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

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

The Scottish Parliament is in recess until 9 August 2020 but may meet sooner to respond to any urgent business.

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament, Ministerial Statements

Immigration

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Priti Patel) [HCWS355] In 2016, and again in 2019, the British people voted to take back control of our borders and introduce a new points-based system that will work for the whole of the UK. The Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill delivers on these votes by ending the automatic right to live and work in the UK for EU migrants from 1st January 2021.

In February I set out the vision for a fairer, firmer, skills-led immigration system. The system will play a key part in our long-term approach to the labour market and in our response to the coronavirus pandemic.

At a time where an increased number of people across the UK are looking for work, the new points-based system will encourage employers to invest in the domestic UK workforce, rather than simply relying on labour from abroad.

But we are also making necessary changes, so it is simpler for employers to attract the best and brightest from around the world to come to the UK to complement the skills we already have.

We know this new immigration system and approach to the labour market will mean changes in the way businesses operate and recruit. Today I am laying before the House a command paper (CP 258) providing further detail on the points-based system, covering the main economic migration routes for those wishing to work or study or set up a business in the UK, to help both employers and applicants prepare and adapt for the changes ahead. Copies will be available from the Vote Office.

It will be simpler for businesses to access the talent they need as we have removed the Resident Labour Market Test, lowered the skills and salary threshold, and removed the cap on skilled workers.

The skilled worker route gives employers flexibility by allowing applicants to trade points if they have relevant qualifications or work in a shortage occupation. We have commissioned our independent migration experts to produce a shortage occupation list, so that the Government can work with sectors to fill roles quickly where shortages may occur.

We will be introducing a new-fast track Health and Care Visa. This will make it easier and quicker for talented global health professionals to work in our brilliant NHS and in eligible occupations in the social care sector. The visa fee will be reduced and health professionals applying can expect a decision on whether they can work in the UK within just three weeks, following biometric enrolment. We will exempt frontline workers in the health and social care sector and wider health workers from the requirement to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge.

Our Global Talent route launched earlier in the year encourages highly skilled individuals to come to the UK and provides a fast track route for top scientists and researchers.

To ensure our world-leading education sector remains competitive in a changing global market, we are refining the student route and launching a Graduate route in Summer 2021. The student route will be streamlined for sponsoring institutions and applicants, and the graduate route will help retain the brightest and the best students to contribute to the UK post-study.

Our new system sends a message to the whole world that Britain is open for business, but on our terms.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2020-07-13/HCWS355/>

Information about the points-based immigration system, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-points-based-immigration-system-employer-information/the-uks-points-based-immigration-system-an-introduction-for-employers> and

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/899755/UK_Points-Based_System_Further_Details_Web_Accessible.pdf

Information about the Health and Care visa, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-health-and-care-visa-to-ensure-uk-health-and-care-services-have-access-to-the-best-global-talent>

Information about the Global Talent visa, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/global-talent>

**Update on implementation of the Immigration Health Surcharge exemption
for health and care workers**

Minister of Health (Edward Argar) [HCWS372] Following announcements by the Home

Secretary and the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care earlier this week, I would like to further update the House on progress made by the Department of Health and Social Care towards implementing the Immigration Health Surcharge exemption for health and social care staff, as announced by the Prime Minister on 21 May 2020.

The Prime Minister's announcement demonstrated our continued commitment to supporting our health and social care workforce and their families, not least because of the support they have provided to all of us throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our election manifesto included the commitment to introduce an NHS Visa. As set out by the Home Secretary, next month, we will launch a Health and Care Visa, following the Fees Regulations that were laid yesterday. This will make it cheaper, quicker and easier for the best health and care professionals to come and work in the UK. The launch of this new visa will also mean that for the very first time, overseas health and care staff on this visa will not need to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge upfront, either for themselves or their dependents.

I am, however, conscious that this visa does not exempt everyone in the health and care sector who has paid the Immigration Health Surcharge, such as the thousands of overseas staff working as direct care workers in social care, or as cleaners, porters or healthcare assistants throughout the NHS. I am pleased, therefore, to be able to reiterate what the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care confirmed in the House yesterday: that all employees working in the health and care sector that have paid the Immigration Health Surcharge on or after the 31 March 2020 will be eligible for a reimbursement of what they have paid since that date, including those vital staff outlined above.

This reimbursement will be paid in arrears of six-month increments. This ensures we only reimburse those workers and their families who have worked in the sector for an appropriate period of time. This will also provide an incentive to continue working in the health and care sector. I can confirm that this scheme will be launched by 1 October 2020. This is the earliest date that eligible workers and their families would be able to claim a reimbursement. My officials continue to work with colleagues across government, the devolved administrations, representative bodies and the health and care sector to ensure those who are eligible for reimbursement are accounted for within the scheme, and my Department will publish further details of the scheme in due course.

These are significant steps in ensuring that our health and social care workforce and their families are themselves cared for, after they have cared for and supported so many of us in incredible circumstances.

My Department will make further announcements to update the House on the progress of the Immigration Health Surcharge exemption and the reimbursement scheme, and relevant documents will be published on gov.uk in advance of the reimbursement scheme launching in October.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2020-07-15/HCS372/>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Points-based Immigration System

Lee Anderson (Conservative): What progress [has the Minister's] Department made on introducing a new points-based immigration system. [904575]

Marco Longhi (Conservative): What progress [has the Minister's] Department made on introducing a new points-based immigration system. [904591]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Kevin Foster): We are ending free movement and will introduce a new, firmer, fairer, skills-led global immigration system, with further details of it published today. Last month our Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU

Withdrawal) Bill passed through the House unamended, despite the best efforts of the Labour party and those on the separatist Benches.

Lee Anderson: On behalf of the people of Ashfield, I fully support the Government in introducing a points-based immigration system. For far too long, freedom of movement has encouraged the exploitation of migrant labour, which has driven down wages, increased pressure on public services, and had a significant impact on housing in places like Ashfield. Could my hon. Friend please assure me that, moving forward, this Government will implement a firm but fair points-based system attracting high-skilled workers while also prioritising British jobs for British people?

Reply from Kevin Foster: I agree with my hon. Friend. The points-based system will support our wider economic strategy by encouraging investment in a domestic UK workforce while ensuring that businesses can still attract the brightest and the best from around the world to Ashfield. We want employers to focus on training and investing in our domestic workforce, driving productivity and improving opportunities for resident workers, with immigration policy being part of, not an alternative to, our strategy for the UK labour market.

Marco Longhi: The introduction of the points-based immigration system is a pledge that we gave to the British people and one that we are now delivering on. Does my hon. Friend agree that now is also the time for employers to create the working conditions for our home-grown population to be attracted to the work that those employers should be offering?

Reply from Kevin Foster: I absolutely agree. Under our new points-based immigration system, the UK, especially the Black Country, will continue to be open to the best talent from around the world. But my hon. Friend is right: employers should always be looking to recruit from the domestic workforce first and ensure that they offer terms and conditions, and career development opportunities, that make this possible, especially as we look to support those who have suffered the economic effects of covid-19 back into to work.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-07-13/debates/3711CA27-7617-4A22-A122-0E3BB49124DB/Points-BasedImmigrationSystem>

Information about the points-based immigration system, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-points-based-immigration-system-employer-information/the-uks-points-based-immigration-system-an-introduction-for-employers> and

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/899755/UK_Points-Based_System_Further_Details_Web_Accessible.pdf

Immigration Health Surcharge Exemption

Rushanara Ali (Labour): What progress has [the Minister] made on implementing the immigration health surcharge exemption for NHS and social care workers. [904584]

Sam Tarry (Labour): What progress has [the Minister] made on implementing the immigration health surcharge exemption for NHS and social care workers. [904587]

Zarah Sultana (Labour): What progress has [the Minister] made on implementing the immigration health surcharge exemption for NHS and social care workers. [904590]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Kevin Foster): Home Office and Department of Health and Social Care officials are working to implement the surcharge exemption. The Home Office is currently identifying all those on a tier 2 visa who will benefit from a refund, and those payments have already started. Those eligible to apply for the new health and care visa will be exempt from the immigration health surcharge.

Rushanara Ali: I thank the Minister for his answer, but the fact that migrant workers in the NHS and care sector have had to pay the surcharge in the first phase is an insult to their

sacrifices, and the fact that the Government are taking so long to implement the Prime Minister's promise is an added insult. May I ask the Minister how many people have now got the exemption and how many have yet to receive it?

Reply from Kevin Foster: The hon. Member asks how long, but I said in my answer that refund payments had already started, and we will imminently implement the new health and care visa, which will see those on it exempt. So work is continuing, and to be clear, the health surcharge is about creating resources for the NHS and has supported the NHS. We have announced this policy, and we are driving it forward.

Sam Tarry: Ilford South is a diverse constituency, with 60% of my local population coming from either heritage communities or directly from immigrant communities. An Oxford University study last year found that the net fiscal giving from immigration to our country's economy between 2001 and 2011 was £25 billion. People in Ilford South are wondering whether the Minister agrees that it was wrong for the Government to act so slowly to move this policy forward and whether they should offer an apology to the people in Ilford South working in our NHS, who are fearful and risking their lives, and not getting the support they deserve from the Government?

Reply from Kevin Foster: I think the people of Ilford South working in the NHS will have been pleased to see the measures that we have taken, not least the fact that we will look to prioritise those coming to work for the NHS under our new visa system.

Zarah Sultana: Key workers kept our country running through the crisis, from doctors and nurses to supermarket assistants and delivery drivers. That is why we clap for them. They all pay their taxes, and they all contribute to the NHS. That is why the NHS surcharge is a discriminatory double tax on migrants. The Government acknowledge that it is wrong to clap for nurses one day and charge them extra the next, so will the Minister extend that principle to all workers and scrap the immigration health surcharge for all?

Reply from Kevin Foster: I will contrast those comments with the comments on the immigration health surcharge from the Labour party during the Immigration Bill Committee. We are clear that our NHS offers fantastic free-at-point-of-need care and services, and it is not unreasonable to ask those who come to this country to make a contribution towards it until they achieve indefinite leave to remain or settlement, which means that they are making a long-term commitment to this country and are therefore exempt from the charge.

Holly Lynch (Labour): Further to the excellent questions already asked, Dr Sadara is just one of the hundreds of clinicians who have already had to pay the immigration health surcharge since the Prime Minister said that it would end, not just for himself and his wife, but twice in six months for his newborn baby daughter. We do not just want these medics to stay in the NHS; we need them to stay in the NHS. The new rules published this morning confirm that the charge will end, but they do not come into effect until January, so can the Minister update the House? When will the surcharge end for health and social care workers, and why do the details published this morning suggest that some will still have to pay it and then be reimbursed?

Reply from Kevin Foster: The details published this morning relate to the new system beyond 1 January. However, to be clear, we will refund those who have paid the charge since 31 March, not just since the time when the Prime Minister made the announcement. We expect to bring in the new health and care visa significantly before 1 January; we are planning to have it in place before 1 October, and people applying for it will not have to pay the surcharge.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-07-13/debates/154A8344-4F5E-4EB4-9505-E7E306415E22/ImmigrationHealthSurchargeExemption>

The updated information referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2020-07-15/HCWS372/>

Information about the Health and Care visa, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-health-and-care-visa-to-ensure-uk-health-and-care-services-have-access-to-the-best-global-talent>

Covid-19: Support for Asylum Seekers

Patrick Grady (SNP): What assessment has [the Minister] made of the adequacy of support and accommodation for asylum seekers during the covid-19 outbreak. [904594]

Marion Fellows (SNP): What assessment has [the Minister] made of the adequacy of support and accommodation for asylum seekers during the covid-19 outbreak. [904615]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Chris Philp): We remain committed to providing support and accommodation to those who need it, but, in addition to that free accommodation, we also pay for utility bills and council tax. Free NHS care is available to those who need it, and there is free education for those with children. In addition, for three months, starting on 27 March, we paused the process of asylum cessation, and a 5% increase in the cash allowance was made just a few weeks ago.

Patrick Grady: Is the Minister suggesting that he would not give these things to people who need them, no matter what their background or where they come from? He was good enough to meet Glasgow's MPs, but the reality is that the forcing of more than 300 vulnerable asylum seekers into hotels by the contractor Mears has significantly damaged trust in the system. To rebuild that trust, there has to be an independent review and lessons learned, so what steps is he taking to ensure that that review happens?

Reply from Chris Philp: The hon. Gentleman is right to say that 341 people were moved at the end of March from temporary serviced apartments into hotel accommodation, because those apartments were considered unsuitable, bearing in mind coronavirus. He is also right to say that I have been meeting Glasgow MPs, and I will, of course, continue to do so. I have twice met Aileen Campbell, the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government, and the leader of Glasgow City Council, and I have committed to continue such meetings—he and I have spoken about that. He and his colleagues have raised specific concerns about the hotel accommodation, and I have asked Home Office officials to look into those urgently and report back to me.

Marion Fellows: The requirements in the asylum accommodation contracts to safeguard vulnerable people are vital, yet the recent National Audit Office report discloses that the contract fails to provide for proper monitoring of them or sanctions for breaches. Will the Minister fix that? Will he explain why no safeguarding framework is in place yet, despite this contract being worth billions of pounds of public money?

Reply from Chris Philp: We are, of course, studying the report very carefully. As the House would expect, we do monitor carefully the way the contractors operate. Where concerns are raised, as they have been in relation to Glasgow by Glasgow MPs and others, we look into them and investigate them seriously. That is what we are doing in the case of Glasgow.

Joanna Cherry (SNP): The NAO report mentioned by my hon. Friend the Member for Motherwell and Wishaw (Marion Fellows) is about not just value for money but people. Asylum seekers are, by their very nature, vulnerable people, with many of them being survivors of trafficking or ill treatment, including torture. Yet under the existing Home Office contracts with private companies, it is possible for those companies to shove hundreds of these asylum seekers into hotels without doing proper individual assessments of their vulnerabilities. The NAO report records that 10 months into these contracts there is no safeguarding framework. Can the Minister give us a date on which he will introduce a

safeguarding framework for these private company contracts?

Reply from Chris Philp: The hon. and learned Lady asked about vulnerability assessments. In the Glasgow case we are discussing, vulnerability assessments were undertaken before people were moved, and I understand that 109 people who might have been moved from the temporary serviced accommodation into the hotels were not moved as a consequence of exactly that vulnerability assessment. She made a more general point about taking care of people who are vulnerable. This country has an extremely proud record in this area: last year, we made 20,000 grants of asylum or protection, which is one of the highest levels in Europe; we welcomed more than 3,500 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, which is the highest level for any European country; and we are the only G7 country to spend 0.7% of gross national income.

Joanna Cherry: I thank the Minister for his answer, but I am sure he will recall that there was a degree of uncertainty about the nature of the assessments carried out in Glasgow, and I am sure he will agree that having a safeguarding framework would ensure that that sort of oversight would not happen again. He mentioned meeting the leader of the Glasgow City Council. He will be aware that many local authorities are concerned that, although the Home Office is happy to pay billions to private companies under these asylum contracts, no assessment has been made of the additional demands this places on local authority resources. Local authorities are concerned that the proper financial support they need is as far away as ever. How does he expect more local authorities to become asylum dispersal areas if the Government will not give existing local authorities the support they require?

Reply from Chris Philp: National Government provide a huge amount of support and finance to help asylum-seeking populations. We pay for all the accommodation. We pay for the council tax, which of course goes to local authorities, and for utility bills. Those who need healthcare are treated by the NHS, and of course funding for that flows from central Government. Those requiring education are educated, and there is a per capita funding formula to cover that. National Government are spending a huge amount of money supporting those populations. As the hon. and learned Lady said, the figures run over multiple years into billions of pounds. I am always happy to talk to local authorities about the work that they do and how we can work better together. I am already doing that with Glasgow City Council, and via the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government, Aileen Campbell, I hope to expand those conversations to cover other towns and cities in Scotland.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-07-13/debates/D63C9367-2984-430E-B408-9EA337569080/Covid-19SupportForAsylumSeekers>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Asylum-accommodation-and-support.pdf>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Immigration Controls: Scotland

Kenny MacAskill (SNP) [904613] What recent assessment she has made of the potential effect of the proposed points-based immigration system on the economy of Scotland.

Reply from Kevin Foster: This Government will introduce a points-based immigration system that works in the interests of the whole of the United Kingdom, including Scotland. Our future system is designed to drive up wages and productivity across the UK and allow us to bring in the most talented while responding to public concerns about immigration.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-13/904613/>

Information about the points-based immigration system, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-points-based-immigration-system-employer-information/the-uks-points-based-immigration-system-an-introduction-for-employers> and

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/899755/UK_Points-Based_System_Further_Details_Web_Accessible.pdf

Immigration: Welsh Language

Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru) [71114] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of bringing forward legislative proposals to amend the immigration rules to ensure that Welsh language skills are awarded equal points as English.

Reply from Kevin Foster: We recognise the rich and unique contribution the Welsh Language makes to our United Kingdom as a whole.

We are assessing the potential merits of amending the Immigration Rules to include recognition of Welsh Language Skills in our immigration system and will provide our conclusion in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-08/71114/>

Immigration: Appeals

Matt Western (Labour) [71852] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what recent estimate she has made of the average waiting time for immigration appeals to be heard at tribunal from the time the appeal is lodged, for (a) all tribunals, (b) asylum tribunals, (c) family visit visa tribunals and (d) entry clearance officer tribunals; and what additional resources have been allocated to tackling the backlog of immigration appeals as a result of the covid-19 outbreak.

Reply from Chris Philp: The average waiting time from the lodgement of the appeal to first hearing for the period January to March 2020 is a) for all appeals - 17 weeks and b) for asylum appeals - 8 weeks.

Family visit visa and Entry clearance officer appeals no longer exist as separate appeal categories. The other appeal categories are Human Rights appeals and Out of country appeals and their waiting times for the same period are 22 weeks and 34 weeks respectively. These figures are from internal Management Information extracted from the tribunal's case management system. They do not form part of the published tribunal statistics published on a quarterly basis and are available at: www.gov.uk/government/collections/tribunals-statistics

HM Courts & Tribunals Service has worked extensively to reduce the outstanding caseload and improve timeliness in the Immigration and Asylum Chamber. This has seen the live caseload in the First-tier Tribunal reduce by more than two-thirds, from 64,800 to 19,533 between July 2016 and March 2020. Our focus is now on maximising our capacity to reduce the growth and volume of our outstanding work. We will build the number of face to face hearings; our hearing centres were never officially closed even though all hearings were of course suspended.

We are working closely with the judiciary to increase the number of hearings by expanding our capacity for remote audio and video hearings; and ensuring that we can build the number of face to face hearings as soon as it is safe to do so and in line with public health advice and guidance.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-09/71852/>

Immigrants: Finance

Afzal Khan (Labour) [69672] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the effect of the No Recourse to Public Funds condition on BAME women.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office has published its policy equality statement on the impact of the No Recourse to Public Fund (NRPF) policy on migrants on the 10-year human rights route. It can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/application-for-change-of-conditions-of-leave-to-allow-access-to-public-funds-if-your-circumstances-change>.

The NRPF policy is based on the principle that migrants coming to the UK are expected to maintain and support themselves and their families without posing a burden on the UK's welfare system. Access to benefits and other publicly funded services reflects the strength of a migrant's connections to the UK and is normally linked to indefinite leave to remain.

People on the 10-year human rights route can apply to have the condition lifted.

Other groups, such as refugees, are exempt from the condition.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-06/69672/>

Immigrants: Finance

Stephen Timms (Labour) [66799] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant Answer dated 12 June to Question 54984 on Immigrants: Finance, whether (a) local welfare assistance and (b) Section 17 Children Act 1989 support is classified as local welfare provision; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Chris Philp: Local welfare assistance, which is also sometimes called local welfare provision, is classed as a public fund.

Assistance given under Section 17 of the Children Act does not fall within local welfare provision and is not classed as a public fund.

The Government has already provided more than £3.2 billion of funding to local authorities in England and they will now receive a further £500 million to respond to spending pressures they are facing. Funding has also been allocated to the Devolved Administrations under the Barnett Formula. Funding provided to local authorities under the Covid-19 emergency response will be paid through a grant that is not ring-fenced, recognising that local authorities are best placed to decide how this funding is spent.

More information on the support available to migrants, including those with NRPF, can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-get-support-if-youre-a-migrant-living-in-the-uk>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-30/66799/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-04/54984/>

Health Services: Immigrants

Lyn Brown (Labour) [68302] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if he will make an assessment of the implications for his policies of the paper entitled, Healthcare access for children and families on the move and migrants, published in BMJ Pediatrics Open on 13 April 2020.

Reply from Edward Argar: As part of its ongoing policy responsibilities, the Department is considering the Charging Regulations in relation to the most

vulnerable in society, including children and migrant pregnant women and new mothers. This includes ensuring the evidence base is sufficient and up to date where necessary and consideration of relevant legal duties, such as the Public Sector Equality Duty.

The Department has no plans to suspend the Charging Regulations or to launch an independent review of their impact.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-02/68302/>

The paper referred to above can be read at

<https://bmjpaedsopen.bmj.com/content/4/1/e000588>

Health Services: Immigrants

Lyn Brown (Labour) [68303] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if he will make an assessment of the implications for his policies of the publication entitled, Patients not passports: migrants' access to healthcare during the coronavirus crisis, published by Medact, Migrants Organise, and The New Economics Foundation in June 2020.

Reply from Edward Argar: Regulations came into force on 29 January 2020 to add Novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) (now known as COVID-19) to Schedule 1 of the National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 2015. This means there can be no charge made to an overseas visitor for the diagnosis, or treatment, of COVID-19. Patients that are known to be undergoing testing and treatment for coronavirus only are not subject to Home Office status checks.

This information has been widely communicated to NHS staff and the public, including a message published on Public Health England's Migrant Health Guide, which has been translated into 40 languages.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-02/68303/>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.medact.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Patients-Not-Passports-Migrants-Access-to-Healthcare-During-the-Coronavirus-Crisis.pdf>

The guidance referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-entitlements-migrant-health-guide>

Immigration: Health Insurance

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [69598] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, in what circumstances her Department will use its discretion to waive the requirement for applicants with settled status applying for British citizenship to have had Comprehensive Sickness Insurance in order to satisfy the requirement that they have been legally residing in the UK.

Reply from Kevin Foster: To meet the statutory requirements for naturalisation, a person of any nationality must have been in the UK lawfully during the residential qualifying period.

EEA regulations set out the requirements which individuals need to follow if they wish to reside here lawfully on the basis of free movement. In the case of students or the self-sufficient – but not those who were working here – the possession of comprehensive sickness insurance has always been a requirement.

The British Nationality Act allows us to exercise discretion over this requirement in the special circumstances of any particular case. We cannot therefore prescribe when discretion will or will not be exercised. UKVI consider cases sensitively, taking into account the nature and reasons for any period of unlawful residence alongside other information relevant to the individual.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-06/69598/>

Free School Meals: Immigrants

Stephen Timms (Labour) [70952] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what criteria he plans to use to determine for how long families with No Recourse to Public Funds will have access to free school meals; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Vicky Ford: During the COVID-19 outbreak, we are temporarily extending free school meal eligibility to include some children of groups who have no recourse to public funds. The extension of free school meal eligibility to these groups will continue while the COVID-19 outbreak impacts upon schools, and it includes access to the COVID Summer Food Fund.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-08/70952/>

Visas

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [71803] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, on what date she decided to reverse her plans to pilot a remote areas visa scheme.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Given the Home Office has not had plans to pilot a remote areas visa scheme, there cannot have been a decision to reverse them.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-09/71803/>

Visas

Kate Osborne (Labour) [72265] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to improve efficiency in the processing of visa applications from the point at which a visa is granted.

Reply from Kevin Foster: We are always looking for ways to increase efficiencies throughout the visa application process, including how we can ensure customers receive, as soon as possible, the official documentation relating to the decision on their applications (a visa vignette in their passport and/or Biometric Residence Permit, if applicable).

Currently global travel restrictions as a result of Covid-19 continue to have some impact on the application process however this impact will reduce as restrictions start to ease.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-10/72265/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Visas: Migrant Workers

John Hayes (Conservative) [65924] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of people in non-EU countries who would be eligible for Tier 2 (General) visas under the proposals for a lower skills threshold under the new points-based immigration system.

Immigration

John Hayes (Conservative) [65925] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the potential effect of the proposed new points-based immigration system on the level of non-EU immigration in each of the next five years compared to the level in 2019.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Impact Assessment for the Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill included an assessment of the potential number of skilled workers that may be eligible under the new points-based

immigration system. This included two illustrative scenarios for a potential increase in non-EU nationals eligible under a lower skill and salary threshold over the next five years. Estimates were provided for all skilled workers and not split by new entrant and experienced workers.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-bill-2020-overarching-documents>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-29/65924/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-29/65925/>

Information about the points-based immigration system, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-points-based-immigration-system-employer-information/the-uks-points-based-immigration-system-an-introduction-for-employers>

and

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/899755/UK_Points-Based_System_Further_Details_Web_Accessible.pdf

The following three questions all received the same answer

Visas

Ian Murray (Labour) [70383] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 16 June 2020 to Question 57177 on Visas, whether she plans to introduce a further extension of visas for people that are unable to travel home after 31 July 2020.

Visas: Coronavirus

Drew Hendry (SNP) [71818] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of implementing an additional visa extension beyond 31 July 2020 for people from countries with continuing high rates of covid-19 infection.

Travel Restrictions: Coronavirus

Drew Hendry (SNP) [71819] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to support people whose visas are due to expire and are unable to return to their nations of origin as a result of ongoing covid-19 travel restrictions.

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 recognise further adjustments are likely to be required to cater for all scenarios, and we are working to ensure people are not unduly affected by circumstances beyond their control. The latest information in respect of advice for visa holders can be found on GOV.UK at:

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

This is being kept under review, including whether further extensions will be necessary. We will confirm the position for those affected shortly.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-07/70383/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-09/71818/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-09/71819/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

Visas: Musicians

Mhairi Black (SNP) [70429] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, if he will make it his policy to introduce a (a) two year multi-entry touring visa for musicians, (b) temporary exemption from duty for the transportation of instruments and equipment and (c) an expansion of the list of CITES-designated points of entry and exit.

Reply from Caroline Dinenage: DCMS has engaged extensively with union bodies, companies, orchestras, individual musical practitioners and cultural organisations. We understand the importance of being able to tour. We recognise that this depends on musicians and crew being able to move quickly and easily between countries, taking necessary equipment with them.

We want a relationship with the EU based on friendly cooperation. On temporary entry for business purposes (mode 4), a reciprocal agreement based on best precedent will mean that UK citizens will be able to undertake some business activities in the EU without a work permit, on a short-term basis. The same would apply for EU citizens making business visits to the UK. The precise details, including range of activities, documentation needed, and the time limit, will be negotiated.

There are several options currently available which allow certain goods to be imported temporarily into the UK from outside the EU without payment of duties, subject to certain conditions. These include ATA Carnet and Temporary Admission (TA). Similarly there are options, including ATA Carnet and Returned Goods Relief (RGR), that allow certain goods to be reimported to the UK following temporary export to another customs territory without payment of duties. At the end of the Transition Period, ATA Carnets, RGR and TA will all become options for temporarily moving musical instruments and equipment between the UK and EU.

DEFRA has already expanded the list of CITES-designated points of entry and exit available post Transition Period to a total of 29. They will continue to work with port operators, Border Force, and industry to analyse trade flows and will designate further PoE where there is clear evidence of benefit to the UK.

The following two questions both received the same answer

Visas: British National (Overseas)

Caroline Nokes (Conservative) [67628] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when she plans to start accepting applications from BNO passport holders wishing to come to the UK on a five-year visa with the right to work.

Caroline Nokes (Conservative) [67629] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether British Nationals Overseas passport holders from Hong Kong will be able to travel to the UK and make an in-country application for a five year visa enabling them to work in the UK.

Reply from Kevin Foster: As announced by the Foreign Secretary on 1st July, a new bespoke immigration route will allow BN(O)s to apply to come to the UK without the current 6 month limit, granting them 5 years limited leave to remain, with the ability to live and work in the UK, after which they may apply for settled status and a year later citizenship. This is a special bespoke set of arrangements, developed for the unique circumstances we face and in light of our historic commitment to the people of Hong Kong.

The new route will be implemented in the coming months, with further details to be announced in due course on the simple, streamlined application process which will

have no quota on numbers.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-01/67628/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-01/67629/>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-to-extend-residence-rights-for-british-nationals-overseas-citizens-in-hong-kong>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Carol Monaghan (SNP) [72227] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of granting a further extension for people on a Tier 4 General Student visa due to the covid-19 pandemic.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The latest information in respect of advice for visa holders can be found on GOV.UK at:

www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-uk-visa-applicants-and-temporary-uk-residents. This is kept under review.

The Home Office has put in place a range of measures to support those affected by the covid-19 outbreak. We recognise that further adjustments are likely to be required to cater for all scenarios, and we are working through these, 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/2020-07-10/72227/>

Marriage of Convenience

John Hayes (Conservative) [67526] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many reports of suspected sham marriages were received from superintendent registrars in each of the last five years.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Reports of suspected sham marriage were reported to the Home Office by Superintendent Registers, on 2,791 occasions in financial year 2015/16, 2,960 in 2016/17, 2,677 in 2017/18, 3,246 in 2018/19 and 2,918 in 2019/20.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-01/67526/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Windrush Generation: Compensation

Patrick Grady (SNP) [57242] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have (a) applied for and (b) received compensation under the Windrush Compensation scheme; and how much has been paid out under that scheme to date.

Patrick Grady (SNP) [57243] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the adequacy of the timescale for processing payments under the Windrush Compensation Scheme; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Priti Patel: Information on the total number of applications, claims paid and the overall amount paid out by the scheme is available to view on GOV.UK at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/windrush-compensation-scheme-data-may-2020>.

We are processing claims as quickly as possible, but all claims are different, and the time taken will depend on many factors, including the complexity of the case. We are committed to working with the claimant to ensure all possible information is taken into account and this will have an impact on the length of time it takes to

process the claim. Wherever possible, we will make interim payments on parts of the claim that are straightforward to determine, such as immigration fees, thereby speeding up the provision of compensation.

Our recently published statistics on the payments made under the Windrush Compensation Scheme, show a clear increasing trajectory of payments: £362,997 paid in the first 12 months of the scheme, of which £300,799 was paid in the most recent three months of that period.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-09/57242/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-09/57243/>

Information about the Windrush compensation scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-windrush-compensation-scheme>

Windrush Generation: Compensation

Charles Walker (Conservative) [59193] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what progress her Department has made on ensuring that people eligible for compensation under the Windrush scheme have received the financial recompense they are entitled to; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Priti Patel: There has been significant outreach and communication activity to publicise the Windrush Compensation Scheme. These events have been promoted by stakeholders and on local and social media. We are now continuing events online:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/windrush-online-engagement-events>.

We also work with MPs, local councils and stakeholders to raise awareness and materials on the scheme are available on GOV.UK and have been provided to community groups to try to ensure that all those affected are aware of the scheme. Our recently published statistics on the payments made under the Windrush Compensation Scheme, show a clear increasing trajectory of payments: £362,997 paid in the first 12 months of the scheme, of which £300,799 was paid in the most recent three months of that period. Comprehensive data can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/windrush-compensation-scheme-data-may-2020>.

The Home Office has additionally made offers of approximately £280,000 in compensation through the scheme. Once the offers are accepted by the applicants, the payments will be made.

We work with claimants throughout the process to obtain as much information about the claim as possible. This approach ensures that claimants receive the maximum possible amount to which they are entitled under the scheme.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-12/59193/>

Information about the Windrush compensation scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-windrush-compensation-scheme>

Windrush Generation: Compensation

Fiona Bruce (Conservative) [59421] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many (a) people are eligible for compensation and (b) people have received compensation from the Windrush compensation scheme.

Reply from Priti Patel: An updated Impact Assessment was published in February 2020 which outlines the Home Office's estimate that there could be 11,500 eligible claims to the Windrush Compensation Scheme.

This has reduced since the previous Impact Assessment was published in April 2019 (which predicted 15,000 eligible claims), due to lower than anticipated claims to date.

There inevitably is a high degree of uncertainty around estimated volumes of claims and the Department will continue to review estimates as more payments are made. Information on the total number of applications, claims paid and the overall amount paid out by the scheme since April 2019 is available to view on GOV.UK at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/windrush-compensation-scheme-data-may-2020>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-15/59421/>

Information about the Windrush compensation scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-windrush-compensation-scheme>

The impact assessment referred to above can be read at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/864199/Windrush_compensation_policy_Impact_Assessment.pdf

Windrush Generation: Compensation

Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [59531] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will place in the Library the criteria used by her Department to determine the amount of compensation due to Windrush Compensation Scheme applicants.

Reply from Priti Patel: The Windrush Compensation Scheme rules and caseworker guidance set out the criteria by which claims under the Windrush Compensation Scheme are considered. These are published at:

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

and

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-15/59531/>

Information about the Windrush compensation scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-windrush-compensation-scheme>

Windrush Generation: Compensation

Helen Hayes (Labour) [60832] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the (a) scope and (b) purpose are of the community grant fund established to promote access to the Windrush Scheme and Windrush Compensation Scheme with regard to (i) when that scheme will be launched (ii) who will be eligible to bid and (iii) which activities will be eligible for funding from that grant fund.

Reply from Priti Patel: The purpose of the £500,000 Windrush Schemes Community Fund will be to provide community organisations with funding to run outreach, promotional and support activity to raise awareness of the Windrush Compensation Scheme and the Windrush Scheme.

The Home Office will be working with stakeholders to co-design and deliver the Fund. Further details, including eligibility criteria and when the Fund will be open for bids, will be released in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-17/60832/>

Information about the Windrush Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/windrush-prove-your-right-to-be-in-the-uk>

Information about the Windrush compensation scheme, referred to above, can be read at

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Jack Brereton (Conservative) [904603] What steps her Department is taking to stop migrants crossing the English Channel illegally.

Reply from Chris Philp: We have a duty both to protect our borders and prevent loss of life. That's why we are doing everything we can to stop these dangerous Channel crossings and bring to justice the criminals behind this evil trade.

No one should be making these dangerous and illegally-facilitated crossings. France is a safe country with a well-run asylum system.

The National Crime Agency, Immigration Enforcement, Border Force and UK Police are working closely with French authorities to stop ruthless criminals who facilitate the crossings, putting lives at risk. A UK-France Coordination and Information Centre was opened in Calais in November 2018 to co-ordinate law enforcement activity.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-13/904603/>

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [65956] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent discussions she has had with her French counterpart on migrants illegally crossing the English Channel.

Reply from Chris Philp: The UK and France maintain a strong and active relationship on the issue of migration and those attempting to access the UK illegally, ensuring that the necessary support is delivered to vulnerable migrants whilst upholding security at our shared border.

The Home Secretary met with her new counterpart, Interior Minister Gérald Darmanin, on the 12th July: both ministers reaffirmed their commitment to put a stop to small boat crossings and to returning boats to France rather than allowing them to reach the UK. Additionally, the ministers agreed to the creation of a joint intelligence cell to help deter and dismantle the organised criminal gangs facilitating these journeys.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-29/65956/>

Asylum: Coronavirus

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [71801] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she made of the level of compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty of (a) the decision on 27 March 2020 to pause asylum support cessations and evictions and (b) the decision to lift that pause on 24 June 2020, as announced to refugee sector agencies on the Strategic engagement group; and what assessment she has made of the effect on BAME asylum seekers of the covid-19 outbreak.

Reply from Chris Philp: In accordance with our PSED duties, the HO has given due regard to equalities issues in respect of additional support provided to asylum seekers in response to COVID pandemic. The decision to temporarily extend support and accommodation for those who would otherwise no longer be eligible was undertaken in consultation with Public Health Agencies across the UK. We are continuing to work closely with public health, local government and others to plan an appropriate resumption to termination of statutory support, taking full account of equalities duties and potential impacts on those SUs with protected characteristics.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-09/71801/>

Asylum: Coronavirus

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [71802] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 25 June 2020 to Question 61728 on Asylum: Coronavirus, when the advice in relation to the pause of asylum support cessations and the subsequent review was received by her Department.

Reply from Chris Philp: We have been working closely with National and Local health Colleagues throughout the pandemic to inform our approach and have sought advice about the cessations and review a number of times.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-09/71802/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-19/61728/>

Asylum: Contracts

Neil Coyle (Labour) [71069] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has made an assessment of the implications for her policies of the July 2020 Refugee Action report entitled Wake Up Call and its finding that the transition from one set of Government asylum contracts to another in 2019 caused delays in people accessing asylum advice and resulted in inadequate support for people with newly granted refugee status.

Reply from Chris Philp: We are currently reviewing this report and will respond to the authors in due course, however we reject the suggestion that we provide inadequate support to asylum seekers.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-08/71069/>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.refugee-action.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Wake-Up-Call-2020.pdf>

Asylum: Temporary Accommodation

Mhairi Black (SNP) [69592] To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, what representations he has made to Cabinet colleagues in relation to people in Scotland who are in temporary accommodation provided by Mears Group and funded by the Home Office.

Reply from Iain Stewart: The Secretary of State for Scotland is in contact with the Prime Minister and Home Secretary on a range of immigration issues of importance to Scotland.

Just like everyone else in the country, asylum seekers have been asked to stay in their accommodation to help in the fight against Coronavirus, which has increased the amount of accommodation needed to do so safely. The use of contingency accommodation is an exceptional response to exceptional circumstances.

Since the start of the current pandemic, the Home Office has been in daily contact with service providers to ensure that the Government continues to meet its statutory obligation to house destitute asylum seekers and to ensure that all contracted support services are delivered and service users are housed safely. As we emerge from lockdown measures, work has begun in Glasgow to move people out of hotels back into longer term accommodation.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-06/69592/>

Asylum: Hong Kong

Lisa Nandy (Labour) [71041] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department,

how many people from Hong Kong have sought asylum in the UK from 21 May 2020 to 8 July 2020; and how many of those applications for asylum have been granted.

Reply from Chris Philp: 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 and the initial decision on such applications are published in tables Asy_D01 and Asy_D02 of the asylum and resettlement detailed datasets.

Data covering April to June 2020 will be published as part of the August release of Immigration Statistics.

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.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-08/71041/>

Detention Centres: Dismissal

Edward Davey (Liberal Democrat) [70296] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many staff have been dismissed for abusing detainees in immigration detention centres in each of the last five years.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Government expects the highest standards from those we entrust with the safety and welfare of those in detention.

Management information indicates that 20 detainee custody officers have been dismissed for either the inappropriate use of force or inappropriate behaviour towards a detained individual from 1 January 2015 to 18 July 2020. Of these 20 dismissals, 1 took place in 2015, 2 in 2016, 14 in 2017, 2 in 2018, 1 in 2019 and none in the year to date. These individuals have also had their certification revoked by the Home Office. This is provisional management information that is subject to change. It has not been assured to the standard of Official Statistics.

All complaints made by individuals detained at an immigration removal centre (IRC) are investigated by the IRC supplier in accordance with Detention Services Order 03/2015. Any allegations of serious misconduct made against staff at an IRC are also referred to the Home Office Professional Standards Unit for investigation. Where a detained individual, or someone on their behalf, alleges that a member of staff has committed a sexual offence against them the police will automatically be notified, even if the detained individual does not wish the matter to be reported or to make a formal complaint.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-07/70296/>

Detention Centres: Self-harm and Suicide

Edward Davey (Liberal Democrat) [70295] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many instances of (a) self-harm and (b) suicide there have been in immigration detention centres in each of the last five years.

Reply from Chris Philp: Staff at all immigration removal centres are trained to identify those at risk of self-harm so that action can be taken to minimise the risk. All incidents of self-harm are treated very seriously, and every step is taken to prevent incidents of this nature. Formal risk assessments on initial detention and systems for raising concerns at any subsequent point feed into established self-harm procedures in every IRC, which are in turn underpinned by the Home Office Operating Standard on the prevention of self-harm and Detention Services Order

06/2008 Assessment Care in Detention Teamwork (ACDT).

Self-harm incidents requiring medical treatment in each immigration removal centre, for the last five years are shown in the table below. This is provisional management information that has not been assured to the standard of Official Statistics.

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 (up to 31 March)
Number of self-harm incidents	313	295	403	398	474	149

These are the number of incidents of self-harm requiring medical treatment; they do not necessarily equate to the number of individuals requiring medical treatment as one individual may have received treatment on more than one occasion.

Any death in immigration detention is subject to investigation by the police, the coroner (or Procurator Fiscal in Scotland) and the independent Prisons and Probation Ombudsman.

In the period 1 January 2015 to 8 July 2020 there have been three deaths of individuals detained in the immigration detention estate that have been determined by a coroner as a suicide on the balance of probabilities.

Since 2018, information on deaths in immigration detention has been included in published immigration statistics on an annual basis. Data on the number of deaths of people detained under immigration powers in each year from 2017, are published in table Det_05 of the Detention summary tables.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-07/70295/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Edward Davey (Liberal Democrat) [70294] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the longest amount of time is that a person has been detained in an immigration detention centre among those detainees currently being so detained.

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 longest length of detention of a person in detention under immigration powers as at 31 March 2020 are published in Table Det_03d of the 'Summary tables' (attached). The 'contents' sheet contains an overview of all available data on detention.

A report on 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.

Figures 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).

[Summary tables](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-07/70294/>

Human Trafficking

Anthony Mangnall (Conservative) [69700] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to prevent human trafficking.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Government is committed to tackling the heinous crime of modern slavery. We are identifying more victims of modern slavery and doing more to bring perpetrators to justice than ever before.

The Home Office works with range of partners to deliver effective prevention activity including successful awareness raising initiatives like the 'Hidden in Plain Sight' campaign which targeted frontline professionals in healthcare, recruitment and financial sectors to spot the signs of modern slavery.

We are committed to improving our understanding of this rapidly evolving threat. In July 2019 the Government announced a £10 million investment to create a new Policy and Evidence Centre for Modern Slavery and Human Rights to transform the evidence base underpinning our policy response to modern slavery.

In May, at the Prime Minister's Virtual Summit on Hidden Harms, the Government reiterated the absolute priority that we prevent and protect those at risk from hidden harms. This year we have provided a further £1.4 million funding to the Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime Unit to support the police to tackle modern slavery and build capacity to crack down on organised immigration crime.

We are also continuing work to prevent modern slavery in public and private sector supply chains. On 26 March 2020, we became the first country to publish a Government Modern Slavery Statement setting out the steps we have taken to identify and prevent modern slavery in our own supply chains. To make it easier for consumers, investors and others to scrutinise the steps that businesses are taking address their risks the Home Office is creating a new gov.uk registry for modern slavery statements. We have also consulted on proposals to strengthen the transparency in supply chains legislation and will publish a response to this consultation in the Summer.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-06/69700/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Covid-19: Human Trafficking

The Lord Bishop of Bristol: To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on human trafficking in the United Kingdom.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford): My Lords, during the Covid pandemic we are working closely with law enforcement to ensure that high-risk modern slavery cases continue to be pursued and that any changes to the threat of modern slavery are assessed. As a priority, we are continuing to deliver essential services and support for victims during the Covid pandemic.

The Lord Bishop of Bristol: My Lords, in conjunction with the National Crime Agency, the Clewer Initiative has today released an app to help agricultural workers and their employers understand their rights and responsibilities. In the light of current travel restrictions across the world, what assessment has the Minister made of the impact that the Government's proposed points-based immigration system will have on seasonal agricultural workers? Will the Government give the sector advance warning of any changes, following the review of the pilot later this year?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, whether we have a points-based system or not, people who work in our agricultural sector should be protected

from exploitation by unscrupulous people who might employ them. Therefore, I cannot see that our points-based system will have a particular effect, but we should always be on guard against people who might exploit those vulnerable to it.

Baroness Massey of Darwen (Labour): My Lords, before Covid-19 child migrants were already vulnerable to trafficking and suffered problems with health and social care. Could the Minister say what extra support for such children is now available at a local level, and how it will be monitored?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The noble Baroness points to something that we have been very mindful of throughout this lockdown period. I did not quite hear what she said about whom we might support. Was she talking about vulnerable children?

Baroness Massey of Darwen: Yes, vulnerable children.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Absolutely, we have been very mindful of the vulnerability of children in all sorts of ways, whether it is from the effects of domestic abuse, online malicious intervention or drugs and gangs. We have secured £1.73 million for charities to provide emergency support to victims, and we have provided a further £1.4 million this year to continue our dedicated funding for the police to tackle modern slavery under the new modern slavery and organised immigration crime programme. This year, we will invest £7 million to safeguard victims of modern slavery.

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated): My Lords, human trafficking is graphic, and it is a form of modern -day slavery. There are more slaves today than at the height of the transatlantic slave trade. What further action will the Government take to ensure that companies—for example, those in the textiles and fashion industry—eradicate slavery from their supply chains?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Sadly, I agree with my noble friend; I fear that, having ruled against slavery over 200 years ago, it is now back on our shores in a different and far more difficult way. We do not require companies or organisations to certify that their supply chains are slavery free, because in many cases that might be impossible, but we do ask businesses to be transparent about their risks and the measures they take to mitigate this. Leicester is a very good example of where we have stepped in, and a task force, led by the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority, has been set up to bring together the enforcement bodies.

Baroness Burt of Solihull (Liberal Democrat): The Walk Free Foundation, a human rights group, found that 75% of hospitality businesses were flouting anti-slavery legislation. As we emerge from lockdown, debt bondage will have increased and traffickers could capitalise as pressure on the hospitality industry to survive grows. Will the Government increase the number of workplace inspections and ensure that inspectors are highly trained to identify victims of trafficking?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The noble Baroness makes a very good point. However, as I said earlier, modern slavery can be a hidden crime, so it is incumbent upon all agencies in their work to try and identify the signs of modern slavery and tackle it. The noble Baroness makes a very good point about the hospitality industry.

Baroness Redfern (Conservative): My Lords, Covid-19 has increased vulnerability to human trafficking and pushed victims into more risky work. At the same time, financial and other resources allocated to anti-trafficking efforts are likely to be stretched during the pandemic. Are extra measures being looked at, such as expanding the referral helpline and working with local government to place prominent notices in public areas to highlight the issue of victims and their need to be able to contact local authorities?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I mentioned earlier some of the funding mechanisms that will be available. My noble friend is absolutely right that

we have seen an unprecedented increase in the number of potential victims of modern slavery being referred to the NRM—in 2019, it was 52% more than in 2018. In response to that, we have surged resources into caseworking teams to ensure that those victims receive the decisions and the support that they need in a timely fashion.

Baroness Butler-Sloss (Crossbench): My Lords, during the Covid-19 pandemic, might it be a sensible move, as well as a way of saving money, not to put children through the NRM?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I agree with the noble and learned Baroness in the sense that we have paused an awful lot of the processes that might be in place for people seeking asylum. Protecting people during this period and making sure they get the support that they need is at the heart of our endeavours. She has a point—children need specific intervention. I am not entirely sure what the position is with regard to NRM, but the Home Office is very focused on supporting children who might be vulnerable.

Lord Kennedy of Southwark (Labour Co-op): ... does the Minister accept that the exploitation of vulnerable people has continued and increased during the pandemic, with victims finding it more difficult to escape their abusers as front-line services have been either reduced or shut down? Can the Minister tell the House what remedial action will be taken to help victims as the country reopens?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I join the noble Lord in his praise for the Clewer Initiative. We feel that victims have been more in danger not because local services are not available to them but because we fear that many of them, particularly in situations of domestic abuse and slavery, are actually locked in with the exploiter or the abuser.

Baroness Barker (Liberal Democrat): The initial review from the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of abortion services delivered by telemedicine during Covid showed that staff, highly trained in safeguarding, have found trafficked women. Will the Minister's department work with the Department of Health and Social Care to evaluate and make this telemedicine service permanent?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I fully support what the noble Baroness has said. I will certainly go back to the department in terms of the permanency of this, but she is right to point out that it is another indicator of what might be going on.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-07-16/debates/8D7DD422-5DF4-49E1-BBCC-0F99CA649198/Covid-19HumanTrafficking>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Immigration

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL6323] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had, and with whom, about the possibility of devolving immigration issues to the devolved administrations.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Immigration is, and will remain, a reserved matter. This Government will introduce a points-based immigration system that works in the interests of the whole United Kingdom, including the devolved nations.

For a devolved immigration system to function, we would have to have internal borders between different parts of the United Kingdom. This would be wholly unacceptable

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-30/HL6323/>

Immigration

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL6322] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many applications for settled or pre-settled status in the UK are yet to be concluded.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office publishes data on the EU Settlement Scheme in the 'EU Settlement Scheme statistics'

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

Data on the number of applications and concluded applications are published in Tables 1 and 2 of the monthly EUSS statistics tables

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

Additional information on the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data relates to 28 August 2018 to 31 May 2020.

The latest published information shows more than 3.6 million (3,612,400) EU Settlement Scheme applications had been received up to 31 May 2020. In the same period 3.3 million (3,319,000) applications had been concluded, of which 57% were granted settled status and 41% granted pre-settled status.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-30/HL6322/>

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

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

Immigration: Roma

Baroness Whitaker (Labour) [HL6271] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to mitigate the issues faced by Roma EU citizens resident in the UK, with settled status, who may have their applications for naturalisation refused because they did not have Comprehensive Sickness Insurance before settled status was granted throughout any period of self-sufficiency or as a student.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: It has always been a requirement for a person to have been in the UK lawfully during the residential qualifying period for naturalisation.

EEA Regulations set out the requirements which individuals need to follow if they wish to reside here lawfully before attaining permanent residence. For example, in the case of students or the self-sufficient – but not those who were working here – the possession of comprehensive sickness insurance has always been a requirement under these regulations. Our customer guidance explains this position. The British Nationality Act allows us to exercise discretion over this requirement in the special circumstances of a case. The nationality application form and guide encourage applicants to give us relevant information to help us do so, including for Roma EU citizens.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-29/HL6271/>

Windrush Generation: Compensation

Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat) [HL5671] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their target for the number of (1) claims settled in full, and (2) interim awards made, in respect of the Windrush Compensation Scheme within (a) 18 months, and (b) one year, of the commencement of that Scheme.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We are processing claims as quickly as possible, but all claims are different, and the time taken will depend on many factors, including the complexity of the case. We are committed to working with the claimant to ensure all possible information is taken into account - this will have an

impact on the length of time it takes to process the claim but can result in a higher level of payment. Wherever possible, we will make interim payments on parts of the claim that are straightforward to determine, such as immigration fees, thereby speeding up the provision of compensation.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-15/HL5671/>

Information about the Windrush compensation scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-windrush-compensation-scheme>

Asylum

Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench) [HL6341] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the statement by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 30 June (HL Deb, col 574), how many applications from asylum seekers for refugee status are currently being assessed; how long it takes on average to resolve each application; how many applicants are currently neither told that they will be (1) removed, or (2) allowed to stay; and what consideration they have given (a) to holding an amnesty to regularise the position of those who have been in the UK for more than five years without legal status, and (b) to the potential benefits of enabling such people to live, study, work, contribute, and pay taxes, in the UK.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office is unable to state how many applications from asylum seekers for refugee status are currently being assessed or how long it takes on average to resolve each application.

The Home Office does however publish data on the number of asylum applications awaiting an initial decision by duration. This data can be found at Asy_04, of the published Immigration Statistics March 2020 which indicate that, as at March 2020, the total number awaiting an initial decision was 51,906.

An extract from the published data can be found below showing the total numbers awaiting an initial decision broken down by more or less than 6 months.

	Mar-20
Awaiting initial decision	51,906
Less than 6 months	20,390
More than 6 months	31,516

All asylum claimants are notified in writing of the outcome of the decision on their claim. If a claim is refused, a full explanation is provided of the reasons along with the relevant appeal rights, plus the necessary removal notice notifications advising them of their responsibility to leave the UK voluntarily and the consequences of them remaining in the UK illegally. Those applicants who are granted status are advised of their rights and benefits to which they are entitled to in the UK.

There are no plans for the Government to hold an amnesty to regularise the position of those who have been in the UK for more than five years without legal status.

The Immigration Rules already provide for undocumented migrants who are in the UK, who have not broken the law except for remaining here without lawful immigration status, to regularise their status. For those who do not meet the requirements of the Immigration Rules, there is provision for a grant of leave where there are exceptional circumstances or compelling compassionate grounds which would mean refusal would result in unjustifiably harsh consequences for the applicant.

The Government is committed to a fair and humane immigration policy which welcomes and celebrates people here lawfully, but which tackles immigration offending and protects tax-payer funded public services.

In common with other comparable countries, the UK has in place a framework of laws, policies and administrative arrangements ensuring access to work, benefits

and services is permitted only for those with the right to access them. It protects the taxpayer and is based on principles of fairness.

It is expected that those who do not have a legal right to be in the UK should leave.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-01/HL6341/>

The statement referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-06-30/debates/40866B34-014C-4E36-BAC1-DF95BD401377/Covid-19SupportAndAccommodationForAsylumSeekers>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Interviews

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL6254] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to make transcripts of Home Office interviews with asylum seekers available for scrutiny.

Refugees: Interviews

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL6255] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to record Home Office interviews with those claiming refugee status.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office follows published policy and guidance. This means substantive asylum interviews are digitally recorded, and an audio copy made of the interview is provided to the claimant or their legal representative. In addition to the digital recording they are provided with a full written verbatim interview transcript.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-29/HL6254/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-29/HL6255/>

Asylum: Finance

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL6258] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the policy to withdraw section 95 support from asylum seekers when they are given temporary accommodation with food.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: There has been no change to policy. Asylum seekers receiving support under section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 and in dispersed accommodation are generally provided with accommodation and a cash allowance to cover other essential living needs.

For those in full board section 98 Initial Accommodation, hotels or hostels, essential living expenses are covered and they do not therefore receive a cash allowance.

Where section 98 accommodation is self-catered they will receive a cash amount to purchase their own food.

As a result of the Covid-19 crisis a higher proportion of asylum seekers than usual are being accommodated in full-board hostels and hotels.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-29/HL6258/>

Asylum: Finance

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL6318] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that asylum seekers who have no recourse to public funds can obtain soap and other essentials; and what plans they have, if any, to provide such people with mobile telephones whilst they are in the process of applying for asylum.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Asylum seekers receiving support under section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 are generally provided with accommodation and a cash allowance to cover other essential living needs, including hygiene products. For those in section 98 Initial Accommodation and hotel or hostel accommodation, hygiene products are provided to them.

The level of the cash allowance provided takes into account communication needs, including the cost of buying and using a mobile phone. As a result of the Covid-19 crisis a higher proportion of asylum seekers than usual are being accommodated in full-board hostels and hotels. We are looking at practical ways of providing internet access to this group and other ways to enable them to communicate effectively.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-30/HL6318/>

Asylum: Finance

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL6365] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they expect to complete the annual review of cash allowances paid to asylum seekers by the end of July; and if not, when they expect to complete the review.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: 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 (the legal test).

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%. This increase is significantly higher than the current general rate of inflation, which Office for National Statistics data shows was only 0.5% in the 12 months period to May.

Confirmatory work, including taking account of possible Covid 19 impacts, is ongoing and the result of the full review will be published in due course.

The UK has a generous record in supporting asylum seekers. Last year, we made around 20,000 grants of asylum or protection (one of the higher figures in Europe), as well as offered protection to 3,000 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children – the highest number of any country in Europe. In addition, we have directly resettled around 20,000 people from the most dangerous areas of the world (especially Syrians) in the UK over the last 5 years. Finally, we spend around £14 billion per year in Overseas Aid, helping millions of people around the world. This is the highest amount of any country in Europe and we are the only G7 country to meet the 0.7% of GNI Overseas Aid target.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-01/HL6365/>

Asylum: Finance

Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench) [HL6340] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the statement by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 30 June (HL Deb, col 574), what assessment they have made of the impact of the “no recourse to public funds” policy on the prevalence of poverty among people without residential status and the dependence on charities for food, housing and survival.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The NRPF policy is based on the principle that migrants coming to the UK are expected to maintain and support themselves and their families without posing a burden on the UK's welfare system. Access to benefits and other publicly funded services reflects a migrant's lawful status and the strength of their connections to the UK. That is why access to public funds is normally tied to indefinite leave to remain.

Those without lawful status in the UK are expected to take steps to resolve their

situation, either by regularising their stay, or by leaving the UK. Help is available for people who wish to leave voluntarily. However, we recognise the unique challenges that the Covid-19 pandemic presents. That is why we have provided more than £3.2 billion of funding to local authorities in England and now a further £500 million to respond to spending pressures they are facing. The Government has also provided additional funding for the devolved administrations under the Barnett formula as part of the wider government response. Funding provided to local authorities under the Covid-19 emergency response will be paid through a grant that is not ring-fenced, recognising that local authorities are best placed to decide how this funding is spent.

Local authorities may provide basic safety net support, 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.

In addition, the Chancellor announced an additional £750m package of support for charities across the UK to ensure they can continue their vital work during the Covid-19 pandemic.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-01/HL6340/>

The statement referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-06-30/debates/40866B34-014C-4E36-BAC1-DF95BD401377/Covid-19SupportAndAccommodationForAsylumSeekers>

Asylum: Housing

Neil Coyle (Labour) [71070] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government is taking with contractors to ensure that asylum seekers receive adequate accommodation.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office and its accommodation providers take the welfare of service users seriously.

The accommodation provided is safe, habitable, fit for purpose and correctly equipped and it is also required to comply with the Decent Homes Standard in addition to standards outlined in relevant national or local housing legislation. Where providers are found not to meet these standards, appropriate action is taken to hold providers to account and resolve concerns. The Home Office is in daily contact with service providers to ensure that the Government continues to meet its statutory obligation to house destitute asylum seekers and to ensure that all contracted support services are delivered, and service users are housed safely.

This is in addition to the monthly and quarterly formal performance boards.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-08/71070/>

Harmondsworth Immigration Removal Centre: Coronavirus

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL6319] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Report on short scrutiny visits to Immigration removal centres by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons, published on 12 May, why nine detainees were released from the Harmondsworth Immigration Removal Centre without a confirmed address to go to during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We do not comment on individual cases.

With regard to support provided to foreign nationals released from detention during the current pandemic I refer the Noble Lord to my answer of 27 May 2020 which can be found at:

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-questions-answers/?page=1&max=20&questiontype=AllQuestions&house=commons%2CLords&uin=HL4210>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-30/HL6319/>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.justiceinspectores.gov.uk/hmiprison/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2020/06/IRC-SSVweb-2020.pdf>

Immigrants: Detainees

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL6636] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 17 June (HL5219), whether they will now answer the question put, namely, how many people have been transferred from (1) a prison to an immigration removal centre or (2) one immigration removal centre to another, since 23 March.

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

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

on gov.uk on 28 May and the latest Immigration Statistics publication includes the numbers of individuals detained under immigration powers in prisons. 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.

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

Management information indicates that in the period from 23 March to 8 July 2020, 710 people have entered the immigration estate from the HM Prison Estate. This number includes those placed in the immigration estate temporarily prior to voluntary removal. All entrants to the immigration estate are placed in reverse cohort units in line with Public Health England guidance and those with particular health vulnerabilities offered the opportunity to 'shield'.

During this period there have also been 228 moves between immigration removal centres, with most of these internal moves within the Heathrow centres (Harmondsworth and Colnbrook) and the Gatwick centres (Tinsley House & Brook House).

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-08/HL6636/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

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

Deportation

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL6321] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many deportations (1) were halted in 2018, (2) were halted in 2019, and (3) have been halted to date in 2020; and what was the reason in each case.

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 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>)

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.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-30/HL6321/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Hywel Williams (Plaid Cymru) (722) Government support for asylum seekers – That this House is concerned about the current provisions provided by the Home Office to support those seeking asylum throughout the pandemic; asks the Government to review the current claiming system and modify it to allow for an asylum claim to be made remotely; demands that the financial support provided by the Government is increased by at least £20 per week to reflect the emergency changes made to the standard rate of universal credit and the increasing prices for essential goods; calls on the Government to review the current accommodation provided to asylum seekers to ensure that all accommodation allows for social distancing and self-isolation to align with the guidance given by the Department for Health and Social Care; and further calls on the Government to provide sufficient cleaning and personal hygiene supplies to prevent the spread of the virus in any shared accommodation.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/57251/government-support-for-asylum-seekers>

Press Releases

Home Secretary signals Britain is open for business

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-signals-britain-is-open-for-business>

Government launches Health and Care Visa to ensure UK health and care services have access to the best global talent

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-health-and-care-visa-to-ensure-uk-health-and-care-services-have-access-to-the-best-global-talent>

Guidance: Coronavirus (COVID-19) and immigration removal centres

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

Home Office minister commends Scottish charity's work supporting EU Settlement Scheme

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-office-minister-commends-scottish-charitys-work-supporting-eu-settlement-scheme>

Thousands to benefit from high-quality community based English language learning

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/thousands-to-benefit-from-high-quality-community-based-english-language-learning>

Asylum applications in EU remain limited in May

<https://www.easo.europa.eu/news-events/asylum-applications-eu-remain-limited-may>

New Publications

The UK's Points-Based Immigration System: Further Details

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/899755/UK_Points-Based_System_Further_Details_Web_Accessible.pdf

The UK's points-based immigration system: An introduction for EU citizens

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/900446/UK_points_based_immigration_system_-_introduction_for_EU_citizens.pdf

The UK's points-based immigration system An introduction for EU students

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/900443/UK_points_based_immigration_system_-_introduction_for_EU_students.pdf

News

Priti Patel sets out post-Brexit immigration plan – including health and care visa

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-53382818>

Nicola Sturgeon criticises 'potentially devastating' UK immigration plans

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18581931.nicola-sturgeon-criticises-potentially-devastating-uk-immigration-plans/>

New UK immigration rules from 2021 explained: Here's how the points-based system work?

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18580199.new-uk-immigration-rules-2021-explained-points-based-system-work/>

Immigration rules 'slap in face' of vital care workers

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18580084.immigration-rules-slap-face-vital-care-workers/>

Brexit: UK's new fast-track immigration system to exclude care workers

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/jul/13/uk-new-fast-track-immigration-system-to-exclude-care-workers-salary-thresholds>

New immigration points system: Migrants need 70 points to be eligible to work in the UK

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/07/13/new-immigration-points-system-migrants-need-70-points-eligible/>

Priti Patel calls on French to return migrant boats

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-53420063>

Priti Patel accused of 'fake news' by French MP over claims France is failing to turn back Channel migrants

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/07/16/priti-patel-accused-fake-news-french-mp-claims-france-failing/>

Priti Patel accuses the French of failing to turn migrant boats back even when just 250 yards from shore

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/07/15/priti-patel-accuses-french-failing-turn-migrant-boats-back-even/>

Priti Patel wrongly tells MPs France is 'not intercepting migrant boats' as record numbers cross Channel

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/priti-patel-france-migrant-boats-channel-immigration-a9621306.html>

Priti Patel criticises French for failing to stop migrant boats crossing Channel

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2020-07-15/news/priti-patel-criticises-french-for-failing-to-stop-migrant-boats-crossing-channel-kznmn22xj>

Record migrant numbers cross English Channel in small boats

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-53392096>

Record 180 migrants cross the Channel in a single day as Priti Patel says situation 'simply cannot be allowed to go on'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/07/13/record-180-migrants-cross-channel-single-day-priti-patel-says/>

Record number of migrants reach UK on day Priti Patel announces new approach to deal with English Channel crossings

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/uk-migrants-english-channel-priti-patel-boat-crossings-a9615626.html>

Channel migrants: Nine boats arrive with 125 men and women on board

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-53456488>

Asylum seeker at centre of landmark case over UK's 'unfair' fast-track system

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/jul/15/asylum-seeker-at-centre-of-landmark-case-over-uks-unfair-fast-track-system>

Council 'failed' London twins facing deportation to different countries

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-53439080>

In Leicester and beyond, migrant workers are being exploited

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/blogs/leicester-and-beyond-migrant-workers-are-being-exploited>

Rouaa's story: From Syrian refugee to UK schoolgirl

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-53397575/rouaa-s-story-from-syrian-refugee-to-uk-schoolgirl>

TOP

Equality

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Race Equality Action Plan

S5W-30350 Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat): To ask the Scottish Government whether its Race Equality Action Plan will take account of the recommendation in the BEMIS conference report, A Thematic Conference on Tackling Hate Crime and Prejudice Motivated by Racial and Religious Hatred, to set up an expert group that will examine how to integrate material in the curriculum for excellence on colonialism and how this impacts on society today.

Reply from John Swinney: On 20 March 2020 we published the Year 2 progress update on our Race Equality Action Plan. A final year report of this Plan will be published in 2021, which will include consideration of activity across all relevant portfolios.

Scotland's curriculum is not prescriptive. It provides teachers with a flexible framework through the experiences and outcomes. Education Scotland are in the process of work to exemplify how race equality can be addressed in education through whole schools approaches and the ethos and life of the school as well as across all curricular areas. An external reference group, including BEMIS and CRER, are guiding the work and a race equality in education resource for practitioners is nearly complete, due for launch in September.

Education Scotland have also developed a quick reference guide to existing key resources for practitioners about Black history and BAME heritage, including colonialism. We plan to make use of existing groups, including the Ethnic Minorities Resilience Network and members of the Diversity in the Teaching Profession working group, to inform whether any further action is needed.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-30350>

"Learning Outcomes and Next Steps" from the conference referred to above can be read at <https://bemis.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/hate-crime-conference-2018-learning-outcomes.pdf>

The action plan referred to above can be read at <https://tinyurl.com/wkvvtuh>

Race Equality Action Plan

S5W-30351 Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat): To ask the Scottish Government whether its Race Equality Action Plan will take account of the recommendation of the International Committee on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination to ensure that the curriculum for excellence contains material regarding the human rights violations and slavery associated with colonialism.

John Swinney: On 20 March 2020 we published the Year 2 progress update on our Race Equality Action Plan. A final year report of this Plan will be published in 2021, which will include consideration of activity across all relevant portfolios.

Scotland's curriculum is not prescriptive. It provides teachers with a flexible framework through the experiences and outcomes. Education Scotland have developed a quick reference guide to existing key resources for practitioners about black history and BAME heritage, including colonialism and slavery. We plan to make use of existing groups, including the Ethnic Minorities Resilience Network and members of the Diversity in the Teaching Profession working group, to identify any additional resources and inform whether any further action is needed.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-30351>

The action plan referred to above can be read at <https://tinyurl.com/wkvvtuh>

UK Parliament Ministerial Statement

The Prime Minister (Boris Johnson) [HCWS383] Today I am establishing an independent Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities. This cross-government Commission will review inequality in the UK, across the whole population.

The Commission's work will touch upon many areas of public policy. It will make

recommendations for action across Government, public bodies and the private sector, and will inform a national conversation about race, led by the evidence.

I have assembled a group of ten talented and ethnically diverse commissioners. They bring a wealth of experience from across a range of important sectors. In order to understand why disparities exist, what works and what does not, they will consider detailed quantitative data and qualitative evidence. They will also commission new research and invite submissions where necessary.

The Commission will set out a new, positive agenda for change - balancing the needs of individuals, communities and society, maximising opportunities and ensuring fairness for all.

I have placed the list of commissioners and the Commission's ambitious Terms of Reference, in the library of both Houses. Commissioners will be supported by a secretariat in the Cabinet Office Race Disparities Unit and will submit their report by the end of the year.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2020-07-16/HCWS383/>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Lammy Review

Lilian Greenwood (Labour): What progress has [the Minister] made on implementing the recommendations of the Lammy review, "An independent review into the treatment of, and outcomes for, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic individuals in the Criminal Justice System", published in September 2017. [904681]

Imran Hussain (Labour): What progress he has made on implementing the recommendations of the Lammy Review, "An independent review into the treatment of, and outcomes for, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic individuals in the Criminal Justice System", published in September 2017. [904706]

Reply from the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Robert Buckland): We remain absolutely committed to taking forward every recommendation that falls to Government and to completing the action on all those within our responsibility over the next 12 months. Recently, in February, we provided a further progress report in which we describe the undertakings to which we have committed the Department in relation to the recommendations.

Lilian Greenwood: Black and minority ethnic young people already face discrimination in the jobs market, and those with a criminal record are doubly disadvantaged. By putting barriers in the way of young people who have changed and present no significant risk to others, the criminal records system traps them in their past. The Taylor review recommended reform to ensure that young people are not unnecessarily held back by childhood offences, but my right hon. Friend the Member for Tottenham (Mr Lammy) called for a new approach, learning from the system for sealing criminal records adopted in many US states. When will the Government implement Lammy review recommendation 34 and allow young people to demonstrate that they are more than their past?

Reply from Robert Buckland: ... only last Thursday the relevant statutory instrument was laid before the House to remove both the requirement for automatic disclosure of youth cautions and the multiple conviction rule, which cause problems for people who have old convictions, regardless of their nature or the sentence. I want to go further. I have considered carefully the recommendation of the right hon. Member for Tottenham (Mr Lammy), and the sentencing White Paper later this year will have further proposals for reform of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

Imran Hussain: Stop-and-search is a misused, overused and discriminatory police tactic disproportionately applied to black, Asian and other minority communities, which results in

deep resentment and distrust towards the police and the Government. Will the Government, at the very least, hold their hands up and accept that many black, Asian and other minority men, women and children are stopped and searched not on the grounds of evidence or reasonable belief but because of the colour of their skin?

Reply from Robert Buckland: I share with the hon. Gentleman a deep abhorrence of arbitrary use of police powers, including stop-and-search. We have committed—as we should—to a principle of intelligence-led policing. That means police officers acting lawfully, on reasonable grounds, and not profiling or stereotyping any person because of the colour of their skin. There should be no place for that in our society.

David Lammy (Labour): As we have heard, recommendation 34 of the Lammy review said that the criminal justice system “should learn from the system for sealing criminal records employed in many US states.” I welcome the Government’s finally responding last week, after 18 months, with plans to comply with the major Supreme Court decision on filtering youth cautions, and the indication that I think the Secretary of State has given on meeting recommendation 34. Will he undertake to consult with Unlock and other groups who have campaigned long on this issue and speak to me in preparation for bringing forward those planned guidelines?

Reply from Robert Buckland: I am grateful to the right hon. Gentleman, who has always come to this matter with great responsibility and constructive engagement. In that spirit, I am more than happy to continue engaging with him. I will, of course, speak to the charities he mentioned, whom I know well, and other major stakeholders such as Lord Ramsbotham, in pursuance of preparation of a policy that I very much hope will command the support of all corners of the Chamber.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-07-14/debates/725C819C-FED6-4182-9F5B-C79BA8A30CF4/LammyReview>

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

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

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/627671/good-work-taylor-review-modern-working-practices-rq.pdf

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

The following seven questions all received the same answer

Office for Tackling Injustices

Dawn Butler (Labour) [62329] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what the cost to the public purse has been of establishing the Office for Tackling Injustices under the Administrations of the (a) previous and (b) current Prime Minister.

Dawn Butler (Labour) [62330] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what provision for funding the Office for Tackling Injustices (a) was made in his Department’s Supplementary Estimate for 2019-20 and (b) is planned to be made in his Department’s Main Estimate for 2020-21.

Dawn Butler (Labour) [62331] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many meetings he has held with (a) his Cabinet colleagues and (b) Ministers of other Government departments on the establishment of the Office for Tackling Injustices in each month since July 2019.

Dawn Butler (Labour) [62332] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many people have been asked by his Department to serve in the Office for Tackling Injustices; what the outcome of each such request has been; and if he will make a statement.

Dawn Butler (Labour) [62333] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, pursuant to the

Answers of 8 June 2020 to Questions 55892, 55893 and 55894 on Office for Tackling Injustices, what the process is for the announcements referred to in the answer; and if he will make it his policy to make a statement to the House in respect of each decision made by Ministers relating to the establishment of the Office for Tackling Injustices.

Dawn Butler (Labour) [69482] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, pursuant to the Answer of 7 April 2020 to Question 1870 on Office for Tackling Injustices and with reference to the Prime Minister's statement of 15 June 2020, how the cross-governmental commission to look at all aspects of inequality will contribute to the work of the Office for Tackling Injustices.

Ethnic Groups: Equality

Dawn Butler (Labour) [69483] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, with reference to the news release entitled, Authored article, Prime Minister's article in the Telegraph: 15 June 2020, what the territorial scope of the commission is planned to be; and what discussions he has had with Ministers in the Devolved Administrations on the remit of the commission in relation to (a) Northern Ireland, (b) Scotland and (c) Wales.

Reply from Chloe Smith: I refer the Hon. Member to the [written ministerial statement made by the Prime Minister](#) on 16 July 2020, which outlines the plans for a new cross-government Commission to review inequality in the UK. This Commission has superseded the proposals from the last Administration to create an Office for Tackling Injustice.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-22/62329/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-22/62330/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-22/62331/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-22/62332/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-22/62333/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-06/69482/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-06/69483/>

The answers referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-08/55892/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-08/55893/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-08/55894/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-13/1870/>

Pregnancy: Ethnic Groups

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [69757] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps the Government is taking to improve maternal mortality rates for Black women.

Reply from Nadine Dorries: Analysis of maternal deaths, stillbirths and neonatal deaths, undertaken by MBRRACE-UK, shows that poor outcomes are much higher for mothers from Black/Black British and Asian/Asian British ethnic groups and women living in the most deprived areas of the country.

Work to reduce health inequalities around maternal mortality rates is being led by Professor Jacqueline Dunkley-Bent OBE, Chief Midwifery Officer. This includes understanding why mortality rates are higher, considering evidence about what will reduce mortality rates and taking action to reduce mortality rates. The work is multi-disciplinary and involves a range of stakeholder groups, including users of maternity services.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-06/69757/>

Employment: Ethnic Groups

Neil O'Brien (Conservative) [70491] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what the employment rate was of (a) women and (b) men whose ethnicity was (i) white, (ii) mixed, (iii) Indian, (iv) Pakistani/Bangladeshi and (v) Black in each year since 1991.

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 Office for National Statistics (ONS) publishes quarterly estimates of employment rates by ethnicity and sex from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), which is a survey of people resident in households. The latest estimates were published on 19 May 2020.

Estimates by ethnicity are only available from the LFS for the three-month period April to June 2001 onwards. Changes were made to the LFS ethnicity questions in January to March 2011 to bring them into line with Census data collection on these topics. In April to June 2011 further changes were made to the ethnicity questions to bring them in line with Scottish Census data collection. As a result there may be some inconsistencies with data prior to 2011.

Table 1 contains estimates of the employment rates of men and women, by ethnicity, from April to June 2001 to January to March 2020, which are the latest estimates available. ...

[UKSA's supporting documents - 70491](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-07/70491/>

Average Earnings: Ethnic Groups

Neil O'Brien (Conservative) [70490] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what the average gross hourly pay was of people whose ethnicity was (a) white, (b) mixed, (c) Indian, (d) Pakistani/Bangladeshi and (e) Black in each year since 1991.

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

Estimates of hourly earnings by ethnic group are calculated from data gathered in the Annual Population Survey (APS), a survey of people resident in households. It should be noted that earnings questions in the APS are asked only of employees, meaning that the information which follows excludes the self-employed.

Table 1 presents average hourly earnings for the different ethnic groups specified in your question. The average presented is the median, rather than the mean, because it is a better measure of the 'typical' earnings for a given population group.

Estimates are presented between 2013 and 2018. We are unable to produce estimates prior to 2013 as appropriate survey weights are not available. Work is now beginning on estimating the pay figures for 2019.

Table 1: Median gross hourly earnings for certain ethnic groups UK 2013-2018

	£ per hour					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
White	10.58	10.81	10.91	11.05	11.46	11.87
Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups	11.00	10.41	10.71	11.26	10.71	12.16
Indian	11.55	12.03	11.75	12.50	12.76	13.46
Pakistani / Bangladeshi	8.13	7.89	9.11	9.36	9.45	9.62
Black / African / Caribbean / Black British	10.27	10.00	9.91	10.27	10.78	10.80

Source: Office for National Statistics - Annual Population Survey

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-07/70490/>

Child Benefit: Ethnic Groups

Afzal Khan (Labour) [69673] To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what impact assessment his Department has carried out on the potential merits for BAME women of increasing child benefit.

Reply from Steve Barclay: Child Benefit rates were raised in line with inflation in April 2020. This was alongside the government's significant package of welfare support in response to the Covid-19 outbreak, which is estimated by the to be worth £8bn this year. This includes: an up-to £20 per week increase to the Universal Credit standard allowance and Working Tax Credit basic element; a relaxation of earnings rules for self-employed Universal Credit claimants; and an increase in the Local Housing Allowance rates for Universal Credit and Housing Benefit claimants to the 30th percentile of market rents.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-06/69673/>

Judiciary: Ethnic Groups

Barry Gardiner (Labour) [72749] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, for what reasons the Judicial Executive Board does not have members from Black and Minority Ethnic communities.

Reply from Alex Chalk: There are no Judicial Executive Board (JEB) members from Black and minority ethnic communities. JEB is chaired by the Lord Chief Justice of England & Wales and comprised of the judges in the most senior leadership roles - the Master of the Rolls, the President of the Queen's Bench Division, the President of the Family Division, the Chancellor of the High Court, the Senior President of Tribunals and the Senior Presiding Judge for England & Wales, as well as the Chair of the Judicial College and the Chief Executive of Judicial Office. Appointments to the leaderships roles are made through the independent Judicial Appointments Commission. The Lead Diversity Judge also sits on the Board and shows the commitment to diversity at the heart of the senior judicial leadership.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-13/72749/>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Census: Staff

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [72246] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many people employed in census community adviser roles speak foreign languages; and which languages to those people speak.

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [72247] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many people employed in census community adviser roles there are in each ethnic group.

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [72248] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many people employed in census community adviser roles there are from each religion.

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 wider Census field force will need to reflect the profile of the communities in which they will be working, in order to engage more effectively and encourage participation. 200 census engagement manager roles are now live on the census jobs website. The census engagement managers will be working with councils and the different communities within a specific area. They will focus on groups that need additional support or encouragement to take part in the census. They will be employed from 28 September 2020. In addition, there will be 100 community advisers, to work with the census engagement managers, who will work with particular communities, such as those where language or culture may be a barrier to participation.

There will be 100 community advisers employed from October 2020 and the Office for National Statistics (ONS) are currently in the process of advertising these posts on the census website¹. The roles with indicative job specifications are on the website now to attract interest in upcoming roles. The specifications will be finalised prior to the roles going live on 3 August 2020.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-10/72246/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-10/72247/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-10/72248/>

Black Curriculum

Harriet Harman (Labour) [70951] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if he will implement the recommendations of the Black Curriculum.

Reply from Nick Gibb: The Department has responded directly to The Black Curriculum's campaign. The reply sets out in detail how the history curriculum already enables the teaching of Black history, as do other curriculums across other subject areas.

The substance of our reply to The Black Curriculum is based on the national curriculum's history programmes of study, available at the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-in-england-history-programmes-of-study>.

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 Black British history can already be included.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-08/70951/>

History: Education

Fleur Anderson (Labour) [73120] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what discussions he has had with external organisations on the inclusion of Black British history in the national curriculum.

Reply from Nick Gibb: On behalf of the Department, my officials have discussed the flexible scope of the history curriculum with a range of organisations such as the Historical Association, Runnymede Trust and The Black Curriculum.

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.

We will continue to explore what more we can do to support the teaching of Black history and welcome the perspectives of committed individuals and groups, building on previous discussions.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-13/73120/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Medical Teaching and Learning: Ethnic Diversity

Baroness Thornton (Labour): To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that ethnic diversity is fully reflected in all aspects of medical teaching and learning.

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health and Social Care (Lord Bethell): My Lords, the Government understand the importance of racial equality and diversity within the NHS and are committed to ensuring that this is reflected in medical training. We think we could do better, which is why the General Medical Council sets standards to ensure that students and doctors in training have the opportunity to understand the needs of patients from diverse social, cultural and ethnic backgrounds. That is why Health Education England provides a learning module on equality, diversity and human rights for all health and social care staff.

Baroness Thornton: ... We live in a multiracial society; our NHS serves everyone and is staffed by everyone. However, the training of our doctors, nurses and medical technicians appears not to reflect this fact. We do not know whether current clinical language and learning has exacerbated the dangers to patients from a BME background during the pandemic, for example.

I pay tribute to Malone Mukwende, a student at St George's, University of London, who

published *Mind the Gap* as guidance for healthcare professionals, showing how skin conditions manifest on darker-skinned patients. This is a question of medical training, not a question of options that people might opt in to. We have to integrate these issues into our medical training to ensure that all healthcare professionals are able to recognise, diagnose and treat all our citizens from all ethnic backgrounds. Are the Government going to act on that?

Reply from Lord Bethell: My Lords, I welcome the noble Baroness's point. She is entirely right that we live in an extremely diverse community, and this has an impact not only on the way people present their disease but on how they could and should be treated. This is why we build diversity awareness into our training and why we will build extra programmes into the *People Plan* that will be published shortly, and that is why we remain committed to this agenda.

Lord Boateng (Labour): Disparity in any part of the healthcare system is a threat to public health. In health education, there is underrepresentation of the black British community in student entry, among academic staff and in attainment. What specific actions do the Government intend to take to address this fact in each of those areas?

Reply from Lord Bethell: My Lords, the recruitment of 50,000 new nurses, more GPs and new trainees into our medical colleges is being done in a fresh and, importantly, exciting new way, with a much greater focus in the marketing and advertising on attracting those from BME communities. This recruitment programme will, I hope, present a little bit of an inflection point in our approach to recruitment.

Baroness Jolly (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, the Medical Schools Council is steered by an executive committee of 42, which is elected from its membership. Of these, only four are of an ethnic minority background and 11 are women. Apart from encouragement, can the Minister tell the House what the Government are doing to ensure that, across medical and other health professional training, there is proportional representation of both ethnic and gender minority teachers?

Reply from Lord Bethell: The noble Baroness is right; the representation of BAME communities at the higher echelons of the medical establishment is not good enough. In too many areas, the representation is not fair and does not reflect the much higher proportion of BME workers at other levels of the health service. We are working hard on a variety of agendas: the *People Plan*, which I have already mentioned, and the NHS workforce race equality standard. These measures are taken seriously and we are working hard to change the balance of representation.

Lord McColl of Dulwich (Conservative): Does the Minister agree that, in considering this important subject, there is certainly no room for complacency? However, we do need to know accurately the extent of the problem. Certainly, in all my years in medicine, I have always had this subject very much in mind in selecting and teaching students, selecting doctors and management generally. ...

Reply from Lord Bethell: My Lords, I completely agree with the noble Lord, Lord McColl, that complacency is our enemy. I recommend to him the NHS workforce race equality standard publication, which is very detailed in its analysis of the problem and is a guide to the challenge we face and a measure of how far we have come. I completely commend the achievements of those in the BAME community who often far outperform those of us who were born in Britain.

Baroness Prashar (Crossbench): My Lords, we all know that incorporating diversity into medical school curricula is an effective way to develop culturally sensitive responses by medical practitioners. However, does the Minister agree that we need medical curricula where diversity is integral and understood in all its dimensions, including institutional and personal biases? Would he also agree that the current guidance, while welcome, is full of good intent but lacks conceptual clarity, and that more effective work is needed to develop a meaningful and more rounded curriculum and means to evaluate its efficacy?

Reply from Lord Bethell: The noble Baroness put her point well, although the broadband deficiencies meant that I did not get all of it. I emphasise that this area of policy work is very much the focus of the drafting of the *People Plan*, which will put a spotlight on a number of the areas of our human resources, including BAME people, and we look forward to the publication of that plan.

Baroness Blackstone (Independent Labour): ... Will [the Minister] ensure that a meeting is arranged in the near future to hear from the medical schools what they are doing, first, to improve the representation of Afro-Caribbean staff and students and, secondly, to ensure that teaching and research properly explore those conditions to which the BAME community is especially susceptible? Black lives really do matter.

Reply from Lord Bethell: ... All I can say is that there is ongoing and regular engagement with the medical schools that focuses very much on the key issues that she describes. *Diversity and Inclusion: Our Strategic Framework 2018-2022*, from Health Education England, is a very explicit and specific programme of works in which we engage all those in health education. As I mentioned, we are working extremely hard on our recruitment campaigns to ensure that they reach communities otherwise not reached.

Baroness Hussein-Ece (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, while reflecting diversity in medical training and learning is critical, needed alongside that is a change in the culture in the NHS. Evidence shows that racism, bullying and harassment are not diminishing. Is the Minister satisfied that the clinical leadership across NHS services is committed to learning from the research evidence on the impact of racism and discrimination on health, life chances and mortality?

Reply from Lord Bethell: I am not satisfied; the statistics are not good enough. Twenty-nine per cent of BAME staff experienced harassment. That is not good enough; we must work harder.

Baroness Falkner of Margavine (Non-affiliated): ... Has his department had any conversations with Ofsted about the career choices that kids from diverse communities are making? Many realise that they want to go into medicine when it is too late and they have missed the appropriate A-level subjects so to do.

Reply from Lord Bethell: The noble Baroness is entirely right that decisions on careers are often made at school and if we do not get to people then we may miss them for ever. That is why we have built a major schools component into our recent recruitment campaign. It started in April, but it has been delayed by the Covid epidemic; it will restart shortly. I have commended it a couple of times already, but I reassure the noble Baroness that it has a hefty schools component to it, which I understand is working extremely well.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-07-14/debates/379CB648-6EA7-4637-81C0-B70439674D23/MedicalTeachingAndLearningEthnicDiversity>

"Mind the Gap", referred to above, is not currently available online.

The Strategic Framework referred to above can be read at

<https://www.hee.nhs.uk/printpdf/our-work/diversity-inclusion/diversity-inclusion-our-strategic-framework-2018-2022>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Pregnancy: Ethnic Groups

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL6262] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by the Maternal, Newborn and Infant Clinical Outcome Review Programme Saving Lives, Improving Mothers' Care, published November 2019, which concluded that "black women still have more than five times the

risk of dying in pregnancy or up to six weeks postpartum compared to white women".

Reply from Lord Bethell: Analysis of maternal deaths, stillbirths and neonatal deaths, undertaken by MBRRACE-UK, shows that poor outcomes are much higher for mothers and babies from black/black British and Asian/Asian British ethnic groups and women living in the most deprived areas of the country.

Work to reduce health inequalities around maternal and perinatal mortality rates is being led by Professor Jacqueline Dunkley-Bent OBE, the Chief Midwifery Officer. This includes understanding why mortality rates are higher, considering evidence about what will reduce mortality rates and taking action to reduce mortality rates. The work is multi-disciplinary and involves a range of stakeholder groups, including users of maternity services.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-29/HL6262/>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.hqip.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/mbrance-uk-saving-lives-improving-mother-s-care-maternal-report-2018-final.pdf>

Education: Equality

Lord Storey (Liberal Democrat) [HL6424] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Berridge on 30 June (HL5626), how they ensure that the UK has an inclusive education system which recognises and embraces diversity when schools make their own choices about what is taught.

Reply from Baroness Berridge: All state-funded schools in England have a duty to teach a broad and balanced curriculum that promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school, and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life. Under the Equality Act 2010, schools must also not discriminate against a pupil in a number of respects because of a characteristic protected by the Act.

The Department for Education has published guidance to help schools fulfil their duties under the Act. This includes advice on the Public Sector Equality Duty which requires public bodies, including state-funded schools, to have due regard to the need to: foster good relations across all protected characteristics; advance equality of opportunity for people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it; and eliminate discrimination and other conduct prohibited by the Act. Additionally, the Independent Schools Standards requires independent schools to encourage respect for others, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the Act.

Schools and further education colleges are also required to actively promote fundamental British values, including individual liberty, and mutual respect of those of different faiths and beliefs. The Department for Education has published advice for schools on promoting these values, and has made resources available through the 'Educate Against Hate' website. This website provides teachers, school leaders and parents with the information, guidance and support they need to challenge radical and discriminatory views.

The school's curriculum, including how well it meets these duties and expectations, is at the centre of Ofsted's school inspections. Ofsted will expect a good curriculum to equip pupils for life in modern Britain. Inspectors will look at how well schools are developing pupils' understanding of the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. They will take account of pupils' understanding and appreciation of the range of different cultures at the school and further afield; pupils' ability to recognise and value the things we share in common across cultural,

religious, social and socio-economic communities; and pupils' interest in exploring, improving understanding of and showing respect for different faiths and cultural diversity and the extent to which they understand, accept and respect diversity. Ofsted's school inspection handbook also sets the expectation that in a school with 'good' personal development, the school promotes equality of opportunity and diversity effectively. As part of assessing the school's leadership and management, inspectors also consider the school's adherence to its duties under the Equality Act 2010.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-02/HL6424/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-11/HL5626/>

History: Curriculum

Lord Storey (Liberal Democrat) [HL5626] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to review the National Curriculum to ensure that it (1) better reflects black history, and (2) gives a more balanced view of the UK's colonial and imperial past.

Reply from Baroness Berridge: 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/Lords/2020-06-11/HL5626/>

History: Curriculum

Lord Storey (Liberal Democrat) [HL6423] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the national curriculum framework includes (1) black history, and (2) content on the UK's colonial and imperial past.

Reply from Baroness Berridge: 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

It is important that pupils are taught how Britain has influenced and been influenced by the wider world. A balanced history curriculum equips pupils to ask perceptive questions, to think critically, to weigh evidence, sift arguments, and develop perspective and judgement. Fundamentally, it supports pupils to understand how Britain became the country it is today.

There is also scope to include Black and minority ethnic history and experience in other curriculums, such as in:

Citizenship: At key stage 4, students should be taught about the diverse national, regional, religious and ethnic identities in the United Kingdom and the need for mutual respect and understanding.

PSHE: Schools have flexibility to teach topics such as Black history as part of their Personal, Social, Health and Economic education (PSHE) programme and through the introduction of Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education students will be taught the importance of respectful relationships in particular how stereotypes, based on sex, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation or disability, can cause damage.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-02/HL6423/>

Businesses: Ethnic Groups

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL6334] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they plan to take following reports that many black-owned businesses struggle to find investors.

Reply from Lord Callanan: The Government's access to finance schemes are open to all businesses and BAME-led businesses benefit from them. The Department's ministerial team is actively engaging with the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) business community on a regular basis to cover multiple issues, including access to finance.

The Future Fund provides government co-investment to innovative businesses. As of 21 June, the Future Fund had approved 252 applications for investment worth £236 million. Companies with BAME only and mixed ethnicity management teams accounted for over 55% of these applications, valued at £118.5m.

The British Business Bank's Start Up Loans programme had delivered more than 71,500 loans to entrepreneurs by the end of March 2020, providing more than £586 million of funding. Of these, 20 per cent of the total were to applicants from a BAME background, compared to approximately 15 per cent of the UK's population who are from a BAME background (2011 census).

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-30/HL6334/>

Football: Ethnic Groups

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL6386] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with (1) the Premier League, (2) the English Football

League, and (3) the Professional Footballers' Association, about BAME coaching representation.

Reply from Baroness Barran: The Minister for Sport, Tourism and Heritage has frequent discussions with football authorities covering a range of issues, including BAME representation in the sport.

The government welcomes steps being taken by the Premier League, English Football League and Professional Footballers' Association to improve BAME coaching representation, including the recent announcement of a new coach placement scheme aimed at increasing the number of BAME players moving into full-time coaching roles in the professional game.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-01/HL6386/>

Travellers: Equality

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Conservative) [HL6291] To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made on the development of a cross-Government strategy to tackle inequalities faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: The Government's top priority over recent months has been to respond to the unprecedented challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic.

My department has been supporting the co-ordination of cross Government work in response to the impact of Covid-19 on Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, to ensure their needs are reflected in response and recovery planning.

We expect to shortly resume our scoping work on the Government's June 2019 commitment to develop a GRT Strategy to tackle inequalities in these communities.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-30/HL6291/>

Criminal Proceedings: Travellers

Baroness Whitaker (Labour) [HL6545] To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made in rectifying the absence of Gypsies, Roma and Travellers from official monitoring systems across the criminal justice system since the publication of the Lammy Review.

Reply from Lord Keen of Elie: The Ministry of Justice is committed to improving collection and publication of data to identify and tackle any disparities in the Criminal Justice System.

In England and Wales, there are 18 ethnic groups recommended for use by government when asking for someone's ethnicity. It is recognised that these ethnic groups do not represent how all people identify. People are encouraged to write in their ethnicity using their own words if they do not identify with any groups in the list.

Criminal justice organisations of England and Wales have adopted a revised Self-Defined 18+1 data standard to deliver greater precision when recording the defendant's ethnicity status. This 18+1 standard added the option of "Gypsy or Irish Traveller", however it does not include "Roma" and relies on self-identification by a defendant, who may choose to withhold this information.

Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) integrated the capability to collect data using the 18+1 standard into its systems from June 2018.

The Youth Justice Board (YJB) have also now extended the ethnic categorisation within the Youth Offending Team Case Management System to the 18+1 standard, meaning that "Gypsy or Irish Traveller" is now recorded as a separate ethnic group in addition to the other 18 ethnic groups recorded. This will enable the YJB to explore and better understand the experience throughout the Youth Justice System for GRT individuals and identify areas for potential work.

W3 (White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller) ethnicity has been available in nDelius, the probation service's case management system, since its inception in 2013 following the "Gypsy or Irish Traveller" ethnicity option being included in the 2011 Census. The Ministry of Justice has produced guidance for all criminal justice staff on working with GRT communities. This covers the importance of recording ethnicity and how to overcome the issues of low recording.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-06/HL6545/>

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

Press Release

Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/commission-on-race-and-ethnic-disparities-16-july-2020>

New Publications

Taking Stock Race Equality in Scotland

<https://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/publications/pdfs/TakingStockRaceEqualityInScotlandJuly2020.pdf>

Ethnic Minority Representation in UK Local Government

<http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=49921>

False Positives the Prevent counter-extremism policy in healthcare

<https://www.medact.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/MEDACT-False-Positives-WEB.pdf>

News

Charity boss Tony Sewell to head government race commission

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-53428248>

Race commission head Tony Sewell apologises for anti-gay comments

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jul/16/concern-choice-charity-boss-tony-sewell-head-uk-race-commission>

Race equality chief Tony Sewell sorry for remarks about gay people

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2020-07-16/news/race-inquiry-chief-has-said-evidence-for-racism-is-flimsy-g30pwmknx>

Boris Johnson appoints man who described evidence of institutional racism as 'flimsy' as head of new race commission

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/boris-johnson-race-commission-tony-sewell-racism-protests-a9622301.html>

Former adviser to Boris Johnson will head Government's racial disparity commission
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/07/16/former-adviser-boris-johnson-will-head-governmentsracial-disparity/>

Why are there so few ethnic minority MSPs?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-scotland-53407346/why-are-there-so-few-ethnic-minority-mmps>

Lack of BAME councillors 'perpetuating racial inequality and disadvantage' in the UK, says report

<https://news.sky.com/story/lack-of-bame-councillors-perpetuating-racial-inequality-and-disadvantage-in-the-uk-says-report-12022993>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Places of Worship: Hate Crimes

John Howell (Conservative): What steps [the Minister's] Department is taking to prevent hate crimes against places of worship. [904589]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Victoria Atkins): We are committed to protecting places of worship from hate crimes through the places of worship protected security scheme. The funding for next year, at £3.2 million, is an uplift of nearly double the amount awarded last year. A public consultation on providing greater protection from hate crime for places of worship closed on 28 June. We are reviewing the responses and will respond in due course.

John Howell: There is a balance to be struck between worshipping openly and being provided with adequate security. Will the Minister say what success the Government's places of worship protective security funding scheme has had in achieving that balance?

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Very much so. I can assure my hon. Friend that the places of worship protective security funding scheme has been designed so that each place of worship can apply for practical security measures that suit their individual needs, ranging from CCTV to alarm systems. This allows each place of worship to remain open and accessible for worshippers, while providing greater security. We want to ensure that this scheme listens to worshippers and their communities when seeking to achieve the balance to which he rightly refers.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-07-13/debates/23BDC20B-701F-4BC7-9F77-EC4F9CADFD8A/PlacesOfWorshipHateCrimes>

Information about the funding scheme referred to above can be read at
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/places-of-worship-security-funding-scheme>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

NHS: Racial Discrimination

Abena Opong-Asare (Labour) [62691] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what plans his Department has to investigate reports of historical workplace racism in the NHS.

Reply from Helen Whately: We do not tolerate racist abuse of National Health

Service staff and are committed to promoting an inclusive and compassionate culture in the NHS. The NHS is focused on supporting staff from different ethnic backgrounds and is tracking progress against key indicators through the Workforce Race Equality Standard, with Board level oversight.

The NHS has put in place an action plan to support black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) staff through the pandemic. This includes risks assessment processes to protect staff, bespoke health and wellbeing resources and strengthened engagement with BAME staff networks to ensure their views are represented in decision making.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-22/62691/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Metropolitan Police: Racism

Lord Paddick (Liberal Democrat): To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the Metropolitan Police Service about the steps being taken to address racism within its ranks.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford): My Lords, the Government condemn racism and racists. Racism is abhorrent and has no place in our society. This Government remain committed to working with policing to broaden representation and enhance accountability to help the police make their relationships with the public even stronger. The drive to recruit 20,000 officers over the next three years gives us a significant opportunity to support the police to become more representative of the communities they serve.

Lord Paddick: My Lords, the chair of the Metropolitan Police Federation is reported in the *Guardian* as saying that the reason why black people in London were twice as likely to be given lockdown fines by the police was because "anyone out in the first four weeks was a drug dealer".

I checked the accuracy of the officer's remarks with the journalist before making a formal complaint. The Metropolitan Police Directorate of Professional Standards refused to look into the matter. The Metropolitan Police Federation did not reply when I asked it about what the officer is reported as saying. What does this say about the culture of the Metropolitan Police, and what action do the Government intend to take to change it?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, several things are happening at this point in time. The NPCC announced its intention to develop an action plan on 18 June, on the back of the Black Lives Matter protests. The College of Policing has also reviewed and applied positive action to the senior national assessment centre and its strategic command course for chief officer candidates. The recruitment of those 20,000 police officers gives us a golden opportunity to increase diversity of representation within the police.

Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb (Green): My Lords, at a London Assembly meeting last month, my Green Party colleague Siân Berry questioned the Metropolitan Police Commissioner on that very issue of the data showing that black Londoners were two-and-a-half times more likely to be arrested or given a fine. When pressed, the commissioner said, "I have not gone back to them"—her officers—"and said 'I am concerned about disproportionality' or 'Please stop acting in this manner that will lead to disproportionality' because I don't see that as an issue." You have a big problem in dealing with racism if the person at the top of the organisation does not recognise that the issue exists. Does the Minister agree?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, the Metropolitan Police service has worked hard to improve relationships with communities and increase

the representation of black, Asian and minority ethnic officers and staff. But I am not going to deny that individual cases of racism do not still exist, because they do. There is far more for forces to do to address the disparities in their workforce and in community relations.

Viscount Trenchard (Conservative): My Lords, does my noble friend the Minister agree that the Metropolitan Police service still suffers from a paucity of competent leadership in its higher ranks, and that its ability to correct issues such as racism in the ranks would greatly improve if it were to introduce an officer recruitment programme, similar to that used by the Armed Forces? That might conflict with some of Peel's original principles, but is it not necessary to provide the kind of policing that our country needs today?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I do not think anyone would disagree with my noble friend's point. On the back of that, HMICFRS has agreed to focus more closely on how forces are performing on diversity and inclusion as part of its next round of Peel assessments. Diversity and ability are not, of course, mutually exclusive and, as my noble friend points out, a far more diverse workforce might help with some of those issues at the top.

Lord Singh of Wimbledon (Crossbench): Does the Minister agree that racism in the police service, evident in stop and search and disproportionate disciplinary procedures against BAME officers, arises from ignorance and prejudice? Does she also agree on the importance of education and training in the need to look beyond superficial difference to the reality: that we all have much in common?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We most certainly all have much in common, and we now collect and publish more data on stop and search than ever before. We allow local scrutiny groups, the police and crime commissioners and others to hold forces to account. We also discuss it with relevant National Police Chiefs' Council leads and forces to understand why disparities arise. Perhaps I might also say that the Home Secretary is chairing the national policing board today, and there is an item on diversity.

Baroness Lawrence of Clarendon (Labour): My Lords, yesterday the *Guardian* interviewed two black retired senior officers, who talked about their experience of racism in the Metropolitan Police and how it had affected them in their careers. How will Her Majesty's Government address the future of black and Asian minority officers' careers, going forward?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I say to the noble Baroness that this is key to the success of the police. As I said to the noble Lord, Lord Paddick, the college has reviewed and applied positive action—not positive discrimination but positive action—to the senior national assessment centre and strategic command course for chief officer candidates. However, it also has training in inclusion and diversity at every level now in the police force.

Lord Robathan (Conservative) My Lords, I recall the Brixton riots of 1981 and I regret to say that there was then shocking and very real racism evident and open among some—some—of the police officers there. But since then, over the last four decades, huge progress has been made and I suggest that most people would wish to congratulate the Metropolitan Police on that. I am sure my noble friend will agree that discrimination is unacceptable, be it against black, Asian or indeed white people. Will she ensure that recruitment and promotion policies are entirely transparent, so that we can all see that they are fair and non-discriminatory?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I agree with my noble friend on the positive trend of diversity within the police forces. During the lockdown I think that the police have, in the main, behaved incredibly reasonably in engaging with the public. However, on increasing diversity, training at every level will absolutely be given to police officers and that disparity as people get more senior in the police force will be addressed.

Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, the police are one part of the criminal justice system and should be learning from the CPS's responses, with its evidential tests when cases are passed to it. Are the different parts of the system co-ordinating to address eradicating discrimination, which exacerbates the climate of distrust referred to in the Macpherson report more than 20 years ago?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: It is absolutely crucial that different parts of the system not only speak to but learn from each other, and that this forms what is best practice as we proceed.

Lord Rosser (Labour): The Minister has made a number of references to diversity and to the police being more representative of the communities that they serve. The Home Secretary said in the Commons on Monday that she spoke to police chiefs every single day. What has the Home Secretary been telling police chiefs in these conversations that she expects them to achieve on greater diversity within police officer ranks, and over what period does she expect that to be achieved?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I can vouch for the fact that the Home Secretary speaks to the police every day because I am on some of those calls. As I said, she is chairing the national policing board today and one item that will be discussed is diversity.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-07-15/debates/4510D053-0070-49FB-A9CE-197277DCC9A6/MetropolitanPoliceRacism>

The Macpherson Report, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/277111/4262.pdf

The Guardian report referred to above can be read at

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

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Barry Gardiner (Labour) (715) Call for an independent investigation into reports of alleged racism and harrasment in the judiciary – This House notes with grave concern the investigation by Eastern Eye newspaper into allegations of discrimination against and harassment of BAME judges by other members of the judiciary; expresses concern that no member of either the Judicial Executive Board or the Judges Council that advises the Lord Chancellor has any members from a black and minority ethnic background; and urges the Secretary of State for Justice and the Lord Chancellor to initiate an independent investigation into those matters.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/57243/call-for-an-independent-investigation-into-reports-of-alleged-racism-and-harrasment-in-the-judiciary>

Press Releases

Priti Patel proscribes far-right terrorist group

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/priti-patel-proscribes-right-wing-terrorist-group>

Speech: UN Human Rights Council 44: Interactive Dialogue on contemporary forms of racism

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/un-human-rights-council-44-interactive-dialogue-with-the-sr-on-contemporary-forms-of-racism>

New Publication

Islamophobia and Anti-Muslim Hatred in North East England

<https://www.tellmamauk.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/ISLAMOPHOBIA-AND-ANTI-MUSLIM-HATRED-IN-NORTH-EAST-ENGLAND-090620.pdf>

News

Campaign group to fight SNP's hate crime bill over claims it is 'threat to free speech'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/07/16/campaign-group-fight-snps-hate-crime-bill-claims-threat-free/>

Labour sees draft conclusions of anti-Semitism report

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-53397173>

Labour and antisemitism: how the party became embroiled in crisis

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/jul/15/labour-and-antisemitism-how-the-party-became-embroiled-in-crisis>

Labour set to apologise to antisemitism whistleblowers

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/jul/15/labour-to-apologise-to-antisemitism-whistleblowers>

Labour handed initial findings of anti-Semitism inquiry by Britain's equalities watchdog

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/07/13/labour-handed-initial-findings-anti-semitism-inquiry-britains/>

Labour MPs are silenced over antisemitism report

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2020-07-14/news/labour-mps-are-silenced-over-antisemitism-report-z9k0qgthz>

Labour suspends Brighton councillor over alleged antisemitism

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/jul/15/labour-suspends-brighton-councillor-over-alleged-antisemitism-anne-pissaridou>

People have 'lost sense of humour' over blacking up, says Tory MP who dressed as James Brown at party

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/07/17/people-have-lost-sense-humour-blackening-says-tory-mp-dressed/>

Police Scotland faces 'institutional racism' claim in Royal Society report

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/crime/police-scotland-faces-institutional-racism-claim-royal-society-report-2913701>

Police Scotland racism report 'buried to avoid bad headlines'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/police-scotland-racism-report-buried-to-avoid-bad-headlines-ds8rktvkl>

Scotland must address institutional racism openly and urgently

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/scotland-must-address-institutional-racism-openly-and-urgently-professor-nasar-meer-2913595>

Neo-Nazi group led by 13-year-old boy to be banned

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-53392036>

Complaints lodged against Tory councillor over 'Black Jack' remarks

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18577199.complaints-lodged-tory-councillor-black-jack-remarks/>

Trocadero: Piccadilly mosque plans that received racist comments withdrawn

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-53456508>

Racism in the UK still rife, say majority of Britons

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jul/16/racism-in-the-uk-still-rife-say-majority-of-britons>

South Asian anti-black racism: 'We don't marry black people'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/newsbeat-53395935>

Edward Enniful: British Vogue editor 'racially profiled' at work

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-53425148>

Just like Edward Enniful, people make racist assumptions about me all the time – but none of us are immune from racial profiling

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/edward-enniful-racial-profiling-british-vogue-security-guard-racism-a9624236.html>

Edinburgh secondary school faces racism allegations from more than 30 pupils

<https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/education/edinburgh-secondary-school-faces-racism-allegations-more-30-pupils-2904682>

Edinburgh Playhouse unveils stunning Black Lives Matter artwork designed by local teenager

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/people/edinburgh-playhouse-unveils-stunning-black-lives-matter-artwork-designed-local-teenager-2917638>

Hollyoaks star Talia Grant says black people treated as 'disposable' on TV

<https://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-53391327>

Wilfried Zaha: Boy, 12, arrested over racist messages sent to Crystal Palace player

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/crime/wilfried-zaha-boy-12-arrested-over-racist-messages-sent-crystal-palace-player-2911396>

'It happens every day': Zaha calls on social media companies to act over online racism

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2020/jul/13/sheffield-united-condemn-racist-abuse-of-striker-david-mcgoldrick>

Arsenal Fan TV pundit dropped for racist comment

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/newsbeat-53416498>

Arsenal condemn AFTV presenter who made racist comment about Tottenham player

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/premier-league/arsenal-aftv-tottenham-son-heung-min-claude-callegeri-a9621081.html>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Release

Scotland's Census to be moved to March 2022

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/news/2020/scotlands-census-to-be-moved-to-march-2022>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Islam: Festivals and Special Occasions

Tracey Crouch (Conservative) [71724] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what plans his Department has to issue guidance to people celebrate Eid Al-Adha during the covid-19 outbreak.

Reply from Luke Hall: We know that British Muslims will be thinking about how they can safely celebrate Eid Al-Adha with their friends, family and community during this period. We have produced guidance for the safe use of places of worship during the pandemic, which can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemic-from-4-july>.

Guidance is also available on how individuals can protect themselves while meeting people from outside of their household, which includes guidance on indoor and outdoor gatherings. This guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/meeting-people-from-outside-your-household-from-4-july>.

We will continue to engage with faith leaders to help communities stay safe whilst marking this important time of the year.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-09/71724/>

Female Genital Mutilation

Hywel Williams (Plaid Cymru) [23441] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much funding the Government has allocated to tackling female genital mutilation in each financial year since 2015; and how that funding was allocated.

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

The table below comprises funding allocated by UK Government departments to tackle FGM since April 2015. It excludes:

- staffing and other administrative costs;
- grants which were made to organisations to tackle both FGM and other issues, where it is not possible to break down the money spent on FGM and on those other issues; and
- components of broader funding provided to statutory agencies and office holders (namely the NHS and Police and Crime Commissioners) which those agencies and office holders chose to spend on FGM.

All figures are rounded to the nearest £1,000. Financial years run from 1 April to 31 March.

Financial Year	Total Domestic Government Spend
2015/2016	£2,718,000
2016/2017	£1,664,000
2017/2018	£1,918,000
2018/2019	£1,814,000
2019/2020	£432,000

This funding comprised:

- Home Office expenditure on grants to four organisations for projects dealing solely with FGM as part of the Building a Stronger Britain Together Fund (2017/18-2019/20); and on a communications campaign to raise awareness of the risks of FGM (2017/18-2019/20).
- Department for Education expenditure on grants to the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) (2015/16); to Barnardo's/National FGM Centre (2015/16-2019/20); and to two other voluntary sector organisations (2016/17-2017/18).
- Department of Health and Social Care expenditure on the FGM Prevention Programme (2015/16-2017/18), as well as additional funding in 2018/19 to embed the improvements delivered by that programme across NHS services.
- Funds allocated by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government to 37 local authority areas to fund locally-driven outreach, engagement and communications on the practice of FGM (2018/19).

The Home Office also awarded £476,000 in grants to two projects dealing solely with FGM as part of the Violence Against Women and Girls Service Transformation fund. As these grants were awarded as a block encompassing three financial years, the figures cannot be broken down into financial years.

Information on the amount of funding provided by the Department for International Development (DfID) since 2015 is not available by financial year. DfID's spending by calendar year is outlined here:

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-02/23440/>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-02/23441/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Female Genital Mutilation Protection Orders

Holly Lynch (Labour) [72233] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many women and girls in the UK have an FGM protection order in place as at July 2020.

Female Genital Mutilation Protection Orders: Children and Young People

Holly Lynch (Labour) [72234] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many girls under the age of 18 in the UK have an FGM protection order in place as at July 2020.

Reply from Alex Chalk: The Ministry of Justice collates information on the number of applications and the number of FGM protection orders granted. There is no mandatory requirement to collate statistics on the duration of orders and whether they remain in place at any point in time. The quality of available data can only, therefore, be verified at disproportionate cost. However, following their introduction in July 2015, 584 FGM protection orders have been granted up to 31 March 2020,

the latest period for which information is available.

Similarly, data relating to the age of the person to be protected by an FGM protection order granted by the court is not collated and can only be obtained at disproportionate cost. Data relating to age is collated, however, on a person or persons named in any application for a FGM protection order. Following their introduction in July 2015, 405 applicants, aged 17 or under, had been the subject of an application for an FGM protection order up to 31 March 2020, the latest period for which statistics are available.

Statistics to the end of June 2020 are scheduled for publication in late September, and statistics for July are scheduled for publication in late December.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-10/72233/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-10/72234/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Martyn Day (SNP) (708) Reverend Aftab Gohar – That this House congratulates the Reverend Aftab Gohar, minister of Abbotsgrange Parish Kirk in Grangemouth, upon his election as the new Moderator of the Church of Scotland Presbytery of Falkirk; recognises that his recent installation as such made history by his becoming the first South Asian-born cleric to be elected a Presbytery Moderator of any Presbyterian denomination in Scotland, as well as that of the national Church of Scotland; acknowledges the commendable outreach work that Rev'd Gohar has conducted to engage with and spiritually support the local community in Grangemouth since his moving to the congregation from Pakistan in 2008; further notes that this year also marks a quarter of a century since his ordination as a church minister at St. John's Cathedral in the Pakistani city of Peshawar where he had a fruitful and much-appreciated ministry among the Pashtun and Afghani communities of the North West Frontier; and wishes Rev'd Gohar continued success and fulfilment in his future pastoral endeavours within the Falkirk area and beyond.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/57234/reverend-aftab-gohar>

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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

Reopening of places of worship

S5W-30266 Murdo Fraser (Conservative): To ask the Scottish Government for what reason hospitality venues will be permitted to open to the public in July 2020, but not places of worship.

Reply from Aileen Campbell: We recognise how difficult it has been for Scotland's faith communities to be unable to come together in places of worship at this challenging time. This was of course necessary due to the pandemic and I appreciate the understanding and patience our faith communities have shown in abiding by restrictions, which have been vital to ensure safety and stop the spread of the virus.

Working with our faith leaders and guided in particular by evolving scientific and health advice on transmission risks, we are confident that appropriate mitigations can be put in place to bring forward the reopening of places of worship to 15 July. This was announced by the First Minister on 9 July.

The Scottish Government has remained engaged with our faith communities and will continue to work closely with them as we develop guidance to support places of worship to re-open safely, with physical distancing and hygiene safeguards.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-30266>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.scot/news/moving-to-phase-3-of-lockdown-route-map/>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups

Apsana Begum (Labour) [61619] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what plans his Department has to (a) improve the accessibility of health services to BAME communities, including to migrants and their families, and (b) mitigate the effects of the covid-19 lockdown so that existing health inequalities are not widened.

Reply from Jo Churchill: Anyone in England can register and consult with a general practitioner (GP) without charge. The GP practice must accept a patient wishing to register, unless there are reasonable grounds to refuse. These must not relate to race, gender, social class, age, religion, sexual orientation, appearance, disability or a medical condition. National Health Service guidance clearly outlines

that a practice cannot refuse a patient because they do not have identification or proof of address.

Primary Care Networks (PCNs) build on the core of current primary care services and enable greater provision of proactive, personalised, coordinated and more integrated health and social care for our communities. One of the PCN service specifications is to 'Tackle Health Inequalities' which will be introduced in 2021/22 following negotiation with the General Practitioners Committee, England.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-18/61619/>

Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups

Ruth Jones (Labour) [64325] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what assessment he has made of the disproportionate effect on BAME communities of covid-19 in (a) Newport West, (b) Wales and the (c) UK.

Reply from Jo Churchill: As healthcare is devolved, the Welsh Government would be responsible for such an assessment in relation to Wales. The Office for National Statistics release 'All data related to Coronavirus (COVID-19) related deaths by ethnic group, England and Wales' only provides the combined ethnic group breakdown for England and Wales combined. Unfortunately, the breakdown for this data is not available for comparison. This release is available at the following link:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriage/s/deaths/articles/coronavirusrelateddeathsbyethnicgroupenglandandwales/2march2020to10april2020/relateddata>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-24/64325/>

Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups

Ruth Jones (Labour) [71884] To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, what recent discussions he has had with the Welsh Government on the disproportionate effect of covid-19 on BAME communities in (a) Newport West, (b) Wales and (c) the UK.

Reply from Simon Hart: Public Health England published the outcome of its review into the impact of Covid-19 on Black And Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups on 4 June. The published findings are England-based, but the review considered the health and socio-economic factors in play across the whole of the UK. The Minister for Equalities is leading on the action that needs to be taken in light of these findings. The Welsh Government published its report on the socio-economic factors influencing Covid-19 health outcomes in BAME groups on 22 June.

The UK Government is committed to working closely with the Welsh Government, and all the devolved administrations, in safeguarding our communities from Covid-19 and in addressing its impacts on BAME groups.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-09/71884/>

The Public Health England 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

The Welsh Government report referred to above can be read at

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2020-06/coronavirus-covid-19-and-the-black-asian-and-minority-ethnic-population-154.pdf>

Schools: Coronavirus

Apsana Begum (Labour) [66991] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what data his Department holds on trends in the level of acute respiratory outbreaks

in schools among (a) Black, Asian and minority ethnic pupils and (b) pupils with other protected characteristics; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Jo Churchill: Data on the number and proportion of people recorded within acute respiratory outbreaks in schools are not available in the format requested.

Public Health England provides information on the number of acute respiratory outbreaks in schools in its weekly coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) surveillance report, available to view at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/weekly-covid-19-surveillance-report-published>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-30/66991/>

Churches: Coronavirus

Robert Halfon (Conservative) [72873] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, if he will publish the timeframe for people to be able to sing in churches as the covid-19 lockdown restrictions are eased.

Luke Hall: The Government recognises that singing is a key part of our cultural and religious life. We have published Guidance for the Safe Use of Places of Worship during COVID-19 which provides advice on singing within places of worship:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemic-from-4-july>

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport has also published guidance for people who work in performing arts, including organisations, venue operators and participants:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/performing-arts>

Singing is a central element of many religious practices but poses a particular risk of spreading the virus. The Government and medical and scientific communities are urgently engaged in research around transmission risk and how activities such as singing and chanting can be managed safely indoors, by congregations and by amateurs.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-13/72873/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL6529] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking, if any, to encourage greater BAME representation in COVID-19 research projects and clinical trials.

Reply from Lord Bethell: The Department, through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), is working in partnership with the Centre for Black and Minority Ethnic Health in Leicester to ensure that black, Asian and minority ethnic communities have the information they need to take part and stay informed about COVID-19 research. It is also actively supporting researchers to tackle the barriers that might stop some communities participating.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-06/HL6529/>

Scottish Government Press Releases

Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's speech 16 July 2020

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-speech-16-july-2020/>

Safe re-opening of places of worship

<https://www.gov.scot/news/safe-re-opening-of-places-of-worship/>

Scottish Government Publications

Coronavirus (COVID-19): trends in daily data

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-trends-in-daily-data/>

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Phase 3: guidance for the safe use of places of worship

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-phase-3-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship/>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance for small marriages and civil partnership registrations

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-small-marriages-and-civil-partnership-registrations/>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): funeral services in places of worship

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-funeral-services-in-places-of-worship/>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance for funeral services

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-funeral-services/>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): updated guidance for funeral directors

<https://tinyurl.com/yd5k7yp9>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): updated guidance for burial and cremation authorities

<https://tinyurl.com/yasbqw4y>

UK Government Press Release

PM statement on coronavirus: 17 July 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-on-coronavirus-17-july-2020>

Welsh Government

COVID-19 BAME Advisory Group – Potential impact of COVID-19 evidence paper

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-07/covid-19-bame-advisory-group-potential-impact-of-covid-19-evidence-paper.pdf>

Technical Advisory Group: Examining Deaths in Wales associated with COVID-19

https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-07/technical-advisory-group-examining-deaths-in-wales-associated-with-covid-19_0.pdf

News

Coronavirus in Scotland: Limit of 50 worshippers at religious services

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-53403922>

Pints over prayers: anger that places of worship face harsher rules than pubs

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/people/pints-over-prayers-anger-places-worship-face-harsher-rules-pubs-2917755>

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Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Children (Scotland) Bill

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

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/asylumsupportprescribedperiod.html>

European Citizens' Rights Bill

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

Illegal Immigration (Offences) Bill

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

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

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

Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill

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

Marriage (Approved Organisations) Bill

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

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

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

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (Legal Advice and Appeals) Bill

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

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill (closing date 24 July 2020)

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/115038.aspx>

**** closes this week!**

Video consulting with “Near Me” (closing date 24 July 2020)

<https://www.nearme.scot/views>

EU Settlement Scheme (closing date 31 July 2020)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/call-for-evidence-eu-settlement-scheme>

Independent Review of Complaints Handling, Investigations and Misconduct Issues in Relation to Policing (closing date 14 August 2020)

Dame Elish Angiolini has been asked by the Scottish Government to conduct an Independent Review of Complaints Handling, Investigations and Misconduct Issues in Relation to Policing. She is gathering further evidence and is interested in learning more about the experience of minority ethnic communities in their interactions with Police Scotland or with the Police Investigations and Review Commissioner (PIRC), particularly in relation to the police complaints system. Evidence should be sent to

secretariat@independentpolicingreview.scot

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/>

Understanding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on New Scots (closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Z6KJ79W>

The impact of COVID-19 on refugee-assisting organisations in Scotland (closing date not stated Scottish Refugee Council aims to produce a rapid report on the survey responses in July)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/G883DJ6>

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>

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Job Opportunities

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

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

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Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

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>

Julia and Hans Rausing Charity Survival Fund

Closing date for applications: 27 July 2020

Grants are available to charities working in the areas of health and wellbeing, welfare and education, and arts and culture, to provide core funding to offset lost income and help support them through the impact of Covid-19. For information and to apply see <https://www.juliahansrausingtrust.org/charity-survival-fund/>

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/emnrn/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>

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Equality & Diversity

21 July 2020 online (4.00–6.00)

30 July 2020 online (12.00–2.00)

Glasgow Council for the Voluntary Sector session to discuss why equality matters, the benefits of a diverse workforce, protected characteristics, and types of discrimination. For information about the 21 July event see <https://tinyurl.com/y7qb6qwu> and about the 30 July event see <https://tinyurl.com/yy8gp22q>

**** this week!**

Supporting Survivors / Adapting to the Challenges of Covid -19

21 July 2020 online (4.30)

Helen Bamber Foundation webinar to share best practice about new ways of working to ensure vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers continue to receive the support and the level of safeguarding they need. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/ybujaj52>

**** BLM – Race in Scotland**

28 July 2020 online (6.30 – 8.00)

Progress in Dialogue discussion to learn from the lived experience of Black communities in Scotland, amplify some of the voices from Scotland's Black communities, and discuss

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>

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



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

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