate crime to Police Scotland's most senior police officers—chief constables, deputy chief constables and assistant chief constables. There is zero tolerance for hate crime in any form.

With regard to the specific incident that Sandra White raised and the disappointment that Tommy expressed in his story, the chief constable is accountable for police operations. Therefore, if Sandra White has not already done so, she should write to the chief constable, who will undoubtedly respond. If Tommy is equally unhappy with Police Scotland's actions in regard to this particular incident, he can also make a formal complaint about it. If he is not satisfied with the response to his complaint to Police Scotland, he can make a complaint to the Police Investigations and Review Commissioner in relation to the handling of that complaint. There are

avenues to take that forward.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12697&i=114850&c=2261802#ScotParlOR>

## Scottish Parliament Motions

**S5M-22082 James Dornan (SNP): Condemning Far Right Activities in Glasgow's George Square** – That the Parliament is concerned regarding reports of confrontations between far right protesters and opposed demonstrators in Glasgow's George Square on 17 June 2020; considers that issues with far right groups have been an ongoing problem in Scotland, primarily in Glasgow, for some time; commends the police for the way they have dealt with these recent events, and believes that it is time for an investigation into far right organisations in Scotland.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-22082>

**S5M-22073 Keith Brown (SNP): Alva Academy, A Vision School for Holocaust Education** – That the Parliament commends Alva Academy on being awarded the status of a Vision School for Holocaust Education; congratulates both students and teachers on this prestigious award, which is a testament to the phenomenal work undertaken at the academy; understands that this award is in partnership with the University of West of Scotland; recognises that Holocaust education comprises learning about and from the Holocaust, contributing to anti-racist education and education for citizenship, supporting religious equality and explores the wider contemporary relevance of the Holocaust; believes that anti-racist education should be actively promoted in all schools across Scotland; notes that the Vision Schools project aims to promote excellence in Holocaust teaching by rewarding innovation, encouraging sharing of good practice and is part of a whole-establishment approach to promoting equality and inclusion and challenging discrimination and prejudice, and strongly believes that anti-Semitism and racism have no place in Scotland.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-22073>

## UK Parliament Ministerial Statement and Q&A

### Public Order

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Priti Patel):** Like all Members of this House, I was saddened and sickened at the far-right thugs who came to London this weekend on a so-called mission to protect the statue of Sir Winston Churchill, claiming to want to protect our country's heritage, yet failing to understand that our country's heritage is founded on a set of shared values—tolerance, respect for people and property, and adherence to the rule of law. Those thugs, far from protecting our heritage, did all that they could to destroy and undermine those values. There is no place for their sickening conduct and hate in our society. They were violent, they were aggressive and abusive towards police officers, and they were patently racist. It is right that a good number have been arrested.

I would now like to give the House the latest operational update from the police. In total, more than 210,000 people have attended demonstrations across the country following the death of George Floyd. At least 160 protests took place this weekend, with the vast majority passing peacefully, but counter-demonstrations sparked ugly scenes.

On Saturday, 2,000 people attended counter-protests in Westminster, with eruptions of

violence throughout the day. Racists and far-right hooligans clashed with the police and fights broke out. Smoke bombs and glass bottles were lobbed at the police in shameful scenes. Thirty-eight officers were hurt across the country this weekend as they were kicked, punched or pelted with missiles. On Saturday alone, there were 137 arrests for offences including assaults on officers, violent disorder, breaches of the peace, possession of offensive weapons and class A drugs, and drunk and disorderly behaviour. In total, at least 100 officers have now been injured, as well as three police horses and one police dog, and at least 280 arrests have been made.

As that ugly operational picture demonstrates, many of the so-called protesters came with the deliberate intent of causing harm to those around them and to police officers. That hooliganism is utterly indefensible. ...

The senseless violence is taking a huge toll on our police. On Friday, I spoke to officers from forces in England and Wales who had been attacked in the line of duty to hear at first hand the devastating impact on them and their loved ones. Their accounts have only strengthened my resolve to step up the support for our police. An attack on our brave police is an attack on us all. ...

The Government are considering all options to stop those who seek to attack emblems of our national sacrifice and pride ... My message today is simple: actions have consequences. I want vicious individuals held to account for the violence and criminality that they perpetrate. I want to see them arrested and brought to justice.

Finally, I turn to the unprecedented national health crisis we find ourselves in. Coronavirus has tragically taken the lives of more than 40,000 people in our country. To protect us all and to stop the spread of the deadly disease, any large gatherings remain unlawful. The severe public risk forces me again to urge the public not to attend future gatherings or protests: if you do so, you put your loved ones at risk. ...

**Nick Thomas-Symonds (Labour):** ... Like everyone in this House, I was appalled by the scenes in London this weekend. The violence, intimidation and antisocial behaviour were unacceptable, and as I said over the weekend, we condemn these acts absolutely.

It was clear that people, including the far right, had come out with the intention of causing violence, coupled with Nazi salutes and missiles hurled at the police. ...

In these terrible scenes, we were reminded once again of the bravery, dedication and professionalism of our frontline police officers, and we again owe them a debt of gratitude. ...

The Prime Minister should also be clear that we will not allow him to move the focus from the action to address the discrimination that people face now. Let us be clear: there should be no attempt to draw comparisons between those who were intent on violence this weekend and the legitimate cause of the Black Lives Matter campaigners, who have brought attention to the impact that racism and inequality continue to have both here in the UK and across the world. Now is the time for action. To borrow a phrase from another movement for equality and justice, what is required now are deeds not words.

The Prime Minister's decision to announce yet another review falls woefully short of what is required, because he could act now. ... The Prime Minister has the power to act now. Are we not in the middle of a powerful national moment when more delay is not the answer? ...

**Reply from Priti Patel:** ... peaceful protest remains an essential and vital part of our democratic society. Of course black lives matter. The movement itself and the response in terms of the points that they have been making ... are absolutely important and essential. It is vital that we look at the ways in which we can address the issues of inequality and social justice across our country and society. That is why the Prime Minister has announced a new cross-Government commission to effectively champion the voice of black and minority ethnic groups in particular. ... These inequalities are live inequalities, which means, as the hon. Gentleman rightly

said, we must act now. The aim of the commission, importantly, is to set out something that is forward looking and positive: a positive agenda of change that balances the needs of individuals, communities and society, but maximises opportunities and ensures fairness for all. ...

**Joanna Cherry (SNP):** ... I am on record as a vigorous defender of free speech and the right to peaceful assembly, but the violence and racist behaviour we saw at the weekend was totally unacceptable ...

... it is very important that we do not let this reprehensible public disorder and the debate about statues distract us from the most important issue: the inequalities suffered by black and minority ethnic people in modern Britain. ...

The Prime Minister has announced yet another review, but what we need is not another review but action on the recommendations of the many other reviews that have already reported. ... When will this House get to debate the terms of the review and the way in which it is to be conducted? What is stopping the Government implementing the recommendations of the “Windrush lessons learned” review without further delay? When will the full findings of the Public Health England report be put into the public domain, and will the Government implement the recommendations of Professor Kevin Fenton? Finally, what is stopping the Home Secretary getting rid of policies such as no recourse to public funds, which we know impact adversely and disproportionately on black and minority ethnic children? ...

**Kieran Mullan (Conservative):** Those who seek to destroy public order are trying to divide us, when in fact the British public speak as one. We stand against racism, we stand against violence and vandalism conducted by whomever and for whatever reason, and we support our police. Does my right hon. Friend agree that those individuals seeking to violently foster division deserve to face the full force of the law?

**Reply from Priti Patel:** ... we are all one nation and we are all one community. We can celebrate our differences, but at this time in particular we should be coming together to work together to address many of the issues that have been raised. ...

**Imran Ahmad Khan (Conservative):** Over the last few weeks, we have sadly witnessed vile attacks perpetrated by violent extremists of all stripes on our streets. Further, the Home Secretary and I, along with other Conservative colleagues, have been subject to torrents of hateful prejudice and, frankly, racist abuse from the left’s legions outside as well as, sadly, in the case of my right hon. Friend, from sources on the Opposition Benches as we refuse to conform to their prejudices. Does the Home Secretary agree that the Leader of the Opposition should condemn all these attacks and support the full weight of the law being applied equally to everyone, no matter how righteous they believe their views are?

**Reply from Priti Patel:** ... He is absolutely right. We should collectively call out racist and intolerant behaviour. I am saddened that the Leader of the Opposition has effectively failed to depart from the divisive, hateful, racist politics of his party’s former leader. ...

**Mary Kelly (Labour):** This weekend we saw neo-fascists and the far right marching on the streets of Britain. Now more than ever, we need a Government and a Home Office that can be trusted to tackle the racism and prejudice that still exists in British society, yet the lessons learned report on Windrush found that the Home Office displayed “ignorance and thoughtlessness” on issues of race, while the majority of the victims of that policy are still without compensation. Given that, can the Home Secretary tell me how people can be expected to trust the Home Office to adequately address racism in British society?

**Reply from Priti Patel:** ... When it comes to compensation ... every single case is treated in the right way: individually. These are all individuals who have experienced a great deal of suffering through dreadful treatment, yes by the Home Office but also by successive Governments. It is important that everybody in this House recognises that when it comes to compensation, every single person is a victim and every single person deserves the right kind of treatment, commitment and support

so that they receive the right level of compensation. ...

**To read this very lengthy question and answer session in full see**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-06-15/debates/88A5B876-13BE-4E00-ACBE-46CC62C179F2/PublicOrder>

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

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/874022/6.5577\\_HO\\_Windrush\\_Lessons\\_Learned\\_Review\\_WEB\\_v2.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874022/6.5577_HO_Windrush_Lessons_Learned_Review_WEB_v2.pdf)

*The Public Health England report referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/892085/disparities\\_review.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/892085/disparities_review.pdf)

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

### Black Lives Matter Movement

**Owen Thompson (SNP):** What recent assessment [has the Minister] made of the implications of the Black Lives Matter movement for the priorities of the Government Equalities Office. [903364]

**Reply from the Minister for Equalities (Kemi Badenoch):** No one should face discrimination. Individual Departments and their Ministers must take account of the equality impact of their policies, and I can assure the House that my ministerial colleagues take this very seriously. Across the whole of Government, we have already taken significant steps to tackle the sorts of concerns raised by the Black Lives Matter movement, including continuing to act on the Lammy report, working to improve trust between citizens and police forces and ensuring that record numbers of ethnic minority people continue to go to university.

**Owen Thompson:** Over the past two weeks, we have heard members of the Government, including the Prime Minister, repeat that black lives matter, yet their policies fail to reflect that. The Unity Project's report presented the Home Office with evidence that the "no recourse to public funds" policy discriminates against black British children and leaves them growing up in poverty. What steps can the Minister take to protect black, Asian and minority ethnic groups, and black people in particular, against further discrimination to ensure that the UK Government's words are matched by their actions?

**Reply from Kemi Badenoch:** I thank the hon. Gentleman for his question. The issue of no recourse to public funds has been raised multiple times, and the Government are doing many things to tackle situations in which people who may not necessarily have been able to access public funds are able to do so. For example, the Government are ensuring that anyone who needs NHS treatment is not being charged, and programmes such as the coronavirus job retention scheme are available to people who have no recourse to public funds.

**Anne McLaughlin (SNP):** I wonder whether the Minister agrees that some racism is down to unconscious bias, and helping people to recognise and address their own bias could make a real difference. If she agrees, will she welcome the creation of the all-party parliamentary group on unconscious bias? It will conduct several investigations, starting with racial bias, so will she commit to working alongside us and to consider any recommendations with an open mind?

**Reply from Kemi Badenoch:** ... that is something that I can definitely agree to.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-06-17/debates/2596F683-642B-443B-BAFA-A13F7E5457EF/BlackLivesMatterMovement>

*The Lammy report, referred to above, can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/643001/lammy-review-final-report.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/643001/lammy-review-final-report.pdf)

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

### Home Office: Racial Discrimination

**Catherine West (Labour)** [53544] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to tackle racism.

**Reply from Kit Malthouse:** Tackling racially motivated hate crime remains a priority for this Government. The Home Office are supporting a range of projects to tackle racism, including Show Racism the Red Card and the Anne Frank Trust, organisations who work with young people across the country to challenge prejudice and discrimination.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-02/53544/>

### Hate Crime

**Naz Shah (Labour)** [57233] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what plans he has to maintain the programmes linked to the Hate Crime Action Plan beyond 2020.

**Luke Hall:** The Government is committed to preventing and tackling hate crime and with the participation of our civil society partners we are considering a range of options to tackle hate crime beyond the current action plan. In the interim we have ensured that key hate crime projects remain funded and we have launched a competitive grant scheme for 2020-21 to support projects related to our hate crime objectives with funds worth up to £2 million.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-09/57233/>

*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)

### Racial Discrimination

**Naz Shah (Labour)** [57235] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, how much funding his Department allocates from the public purse to tackling racism each year; and what proportion of his Department's resources has been allocated to race equality in 2019-2020.

**Luke Hall:** All forms of hate crime are completely unacceptable and tackling racially motivated hate crime remains a priority for this government.

MHCLG paid approximately £219,000 to projects specifically to target racism in the financial year 19/20. These include Show Racism the Red Card and the Anne Frank Trust who work with young people across the country to challenge prejudice and discrimination. We are also supporting Kick It Out to tackle racism in sport and have confirmed funding for the Kingston Race Equality Council to improve support for victims of racially motivated hatred nationally.

In addition to this, 2019 saw the first provision of an annual £500,000 grant to support Windrush Day celebrations. This annual grant will be providing £500,000 to a further 49 projects this year. Government has also committed to spending a total of £1 million on the Windrush monument, which will be placed in London Waterloo Station.

We are committed to continue promoting shared values among people of all backgrounds through sustainable social integration and meaningful civic participation, whilst tackling and preventing religiously and racially discriminatory behaviour. To support this, we have launched a competitive grant scheme for 2020-21 to support projects in this space, with a budget of up to £2 million.

### **Hate Crime: Coronavirus**

**Mark Hendrick (Labour)** [58642] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to tackle the increase in (a) xenophobia and (b) hate crimes reported in relation to the covid-19 outbreak.

**Reply from Kit Malthouse:** The Home Office are working closely with the National Police Chief's Council to ensure that all police forces are providing reassurance to affected communities and encouraging hate crime reporting during the pandemic. The Government are also working with civil society partners to understand whether there are issues of underreporting at this time.

Government continues to work with communities around the country and the police to ensure people of all backgrounds have access to the latest information and are supported through this period.

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

### **Black Lives Matter: Protests**

**The Lord Bishop of St Albans:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of ongoing protests led by the Black Lives Matter movement, and the consequent removal of statues and monuments.

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

My Lords, I understand the strength of feeling around the death of George Floyd and peaceful protest remains a vital part of a democratic society. However, coronavirus remains a real and present threat to all of us and mass gatherings for whatever reason risk spreading the disease. I condemn all forms of illegal activity. Changes to the urban architecture should be affected through democratic processes and not by criminal damage.

**The Lord Bishop of St Albans:** ... Racism is deeply embedded, and it affects every part of society, including the Church. We all have much to do to confront it. Indeed, it is possible to remove statues from public places without dealing with the fundamental nature of the problem. Will another commission be any more successful in stopping the demolition of statues than the Lammy review, the Angiolini review, the *Windrush Lessons Learned Review*, and the review from the noble Baroness, Lady McGregor-Smith? Would it not be cheaper and quicker for Her Majesty's Government to implement the recommendations of those reviews, committing proper resources and leadership to drive through the change we so desperately need?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** ... Overall, the strategic response to everything we have seen over the past couple of weeks is that we have to work together, not only in government but in society, locally and nationally, to affect the societal change that is so desperately needed.

**Lord Boateng (Labour):** My Lords, whatever one thinks of the merits or demerits of individual statues or the events of last weekend, those events highlight the living reality of racism in our country. ...

**Baroness Benjamin (Liberal Democrat):** My Lords, monuments are intended to commemorate important and significant events in our history. Black history needs to be addressed. I am proud to chair the Windrush Commemoration Committee, which, under the auspices of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, will unveil in 2022 a Windrush monument at Waterloo station, where thousands of Caribbeans

arrived. ... This must not be a one-off, so will the Government consider commissioning more such monuments, such as a national slavery monument, to document our history and demonstrate that black lives really do matter?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** I commend the noble Baroness on all that she has done in securing a Windrush Day and on the work she has done on the Windrush monument at Waterloo to commemorate those people who arrived here to rebuild this country after the war. On a national slavery monument, I do not know whether the noble Baroness knows the International Slavery Museum in Liverpool ... positioned as it is, in the very heart of a city built in many ways on slavery, it is a reminder to us all of why black lives matter.

**Lord Ribeiro (Conservative):** My Lords, do not take down statues; take down racism. These were the words of Sir Geoff Palmer, Scotland's first black professor and currently emeritus professor of life sciences at Heriot-Watt University. I agree with these sentiments and believe that the statues should remain, but they should have a clear description attached detailing the contributions made by the subjects and how they achieved their wealth and status. ...

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** I wholeheartedly agree with my noble friend. To take things down is to erase history, and erasing history is absolutely not what we should be about in educating our children about the misdemeanours of the past, as well as the great things of the past—the people who built our country. He is absolutely right: we should take down racism but not legacies of our history, which seek to educate us all. I pass many statues in and around Westminster. Some of them are offensive to me. I understand why others are there and they are a learning point for history.

**Baroness Kidron (Crossbench):** I agree with those who say that we should not attempt to erase history, but our public spaces, just like our curriculum, our cultural narratives and our public institutions, reflect only a partial history of Britain. Protestors are not trying to forget that; rather, they are demanding to be remembered. This morning, the PM wrote that he will resist with every breath in his body the editing or photoshopping of history, but perhaps the Minister will acknowledge that the most egregious editing in the last week was not the removal of the statue of a slave trader in Bristol but the Government's decision to delay publishing the Public Health England recommendations that found that systemic racism and inequalities led to excessive deaths of BAME Britons from Covid-19.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** My Lords, I cannot concur with the noble Baroness. This Government have acted on the advice of scientists. Any life that is lost is a life too many, and this is a novel virus that has affected some communities more than others. We are still trying to understand why, but we should not conflate that with addressing where the roots of racism lie in our country, because there is no doubt that the events of the last two weeks have not just happened randomly. There is a deep-rooted feeling of inequality in some communities in this country. ...

**Lord Rosser (Labour):** ... the Government do not lack information on the reality and impact of the racial discrimination which has driven the recent peaceful protests, as opposed to lacking the determination to act with speed on that information. If the Government reject this view, can the Minister say what specific action to address racial discrimination has been taken as a result of the release of data from the Government's own racial disparity audits over the last two and three-quarter years, and what has been the impact of that action on reducing racial disparities and discrimination?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** My Lords, we certainly do not lack a determination to act. ... the previous Prime Minister was the first to publish the *Race Disparity Audit*, which has helped immeasurably in the Government committing to looking after their own back yard in improving race disparity across the piece in government.

**Baroness Hussein-Ece (Liberal Democrat):** My Lords, it is ironic that the removal last week of the statue of slave trader Edward Colston has provided more information about Britain's role in the Atlantic slave trade than any history lesson in our schools. ... The Prime Minister has said more about Churchill's statue than he has about the number of BAME people disproportionately dying of Covid-19 and the racism they face ... To demonstrate the Government's said commitment to eradicate racism and address the concerns of Black Lives Matter, will the Minister recognise that the recommendations in the Covid-19/BAME review need to be fully implemented, as does the report by the noble Baroness, Lady McGregor-Smith, on workplace discrimination, which is now three years old? Will the Government also do more to make sure that all schools address the vacuum regarding Britain's colonial history, which will help to ensure that black and minority ethnic children and young people understand their history and their sense of identity in this country?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** ...The noble Baroness's comments go to the heart of the problem, which is that the criminal damage done has completely taken away from what we should be discussing: our history and educating children. This country is one of the best in the world in which to live. But making that understanding should be much more a part of a child's education.

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

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-06-15/debates/B72689C1-A77E-4BF7-927A-46C30A17E81C/BlackLivesMatterProtests>

*The Lammy review, referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/643001/lammy-review-final-report.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/643001/lammy-review-final-report.pdf)

*The Angiolini review, referred to above, can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/655401/Report\\_of\\_Angiolini\\_Review\\_ISBN\\_Accessible.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/655401/Report_of_Angiolini_Review_ISBN_Accessible.pdf)

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

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/874022/6.5577\\_HO\\_Windrush\\_Lessons\\_Learned\\_Review\\_WEB\\_v2.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874022/6.5577_HO_Windrush_Lessons_Learned_Review_WEB_v2.pdf)

*The McGregor-Smith review, referred to above, can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/594336/race-in-workplace-mcgregor-smith-review.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/594336/race-in-workplace-mcgregor-smith-review.pdf)

*The Race Disparity Audit, referred to above, can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/686071/Revised\\_RDA\\_report\\_March\\_2018.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/686071/Revised_RDA_report_March_2018.pdf)

### **Armed Forces: Racism and Diversity**

**Lord Touhig (Labour):** To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking (1) to address racism, and (2) to improve diversity, in the Armed Forces.

**The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Baroness Goldie):** My Lords, recent events have brought the issues of racism and diversity into sharp relief. While the Ministry of Defence has long recognised that any form of racism or discrimination is absolutely unacceptable and has continued to challenge itself to become more diverse and inclusive, we recognise that the pace of change needs to quicken. Efforts are being redoubled to fulfil the key objectives in the *Defence Diversity and Inclusion Strategy 2018-2030* to eliminate discrimination and improve diversity throughout defence.

**Lord Touhig:** My Lords, last year 12% of service complaints were made by BAME personnel, despite the fact that they make up just 8% of our Armed Forces. A third of those complained of bullying, harassment and discrimination. Clearly there is a problem. The whole House will welcome the announcement of the Chief of the Defence Staff that the

defence chiefs will meet regularly to change the “lived experience” of BAME personnel. Can the Minister tell us what that means precisely? How will it make a difference, and will the House receive regular reports on the progress of this initiative?

**Reply from Baroness Goldie:** We owe it to our black, Asian and minority-ethnic personnel to understand these issues from their perspective. We must listen and continue making change happen. I assure the noble Lord that this will be led from the most senior level. I am the Defence Minister responsible for diversity and inclusion. Chiefs of staff, senior management and personnel are all now engaged in addressing the challenges and ensuring that the laudable objectives of the diversity and inclusion strategy are delivered.

**Lord Sheikh (Conservative):** My Lords, I encourage the ethnic minorities to join the Armed Forces. The problem is that very few are promoted above the middle ranks, which causes frustration. Furthermore, ethnic minorities make up only 2.5% of officers, which is very low. For us to improve diversity and assist the mental and spiritual well-being of servicemen, chaplains of all religions need to be full-time officers. Muslim and Sikh chaplains have received full officer training but are part-time reservists. They need to be regular full-time officers with adequate rights. Can my noble friend the Minister look at this point?

**Reply from Baroness Goldie:** I listened with great interest to the point raised by my noble friend. I have no specific information about the appointment of chaplains or the backgrounds from which they are appointed. I shall investigate and write further to him.

**Lord Houghton of Richmond (Crossbench):** My Lords, I have never thought it entirely fair to hold the Armed Forces to account at an individual level for being a mirror image of the society from which they are drawn, with all the imperfections that implies. It is an inevitability. However, I absolutely agree that, in institutional terms, our Armed Forces should strive to be exemplars of the very best that can be achieved in values and standards. Can the Minister therefore inform the House what has been achieved since 2016 in policy terms in the areas of bullying, harassment, discrimination and opportunities for women?

**Reply from Baroness Goldie:** I reassure the noble and gallant Lord that various initiatives and programmes have been deployed within the Armed Forces to cover these very areas of concern. If we want to prevent this unacceptable behaviour, we must create a culture within our civilian and military workforce that represents, includes and celebrates all elements of the society that we defend. Within the MoD, we need to institutionalise anti-racism.

**Lord West of Spithead (Labour):** My Lords, the Royal Navy is very conscious of the need to tackle racism and improve diversity, not only because it is right to do so but because it enhances its effectiveness—and, at the end of the day, the Navy’s job in extremis is to fight and win. For the last seven years, the Royal Navy has been listed by Stonewall in the top 100 employers. It was recorded in the *Times*’s top 50 employers for women 2019 and in the top 50 employers for social mobility. Sadly, only 4.2% of the total regular service are BAME; a target of 10% intake into the forces has been set for 2020. Where do we stand on the Wigston report on inappropriate behaviours, dated 15 July 2019, what are the timings of the implementation of its recommendations and who is ensuring that they are implemented?

**Reply from Baroness Goldie:** First, I commend the Royal Navy for the fine example that it has been giving. I say to the noble Lord that, in pursuance of the diversity and inclusion strategy, to which I referred, numerous procedures are now afoot to advance awareness, to educate, to audit and to monitor performance. As the Minister with responsibility for this issue, I am certainly very clear that I shall be driving forward these checks, tests and examinations, and progress.

**Baroness Smith of Newnham (Liberal Democrat):** My Lords, the Minister rightly said

that the culture needs to institutionalise anti-racism, but what can she offer in terms of a more immediate response to service men and women who are suffering from racism and bullying? At the end of last year, the Services Complaints Ombudsman said that racism was on the rise in the UK's Armed Forces and that incidents of racism were occurring with "increasing and depressing frequency". Changing the culture is necessary, but we need to have results sooner than that might entail.

**Reply from Baroness Goldie:** The noble Baroness is correct to focus on results. I share her interest in doing that and, within my ministerial role, I will endeavour to ensure that that happens. I reassure her by saying that just this week departmental-wide communications have been released by the Permanent Secretary and the Chief Operating Officer. Indeed, the Chief Operating Officer proposed a step-by-step plan to diversify the organisation, starting immediately. On Monday this week, I briefed my Secretary of State and ministerial colleagues on diversity and inclusion, and this very afternoon I shall be part of the MoD all-staff dial-in in respect of diversity and inclusion. I shall certainly reiterate the message of inclusion, try to reassure staff that concerns will be listened to and, in particular, invite the input of staff from minority backgrounds to get involved. I want to hear from them.

**Baroness Falkner of Margravine (Non-affiliated):** My Lords, the target for female representation at 15%, as set out in the biannual diversity report, seems to me too low. Why are they not being more ambitious, with a higher target? Nearly half the BAME staff are of non-UK nationality. Why are they not succeeding in recruiting people from United Kingdom BAME communities, and what lessons can be learned from the recruitment for Future Forces 2020, which seems to have a much better record with both women and BAME communities?

**Reply from Baroness Goldie:** We are anxious to learn from any source about how we might improve our approach, but it would be wrong to imagine that no good things are happening. A number of very good things are happening and very positive developments are taking place. However, particularly having regard to the events of recent weeks, it is critical that we reassure staff within the MoD that this is not some transient focus of attention. There is now an ongoing serious conversation that will continue. It is being driven by the senior levels of management and personnel and at the ministerial level within the MoD.

**Baroness Verma (Conservative):** Will my noble friend work with her colleagues at the Department for Education to ensure that history lessons reflect the contributions made by service people of colour? Will she provide the House with a copy of guidance that provides the Armed Forces with a clear interpretation of how to ensure genuine access to opportunities in real career progression? Will she meet me to discuss the work that I have done in other sectors on inclusion and diversity?

**Reply from Baroness Goldie:** I might be able to offer my noble friend some reassuring examples of the strategies that are currently being deployed to address the very issues that she referred to. I shall of course be very happy to meet her to discuss her own experiences. As I said in response to an earlier question, if there is anyone or anywhere from whom or from which we can learn, we shall do that.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-06-17/debates/62EA3CE9-FC34-4DE5-97C8-930DC2442131/ArmedForcesRacismAndDiversity>

*The Strategy referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/746911/20180806-MOD\\_DI\\_Plan\\_A4\\_v14\\_Final-U.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/746911/20180806-MOD_DI_Plan_A4_v14_Final-U.pdf)

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

### Religious Hatred: Prosecutions

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL5092] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many cases involving anti-Semitism or Islamophobia were prosecuted in UK courts in (1) 1980, (2) 2000, and (3) 2015.

**Reply from Lord Keen of Elie:** The Ministry of Justice has published information on prosecutions in England and Wales for racially or religiously aggravated offences, however to identify which of these, or wider hate crime offences involved anti-Semitism or Islamophobia would require a manual search of court records which would be of disproportionate cost.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-02/HL5092/>

## Press Release

**European Parliament condemns all forms of racism, hate and violence and calls for action**

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20200615IPR81223/parliament-condemns-all-forms-of-racism-hate-and-violence-and-calls-for-action>

## New Publications

**European Parliament resolution on the anti-racism protests following the death of George Floyd**

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2020-0173\\_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2020-0173_EN.pdf)

**Home Truths: Undoing racism and delivering real diversity in the charity sector**

[https://www.acevo.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/ACEVO\\_Voice4Change\\_home\\_truths\\_report\\_v1.pdf](https://www.acevo.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/ACEVO_Voice4Change_home_truths_report_v1.pdf)

## News

**The Anne Frank Creative Writing Awards 2020 for pupils from ages 10 to 15**

*Closing date for entries: 30 June 2020*

In this time of lock-down, when people are separated from each other, and as marches and conversations take place in countries all over the world in support of the Black Lives Matter movement, the Anne Frank Trust UK invite you to write a poem, story, essay or article inspired by Anne Frank which shows how important it is that we all live together with kindness, respect and equality. For full details see

<https://annefrank.org.uk/the-anne-frank-creative-writing-awards-2020/>

**Sturgeon condemns 'racist thugs' after Glasgow protests**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-53086488>

**'Racist thugs shame Scotland': Nicola Sturgeon hits out at 'disgraceful' scenes in Glasgow as six arrested**

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/18524318.racist-thugs-shame-scotland-nicola-sturgeon-hits-disgraceful-scenes-glasgow-six-arrested/>

**Nicola Sturgeon says 'racist thugs shame Scotland' as six arrests made at Glasgow protest**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/crime/nicola-sturgeon-says-racist-thugs-shame-scotland-six-arrests-made-glasgow-protest-2887688>

**Scottish Refugee Council statement on Glasgow demonstration**

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/our-statement-on-last-nights-demonstration-in-glasgow/>

**Black Lives Matter: 'Much more that we need to do' to tackle racism - PM**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-53045349>

**Black Lives Matter: We need action on racism not more reports, says David Lammy**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-53049586>

**Boris Johnson's racism inquiry: have previous ones changed anything?**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jun/15/boris-johnsons-racism-inquiry-have-previous-ones-changed-anything>

**Hundreds attend anti-racism rally in Glasgow**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-53120070>

**Racism has contributed to risk of Bame communities dying from coronavirus, report finds**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/coronavirus-racism-bame-black-communities-a9569336.html>

**Historical racism a factor in Bame coronavirus deaths**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/06/16/historical-racism-factor-bame-coronavirus-deaths/>

**Historical racism may be behind England's higher BAME Covid-19 rate**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jun/16/historical-racism-may-be-behind-englands-higher-bame-covid-19-rate>

**Racism increases coronavirus risk for ethnic minorities, report finds**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/racism-increases-coronavirus-risk-for-ethnic-minorities-report-finds-jgf02f6qh>

**Racism 'alive and kicking in UK police forces,' MPs told**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/uk-police-racism-blm-floyd-home-affairs-a9570956.html>

**Former top black Met police officers say racism blighted their careers**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/jun/14/former-top-met-police-officers-say-racism-blighted-their-careers-black>

**West Midlands Police boss sorry for things force 'got wrong'**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-birmingham-53065611>

**MoD must tackle 'woeful' record on race discrimination**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/ben-wallace-mod-must-tackle-woeful-record-on-race-discrimination-2503j5gph>

**Black Lives Matter protests: Tackle racism in medicine, students urge**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/black-lives-matter-protests-tackle-racism-in-medicine-students-urge-3n3710xk9>

**Rev David Bruce: 'Racism is an evil that needs rooted out'**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-53041724>

**EU citizens target for abuse, says Highland Council chief**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-53078211>

**Police search four times more likely if you are black**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/black-lives-matter-police-search-four-times-more-likely-if-you-are-black-qhh3cg3vz>

**'Callous and ignorant' vandals desecrate Roma Holocaust Memorial for second time**

<https://www.glasgowtimes.co.uk/news/18519910.callous-ignorant-vandals-desecrate-roma-holocaust-memorial-second-time/>

**Church of England embroiled in racism row for turning down black trainee vicar**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/06/16/church-england-embroiled-racism-row-turning-black-trainee-vicar/>

**Church of England considers removing monuments to those involved in 'discrimination or exploitation based on race'**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/06/19/church-england-considers-removing-monuments-involved-discrimination/>

**Penygroes swastika: Man arrested after black family targeted**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-53063860>

**'Free speech' sites harbour neo-Nazis**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/black-lives-matter-free-speech-sites-harbour-neo-nazis-zlm22223p>

**Eleven charts that show extent of racial inequality in the UK**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/racism-uk-inequality-black-lives-matter-wealth-economic-health-a9567461.html>

**Black Lives Matter: Ex-MP Onasanya attacks Kellogg's cereal box 'racism'**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-cambridgeshire-53060894>

**Black Durham trainee vicar denied job at 'white' church**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-tyne-53064929>

**Nurse Neomi Bennett 'racially profiled' in arrest**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-53097628>

**Norwich School hit by racism allegations in letter**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-norfolk-53093623>

**Lady Lumley's School spent £100k in bid to hide claims of racism**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/lady-lumleys-school-spent-100k-in-bid-to-hide-claims-of-racism-mx6x2nk5q>

**Glenthorne High School – the school that tried to end racism**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/glenthorne-high-school-the-school-that-tried-to-end-racism-9dbcn8z08>

**'I'm sorry for being racist when I was younger'**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/newsbeat-52992534>

**Growing up black in one of England's whitest counties**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-cornwall-52981934>

**Aberdeen University students detail racism experience in letter**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-53106494>

**Racism and the Rule of Law**

<https://ukhumanrightsblog.com/2020/06/18/racism-and-the-rule-of-law/>

**Norwich poet Piers Harrison-Reid tackles racism in latest work**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-england-norfolk-53030602/norwich-poet-piers-harrison-reid-tackles-racism-in-latest-work>

**Woodbridge equality campaigner says 'racism is your auntie'**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-suffolk-53113395>

**Essex basketball players discuss 'everyday' racism**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-england-essex-53023961/essex-basketball-players-discuss-everyday-racism>

**Bradford man speaks out on facing two decades of racism**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-england-leeds-53099173/bradford-man-speaks-out-on-facing-two-decades-of-racism>

**X Factor's Alexandra Burke reveals music industry racism**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-53120390>

**Aunt Jemima to change branding based on 'racial stereotype'**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-53083664>

**Should I remove or reply to my racist Facebook friend?**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/stories-53000622>

**'Racism protests do not get to the root of the problem'**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-53109136>

**Tackling racial injustice through education**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jun/16/tackling-racial-injustice-through-education>

TOP

## Other Scottish Parliament and Government

### Press Release

#### **People feel safer in their communities**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/people-feel-safer-in-their-communities/>

### New Publication

#### **Scottish Crime and Justice Survey 2018/19**

<https://tinyurl.com/y7n9552d>

TOP

## Other UK Parliament and Government

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

#### **Census: Ethnic Groups**

**Thangam Debonnaire (Labour) [57248]** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what the criteria is for adding an ethnicity to the options in the national census.

**Reply from Chloe Smith:** The information requested falls under the remit of the UK Statistics Authority. I have therefore asked the Authority to respond. ...

The tick-box options used in the ethnic group question, and other questions, have been informed by the Office for National Statistics' (ONS) extensive programme of research, consultation and engagement over 3 years prior to making its recommendations, which were set out in the Government's December 2018 White Paper 'Help Shape our Future: The 2021 Census of Population and Housing in England and Wales'<sup>1</sup>.

The ONS received 55 requests for tick-boxes under the ethnic group question alone. It is no reflection of the ONS' recognition of, or respect for, any ethnic group, religion, or national identity that they do not have a specific tick-box response option on the census. It is simply not possible to meet all requests for specific response options. The ONS conducted a prioritisation evaluation against published criteria to consider the strength of the case for inclusion for the requests received.

As set out in greater detail in an ONS report published in June 2019<sup>2</sup>, these criteria were:

- Strength of user need for information on the ethnic group
- Lack of alternative sources of information
- Data quality of information collected
- Comparability with 2011 data
- Acceptability, clarity and quality

This evaluation process led to a recommendation to add a 'Roma' ethnic group tick-box<sup>3</sup>.

You may be aware that the Census (England) Regulations 2020<sup>4</sup> were laid in Parliament on 2 June 2020; the Regulations for Wales were laid before the Senedd on 1 June. These Regulations prescribe the census questions and contain facsimiles of the paper questionnaires, in line with ONS' recommendations.

In the 2021 Census, everyone will have the opportunity to identify as they wish in the ethnic group question. This will be by using tick-box response options, write-in

options and a new online search-as-you-type facility.

The ONS will work with local groups and organisations to ensure that anyone who wishes to identify as a particular ethnic group knows that they can use these options to do so. We would welcome engagement with, and support from, parliamentarians and representative organisations in this work and to promote participation in the Census.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-2021-census-of-population-and-housing-in-england-and-wales>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ons.gov.uk/file?uri=/census/censustransformationprogramme/questiondevelopment/ethnicgroupnationalidentityreligionandlanguage/theethnicgroupprioritisationtool2021censusinenglandandwales.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> See the December 2018 Topic Report section on Ethnic Group:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/censustransformationprogramme/questiondevelopment/2021censustopicresearchupdatedecember2018#ethnic-group>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2020/560/contents/made>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-09/57248/>

### **Religious Buildings: Security**

**Stephen Doughty (Labour Co-op)** [309] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much funding her Department has allocated to improving security at places of worship in the South Wales Police area in the last 12 months.

**Reply from Kit Malthouse:** The Places of Worship Protective Security Fund (POW) is a key commitment in the Hate Crime Action Plan published in 2016. The Scheme provides funding to places of worship that have been victims of or are vulnerable to hate crime attacks for physical protective measures such as alarms, fencing and access control. The scheme is currently in its fourth year of funding, and successful applicants for this scheme will be announced in due course. There was only one application from Wales in Year 3. However, the criteria were set across all applications and this application did not meet the minimum requirements to receive funding.

Over the first three years of the scheme we provided £1.5m funding for over 130 grants and have £1.6m committed for this financial year (2019/20). There was not any funding allocated under the POW scheme in the South Wales Police area in year three (2018/19). However, the scheme is open to places of worship across England and Wales, and we will continue to promote the scheme across Wales for future rounds of funding.

Following the attacks in Christchurch, we supported Faith Associates to deliver security training prior to and during Ramadan. They delivered 22 workshops across England and Wales, and distributed advice and guidance to over 2,000 mosques, madrassahs and community centres.

The Jewish Community Protective Security Grant was introduced in 2015 following a series of terrorist attacks against Jews and Jewish locations across Europe. In 2018-19 a grant of £13.4m was provided to fund additional protective security measures, primarily guarding, at Jewish state, free and independent schools, colleges, nurseries and some other Jewish community sites, including synagogues. A grant of £14m is to be provided in 2019-20. We do not keep a breakdown of funding by region.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-12-20/309/>

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

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/places-of-worship-security-funding-scheme>

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-office-grants-14-million-funding-for-security-at-jewish-institutions>

The Action Plan referred to above can be read at

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/543679/Action\\_Against\\_Hate\\_-\\_UK\\_Government\\_s\\_Plan\\_to\\_Tackle\\_Hate\\_Crime\\_2016.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/543679/Action_Against_Hate_-_UK_Government_s_Plan_to_Tackle_Hate_Crime_2016.pdf)

[UK Government s Plan to Tackle Hate Crime 2016.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/748175/Hate_crime_refresh_2018_FINAL_WEB.PDF)

and its “two years on” update 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)

TOP

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

### **NHS**

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

Latest guidance about COVID-19 from NHS Scotland and the Scottish Government, including social distancing and stay at home advice.

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

#### **Healthcare for overseas visitors**

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/care-support-and-rights/health-rights/access/healthcare-for-overseas-visitors>

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

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/care-support-and-rights/health-rights/access/healthcare-for-refugees-and-asylum-seekers>

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

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

### **Scottish Parliament Written Answer**

#### **BAME deaths: data**

**S5W-29598 Neil Findlay (Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will record, analyse and publish disaggregated data on the number of deaths of black and minority ethnic (BAME) people as a consequence of COVID-19.

**Reply from Jeane Freeman:** The Scottish Government will continue to monitor the information available on the number of deaths of black and minority ethnic (BAME)

people as a consequence of COVID-19.

On 4 May, National Records of Scotland released a technical note describing the ethnicity data, and its limitations, held on COVID-19 deaths

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files/statistics/covid19/ethnicity-deceased-covid-19-may20.pdf>

- Ethnicity data is missing for nine per cent (203 records) of the 2,272 COVID-19 deaths recorded up to Sunday 26th April.
- 2,046 deaths (90%) were of people whose ethnic group was registered as White
- Registered deaths where a Black, Asian or minority ethnic group (BAME) was provided accounted for 1% of deaths (23 people).

NRS are currently testing whether ethnicity data from the 2011 Census can be used to improve the quality of the death registration data. If this is successful, NRS will carry out analysis which will aim to answer the question of whether there is a variation in the relative risk of mortality related to COVID-19 by ethnicity.

On 20 May, Public Health Scotland (PHS) published preliminary analysis which appears to show that there is not a higher level of Covid-19 cases than would be expected, given the size of our black, Asian and minority ethnic population. However, the data is very limited and additional analysis will need done as more data becomes available.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-29598>

*The Public Health Scotland analysis referred to above can be read at*

[https://beta.isdscotland.org/media/4525/20-05-20-covid19-publication\\_report.pdf](https://beta.isdscotland.org/media/4525/20-05-20-covid19-publication_report.pdf)

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Debate

### Covid-19: BAME Communities

*col 995 Dawn Butler (Labour):* ... Every time the Government get dragged kicking and screaming to do the right thing, I can't breathe. I can't breathe every time the Government hide a report or kick an issue into the long grass by announcing another commission or report. I can't breathe. My breath is taken away by the lack of care, empathy and emotional intelligence shown by the Government time and again. ...

*col 996* The death rate for covid-19 has exposed and amplified what has been going on in society for decades. The concentration of deaths in areas where people are just about managing should worry us all. ... According to the ONS, adjusting for age, black people are more than four times as likely to die from covid as white people. Pakistanis and Bangladeshis are more than three times as likely and Indians more than twice as likely. ... Structural and systemic racism is also a health issue, and the Institute for Fiscal Studies revealed that the jobs that are most at risk are over-populated by African, Caribbean, Asian, and minority ethnic people. We must be honest with ourselves and ask why that is. The higher BAME death rate is apparent across all grades of the NHS, even in the highest socioeconomic groups. We must be honest with ourselves and ask why that is. If we shy away from the truth, nothing will change. The publication of the first report on this issue stated that 17 doctors died, 16 of whom were BAME. It was then reported that, since 2 June, when that report was published, another 18 doctors died after saving lives, 17 of whom were BAME. We must be honest with ourselves and ask why that is. ...

*col 997* It is not the pandemic that discriminates—it is society. It is almost as though being black is a pre-existing condition that results in worse outcomes for health, employment and education. ... It is racism, and it has become more structural and systemic. It is not just about individuals. Structural and systemic racism can exist without individual acts of

racism, but it is an unfair, unequal discriminatory system—and it is literally killing us. ...  
*col 999* I have listened to many scientists talk about covid-19, and it is not genetics that have resulted in a higher death rate. ... it is noted that covid-19 potentially has had a less severe impact in the Caribbean, Africa and the Indian subcontinent. That raises questions as to why BAME communities in England are so severely affected. ...

*col 1000* Government Ministers are revealing trauma on one hand and then saying that racism does not exist on the other; it is cruel. I do not think the Minister should not give a speech. I think the Minister should list actions. What will the Government do and when will they do it? She should tell the House and the country when the Government will start to implement the 150-plus outstanding recommendations from previous reports and reviews, not focus on the new commission that the Prime Minister mentioned. We know that that is designed to agitate and gaslight us, just like the Foreign Secretary's comments on taking the knee. ...

I stand to tell the Government that we are done with the games, we are done with the platitudes and we are done with kicking this issue into the long grass. Enough is enough. Now is the time to act. Now is the time for action. Now is the time to get the Government's knee off the neck of the black, African, Caribbean, Asian, minority ethnic communities.

*col 1002 Caroline Nokes (Conservative):* ... Covid-19 ... has highlighted health inequalities that are real and current: if someone lives in overcrowded, poor-quality housing, they are more likely to be negatively impacted; if someone is in frontline, public-facing work, they are more likely to be negatively impacted; if someone's English is poor or they have learning difficulties, they will not be able to receive the important public health messages that they need; and if someone lives in multigenerational families, they are more likely to be negatively impacted, as are those whose work is insecure. ...

*col 1003 Maria Miller (Conservative):* ... we have to take great care not to simply treat BAME communities as one homogeneous group. We run the great risk of coming to the wrong conclusions if we speak as though they all have the same challenges ... The way that we can address this is by understanding each group individually, and having accurate data ...

*col 1004 Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour):* ... Back in April, we saw BAME people being disproportionately affected by covid-19 as data came in from emergency admissions to hospital from more than three months ago. On 22 May, King's College London research showed that patients from BAME groups admitted to hospital with covid-19 are, on average, a decade younger than white patients. ...

*col 1005* Figures released last week by the NHS Confederation show that the number of ethnic minority chairs and non-executive directors of NHS trusts in England has almost halved from 15% in 2010 to a mere 8% in 2018. ...

Representation matters, and the dismally low number of executive directors of NHS trusts is inexcusable. If BAME doctors and nurses are good enough to die on the frontline, surely they are good enough to lead. ...

Diversity is crucial because it brings in people with fresh perspectives and different priorities, thereby enhancing and improving the overall performance for all of us ...

*col 1008 Lilian Greenwood (Labour):* ... We know that racism and race discrimination really matter. If someone has experienced racism at work or already feels isolated, of course it is harder for them to speak up or raise concerns about safety. The British Medical Association found in 2018 that BAME doctors were twice as likely as white doctors to say that they would not feel confident raising safety concerns. ...

*col 1009 Naz Shah (Labour):* ... "Unprecedented" is a word we have heard bandied around a lot in the last few months. The new ways of working and interacting with our communities may be unprecedented, but sadly, the effect of covid-19 on black and minority ethnic communities does have precedent. If the Government had taken the findings of previous reports seriously, not only is it possible that many of these black and minority

ethnic deaths could have been avoided, but we would not once again have to be asking the Government to ensure that more people do not lose their lives to this horrible disease. ...

Black and minority ethnic communities have faced structural racism for decades, and we are having to have the same conversations 20 years on. People are concerned and, rightly, angry. Although I support both Show Racism the Red Card and the Anne Frank Trust, which the Government fund, is this the message that the Government want to give—just £219,000 of the Department's annual budget is spent on racism, yet the Prime Minister is willing to spend £900,000 on rebranding his plane? ...

*col 1011 Theresa Villiers (Conservative):* ... I believe this country has come a long way in recent decades towards tackling discrimination, combating racism and building a more cohesive society that is proud of its ethnic and cultural diversity. ... but the covid emergency and the cry of pain that has arisen after the appalling killing of George Floyd ... are a stark reminder that while we have come a long way, there is still a long road to travel before we can say that everyone in this nation is being given the chance to go as far as their talent and their hard work will take them, whatever their faith, ethnicity or cultural background. ...

*col 1012 Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru):* ... there have been enough reviews, enough commissions and enough descriptions of how racism oozes from private attitudes into public experience. Covid-19 and the Black Lives Matter campaign together are reforging our values and forcing us to question our cultural heritage. Thinking again of Stephen Lawrence and all the battles that his brave parents, Neville and Doreen Lawrence, have fought in the intervening years, the people my family knew in Eltham back then did not think of themselves as racists and we did not think of ourselves as racists, but look what happened in Well Hall Road.

People like us would have been horrified to be called racists and people like us are still horrified to be called racists, but that is not enough, is it? It is not enough to be not racist. Our social media feeds tonight will almost certainly include comments that "all lives matter". Of course all lives matter, but it is not an indictment of anybody for us to be calling for this particular attention. One person's gain is not another person's loss. If we are not racists, we must be anti-racist. Do not commission; act on what we already know.

*col 1013 Apsana Begum (Labour):* ... Discrimination and structural racism continue to dictate who gets dumped and who gets resources—who suffers events worse. ...

*col 1014* ... last week, as people were calling out the state regarding racism, Islamophobia and discrimination, the Counter-Terrorism and Sentencing Bill received its Second Reading. That Bill delays the long-awaited review of Prevent, which fosters discrimination against Muslim people and introduces significant curtailments of civil liberties, which will disadvantage BAME communities. It is time for some joined-up thinking and plain speaking: from now on, every decision by government or other public authorities needs to consider and act on addressing the needs of BAME communities. ...

*col 1021 Jeremy Corbyn (Labour):* ... This virus has exposed the necessity of communities working absolutely together, but it also shows a disproportionate number of deaths among people from the BAME community, who are 50% more likely to die from covid-19 than those who are not from the BAME community. The same figures apply for admissions to emergency care and intensive treatment units in hospitals. ...

Life expectancy is shorter for people from BAME communities, and there is a lack of community facilities in so many areas. ...

*col 1022 Sam Tarry (Labour):* ... Through the recent covid crisis, I have had heartening moments with local people, such as when the local gurdwara has provided over 4,000 meals a week to help the vulnerable and those in need. People have been working together—churches alongside mosques alongside synagogues. ...

Actually, in many BAME communities, the proportion of people who work in frontline

services, whether it be bus drivers or people working in the NHS, is incredibly high and people are fearful, and they are angry that they and their communities have not been prioritised by the Government in the way that they should have been. These are rational fears. ...

Over the past few months, one thing that I have found particularly difficult has been the increase in not just fear but racism—that some communities have almost been targeted, perhaps because of online rumours that their community is more likely to be bringing in this awful disease. ...

*col 1024* **Christine Jardine (Liberal Democrat):** ... Our society's acute emotional response to the disproportionate impact of covid-19 on BAME communities has been perhaps the one saving grace in this shocking failure to protect our communities, so many of whom were at the forefront of tackling the virus and have paid the ultimate price. ...

I believe we need a race equality strategy for the whole of the UK. ...

I am disappointed that I cannot pay tribute to the BAME community in my constituency or anywhere in Scotland and talk about the impact on them, because National Records of Scotland does not record deaths by ethnicity—it is voluntary—so the impact could be anywhere between 1% and 10%. I find it unacceptable that the Scottish Government do not have the figures to recognise that and address the issue in the way that we are at least attempting to in Westminster. ...

*col 1026* **Chi Onwurah (Labour):** ... I experienced significant racism as a child, including name calling and worse, although I was supported by a strong community, family and school. Over the last few years, name calling, physical abuse and hate crimes have unfortunately risen, but when the name calling stops, that does not mean that racism has gone away. It is instead in the structures and systems that define how we live. ...

*col 1027* Whether it is a Foreign Secretary who thinks that taking the knee is from fantasy fiction or a Prime Minister who speaks of “smiling piccaninnies”, the Government have demonstrated a lack of interest in the racism that we face. ... Covid-19 has shone a light on the discrimination that so many black and minority ethnic people suffer in this country. The Government need to act to change that and ensure that it does not continue, as it has for so many years. We do not need another review. ...

*col 1029* **Kim Johnson (Labour):** ... Race equality has been firmly placed on the agenda in the past couple of weeks, but we all know only too well that countless reports and commissions tell black people what we already know: that we are disadvantaged simply because of the colour of our skin. I say enough is enough. Now is the time for action and change. I do not want my grandsons having the same debate in years to come. ...

*col 1032* **Zarah Sultana (Labour):** ... This systemic racism is not incidental. It has a history, and thanks to the action of Black Lives Matter campaigners, light is being shed on this history. It is a history of colonialism and conquest, empire and enslavement, and inequality and exploitation. It is a history of the rich and powerful using their influence to maintain control and spread hate. Today, their newspapers run stories spreading fear about migrants arriving on our shores. Tomorrow, it might be about Muslims or young black men or Gypsies or Roma, and it is done with the same purpose: to divide the people, deflect blame and protect their rotten system. That is why they target minorities, and we see it with the threat to the trans community at the moment. ...

*col 1044* **Ann McLaughlin (SNP):** ... Children are not born racist, and when they first become aware of it they find it very difficult to understand. It is not their instinct to be racist, and then they are taught it. If they go through nursery and school with positive role models from all ethnicities, and if their school books reflect those positive role models, they are far less likely to be able to be taught to be racist.

I have spoken to teachers who care deeply about this matter who told me that schools already teach about racism, as they should, but it others people and it portrays those classmates as victims. That is not to say that people are not victims of racism, but there is

so much more that we could be doing to stop it in the first place. One of those things is looking at a positive role models in history and demonstrating that the ethnicity of the people who built these islands and this world is many and varied. ...

I have set up the all-party parliamentary group on unconscious bias. ... my intention is to have a number of distinct investigations. They could be into a number of things, but the first must be into race. I want the group to take evidence from people not necessarily about overt racism but about undercover racism, where even the person doing it does not know that they are doing it. ...

**col 1045 Rosena Allin-Khan (Labour):** ... The resounding message is clear: our BAME communities are grieving. The priority from the outset of this pandemic should have been to save lives—all lives—but it pains me to have to stand here and state the most obvious point, which has, regrettably, been missed: that no one life is more important than any other.

The Government have liked to describe the fight against coronavirus as a war; to use their analogy, our BAME communities would have been the cannon fodder. These people's lives are not, and should not have been, dispensable. ...

**col 1046 Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour):** When we found out that elderly people needed support because of covid-19, we shielded them; when we found that people with co-morbidities needed support, we shielded them; but when it came to black communities, all of a sudden we found there had to be a review and a long conversation, and still no measures have been taken to shield them. ...

**col 1047 Rosena Allin-Khan:** ... When we discuss the disproportionately high number of BAME deaths, it is vital that the discourse does not fall into pseudoscience and biological difference. ... To be clear: it is not simply about people from a BAME background having different receptors in their lungs. People from BAME backgrounds are not a homogenous group of people. We are talking about people with vastly different heritage and racial backgrounds. Other countries have got this virus in check. The risk faced by BAME communities here in the UK is down to structural racism and the precarious work that people are placed in as a result.

The UK has been a warm and welcoming country for so many, but for others—for too many—it has not. We cannot ignore the vast number of deaths in our communities and sweep the memories of our loved ones under the rug. In the early days of the crisis, when communication was crucial, why did the Government not reach out to BAME communities? Can the Minister explain that? Why were vital documents not translated so that public health advice could be easily disseminated into some of our most vulnerable communities? ...

If, as a country, we truly want to learn from this crisis and treat everyone as equal, we must tackle racism wherever we come across it, and it is everyone's responsibility, regardless of skin colour, ethnicity or socio-economic status—it is everyone's problem. Our BAME communities have been failed and need to be able to trust that we here in this Chamber, in Parliament, truly represent them. It is our duty to rebuild the trust that has been lost. ...

**col 1048 The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health and Social Care (Jo Churchill):** ... Members have passionately articulated the findings, and I concur that they are deeply concerning. ... Everybody has been touched by the challenge of not being able to say goodbye, to carry a coffin, to say those last goodbyes. That is the human face of this dreadful disease, which has changed the way we live and work.

Far from being a great leveller, covid-19 cruelly discriminates, but it discriminates more broadly than we have probably touched on today. People who are old, people who—as was mentioned by several Members—live in cities, people who work in public-facing jobs and people from BAME backgrounds are at a heightened risk. ...

**col 1049** Crucially, we do not know how different risk factors overlap and interact. I know that the calls for action now are heartfelt, but we need to understand different risk factors,

including co-morbidities and occupation, so that we can ensure that there is a standardisation in the data and recommendations actually do what we need them to do. ... We do not have all the answers ... We must address the injustice of these ethnic disparities right across the board ... That is precisely why the Prime Minister announced on the weekend the establishment of a commission to examine ethnic disparities in this country. It will have an independent chair, will report by the end of this year—within a very short timeframe—and will play an important role in driving the agenda forward. ... Inequalities are stubborn, persistent and difficult to change, but that is no reason to accept them. ...

**To read the full transcript see**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-06-18/debates/75FB1500-FB1E-424B-8A76-7F6518DB34A8/Covid-19BAMECommunities>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

### Covid-19: BAME Key Workers

**Kate Griffiths (Conservative):** What steps [is the Minister] taking to help ensure that BAME key workers are protected during the covid-19 outbreak. [903369]

**Reply from the Minister for Equalities (Kemi Badenoch):** All NHS organisations continue to make appropriate arrangements to support their ethnic minority staff, and NHS human resources directors are considering a range of mitigating actions, including redeploying staff to alternative roles, stringent testing procedures, equity of personal protective equipment provision and training, and improved occupational health support. For those in other key roles, Government have issued safer workplace guidance, which emphasises the need for employers to carry out risk assessments, to engage with their representatives and to take account of equality impacts.

**Kate Griffiths:** In my constituency of Burton and Uttoxeter, we have sadly lost a number of dedicated frontline workers from the black, Asian and minority ethnic community. My constituents are understandably worried, and I have raised concerns previously in the House about how we can protect those in at-risk groups who work on the frontline. Public Health England's recent stakeholder engagement work contains a number of recommendations. Can the Minister give an outline of Government's progress on them?

**Reply from Kemi Badenoch:** Many stakeholder recommendations are already in progress, as my hon. Friend states, and as part of existing Government work, we are collecting better data on ethnicity—that was one of the recommendations. We agree that that is imperative and we are working to overcome technical barriers. NHS employers have published some excellent frameworks and occupational risk assessment tools, which can be used now; the race disparity unit is working on communication with covid teams across Departments; and I have said that further research to fill the gaps in PHE's review is one of my immediate priorities.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-06-17/debates/BC0AE771-6357-4799-BEAB-8710ACB082AE/Covid-19BAMEKeyWorkers>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### Civil Servants: Coronavirus

**Ruth Jones (Labour) [57362]** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what steps he has taken to ensure that civil servants in public-facing roles are able to work safely during the covid-19 outbreak.

### **Ethnic Groups: Coronavirus**

**Ruth Jones (Labour)** [57363] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what assessment he has made of the risk to BAME (a) civil servants and (b) contracted workers working in Government Departments of (i) contracting and (ii) spreading covid-19.

**Reply from Chloe Smith:** Government advice remains that people should work from home where possible.

For civil servants whose roles require them to be in the workplace, advice has also been provided to support them in line with the government guidance on safer working during Covid-19. In addition, a Workplace Incident Framework, developed with trade unions, sets out the activity that must take place when an individual develops Covid-19.

Departments are working closely with individuals to ensure their personal circumstances are fully factored into decisions about their working arrangements. This includes supporting ethnic minority individuals based on their particular circumstances and ensuring they have the right to challenge a proposed return to the workplace if they have concerns, to have those concerns properly considered and addressed and to not return where they feel this has not been done.

Measures to reduce the risk of contracting and spreading Covid-19 for temporary agency workers have been put in place, including a payment scheme to support the pay of temporary agency workers who cannot work for reasons associated with Covid-19 (up to the value of 80% of their salary to a cap of £2,500 per month) and the use of virtual pre-employment screening checks and interviews.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-09/57362/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-09/57363/>

### **Ethnic Groups: Coronavirus**

**Shabana Mahmood (Labour)** [57938] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, with reference to the report published by Public Health England on 2 June 2020 entitled COVID-19: review of disparities in risks and outcomes, what cross-departmental steps the Government plans to take to reduce the disproportionate effect of the covid-19 outbreak on black, Asian and minority ethnic communities.

**Reply from Kemi Badenoch:** As Minister for Equalities, I will be working with the Race Disparity Unit and the Department for Health and Social Care to carry forward work to identify and fill the gaps in PHE's review; and work across government to take appropriate steps to mitigate disparities identified. The terms of reference for this work, which include quarterly updates to the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Health and Social Care on progress, were published on GOV.UK on 4 June.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-10/57938/>

*The Public Health England report referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/892085/disparities\\_review.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/892085/disparities_review.pdf)

### **Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups**

**Andrew Mitchell (conservative)** [54012] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, with reference to the Disparities in the risk and outcomes of covid-19 review, what steps he is taking to increase protections against covid-19 for BAME healthcare workers in the West Midlands.

**Reply from Helen Whately:** All National Health Service organisations will continue to make appropriate arrangements to support their black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) staff. NHS Employers updated its guidance on risk assessments on 28 May, advising organisations to consider issues such as pregnancy, disability, age and ethnicity.

NHS England and NHS Improvement Midlands are also linking with BAME networks to ensure that BAME staff have a voice and can raise their concerns. These concerns have been fed back to Human Resources Directors across the Midlands.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-03/54012/>

*The review referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/892085/disparities\\_review.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/892085/disparities_review.pdf)

*The guidance referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.nhsemployers.org/covid19/health-safety-and-wellbeing/risk-assessments-for-staff>

### **Schools: Coronavirus**

**Abena Oppong-Asare (Labour)** [52591] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, with reference to the higher mortality risk from covid-19 among Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups, what guidance he is giving to schools on protecting staff and children from a BAME background and their families from covid-19; and what support he is giving to schools to enable them to implement that guidance.

**Reply from Nick Gibb:** We are aware that there is emerging evidence that Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) individuals can be more severely affected than the general population by COVID-19. On 2 June, Public Health England published their review into [disparities in the risk and outcomes of COVID-19](#), which included ethnicity. There is still much work to do to understand the key drivers of disparities, the relationships between the different risk factors and what we can do to reduce the impact. The Government is considering how the review and ongoing work on this issue should inform our approach. Schools should be especially sensitive to the needs and worries of BAME members of staff, BAME parents and BAME pupils, and consider if any additional measures or reasonable adjustments may need to be put in place to mitigate concerns.

We have provided detailed guidance on implementing protective measure in schools on GOV.UK:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>.

This includes advice on approaches and actions schools should implement to create an inherently safer system, where the risk of transmission of infection is substantially reduced.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-01/52591/>

### **Marriage: Coronavirus**

**Paul Blomfield (Labour)** [59438] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, pursuant to the Answer of 9 June 2020 to Question 55054, what indicators his Department plans to use to determine whether to lift covid-19 lockdown restrictions on marriages.

**Reply from Penny Mordaunt:** As set out in '[Our Plan to Rebuild](#)', any adjustments to current social distancing controls for England will be timed carefully according to both the current transmission rate of the virus and the Government's ability to ensure safety. The steps for modifying social distancing measures are set out in the

plan, with strict conditions to safely move from each step to the next.

In the strategy, we committed to exploring how to enable people to gather in slightly larger groups to better facilitate small weddings. We are actively looking at how we can facilitate small weddings, as soon as possible, to deliver the roadmap.

Step Three of the plan also includes the ambition to open at least some places of worship, including the potential for some small wedding ceremonies. The Government's current planning assumption is that this step will be no earlier than 4 July, subject to the five tests for easing measures and further detailed scientific advice provided closer to the time, on how far we can go.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-15/59438/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-04/55054/>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

### Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups

**Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated)** [HL5118] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they intend to take to support BAME communities in response to the findings in their report Disparities in the risk and outcomes from COVID-19, published on 2 June.

**Reply from Baroness Berridge:** The Minister for Equalities is working with the Race Disparity Unit and the Department for Health and Social Care to carry forward work to identify and fill the gaps in PHE's review; and work across government to take appropriate steps to mitigate disparities identified. The terms of reference for this work, which include quarterly updates to the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Health and Social Care on progress, were published on GOV.UK on 4 June. The timeframe will be announced in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-02/HL5118/>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/892085/disparities\\_review.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/892085/disparities_review.pdf)

*The terms of reference referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/next-steps-for-work-on-covid-19-disparities-announced>

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

### Religious Buildings: Coronavirus

**Baroness Mone (Conservative)** [HL5044] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with faith leaders about piloting the opening of places of worship in advance of step 3 of their plan to lift restrictions relating to the COVID-19 pandemic being in place.

**Baroness Mone (Conservative)** [HL5045] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with faith leaders about the provision of all services and events in places of worship once those places are reopened.

**Baroness Mone (Conservative)** [HL5046] To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the publication of Our plan to rebuild: The UK Government's COVID-19 recovery strategy on 11 May, what discussions they have had with faith leaders about the number of people who will be permitted to gather in places of worship for services and events.

**Reply from Lord Greenhalgh:** Following publication on 11 May of "Our Plan to Rebuild", which outlined the steps we would be taking to ease the lockdown

restrictions, the Government launched a Places of Worship Taskforce to look at how places of worship can reopen and operate safely.

The Secretary of State and I have held a series of meetings with the Taskforce as well as holding faith-specific roundtables to hear the views of our faith leaders on how our places of worship can reopen. This is to ensure that those who visit and those who work there are protected as far as possible. The Government is working with the Taskforce as we develop guidance for our faith communities on the safe reopening of our places of worship. This will include guidance on individual prayer, and services and ceremonies such as weddings. This will be published in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-02/HL5044/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-02/HL5045/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-02/HL5046/>

“Our Plan to Rebuild”, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/our-plan-to-rebuild-the-uk-governments-covid-19-recovery-strategy/our-plan-to-rebuild-the-uk-governments-covid-19-recovery-strategy>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Religious Buildings: Coronavirus**

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe (Conservative)** [HL5228] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to allow the reopening of churches in the UK following their closure as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; and what, if any, health measures will be put in place to facilitate the reopening of places of worship.

**Lord Storey (Liberal Democrat)** [HL5244] To ask Her Majesty's Government when they plan to permit churches and other places of worship to reopen.

**Lord Greenhalgh:** On 11 May, the Government published the document “[Our Plan to Rebuild](#)”, which outlined the steps it would be taking to ease the lockdown restrictions.

The Government continues to consider how to allow places of worship to reopen for additional uses in Step 3 of its roadmap, which is expected to be no earlier 4 July, subject to further scientific advice. As part of the steps to ease the restrictions, the Government launched a Places of Worship Taskforce to look at how they can reopen and operate safely. Meetings are being led by the Secretary of State for Communities, or the Faith Minister, and comprise of representatives from the country's major faiths. The Taskforce is working towards the safe reopening of places of worship as soon as possible. It also addresses the specific issues that places of worship will face as they prepare to reopen safely.

As of Saturday 13 June, places of worship are now permitted to open for individual prayer, in line with social distancing guidelines. We have published (attached) [guidance](#) to support places of worship to do this in a way that is safe and in line with social distancing. Communal prayers, worship or devotion will not be possible at this stage. The Government will continue to work with the Taskforce towards the full reopening of places of worship as soon as the scientific advice allows.

Places of worship play an important role in spiritual and mental health for many, and in bringing our communities together, which is why we want them to reopen them as soon as we can. However, no place of worship will be able to reopen for

further activities before a final decision by the Government and the accompanying changes to the legal position in the published regulations. Even after we permit places of worship to reopen for further activities, some may choose to reopen in stages or at a slower pace depending on their local circumstances. The current list of permitted activities that can take place within a place of worship can be found (attached) on gov.uk [here](#), and the associated regulations can be found [here](#). These documents will be updated as and when further changes come into effect.

[Our Plan to Rebuild](#)

[Guidance for the safe use of places of worship](#)

[Closing certain business and venues in England](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-03/HL5228/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-03/HL5244/>

### **Religious Buildings: Coronavirus**

**Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op)** [55108] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what scientific advice he has received on the safe reopening of places of worship, and if he will publish that advice.

**Reply from Luke Hall:** The Government is working to publish evidence documents and studies, including from Public Health England, which have formed the basis of SAGE's discussions and advice to Ministers, regularly, and will publish more evidence in the coming weeks.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-05/55108/>

### **Travellers: Coronavirus**

**Baroness Whitaker (Labour)** [HL5146] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Greenhalgh on 6 May (HL3366) stating that they were "holding regular discussions with representatives from the Gypsy and Traveller communities to understand the issues they are facing, including what guidance and support is needed locally", what steps they are taking to ensure that local authorities reach vulnerable Gypsies and Travellers on the roadside without access to water or sanitation.

**Reply from Lord Greenhalgh:** The Government takes the welfare of all citizens seriously and we are working hard to ensure those most at risk are identified and supported including those in Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.

We have been in close contact with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Voluntary and Community Sector organisations and are doing everything we can to support them through the pandemic.

All local authorities should consider how best to support Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities in their area. On 11 April, I wrote to all local authority chief executives to highlight that some such individuals may need specific support, including access to basic services such as water, sanitation and waste disposal (attached):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-mitigating-impacts-on-gypsy-and-traveller-communities>

Local authorities may conclude that some Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, especially those lacking basic amenities, require alternative places to stop where access to facilities such as water pipes, water bowsers and portable toilets is provided, or can be made temporarily available.

[Letter to Local Authority](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-02/HL5146/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-04-23/HL3366/>

## **Scottish Government Press Releases**

**Gradual introduction of Phase 2**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/gradual-introduction-of-phase-2/>

**NHS Scotland's Test and Protect advice**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/nhs-scotlands-test-and-protect-advice/>

**Face coverings mandatory on public transport from 22 June**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/face-coverings-mandatory-on-public-transport-from-22-june/>

**Restarting more health services**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/restarting-more-health-services/>

**Return to Work package launched**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/return-to-work-package-launched/>

## **Scottish Government Publications**

**Coronavirus in Scotland**

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

**Coronavirus (COVID-19): trends in daily data**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-trends-in-daily-data/>

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's speech 19 June 2020**

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

**Coronavirus (COVID-19): framework for decision making – Scotland's route map through and out of the crisis - Phase 2 update**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-framework-decision-making-scotlands-route-map-through-out-crisis-phase-2-update/>

**Coronavirus (COVID-19): Scotland's route map - what you can and cannot do**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-what-you-can-and-cannot-do/>

**Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance for the safe use of places of worship**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship/>

**Guidance: Coronavirus (COVID-19): funeral services in places of worship**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-funeral-services-in-places-of-worship/>

## UK Government Press Release

**Update from the UK Chief Medical Officers on the UK alert level**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/update-from-the-uk-chief-medical-officers-on-the-uk-alert-level>

## UK Government Publications

**Updated Guidance: Number of coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in the UK**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

**Beyond the data: Understanding the impact of COVID-19 on BAME groups**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/892376/COVID\\_stakeholder\\_engagement\\_synthesis\\_beyond\\_the\\_data.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/892376/COVID_stakeholder_engagement_synthesis_beyond_the_data.pdf)

**Letter from the Minister about the BAME review**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/892536/200616\\_Equalities\\_Minister\\_BAME\\_Review.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/892536/200616_Equalities_Minister_BAME_Review.pdf)

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) related deaths by religious group, England and Wales:  
2 March to 15 May 2020**

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/articles/coronaviruscovid19relateddeathsbyreligiousgroupenglandandwales/2marchto15may2020/pdf>

## News

**Coronavirus: Report on BAME Covid-19 deaths sparks call for action**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-53065306>

**Coronavirus: 'Scandal' BAME review recommendations 'buried'**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-53039816>

**Why are more people from BAME backgrounds dying from coronavirus?**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-52219070>

**Government must protect BME people from coronavirus, says TUC**

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/news/government-must-protect-bme-people-coronavirus-says-tuc>

**Black men suffer highest coronavirus death rate in UK, government figures show**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/coronavirus-deaths-uk-black-men-ethnicity-ons-a9574796.html>

**Black men in England three times more likely to die of Covid-19 than white men**

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/jun/19/black-men-england-wales-three-times-more-likely-die-covid-19-coronavirus>

**BAME care home residents in England more likely to die of Covid-19**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jun/17/bame-care-home-residents-in-uk-more-likely-to-die-of-covid-19>

## **Coronavirus: South Asian people most likely to die in hospital**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-53097676>

## **Non-believers less likely to die from Covid-19, research finds**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/atheists-less-likely-to-die-from-covid-19-than-believers-research-finds-x869p0mw8>

## **Coronavirus in Scotland: hymns silenced to keep church safe**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/coronavirus-in-scotland-hymns-silenced-to-keep-church-safe-pmsftjxgl>

TOP

## **Other News**

### **Tributes to Mohammad Asghar at Welsh Parliament**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-politics-53068708>

TOP

## **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>

Equality and Human Rights Committee consideration of amendments

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12691&i=114819#ScotParlOR>

Bill as amended at Stage 2

<https://beta.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/current-bills/civil-partnership-scotland-bill/stage-2/civil-partnership-scotland-bill-as-amended-at-stage-2.pdf>

Proposed amendments for Stage 3

<https://beta.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/current-bills/civil-partnership-scotland-bill/stage-3/marshalled-list-of-amendments-at-stage-3-civil-partnership-scotland-bill.pdf>

#### **Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill**

<https://beta.parliament.scot/bills/hate-crime-and-public-order-scotland-bill>

#### **Post-mortem Examinations (Defence Time Limit) (Scotland) Bill**

<https://beta.parliament.scot/bills/post-mortem-examinations-defence-time-limit-scotland-bill>

### **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/asylum-support-prescribed-period.html>

## **European Citizens' Rights Bill**

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-21/european-citizens-rights.html>

## **Illegal Immigration (Offences) Bill**

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-21/illegal-immigration-offences.html>

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

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-21/immigration-and-social-security-co-ordination-eu-withdrawal.html>

Committee Stage, House of Commons

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-06-16/debates/f366d80f-945f-4e12-90df-64447d108c93/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination\(EUWithdrawal\)Bill\(FifthSitting\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-06-16/debates/f366d80f-945f-4e12-90df-64447d108c93/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination(EUWithdrawal)Bill(FifthSitting))

Proposed amendments

[https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-01/0104/amend/immigration\\_day\\_pbc\\_0617.pdf](https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-01/0104/amend/immigration_day_pbc_0617.pdf)

## **Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill**

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/immigration-control-gross-human-rights-abuses.html>

## **Marriage (Approved Organisations) Bill**

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/marriage-approved-organisations.html>

## **Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill**

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/refugees-family-reunion.html>

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

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/unaccompanied-asylum-seeking-children-legal-advice-and-appeals.html>

[TOP](#)

## **Consultations**

\*\* new or updated this week

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

**Shortage occupation list** (closing date 24 June 2020)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/shortage-occupation-list-call-for-evidence>

**Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill** (closing date 24 July 2020)

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/115038.aspx>

**COVID-19 Police powers review** (closing date 1 September 2020)

<https://covid19iag.citizenspace.com/>

**Your Police 2020-2021** (closing date 31 March 2021)

Police Scotland recognise the importance of understanding the views and priorities of

Scotland's diverse communities. This is especially important during the ongoing Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This survey is an opportunity for you to give your views and opinions during these challenging times, and beyond.

<https://consult.scotland.police.uk/surveys/your-police-2020-2021/>

**Equality and human rights impact of Covid-19** (closing date not stated)

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/114975.aspx>

**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>

TOP

## Job Opportunities

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

TOP

## Funding Opportunities

\*\* new or updated this week

### **Grants online: Coronavirus**

A number of Community Foundations and other organisations have launched funding programmes to assist local organisations in responding to the challenges of the Coronavirus Pandemic. To read a list of organisations and the types of funding they have made available, see <https://www.grantsonline.org.uk/coronavirus.html>

### **Third Sector Resilience Fund**

*Closing date not stated*

Scottish Government grants and loans from £5,000 to £100,000 for the Third Sector in response to the Coronavirus pandemic. The Third Sector Resilience Fund is an emergency fund for charities, community groups, social enterprises and voluntary organisations working in Scotland. The fund will support organisations that already deliver services and products but find themselves in financial difficulties directly as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. The primary intention of the fund is to help third sector organisations to stabilise and manage cash flows over this difficult period. For information and to apply see <https://scvo.org/support/coronavirus/your-funding/for-organisations/third-sector-resilience-fund/>

### **Covid-19 Transition Fund**

*Closing date not stated*

Ethnic Minority National Resilience Network funding for organisations to respond to the changing needs of their members in a sustainable way. Funding priorities will be to ensure that community organisations can:

- set up sustainable networks that support access to food and sustenance needs initially up until August 2020

- support their communities to be connected to services, information and communication
- provide services to tackle isolation, such as online events and befriending

For information and to apply see

<https://bemis.org.uk/emnrrn/transition-fund/>

### **Covid-19 Rapid Response Fund**

*Closing date not stated*

This small grant fund has been established by the William Grant Foundation, Faith in Community Scotland and the National Lottery Community Fund so that Scotland's network of local faith groups and related community organisations can provide immediate support for individuals and families. For information and to apply see

<https://www.faithincommunity.scot/covid19info>

### **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>

TOP

## **Events, Conferences, and Training**

\*\* new or updated this week

**\*\* this week!**

### **Meet the Charity Regulator**

23 June 2020 online (10.00–12.00)

Presentation of the findings of recent Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator surveys, and Q&A with OSCR Chair Lindsay Montgomery, and Chief Executive Maureen Mallon. For information and to register see <https://tinyurl.com/yc7qkv9n>

**\*\* this week!**

### **How has coronavirus changed volunteering?**

23 June 2020 online (11.00–12.30)

Volunteer Scotland and the Scottish Volunteering Forum evidence session and conversation about making sense of how Covid-19 has changed volunteering. To register see <https://tinyurl.com/ydxju4r3>

**\*\* this week!**

### **What's in a Word? Languages of the Travelling people**

24 June 2020 online (6.00–6.30)

Progress in Dialogue panel discussion to panel discussion to learn more about the often wrongly seen as 'secret', languages of Gypsy/Traveller communities. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/ycpmosop>

### **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 politic. For information see <http://www.imigmob2020.org/home>

TOP

## 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>

**TOP**

**SCoJeC**  
Scottish Council of  
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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**  
Empowering Scotland's Ethnic and  
Cultural Minority Communities

**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/>

The copyright of each article belongs to the publisher on whose website it appears, and it may only be copied or reproduced in accordance with the relevant terms and conditions. Full details of these, and the publisher's contact information, are available on each website.