



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

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

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## Immigration and Asylum

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

#### Channel Crossings in Small Boats

**Nick Thomas-Symonds (Labour):** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a statement on those crossing the English Channel in small boats.

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Chris Philp):** In recent months, the UK has seen a completely unacceptable increase in illegal migration through small-boat crossings from France to the UK. This Government and the Home Secretary are working relentlessly to stop these crossings. Illegal migration is not a new phenomenon. Every Government over the last 20 years and more have experienced migrants — often economic migrants — attempting to reach the UK through illegal means. The

majority of these crossings are facilitated by ruthless criminal gangs that make money from exploiting migrants who are desperate to come here.

We are working with the National Crime Agency to go after those who profit from such misery. Already this year, 24 people have been convicted and jailed for facilitating illegal immigration. In July, I joined a dawn raid on addresses across London, which saw a further 11 people arrested for facilitating illegal immigration, and £150,000 in cash and some luxury cars were seized. Just this morning, we arrested a man under section 25 of the Immigration Act 1971 who had yesterday illegally piloted a boat into this country. Further such arrests are expected.

These crossings are highly dangerous. Tragically, last month a 28-year-old Sudanese man, Abdulfatah Hamdallah, died in the water near Calais attempting this crossing. This morning, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution has been out in the English channel and has had to rescue at least 34 people, and possibly more, who were attempting this dangerous journey.

These criminally facilitated journeys are not just dangerous; they are unnecessary as well. France, where these boats are launched, and other EU countries through which these migrants have travelled on their way to the channel, are manifestly safe countries with fully functioning asylum systems. Genuine refugees seeking only safety can and should claim asylum in the first safe country they reach. There is no excuse to refuse to do so and instead travel illegally and dangerously to the UK. Those fleeing persecution have had many opportunities to claim asylum in the European countries they have passed through long before attempting this crossing. We are working closely with our French colleagues to prevent these crossings. That includes patrols of the beaches by French officers, some of whom we fund, surveillance and intelligence sharing. Over 3,000 crossing attempts were stopped this year alone by the French authorities, and approaching 50% of all crossing attempts are stopped on or near French beaches. This morning alone, French authorities prevented at least 84 people from attempting this crossing, thanks in significant part to the daily intelligence briefings provided by the National Crime Agency here in the United Kingdom.

It serves both French and UK interests to work together to cut this route. If this route is completely ended, migrants wishing to come to the UK will no longer need to travel to northern France in the first place. We are therefore urgently discussing with the French Government how our current plans can be strengthened and made truly comprehensive. We have already in the last two months established a joint intelligence cell to ensure that intelligence about crossings is rapidly acted upon, and this morning's interceptions on French soil are evidence of the success of that approach.

It is also essential to return people who make the crossings where we can, and we are currently working to return nearly 1,000 cases where migrants had previously claimed asylum in European countries and, under the regulations, legally should be returned there. Last month, my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary announced the appointment of former Royal Marine Dan O'Mahoney as clandestine channel threat commander. He will collaborate closely with the French to build on the joint work already under way, urgently exploring tougher action in France ...

... these crossings are dangerous, illegal and unnecessary. They should simply not be happening, and this Government will not rest until we have taken the necessary steps to completely end these crossings.

**Nick Thomas-Symonds:** ... Over a year ago, the Home Secretary said: "We've been working extremely closely with our French colleagues to tackle the use of small boats but we both agreed more needs to be done."

Why does the Minister think that that work last year has proved so inadequate? The Minister himself scrambled to France on 11 August and announced the joint action plan,

but can he outline when that will be available for scrutiny? We all agree on the need to tackle criminal gangs, but does he also accept the importance of safe routes for those seeking asylum? The Government were warned, including by the Select Committee on Foreign Affairs, that the collapse of safe routes would lead to growing numbers of people taking to the sea.

The expectation around the Dubs amendment across the House was that 3,000 children would be accepted under the scheme. Does the Minister now agree that it was a profound error and, frankly, lacking in compassion to close down that scheme when only a 10th of that number had been accepted? What provisions have been put in place for the welfare of any children who have been intercepted on the crossing? What safeguards are being put in place to ensure that all accommodation is kept safe and covid-secure, as well as protected from far-right attacks, which have unfortunately been reported in recent days? ...

**Reply from Chris Philp:** ... Global migration has been growing strongly, and he will be aware that 40,000 people—a far larger number than have crossed the channel—have crossed the Mediterranean. Moreover, during the coronavirus pandemic we have seen displacement from other illegal entry routes, such as lorries and the use of fake documents on aeroplanes, into the maritime route, and we have been successful at preventing illegal immigration through the juxtaposed controls. The situation has been compounded by unusually benign weather conditions in the English channel over the summer. ...

Since 2015, the Government have provided almost 20,000 resettlement places—a number that dwarfs the 3,000 that he mentions. Since 2010, some 44,000 children have been offered protection of one form or another by the United Kingdom. He says our approach lacks compassion, but I direct him to those figures. I also remind him that last year, 2019, this country received more applications from unaccompanied asylum-seeking children than any other European country, and all of them have been generously looked after while their claims are processed. ...

When children arrive, they go straight into social care and are extremely carefully looked after while their claims are processed. This Government certainly need no lessons in compassion. Our asylum system is extremely compassionate and extremely generous, and the numbers speak for themselves.

**Aaron Bell (Conservative):** ... Does he agree that what is currently happening is in essence a form of asylum shopping, wherein people claim asylum in the first country they reach and then move to another and claim asylum again? They keep claiming asylum—instead of securing asylum in the first safe country, they keep coming to the UK, where they believe we have a more favourable asylum system. Does he agree that asylum shopping needs to end?

**Reply from Chris Philp:** ... people who are genuinely seeking a safe refuge could and should claim that refuge in the first country they reach. The people arriving in Dover yesterday and today have left from France, which is a safe country with a well-functioning asylum system. If their principal objective was to seek refuge from persecution, they could easily have done that in France or, indeed, any of the other countries through which they passed before they arrived in Calais.

**Stuart C McDonald (SNP):** Five years on from the day the world was shocked by little Alan Kurdi's death, perhaps the Minister could just agree that the response to the channel crossings should be informed by empathy and evidence and not driven by Farage and friction. Will he confirm that, despite what he has said, there is nothing in international law that requires refugees to apply for asylum in the first safe state that they come to, even though the overwhelming majority do? Will he acknowledge that there will be good reasons, such as family ties, for many of the people attempting crossings to make their claims here instead of in France? Will he recognise that by failing to provide safe legal routes, the Government force people to use ever more dangerous alternatives and drive them into the arms of people smugglers, as at least two parliamentary Committees have

previously pointed out?

Instead of bashing our brilliant human rights lawyers, will the Minister now put those safe routes in place; ensure a successor to the Dublin family unity rules; restart resettlement and commit to it for the long term; and reopen Dubs and other safe routes from Europe? That would be a response rooted in empathy and evidence.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Safe routes from Europe are not the answer to this problem because, by definition, people in Europe are already in a safe country. Transporting people from one safe country in Europe to the United Kingdom does nothing to add to their protection. There are, of course, routes for family reunion—at the moment under Dublin and in the future under the United Kingdom's own immigration rules. In relation to a safe legal route for people fleeing persecution, the hon. Member has already referenced the resettlement programme, which between 2015 and the onset of coronavirus saw just a shade under 20,000 people being resettled directly from dangerous conflict zones, mainly in the vicinity of Syria. Those routes have existed for the last five years, yet I am sad to say that illegal migration continued none the less. ...

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

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-09-02/debates/FFE64F53-0699-465A-92C0-205074A914BD/ChannelCrossingsInSmallBoats>

### **Topical Questions: Health and Social Care**

**Tony Lloyd (Labour):** ... May I ask the Secretary of State a very simple question? One waiting list that is going up is the amount of time that overseas doctors offered jobs in the UK have to wait for a visa. Will he have a quiet word with Home Office Ministers to ensure that we have a joined-up Government and that these doctors, who are part of the solution, can get their visas?

**Reply from Matt Hancock:** ... I am working with the Home Office to introduce the NHS visa, which will mean not only that the numbers are uncapped, but that the administration around visas is much reduced. It is not just about Home Office administration; it is also about reducing the burden of bureaucracy from the General Medical Council and others. The GMC is working incredibly hard to reduce the bureaucratic requirement while still ensuring that any doctors who come to practise in this country are fully qualified and can speak English to a high enough standard, as the people of Rochdale and the whole country would expect.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-09-01/debates/645458DC-C7CE-4BB6-B2F6-9B5EE22E4846/TopicalQuestions#contribution-6735C4FF-3B94-4961-9698-6613D659674B>

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

### **National Insurance: Foreign Nationals**

**Christine Jardine (Liberal Democrat) [76859]** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the procedure is for foreign nationals wishing to apply for a national insurance number; for what reasons her Department has not made provision for virtual interviews for foreign nationals wishing to apply for a national insurance number during the covid-19 outbreak; whether she plans for such virtual interviews to begin in lieu of physical interviews and, if so, on what date; and what assessment she has made of trends in the number of foreign nationals being turned down for work as a result of employers' concerns about making a mistake on a potential employee's right to work due to their not being in possession of a national insurance number.

**Reply from Justin Tomlinson:** When applying for a National Insurance Number (NINo), all applicants are required to have their identity verified. For those applicants whose identity has already been verified by another UK Government

Department, primarily Home Office, their applications are dealt with by post. For those who have not had their identity verified, primarily EU/EEA nationals, the current process requires them to attend a face to face interview with DWP to verify their identity.

Due to COVID-19, the face to face interview process was suspended from 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020. This enabled us to redeploy a large number of staff to help process the substantial number of benefit claims received during this period.

It is not possible, due to the requirement to examine ID documents, to offer a virtual service. However, we are working on a digital solution that, once in place, will enable us to restart the process. Our current plan is for that to be in place by the end of September 2020.

Employers are required to conduct mandatory Right to Work checks on all prospective employees. Having a NINo is not part of these checks, and the possession of a NINo does not prove that an individual has a right to work. Indeed, an individual can apply for a job and take up employment without a NINo. I have included a link to the guidance on Right to Work checks that is provided to employers by the Home Office.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/right-to-work-checks-employers-guide>

The Department does not hold information on the number of foreign nationals who may have been turned down for work as a result of not having a NINo.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-20/76859/>

### **Immigrants: Finance**

**Christine Jardine (Liberal Democrat) [77776]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the no recourse to public funds policy in the absence of available data and statistics on (a) those subject to and (b) those experiencing hardship as a result of the implementation of that policy.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The no recourse to public funds policy is based on the principle that migrants coming to the UK are generally expected to maintain and support themselves and their families without posing a burden on the UK's welfare system. The public interest for them to be financially independent is long established. There are existing safeguards and exceptions in place for those in need, for example refugees and those on human rights routes who would otherwise be destitute.

The department has written to the UKSA with regard to the matter of data on no recourse to public funds. Please see the link below:

<https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/correspondence/response-from-daniel-shaw-to-ed-humpherson-parliamentary-question-response/>.

The letter commits to investigating the administrative data held on no recourse to public funds and migration, and to assessing whether meaningful information can be provided on the issue of hardship in particular. We will provide an update on this in due course.

The Home Office has also published its policy equality statement on the impact of the no recourse to public funds policy for migrants on the 10-year Family and Human Rights immigration routes. 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>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-21/77776/>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Immigrants: Finance**

**Christine Jardine (Liberal Democrat) [77778]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications have been received since the change of conditions form for recourse to public funds was digitised at the beginning of April; what proportion of those applications have been granted; and what the average processing time for those applications was.

**Christine Jardine (Liberal Democrat) [77779]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the potential merits of processing change of conditions for recourse to public funds application forms within 24 hours.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The information you have requested is not currently published by the department.

The department has written to the UKSA with regard to this matter. Please see the link below:

<https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/correspondence/response-from-daniel-shaw-to-ed-humpherson-parliamentary-question-response/>

We are continuing to investigate whether the administrative data held by the department can provide any meaningful data in future.

While we appreciate the need for Change of Conditions applications to be dealt with quickly, there is no need for all applications to be processed within 24 hours. Individuals are not necessarily destitute when they make an application, but instead may recognise they are at risk of destitution in the near future because there has been a recent change in their financial circumstances, for example.

Cases must be assessed based on the evidence the applicant has provided, and where there is insufficient evidence, caseworkers request further information which inevitably extends the processing time but can ensure the appropriate decision is reached.

During the covid-19 crisis the application form has been digitised, and we are encouraging applicants to send in their evidence by email so that it can be received and uploaded onto cases more quickly. Where applicants are unable to provide certain evidence, particularly under the current circumstances, we have provided staff with instructions as to how and when flexibility can be exercised to help reduce unnecessary delays that would be introduced by having to seek additional evidence.

The Change of Conditions team are working through applications as quickly as they can, and UKVI have trained additional staff to work on these cases in response to the increased demand and urgency during the current situation.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-21/77778/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-21/77779/>

### **Immigrants: Finance**

**Jess Phillips (Labour) [77653]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that Government's £1.5m Support for Migrant Victims pilot scheme will be led by specialist BME sector organisations with experience and expertise of working with migrant victims with no recourse to public funds.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** We are currently developing the competition strategy with the aim to open the bidding process for the £1.5 million Support for Migrant Victims (SMV) Scheme as soon as possible. By running an open competitive process, we will be encouraging all suitable organisations with experience and

expertise of working with and supporting migrant survivors of domestic abuse to engage and apply, as well as engaging with the Designate Domestic Abuse Commissioner.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-21/77653/>

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

### **Immigration: Health Insurance**

**Hywel Williams (Plaid Cymru) [77524]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will remove the requirement for EU, EEA and Swiss nationals with Settled Status to have had Comprehensive Sickness Insurance when studying or self-sufficient in order to be able to be granted British citizenship.

**Hywel Williams (Plaid Cymru) [77526]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate her Department has made of the number of (a) EU, (b) EEA and (c) Swiss nationals in the UK who do not hold comprehensive sickness Insurance.

### **British Nationality: Naturalisation**

**Hywel Williams (Plaid Cymru) [77525]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to page 28 of her Department's document entitled, Nationality policy: Naturalisation as a British citizen by discretion, published on 14 May 2020, if she will provide a definition of what constitutes compelling grounds to exercise discretion.

**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 EEA nationals needed to follow if they wished 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 under them. 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 will consider cases sensitively, taking into account the nature and reasons for any period of unlawful residence alongside other information relevant to the individual.

There are no plans to amend legislation in this respect.

We do not have figures for the number of EU, EEA Swiss nationals in the UK who do not hold comprehensive sickness Insurance. It is only required where a person is either self-sufficient or a student. As EEA and Swiss nationals did not previously need to hold a document confirming their status, we cannot say how many failed to comply with this requirement.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-21/77524/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-21/77526/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-21/77525/>

*The policy referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/885368/naturalisation-as-a-british-citizen-by-discretion-v5.0-gov-uk.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/885368/naturalisation-as-a-british-citizen-by-discretion-v5.0-gov-uk.pdf)

### **Sexual Offences: Immigrants**

**Alex Davies-Jones (Labour) [76934]** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, whether

the Government's Rape Review will examine potential barriers to reporting rape and sexual offences crimes for migrant victims.

**Reply from Kit Malthouse:** In March 2019 the National Criminal Justice Board (CJB) commissioned a review to consider the decline in the number of rape and serious sexual offences being charged and prosecuted in England and Wales. A sub-group of the CJB is driving forward the review and continues to gather and analyse detailed views from key groups and agencies across the criminal justice system.

The review is currently focussed on understanding how the system's response to rape cases can be improved from the time a report is made to when a case reaches court, as such barriers to reporting fall outside of the scope.

The Government is committed to ensuring that all victims of rape and sexual violence have access to high-quality support services to help them cope with and, as far as possible, recover from the effects of crime. These services are available to all, provided by specialist local organisations at a physical location, free of charge and regardless of whether a person reported the crime to police.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-20/76934/>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Immigrants: Domestic Abuse**

**Jess Phillips (Labour) [77654]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the potential merits of introducing a specific strategy on violence against migrant women.

**Jess Phillips (Labour) [77655]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to (a) consult specialist BME organisations as part of her Department's violence against women and girls strategy refresh and (b) ensure that strategy contains a section on the needs of abused (i) BME and (ii) migrant women when seeking protection.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** Protecting women and girls from violence remains a key priority of this Government. In March 2019 we published a refreshed Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy to update and reinforce our commitment to tackling VAWG.

We are committed to the fight against VAWG and we welcome the views of people across civil society on how best to address these crimes.

We have met regularly with organisations that support BME victims and survivors to discuss both the VAWG Strategy and the Domestic Abuse Bill.

We have prioritised those at risk of domestic abuse throughout the coronavirus pandemic national health emergency, including BME victims.

When allocating some of our emergency funding packages to support the most vulnerable in society at this time, we have specifically encouraged bids from organisations who support minority groups, including BME victims of domestic abuse. We have, for example, allocated £51,714 to Southall Black Sisters, which supports female BME victims of domestic abuse and other forms of VAWG, to enable them to develop an online chat application and a national online referral form to manage the greater number of contacts which they have received as a result of the pandemic.

As part of the Domestic Abuse Bill, we have published draft statutory guidance setting out how individuals can be the victims of multiple and different abusive behaviours because of the way different characteristics, including immigration status, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic position and sexuality intersect and overlap, particularly in relation to accessing services and support if they are not adequately designed to meet their needs. The guidance also sets out how those from BME

backgrounds may experience additional barriers to receiving help or reporting abuse.

In addition, the Domestic Abuse Commissioner's role description states that they must adopt a specific focus on the needs of victims and survivors of domestic abuse from minority or marginalised groups with particular needs, such as victims who are BAME. A thematic lead within the Commissioner's office will be identified for each of these groups.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-21/77654/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-21/77655/>

*The strategy referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/783596/VAWG\\_Strategy\\_Refresh\\_Web\\_Accessible.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/783596/VAWG_Strategy_Refresh_Web_Accessible.pdf)

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

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/896640/Draft\\_statutory\\_guidance\\_July\\_2020.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/896640/Draft_statutory_guidance_July_2020.pdf)

### **Immigrants: Domestic Abuse**

**Jess Phillips (Labour)** [77656] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to her Department's announcement entitled, Migrant victims of domestic abuse: review factsheet and the £1.5 million pilot to support migrant victims with no recourse to public funds, what plans her Department has in the event that demand exceeds the budget in that period.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** This Government is committed to doing what it can to support all migrant victims of domestic abuse as victims, first and foremost. We have listened to concerns raised by charities working with migrant victims and we want to improve the support such victims receive to help them recover from domestic abuse. From the evidence available, it was not clear how many migrant victims need help, who is most in need of support or how well existing arrangements may address their needs. The findings from the Support for Migrant Victims (SMV) Scheme, in which we are investing £1.5 million, will be used to inform future spending reviews and decisions about support for migrant victims of domestic abuse in the long-term.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-07-21/77656>

*The announcement referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/migrant-victims-of-domestic-abuse-review/migrant-victims-of-domestic-abuse-review-factsheet>

### **English Language: Education**

**Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour)** [77818] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what plans his Department has to end the post code as a determining factor of access to English for Speakers of Other Languages provision.

**Reply from Gillian Keegan:** In 2018/19, the department supported 120,500 adult learners to improve their levels of English through fully and part-funded English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) courses.

The department funds ESOL through the Adult Education Budget (AEB).

Approximately half of the AEB is devolved to 7 Mayoral Combined Authorities (MCAs) and delegated to the Mayor of London, acting where appropriate through the Greater London Authority (GLA). These devolved authorities are responsible for the provision of adult education, including ESOL, and allocation of the AEB in

their local areas. The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) is responsible for the remaining AEB in non-devolved areas.

In non-devolved areas, we do not ring-fence a particular amount of the ESFA AEB budget for ESOL. Colleges and adult training providers have the freedom and flexibility to determine how they use their AEB allocation to meet the needs of their communities. They are responsible for planning, with local partners, which ESOL courses can be delivered locally.

In devolved areas, providers have the opportunity to work with MCAs and the GLA to shape the ways in which they can contribute to meeting skills needs locally so that more people of all ages and backgrounds are given opportunities to develop the skills and experience they need, including ESOL provision.

We are committed to open dialogue with MCAs and the GLA on how best skills provision and reforms can be shaped to fit the needs of local areas.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-21/77818/>

*The following four questions all received the same answer*

### **Immigration: Married People**

**Kirsten Oswald (SNP)** [78714] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 4 May 2020 to Question 40657, whether the Migration Advisory Committee made recommendations on measures needed to tackle the effect of the covid-19 outbreak on the ability of non-EEA spouses and partners to meet minimum income requirements.

**Kirsten Oswald (SNP)** [78715] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 4 May 2020 to Question 40657, what changes she made to tackle the effect of the covid-19 outbreak on the ability of non-EEA spouses and partners to meet minimum income requirements.

**Kirsten Oswald (SNP)** [78716] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 4 May 2020 to Question 40657, what assessment she she made of (a) the effect of the covid-19 pandemic on the ability of non-EEA spouses and partners to meet minimum income requirements and (b) the changes required to the criteria to enable those spouses and partners to meet that requirement.

**Kirsten Oswald (SNP)** [78717] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 4 May 2020 to Question 40657, what discussions she has had with the devolved administrations on (a) the effect of the covid-19 outbreak on the ability of non-EEA spouses and partners to meet minimum income requirements and (b) the changes required to the criteria to enable those spouses and partners to meet that requirement.

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

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

- a temporary loss of employment income between 1 March and 31 July 2020 due to COVID-19 will be disregarded, provided the requirement was met for at least six months up to March 2020;
- an applicant or sponsor furloughed under the Government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme will be deemed as earning 100% of their salary;
- a temporary loss of annual income due to COVID-19 between 1 March 2020 and 31 July 2020 will generally be disregarded for self-employment income, along with the impact on employment income from the same period for future

applications. Income received via the Coronavirus Self-Employment Income Support Scheme will also be taken into account;

- evidential flexibility may be applied where an applicant or sponsor experiences difficulty accessing specified evidence due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Guidance for our customers is available on GOV.UK here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/chapter-8-appendix-fm-family-members>

This also sets out the ways in which the minimum income requirement can be met using other sources of income instead of, or along with, income from employment or self-employment. For example, income from the couple's investments, property rental or pension may also be taken into account, together with their cash savings. These are unprecedented times. We continue to monitor the situation closely and may make further adjustments to requirements where necessary and appropriate to ensure people are not unduly affected by circumstances beyond their control.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-22/78714/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-22/78715/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-22/78716/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-22/78717/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-27/40657/>

## Visas

**Stephen Timms (Labour)** [81495] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many visa extensions were granted to people in the UK in each of the last five years; and how many of those extensions were granted to people subject to the No Recourse to Public Funds condition in each of those years.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Data on the number of extensions granted in the UK are published in table Exe\_D01 of the managed migration detailed datasets in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release on GOV.UK:

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

Most migrants visiting, studying, working or joining family in the UK are subject to a No Recourse to Public Fund (NRPF) condition until they have obtained indefinite leave to remain.

Exceptions are made in respect of some migrants, such as families here on the basis of family life/Article 8, where the condition is lifted if the family can provide evidence that they would otherwise be destitute. Migrants with leave under the family and human rights routes can apply to have the NRPF restriction lifted by making a 'change of conditions' application if there has been a change in their financial circumstances.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-08-28/81495>

## Visas: Married People

**Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour)** [77820] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, what assessment her Department has made of the effectiveness of the use of the Public statement: relationship no longer subsisting forms.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Migrants who are granted leave to remain in the UK on the basis of a marriage or partnership are directed to inform the Home Office when there has been a change in their relationship, such as separation or divorce. Information on how to do this is available on the following page:

<https://www.gov.uk/visas-when-you-separate-or-divorce>

The purpose of the notification is to enable a review of a person's circumstances where the basis upon which they were granted leave to remain has changed.

Upon receipt of notification that a relationship is no longer subsisting, the Home Office will review each case on an individual basis before deciding whether it is appropriate to curtail the previously granted leave to remain.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-21/77820/>

### **Migrant Workers: Redundancy**

**Nadia Whittome (Labour)** [78942] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of granting Leave to Remain to people in the UK on a Tier 2 Visa who have been made redundant during the covid-19 outbreak.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Tier 2 is an employer led route aimed at filling a specific vacancy where the organisation cannot fill it from within the domestic labour market. The Government does not have any plans to grant leave to remain to those made redundant as a result of the Covid pandemic and have no other basis of stay.

However, the Government has put in place measures to support people at this time which people on a Tier 2 visa would be eligible for support from including the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (Furlough). This must be part of a company-wide policy, with the relevant visa holders considered as part of this, but this will allow many employers to retain staff rather than making them redundant.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-22/78942/>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Immigration: Hong Kong**

**Jim Shannon (DUP)** [77625] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent discussions she has had with the Foreign Secretary on the potential for non-Chinese ethnic minority British citizens resident in Hong Kong to relocate immediately to the UK with non-EEA national dependants.

**Jim Shannon (DUP)** [77626] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that non-Chinese ethnic minority British citizens resident in Hong Kong are able to immediately relocate to the UK accompanied by non-EEA national dependants following the enactment of the national security law in Hong Kong.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** All British Citizens have the right of abode, meaning they can freely enter and remain in the UK. For a non-EEA dependant, the family Immigration Rules already permit a non-EEA family member to accompany or join a British citizen to come to or remain in the UK. The family member (partner, parent, child, or adult dependent relative) must make a valid application and meet the requirements under Appendix FM. If successful, they are granted 33 months Entry Clearance on a route to Settlement. If necessary, consideration can also be given to granting leave outside the Immigration Rules on an exceptional basis – although such a consideration also requires a valid application to be made.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-21/77625/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-21/77626/>

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Matthew Offord (Conservative)** [77573] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the EU Settlement Resolution Centre telephone service has been closed during the covid-19 outbreak.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Settlement Resolution Centre followed Public Health England advice to ensure staff worked from home where possible, this led to a short period during which phone lines were closed to incoming calls.

The telephone service was quickly re-established with lines reopening, on a limited basis, on 1 May and a full service resumed on 11 May.

While phone access was unavailable, the centre continued to receive and respond to enquiries made via the online contact form. These enquiries were from the customers themselves or were made via a dedicated contact form for organisations acting on behalf of more vulnerable groups.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-21/77573/>

### **Refugees: Children**

**Christine Jardine (Liberal Democrat)** [77777] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government is taking to provide safe passage to the UK for unaccompanied child refugees in Europe who have relatives in the UK.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Throughout the transition period, we will continue to honour our commitments under the Dublin III Regulation, including the transfers of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children to the UK who have qualifying family members in the UK where it is in their best interests. We continue to remain in close contact with sending states, to facilitate transfers as quickly and safely as possible in accordance with respective governments' decisions on Covid-19 and the Dublin Regulation. Furthermore, we will continue to process all Take Charge Requests made under the family reunion provisions of the Regulation which are received on or before the 31 December 2020. The UK has presented a genuine and sincere offer to the EU for a new, reciprocal arrangement for the family reunion of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children post-transition, and on 19 May published its draft legal text as a constructive contribution to negotiations.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-21/77777/>

### **Asylum: Interviews**

**Daniel Zeichner (Labour)** [78693] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has made an assessment of the potential merits of online remote asylum interviews.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office takes the wellbeing of asylum seekers extremely seriously and has already put in place a range of measures to support asylum applicants affected by the covid-19 outbreak.

However, it is crucial to our applicants that we restart processing their applications for protection as soon as it is safe to do so. The Home Office has successfully used video technology to support remote interviewing for more than 2 years and has appropriate operating procedures that are designed to ensure participants are able to give the best account of their circumstances.

To keep people safe but allow the Home Office to gather the additional information needed to make a decision on their claim for protection, Asylum Operations have

secured additional mobile digital and video interviewing kit that enables more applicants to be interviewed remotely. The Home Office has been clear that it would not restart interviews until it is safe to do so. We are now in a position where we can ensure safe social distancing and have started to issue interview invitations with an expectation that interviews volumes will increase over the coming weeks, including those taking place face to face.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-22/78693/>

### **Asylum: Families**

**Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour)** [77817] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of additional Dublin Regulation requests that will be decided in the UK after the end of the transition period.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The UK will cease to participate in the Dublin Regulation at the end of the transition period. However, the Immigration, Nationality and Asylum (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 contain a “savings provision” to enable a Dublin family reunion request, made before 1 January 2021, to continue to be processed after that date.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-21/77817/>

### **Detention Centres: Risk Assessment**

**Alison Thewliss (SNP)** [78724] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many pieces of external medical evidence on adults at risk in immigration detention received by her Department since January 2017 have been found to be produced solely for the purpose of release rather than for highlighting vulnerability by (a) month, (b) immigration removal centre, and (c) document type.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Medical evidence received from external sources is not centrally recorded on Home Office systems and the number of pieces of evidence received cannot be obtained without reviewing individual case files, which could only be done at disproportionate cost.

All medical evidence received is considered in line with the Adults at Risk Policy and any decisions in relation to continued detention will be made having reviewed any evidence received. Release reasons are recorded but do not consider the assumed intention behind the submissions of such evidence.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-22/78724/>

### **Detention Centres: Risk Assessment**

**Christine Jardine (Liberal Democrat)** [78829] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the for the implications of her policy of the findings of the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration’s annual inspection report on Adults at Risk in Immigration Detention, 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office published its response to the ICIBI’s report in April of this year. The ICIBI made eight recommendations, of which the Home Office has accepted two, partially accepted five and rejected one. The full report can be found here:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/882002/Response\\_to\\_the\\_annual\\_inspection\\_of\\_adults\\_at\\_risk\\_in\\_immigration\\_detention.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/882002/Response_to_the_annual_inspection_of_adults_at_risk_in_immigration_detention.pdf)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-22/78829/>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

### Channel Crossings in Small Boats

*The lengthy oral answer given in the House of Commons by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department Chris Philp (which can be read in the House of Commons Oral Answers section above) was repeated in the House of Lords.*

**Lord Paddick (Liberal Democrat):** My Lords, does the Minister not agree that the best way to stop the criminal exploitation of those desperate to seek sanctuary in the UK and to ensure that they do not risk their lives crossing the channel is to enable refugees to claim asylum without being physically in the UK and to provide safe and legal routes into the UK?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** I am glad that the noble Lord recognises the need for legal routes. Of course, we have a number of those. Under Dublin, someone can claim asylum in the first safe country that they arrive in, which is of course all the states of the EU. We have our national resettlement scheme, under which we have resettled more people than any state in the EU, and 46,000 children have received our refuge since 2010. We also have family reunification visas, of which we have issued 29,000 in the past couple of years. That is not to say that what is happening is right; it absolutely has to be tackled. With what has been happening with small boats, the only people who benefit are people traffickers and criminals.

**Lord Balfe (Conservative):** ... Will the Minister, first, consider, in talks in the Home Office, the need to destroy the boats and all the equipment that people arrive in, and, secondly, look at a system whereby they do not land in the United Kingdom but are put on a boat and taken somewhere else so that the attraction disappears? At the moment, if you land in the UK you have a 95% chance of staying. We have to break that if we are to deal with this problem.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** ... It is not in our purview to go and destroy boats that are not on our soil. They quite often come from France, as my noble friend said. On not landing in the UK, it is an internationally accepted arrangement that the first job of any maritime force, whether Border Force or whoever it is, to save lives at sea. That is a really important thing here. I will repeat what I said in the first instance: on taking someone somewhere else, when people are taken safely on to our soil we are obliged to hear and deal with their asylum claim. This is a problem for every state in the EU: we need to work, together with our partners, to deal with some of the problems of upstream criminality. The reason why people get on to these boats and take perilous journeys is that criminality, unfortunately, is at the heart of it.

**Lord Dubs (Labour):** My Lords, I think we would all agree that these are desperate people, many of them children. They are often the victims of war and persecution. The best way forward is to reach some sort of agreement with the French authorities. I suggest that the Minister should say to the French, among other things, that we will take all the children in northern France who have family members in this country or other close links with this country. We should say that we will do this quickly and expeditiously, in return for which we expect the French to redouble their efforts to catch the traffickers.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** My Lords, that sounds really lovely in theory. In practice, it would just create another incentive for people traffickers to get people to France. Do not forget that France is a free, democratic and safe country. On arrangements with France, the noble Lord will know, because I spoke to him about it, that we have laid a legal text that talks about our obligations in taking asylum seekers who require our protection and, in turn, returning people who do not. ...

**The Lord Bishop of Bristol:** My Lords, the Minister referred to the refugee resettlement scheme. However, as far as we can tell, refugee resettlement remains paused since March. Can she tell me what plans the Government have to launch the new global resettlement scheme and why they have continued deportations and not inward refugee resettlement?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The right reverend Prelate is absolutely right that it has been difficult since March. We took 52 people from Greece back in March but it has been incredibly difficult because of the lack of flights coming here. Of course, that has led, in some sense, to people reverting to trying to get here in small boats, and that is not at all the situation we want because they are simply being exploited. What was the right reverend Prelate's second point? ...

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

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-09-03/debates/31A73228-3457-4A60-86C6-6DA550864F16/ChannelCrossingsInSmallBoats>

## UK Parliament, Home Affairs Committee

**Inquiry into Channel crossings, migration and asylum-seeking routes through the EU: evidence session**

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/793/default/>

## New Publications

**Non-UK nationals in Scotland's workforce Analysis from the Annual Population Survey January - December 2019**

<https://tinyurl.com/y6qrjkh>

**Access denied: The human impact of the hostile environment**

<https://www.ippr.org/files/2020-09/access-denied-hostile-environment-sept20.pdf>

## News: Channel Migrants

**Channel crossings: Government to launch campaign telling migrants UK streets 'not paved with gold'**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/channel-migrant-crossings-government-campaign-uk-streets-gold-a9703296.html>

**Channel crossings: Government claims refugees can use resettlement scheme that has been closed for six months**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/channel-crossings-refugee-resettlement-scheme-government-home-office-a9700991.html>

**Record 400-plus migrants cross Channel in one day**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-54000755>

**More than 400 illegal migrants crossed the Channel to reach Britain in a new record**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/09/02/400-illegal-migrants-crossed-channel-reach-britain-new-record/>

**Channel crossings: Record shattered as 409 migrants cross in a single day**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/channel-crossing-migrants-england-immigration-a9702101.html>

**1,500 migrants cross Channel in a month**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/1-500-migrants-cross-channel-in-a-month-jr0tlpzh0>

**Record number of migrants reach UK shores in small boats**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/sep/02/record-number-migrants-reach-uk-shores-small-boats>

**Britain heading for record 10,000 Channel migrants this year**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/09/04/britain-heading-record-10000-channel-migrants-year/>

**Calm seas trigger surge in migrant Channel crossings from France to the UK**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/calm-seas-trigger-surge-in-migrant-channel-crossings-from-france-to-the-uk-ffwn7gxsf>

**Channel migrants: Young children among those arriving in Dover**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-54000755>

**British Army drone to fly over English Channel to monitor migrant boats**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/british-army-channel-crossings-migrants-drone-monitor-a9696956.html>

**Army drone deployed to spot migrants in Channel**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2020-08-31/news/army-drone-deployed-to-spot-migrants-in-channel-d3qs3nsxh>

**British Army drone used against the Taliban will monitor the English Channel for migrant boats**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/08/31/british-army-drone-used-against-taliban-will-monitor-english/>

**Anti-migrant protesters clash with police in Dover**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18700242.anti-migrant-protesters-clash-police-dover/>

**Far-right protesters descend on Dover singing 'Rule Britannia!'**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/dover-protest-today-police-kent-anti-racism-national-front-veterans-arrests-a9706491.html>

**Port of Dover is brought to a standstill by far-right groups**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/sep/05/port-of-dover-is-brought-to-a-standstill-by-far-right-groups>

**Dangerous Channel crossings should prompt the UK to rise to its responsibilities to refugees**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/editorials/channel-crossing-boats-boris-johnson-refugees-asylum-law-a9703826.html>

## News: Other Immigration and Asylum

### **Almost 400,000 non-UK nationals living in Scotland**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-54016547>

### **Immigration officers 'fearful' of complaints in the aftermath of Windrush**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/09/01/immigration-officers-fearful-complaints-aftermath-windrush/>

### **Brexit: Tens of thousands EU citizens face deportation because of government settled status scheme, MPs warn**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/brexit-eu-citizens-deport-settled-status-scheme-b404476.html>

### **UK government accused of lacking compassion for asylum seekers**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/sep/02/uk-government-accused-of-lacking-compassion-for-asylum-seekers>

### **Home Office under pressure to re-open refugee resettlement as hundreds left 'languishing in unsafe situations'**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/refugee-resettlement-home-office-coronavirus-chris-philp-a9703696.html>

### **Asylum seekers: Delays in processing applications rise**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-53966024>

### **Legal challenges blocking migrant removals, even though most have no credible asylum claim**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/09/03/lawyers-accused-blocking-removal-channel-migrants-even-thirds/>

### **'We don't know what to do': asylum seekers flown to Spain by Home Office**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/sep/03/we-dont-know-what-to-do-asylum-seekers-flown-to-spain-by-home-office>

### **Asylum seekers should be given protections we are all entitled to expect**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/kirsty-brimelow-qc-asylum-seekers-should-be-given-protections-we-are-all-entitled-to-expect-t2575qjx>

### **Hostile environment has fostered racism and caused poverty, report finds**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/sep/03/hostile-environment-has-fostered-racism-and-caused-poverty-report-finds>

### **Rewarding, emotional, amazing food: what's it like to have a refugee come and live with you?**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/refugees-home-news-sara-nathan-gary-lineker-host-asylum-seeker-a9703596.html>

### **Gary Lineker due to welcome refugee to live with him 'within weeks'**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/sep/02/gary-lineker-signs-up-with-refugees-at-home-charity-to-offer-room>

## **Mercy Baguma: Help available for asylum seekers, minister insists after Ugandan woman dies in Glasgow**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/mercy-baguma-dead-asylum-seekers-support-theresa-coffey-interview-a700396.html>

## **'Imprisoned, enslaved, tortured': One asylum seeker's journey to the UK**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-seeker-uk-imprisonment-enslavement-torture-freedom-torture-home-office-a9697081.html>

## **'I needed to stand up': young refugees learn to take on MPs and the UK media**

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2020/sep/02/i-needed-to-stand-up-young-refugees-learn-to-take-on-uk-mps-and-the-media>

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## **Equality**

### **Scottish Parliament Motion**

**S5M-22608: Mary Fee (Labour): Young Scottish Gypsy/Travellers Win Equality and Diversity Award 2020** – That the Parliament congratulates the siblings, Charlotte and Davie Donaldson, on winning the Equality and Diversity Award at the 2020 Young Scot Awards; recognises that they were awarded this because of their hard work and dedication to ensuring that the voices of young Scottish Gypsy/Travellers are heard across Scotland in communities, public spaces and in the Parliament; understands that they set an excellent example for other young people in Scotland who wish to see positive changes to equality in their own communities, and wishes them the best of luck in their future endeavours.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-22608>

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

#### **Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities**

**Stuart Anderson (Conservative) [82405]** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what opportunities the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities plans to make available to people in (a) Wolverhampton South West constituency and (b) the rest of the UK to engage with the work of the Commission.

**Reply from Kemi Badenoch:** The Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities, which was established on 16 July of this year, has set out an ambitious plan of engagement and analysis to deliver against its terms of reference.

The Commission intends to engage with individuals and organisations nationwide in order to deliver its work, and has already held initial meetings with some of the key stakeholders, delivery partners and agencies for employment, education, health and criminal justice.

Its work will be crucial in informing and improving the national conversation on race and also demonstrates this government's mission to level up opportunity for everyone - whatever their background. Further updates on the Commission's progress will be posted on its website in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-08-28/82405>

## NHS: Ethnic Groups

**Edward Davey (Liberal Democrat)** [78481] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how many (a) nurses and (b) doctors there were in the NHS, by ethnicity, in each of the last five years.

**Reply from Helen Whately:** NHS Digital publishes bi-annual statistics on diversity and inclusion as part of its NHS Digital Hospital and Community Health Service Workforce Statistics bi-annual publication. The following tables show the number of doctors and nurses and health visitors broken down by ethnicity, as at September each year for the last four years, plus latest data this year, as at March 2020 is the latest available data on ethnicity. Data is provided as at September each year to account for changes in the recruitment cycle.

Doctors	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-18	Sep-19	Mar-20
Asian or Asian British	29,369	30,398	31,565	33,707	34,896
Black or Black British	3,966	4,256	4,664	5,443	5,960
Chinese	2,572	2,684	2,811	2,941	2,946
Mixed	3,056	3,271	3,431	3,733	3,988
White	60,884	61,809	61,281	61,958	62,359
Any Other Ethnic Group	4,054	4,259	4,477	5,029	5,367
Discontinued codes	38	36	35	31	30
Not Stated	6,753	6,931	7,774	8,458	8,746
Unknown	2,552	2,783	2,827	3,085	2,613
<b>Total</b>	<b>113,244</b>	<b>116,427</b>	<b>118,865</b>	<b>124,385</b>	<b>126,905</b>

Nurses and Health Visitors	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-18	Sep-19	Mar-20
Asian or Asian British	25,829	27,054	28,949	32,389	35,709
Black or Black British	23,505	24,175	25,115	26,909	28,632
Chinese	1,197	1,129	1,117	1,110	1,112
Mixed	4,047	4,087	4,302	4,610	4,829
White	242,702	240,616	238,367	238,150	239,540
Any Other Ethnic Group	9,513	10,118	11,110	13,200	14,531
Discontinued codes	191	172	158	122	110
Not Stated	10,993	10,679	10,605	11,200	11,547
Unknown	2,137	1,994	2,644	2,799	3,130
<b>Total</b>	<b>320,114</b>	<b>320,024</b>	<b>322,367</b>	<b>330,489</b>	<b>339,140</b>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-22/78481/>

## Press Releases

### Opportunities for minority ethnic people

<https://www.gov.scot/news/opportunities-for-minority-ethnic-people/>

### Government working with midwives, medical experts, and academics to investigate BAME maternal mortality

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-working-with-midwives-medical-experts-and-academics-to-investigate-bame-maternal-mortality>

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## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

#### Programme for Government 2020-21

**Liam Kerr (Conservative):** The First Minister said in her statement that freedom of speech and expression is fundamental in any democracy. The Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill has been criticised as a threat to freedom of speech by, among others, the Law Society of Scotland, the Scottish Police Federation and several cultural figures. Will the First Minister listen to those criticisms and withdraw and rethink the bill, which so many have spoken out against?

**Reply from the First Minister:** Liam Kerr has been in Parliament for long enough, I hope, to know how the legislative process works. I deliberately said what I did today because I know that concerns have been raised about the bill, and it is important that we listen to those concerns. I answered a question about the bill during First Minister's question time last week. Offences about stirring up hatred are not new in Scots law; they have existed in relation to racial offences for quite some time.

One of Liam Kerr's colleagues rightly raised the issue of disability hate crime. There are very good reasons why we need to ensure that we have laws in this country that are capable of tackling hate crime, because it is pernicious and horrible and we should have zero tolerance for it. However, we have to do that in a way that respects and protects people's legitimate freedom of speech and expression. As with so many important things that we do in society, the issues are not always straightforward. They involve striking balances and getting into the real detail of how we get them right.

We are at the start of a legislative process. The right thing to do is to listen to concerns and to go through the committee scrutiny process. If we need to lodge amendments to reassure people who have legitimate concerns, we give an undertaking to do so. I mentioned the bill specifically today to give an indication to people that we hear the concerns. We want to navigate a way through the bill that ensures that we do what we want to do in relation to hate crime but that does not leave people thinking that the legitimate right to freedom of speech is being compromised.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12779&i=115567&c=2272836#ScotParlOR>

#### Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill

**Liam Kerr (Conservative):** Yesterday's programme for government mentioned the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill, but it failed to mention the bill's costs. Submissions

by the police suggest that the bill's costs have been grossly underestimated and that several policing costs have not even been accounted for. Does the First Minister recognise the police's concerns? Given that many other concerns have already been highlighted about the bill, will she now consider rethinking it?

**Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon):** ... We are at the start of the legislative process. I know that concerns have been raised about the bill. I have given a commitment that we are listening carefully and that, if we require to lodge amendments, we will do so. Issues relating to the bill's financial implications will be fully considered and taken account of as part of the legislative process. That is the right and proper way to do things in Parliament.

I make no apology for thinking that it is really important that, as a society, we do more to tackle hate crime. The pernicious impact of hate crime on groups that are often already disadvantaged is unacceptable; none of us should be prepared to tolerate or live with that.

On the other hand, freedom of speech and expression is absolutely fundamental and, as legislators, it is our responsibility to strike the right balance. These things are not easy, but we are elected to come to this place to do that difficult work. That is what the legislative process is for, and I encourage Liam Kerr to engage with it in detail—as I am sure that he will—rather than simply throwing headlines across the chamber. Let us get down to the detail of doing the hard work to get to the right outcome, which I think that most people across the country want to see.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12782&i=115594#ScotParlOR>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

### Racial Discrimination

**Abena Opong-Asare (Labour)** [76922] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, pursuant to the Answer of 16 July 2020 to Question 62691 on NHS: Racial Discrimination, whether the risk assessments of NHS staff are mandatory; and what the obligations to conduct those risk assessments on employers of those staff are in (a) England and (b) Wales.

**Reply from Helen Whately:** Employers in both England and Wales are required by law to protect employees from harm, including assessing risk, under the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999.

All National Health Service employers were directed on 24 June by NHS England and NHS Improvement to make significant progress in deploying risk assessments within the following two weeks and complete them – at least for all staff in at-risk groups – within four weeks. NHS England and NHS Improvement have asked organisations to publish metrics from their staff reviews until fully compliant.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-07-20/76922>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-07-20/76922>

### Schools: Discrimination

**Catherine McKinnell (Labour)** [81896] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps his Department is taking to tackle racism and Islamophobia in (a) schools and (b) among young people.

**Reply from Nick Gibb:** The Department wants to support all young people to be happy, healthy and safe, and equip them for adult life and to make a positive contribution to society. That is why we have made Relationships Education

compulsory for primary school age pupils, Relationships and Sex Education compulsory for secondary school age pupils and Health Education compulsory for pupils in all state funded schools.

The statutory duty to implement the new subjects has now come into force. However, considering the circumstances faced by our schools, the Department is reassuring schools that they have flexibility over when they discharge their duty within the first year of compulsory teaching.

The statutory guidance sets out that as part of Relationships Education, all primary aged pupils will be taught the importance of respecting others, even when they are very different from them, or make different choices or have different preferences or beliefs. Pupils will also be taught what a stereotype is, and how stereotypes can be unfair, negative or destructive.

Schools can also teach about racism and religion in personal, social, health and economic education and citizenship education where pupils can develop their understanding of the diverse national, regional, religious and ethnic identities in the UK and the need for mutual respect and understanding. All state funded schools are required by legislation or by their funding agreements to teach religious education to all registered pupils aged 5 to 18 years. Teaching religious education is also part of schools' activity to meet their legal duty to promote young people's spiritual, moral and cultural development.

Schools are required to actively promote fundamental British values, including democracy as well as the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faith and beliefs.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-08-28/81896>

*The guidance referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/908013/Relationships Education Relationships and Sex Education RSE and Health Education.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/908013/Relationships_Education_Relationships_and_Sex_Education_RSE_and_Health_Education.pdf)

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Universities: Ethnic Groups**

**Nadia Whittome (Labour)** [78934] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, with reference to the Equality and Human Rights Commission's report entitled, Tackling racial harassment: Universities challenged, published in October 2019, what progress he has made on tackling racial disparities in employment at universities.

#### **Universities: Racial Harassment**

**Nadia Whittome (Labour)** [78935] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, with reference to the Equality and Human Rights Commission's report entitled, Tackling racial harassment: Universities challenged, published in October 2019, what recent assessment he has made of trends in the level of racial harassment of staff in employment by universities.

**Reply from Michelle Donelan:** Racial harassment is unacceptable, and we cannot tolerate staff and students being victims of it at our world-leading universities. There is no place in our society - including within higher education - for any form of harassment, discrimination or racism. Universities have clear responsibilities in this regard.

As independent and autonomous institutions, higher education providers are responsible for the contracts and conditions of employment that they offer to their staff. We expect universities to follow fair recruitment and employment practices in accordance with the requirements of the Equality Act (2010) to ensure that all job applicants and existing staff, regardless of race, have the opportunity to progress in their careers.

This government will continue to work closely with key partners, and the Office for Students, to drive progress on matters of racial harassment and inequality in higher education.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-22/78934/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-22/78935/>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/tackling-racial-harassment-universities-challenged.pdf>

### **Football: Abuse**

**Edward Davey (Liberal Democrat)** [78489] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps his Department is taking to work with the football authorities to help tackle racist abuse of players (a) in person and (b) online; and if he will make a statement.

**Reply from Nigel Huddleston:** Racism or any form of discrimination has no place in football or society, whether in person or online.

The Government continues to liaise closely with all the football authorities about their work to tackle discrimination. This includes actions targeted at and around football grounds, such as improving reporting systems, providing better training and support for referees and stewards, and improving the quality of CCTV around stadia.

What is unacceptable offline is also unacceptable online. As set out in the Online Harms White Paper, we intend to establish in law a new duty of care on companies towards their users which will be overseen by an independent regulator. The 'duty of care' will ensure companies take risk-based and proportionate steps to keep their users safe from harms including harassment and abuse.

The criminal law must be fit for purpose to deal with online harms. DCMS and the Ministry of Justice have engaged the Law Commission on a second phase of their review of abusive and offensive online communications. The Law Commission will review existing communications offences and make specific recommendations about options for reform, to ensure that criminal law provides consistent and effective protection against such behaviour. The Law Commission is also looking into the adequacy of protection offered by hate crime legislation, and this review is expected to report in 2021.

We will continue to work with all the football authorities to tackle discrimination in the game.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-07-22/78489>

*Information about the review referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.lawcom.gov.uk/law-commission-to-undertake-phase-2-of-the-abusive-and-offensive-online-communications-project/>

### **Religious Hatred: Islam**

**Catherine McKinnell (Labour)** [81894] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps his Department is taking to tackle (a) Islamophobia and (b) the number of Islamophobic incidents.

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

We have continued to work closely with Muslim communities, to tackle hate against them, including underlying issues and trends, and continue supporting the work of the cross-Government Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group which provides valuable advice to Government on challenges faced by Britain's Muslim communities and how to address those challenges. We have also supported Tell MAMA (Measuring Anti-Muslim Attacks) with just over £2.8 million between 2016 and 2020 to monitor and combat anti-Muslim hatred.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-08-28/81894>

## News

**Nicola Sturgeon open to amending hate crime proposals to tackle freedom of speech criticism**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18690192.nicola-sturgeon-open-amending-hate-crime-proposals-tackle-freedom-speech-criticism/>

**'Unprecedented' response to hate crime proposals**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-54023278>

**Labour calls for out of date hate crime figures to be updated amid controversial proposals**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18686627.labour-calls-date-hate-crime-figures-updated-amid-controversial-proposals/>

**New hate crime laws 'threaten freedom of expression'**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/new-hate-crime-laws-threaten-freedom-expression-2962446>

**The BBC, senior judges, sheriffs and police warn SNP's hate crime Bill compromises freedom of speech**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/09/05/bbc-senior-judges-sheriffs-police-warn-snps-hate-crime-bill/>

**Football clubs want banning powers under Scottish hate crime law**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2020-09-05/scotland/football-clubs-want-banning-powers-under-scottish-hate-crime-law-zdfgmwm0n>

**It's time we woke up to the dangers of the appalling Hate Crime Bill**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18697388.opinion-struan-stevenson-time-woke-dangers-appalling-hate-crime-bill/>

**New hate crime Bill explained as probe held at Scottish Parliament**

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/hate-crime-bill-explained-probe-22625217>

**Why is Scotland's Hate Crime Bill so controversial?**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-53580326>

**Justice secretary Humza Yousaf fears for safety after tweets**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/justice-secretary-humza-yousaf-fears-for-safety-after-tweets-htj6nlh62>

**MPs will be made to take anti-racist training at work**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2020-08-31/news/mps-will-be-made-to-take-anti-racist-training-at-work-xrtmpgcs0>

**Candidate for George Galloway's party linked to sectarian, racist and sexist Twitter abuse**

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/candidate-george-galloways-party-linked-22599669>

**Hostile environment fostering racist practices across society, finds report**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/hostile-environment-racism-home-office-immigration-windrush-a9700671.html>

**Royal Institution lecture: 'Science was racist' says first black lecture host**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-derbyshire-53938171>

**Teenage neo-Nazi said he was 'getting armed and in shape' for terror attack, court hears**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/teenager-neo-nazi-group-terror-attack-birmingham-crown-court-fkd-a9701591.html>

**Grammar pupil had bomb guides and fascist links**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/grammar-pupil-had-bomb-guides-and-fascist-links-scfhwd8jg>

**Fair Justice System for Scotland Group: Punish firms for racial bias in workplace**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/fair-justice-system-for-scotland-group-punish-firms-for-racial-bias-in-workplace-8sspmc5gw>

**Black vicars are facing 'injustices' and discrimination within the church, says Archdeacon**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/09/02/black-vicars-facing-injustices-discrimination-within-church/>

**Hundreds join march to protest against systemic racism in the UK**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/aug/30/hundreds-join-march-to-protest-against-systemic-racism-in-the-uk>

**BBC investigates reporter's suspected anti-Semitic trolling of Radio 5's Emma Barnett**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/09/03/bbc-investigates-reporters-suspected-anti-semitic-trolling-radio/>

**BBC reporter 'trolled Jewish colleague Emma Barnett'**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/bbc-reporter-trolled-jewish-colleague-emma-barnett-j3kd0rnX0>

**K-Dogg Bristol race attack: Musician releases song about ordeal**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-bristol-54001328>

**I am not a virus – anti-Chinese racism and coronavirus**

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/blogs/i-am-not-virus-anti-chinese-racism-and-coronavirus>

**Discrimination in football on the rise**

<https://www.kickitout.org/news/discrimination-in-football-on-the-rise>

**Reports of racism and other discrimination in football increases by 42 per cent, Kick It Out reveals**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/football/2020/09/03/steep-rise-reports-discrimination-football-reports-kick/>

### **Kick It Out reveals 'shocking' rise in reports of racism in football**

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2020/sep/03/kick-it-out-reveals-shocking-rise-in-reports-of-racism-in-football>

### **Yorkshire launch investigation after being accused of 'institutional racism' by former spinner Azeem Rafiq**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/cricket/2020/09/03/yorkshire-accused-institutionally-racist-former-spin-bowlerazeem/>

### **Azeem Rafiq's experience demands BAME coaching drive to deliver change**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/cricket/2020/09/03/azeem-rafiqs-experience-demands-bame-coaching-drive-deliver/>

### **Yorkshire ask independent law firm to investigate Azeem Rafiq's allegations of racism**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/cricket/yorkshire-azeem-rafiq-racism-allegations-latest-news-b404269.html>

### **Racist abuse within Yorkshire cricket team left Azeem Rafiq 'close to suicide'**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/cricket/azeem-rafiq-racist-abuse-yorkshire-cricket-team-allegations-a9702926.html>

### **Yorkshire investigate 'institutional racism' claims made by Azeem Rafiq**

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2020/sep/03/azeem-rafiq-yorkshire-cricket-club-institutionally-racist>

### **Yorkshire investigate Azeem Rafiq's claims that cricket club is 'institutionally racist'**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/yorkshire-investigate-azeem-rafiqs-claims-that-cricket-club-is-institutionally-racist-nzqjg3pw>

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## **Other Scottish Parliament and Government**

### **Press Release**

#### **Protecting Scotland, Renewing Scotland**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/protecting-scotland-renewing-scotland/>

### **New Publication**

#### **Protecting Scotland, Renewing Scotland: The Government's Programme for Scotland 2020-2021**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/protecting-scotland-renewing-scotland-governments-programme-scotland-2020-2021/>

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## Other UK Parliament and Government

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

#### **Religious Buildings: Security**

**Stephen Doughty (Labour Co-op) [12907]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many places of worship have received funding from her Department for additional safety and security measures by religious denomination in Wales in the last 12 months; and how much each such place of worship has received.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** The Places of Worship Protective Security Fund (POW) is a key commitment in the Hate Crime Action Plan published in 2016. The Scheme provides funding to places of worship that have been victims of or are vulnerable to hate crime attacks and provides for physical protective measures such as alarms, fencing and access control. The fifth year of the scheme recently closed, and successful applicants will be announced in due course.

Funding in the region of £38,500 was allocated to one place of worship in Wales in year four (2019/2020). The scheme is open to places of worship across England and Wales, and we will continue to promote the scheme across Wales for future rounds of funding.

The Jewish Community Protective Security Grant was introduced in 2015 following a series of terrorist attacks against Jews and Jewish locations across Europe. For 2019-20 a grant of £14m was provided to fund additional protective security measures, primarily guarding, at Jewish state, free and independent schools, colleges, nurseries and some other Jewish community sites, including synagogues. A grant of £14m is to be provided in 2020-21. We do not keep a breakdown of funding by region.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-05/12907/>

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

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

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

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

#### **Air Pollution: Ethnic Groups and Females**

**Geraint Davies (Labour Co-op) [77491]** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment the Government has made of the effect of air pollution on (a) BAME communities and (b) women.

**Reply from Rebecca Pow:** As part of the UK Plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), the Government reviewed evidence investigating the inequalities in the distributional impact of poor air quality. The published technical report references research conducted by Fecht et al (2015) that demonstrates that higher concentrations of NO<sub>2</sub> and coarse particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) have been observed in ethnically diverse neighbourhoods.

Additionally, in 2020 the Office for National Statistics published a report on Coronavirus mortality rates and air quality. Data analysis highlighted that ethnicity is strongly correlated with pollution exposure, with ethnic minorities more likely to live in polluted areas. To date, the Government has not investigated whether there are air pollution inequalities between women and men. Such analysis would be particularly challenging due to the fixed nature of the Government's air quality

monitoring stations; the monitoring network limits our ability to make robust inferences about air pollution exposure at places of work, within households or at an individual level.

The Government is taking a proactive approach to tackling air pollution concentrations through the NO<sub>2</sub> plan and Clean Air Strategy, both of which will improve air quality across the UK. Furthermore, those actions that focus on reducing the highest concentrations of harmful pollutants will disproportionately benefit ethnically diverse communities that are located in areas of poor air quality.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-21/77491/>

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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/coronavirus>

#### **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/>

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

### **NHS: Ethnic Groups**

**John Trickett (Labour)** [74440] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what funding his Department has allocated to support Black and Minority Ethnic NHS workers at risk of contracting covid-19; and what assessment has he made of the adequacy of the level of that expenditure.

**Reply from Helen Whately:** Public safety is the Government's top priority. The Chancellor has been clear that the National Health Service will get whatever funding it needs to respond to COVID-19. We do not, however, collect data on how much employers spend specifically to support black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME)

workers at risk of contracting COVID-19.

Employers across the NHS have a duty to protect the health, safety and welfare of their staff in the workplace. In April, the Chief People Officer at NHS England and NHS Improvement launched a comprehensive programme to address the impact of COVID-19 on BAME staff in the NHS. As part of this work, NHS England and NHS Improvement wrote to all NHS organisations on 24 June requiring them to complete risk assessments for high risk staff.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-07-15/74440>

### **Coronavirus: West Midlands**

**Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [78813]** To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how many people (a) under 50 years old, (b) aged 51 to 65, (c) aged 66 to 75, and (d) aged 76 have (i) tested positive for and (ii) died as a result of covid-19 in (A) Edgbaston constituency, (B) Birmingham City Council area and (C) West Midlands Combined Authority area, by (1) gender, (2) ethnicity, (3) religion, (4) socio-economic group and (5) occupation.

**Reply from Jo Churchill:** Public Health England collects data on people who have tested positive for COVID-19 and those who have died following a positive test at local authority level.

For Birmingham Upper Tier Local Authority, 5,180 people tested positive for COVID-19 and 1,061 people died following a positive test. These data are as reported at 29 July 2020 on GOV.UK Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the United Kingdom data dashboard which is available at the following link:

<https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/>

Data are not available in the format requested for the West Midlands Combined Authority area or Edgbaston constituency. Data are also not available in the format requested for breakdowns by age, gender, ethnicity, religion, socio-economic group or occupation for any of the areas requested.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-07-22/78813/>

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

### **Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups**

**Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick (Non-affiliated) [HL7387]** To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to help tackle the disproportionate effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on BAME communities.

**Reply from Lord Bethell:** The Government is committed to reducing disparities in health outcomes experienced by black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities during this pandemic and are already taking action to do so. This includes developing effective risk assessment tools for schools and workplaces, expanding and targeting testing in high-contact professions, and working with the Race Disparity Unit to ensure that we have appropriate personal protective equipment reaching the right places. This is in addition to the wider work being taken forward by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Equalities (Kemi Badenoch MP) to understand the drivers behind Public Health England's findings on COVID-19 and BAME communities.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-27/HL7387/>

### **Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups**

**Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick (Non-affiliated) [HL7388]** To ask Her Majesty's

Government what discussions they have had with each NHS trust in England about the implementation of the recommendations of Public Health England's review Beyond the data: Understanding the impact of COVID-19 on BAME groups, published in June.

**Reply from Lord Bethell:** The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Equalities (Kemi Badenoch MP) is reviewing the findings from Public Health England's (PHE) reports to better understand the drivers behind the disparities and the relationships between the different risk factors. Her work will take into account PHE's recommendations and help us to improve understanding of the virus and who it affects so we can build on the existing action we are already taking to tackle health inequalities.

Within the health and care sector, all National Health Service employers were directed on 24 June by NHS England and NHS Improvement to make significant progress in deploying risk assessments for staff. NHS England and NHS Improvement have also established a Task and Finish Group, composed of a range of system leaders and voluntary sector partners, to focus on what specific, measurable actions should be taken by the NHS in the next few months. The Group will take account of feedback and ideas already received from black, Asian and minority ethnic organisations, the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector, local systems and others.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-27/HL7388/>

*The reports referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/908434/Disparities\\_in\\_the\\_risk\\_and\\_outcomes\\_of\\_COVID\\_August\\_2020\\_update.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/908434/Disparities_in_the_risk_and_outcomes_of_COVID_August_2020_update.pdf)  
and

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/892376/COVID\\_stakeholder\\_engagement\\_synthesis\\_beyond\\_the\\_data.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/892376/COVID_stakeholder_engagement_synthesis_beyond_the_data.pdf)

### **Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups**

**Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated)** [HL7034] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made, if any, of the study Socio-demographic heterogeneity in the prevalence of COVID-19 during lockdown is associated with ethnicity and household size, published in the EClinicalMedicine journal on 19 July, suggesting COVID-19 cases in Leicester have been concentrated amongst the BAME community.

**Reply from Lord Bethell:** The recent review published by Public Health England concluded that ethnicity is a factor on the impact of COVID-19. The National Institute for Health Research and UK Research and Innovation have commissioned research proposals to investigate the association between ethnicity and COVID-19. This research will complement the wider disparity review on COVID-19, which is led by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Equalities (Kemi Badenoch MP). The study published in the EClinicalMedicine journal on 19 July will contribute to the work of the review. The Government welcomes and will continue to consider all relevant evidence on COVID-19.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-20/HL7034/>

*The report of the study referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.thelancet.com/action/showPdf?pii=S2589-5370%2820%2930148-6>

*The review referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/908434/Disparities\\_in\\_the\\_risk\\_and\\_outcomes\\_of\\_COVID\\_August\\_2020\\_update.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/908434/Disparities_in_the_risk_and_outcomes_of_COVID_August_2020_update.pdf)

## UK Parliament Early Day Motion

**Patrick Grady (SNP) (823) Glasgow Afghan United covid-19 response** – That this House recognises the significant contribution to the Covid-19 pandemic response made by Glasgow Afghan United (GAU); understands that over 500 people have benefitted from GAU's parcels containing cultural food, toiletries and basic necessities; congratulates GAU on transitioning their highly successful educational initiative to an online platform during lockdown to help tackle social isolation as well as benefitting participants' emotional wellbeing; believes that the online classes include English classes, female empowerment classes, and health, wellbeing and emotional support classes; welcomes the strong uptake of these classes from those in the black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities who would otherwise have been unable to attend in person; pays tribute to Abdul Bostani, who is the President of GAU, for coordinating the response, and for his many years of contributing to communities across Glasgow; notes that GAU has been supported by ng homes, the Big Lottery Fund, the Scottish Refugee Council, Foundation Scotland and the Scottish Government Wellbeing Fund; and appreciates that GAU has been supporting Afghan and BAME people since its inception in 2004, and acknowledges the efforts of new Scots more generally in supporting BAME people and everyone in the wider society during these unprecedented times.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/57335/glasgow-afghan-united-covid19-response>

## Scottish Government Publications

**Coronavirus (COVID-19): daily data for Scotland**

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

**Coronavirus (COVID-19): trends in daily data**

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

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## New Publication

**Scottish Institute for Policing Research – Annual Report and Accounts 2019/20**

[http://www.sipr.ac.uk/assets/files/Scottish%20Institute%20for%20Policing%20Research%20-%20Annual%20Report%202019\\_20.pdf](http://www.sipr.ac.uk/assets/files/Scottish%20Institute%20for%20Policing%20Research%20-%20Annual%20Report%202019_20.pdf)

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## Bills in Progress \*\* new or updated this week

### Scottish Parliament

**Children (Scotland) Bill**

<https://beta.parliament.scot/bills/children-scotland-bill>

## **\*\* Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill**

<https://beta.parliament.scot/bills/hate-crime-and-public-order-scotland-bill>

Scottish Parliament Information Centre briefing

<https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdneq.azureedge.net/published/2020/9/3/Hate-Crime-and-Public-Order--Scotland--Bill/SB%2020-54.pdf>

## **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 (Accommodation Eviction Procedures) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2699>

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

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2638>

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

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2535>

### **European Citizens' Rights Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2704>

### **Illegal Immigration (Offences) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2660>

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

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2714>

### **Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2574>

### **\*\* Immigration (Health and Social Care Staff)**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2770>

First Reading, House of Commons

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-09-01/debates/9A2F3E6B-B587-4ECA-9918-F397C5F966CF/Immigration\(HealthAndSocialCareStaff\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-09-01/debates/9A2F3E6B-B587-4ECA-9918-F397C5F966CF/Immigration(HealthAndSocialCareStaff))

### **Marriage (Approved Organisations) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2537>

### **Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2538>

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

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2611>

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## Consultations

\*\* new or updated this week

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

**Black people, racism and human rights** (11 September 2020)

<https://committees.parliament.uk/call-for-evidence/208/black-people-racism-and-human-rights/>

**Channel crossings, migration and asylum-seeking routes through the EU** (closing date 14 September 2020)

<https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/83/home-affairs-committee/news/147672/channel-crossings-migration-and-asylum-seeking-routes-through-the-eu-inquiry/>

**Impact of COVID-19 on equalities and human rights** (closing date 18 September 2020)

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/115819.aspx>

**From Scotland's Young People: views to inform the Scottish Youth Parliament**

**Manifesto 2021-2026** (closing date 19 September 2020)

<https://www.surveygizmo.eu/s3/90236199/From-Scotland-s-Young-People-SYP-s-Manifesto-2021-2026>

**\*\* An inspection of UKVI's 'Front End Services'** (closing date 1 October 2020)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/call-for-evidence-an-inspection-of-ukvis-front-end-services>

**Your Police 2020-2021** (closing date 31 March 2021)

Police Scotland recognise the importance of understanding the views and priorities of Scotland's diverse communities. This is especially important during the ongoing Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This survey is an opportunity for you to give your views and opinions during these challenging times, and beyond.

<https://consult.scotland.police.uk/surveys/your-police-2020-2021/>

**Equality and human rights impact of Covid-19** (closing date not stated)

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/114975.aspx>

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

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

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

(closing date not stated)

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

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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>

### **\*\* Resilient & Inclusive Communities Fund**

*Running until March 2021*

BEMIS grants of up to £3,000, in partnership with Foundation Scotland, for eligible local community groups and organisations supporting disadvantaged and excluded communities (suffering with domestic abuse; mental health; access to food, shelter and amenities; poverty, access to services/care). For information see <https://bemis.org.uk/ricfund/>

### **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/>

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## Events, Conferences, and Training

\*\* new or updated this week

**\*\* this week!**

### **Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals**

9 September 2020 online (10.00–12.00)

4 November 2020 online (10.00–12.00)

13 January 2021 online (10.00–12.00)

3 March 2021 online (10.00–12.00)

Positive Action in Housing course to provide information about fundamental issues of housing, homelessness and welfare entitlements of EEA nationals and look at how service users might prepare themselves to avoid the threats of Brexit. For information contact [training@positiveactionh.org](mailto:training@positiveactionh.org) or see <https://www.paih.org/our-services/training/>

**\*\* this week!**

### **Working with People from Diverse Religion & Belief Identities**

9 September 2020 online (11.00–3.00)

Interfaith Scotland course to improve confidence in discussing and responding to the religion and belief of those we work with, learn about the core beliefs and cultural practices of the main faiths, and the individual needs that may arise from a person's faith or belief identity. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y4epg4hx> or contact Jamie Spurway [jamie@interfaithscotland.org](mailto:jamie@interfaithscotland.org)

### **Meet the Charity Regulator**

15 September 2020 online (10.00–12.00)

Updates from the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR), and an opportunity to meet their staff and board as well as other charity trustees. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y4qh4xef>

### **Holocaust Memorial Day 2021 Resources Launch**

15 September 2020 online (4.00–5.30)

The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust will explore the importance of marking Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD), and showcase new resources to enable groups of all kinds to mark HMD 2021. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y5pwqro5>

### **Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers**

16 September 2020 online (10.00–12.00)

11 November 2020 online (10.00–12.00)

20 January 2021 online (10.00–12.00)

10 March 2021 online (10.00–12.00)

Positive Action in Housing course to explore how the asylum system works from the perspective of a claimant and the process involved in making a claim for asylum. The course will also explore the barriers faced by both refugees and asylum seekers building a new life in Scotland and their respective entitlement to services. For information contact [training@positiveactionh.org](mailto:training@positiveactionh.org) or see <https://www.paih.org/our-services/training/>

### **Equality and Diversity in Service Delivery Part 1**

22 and 23 September 2020 (2 day course) online (2.00–4.00)

Positive Action in Housing course outlining the fundamentals of how to develop a workplace delivering accessible services to a diverse service user group. For information contact [training@positiveactionh.org](mailto:training@positiveactionh.org) or see <https://www.paih.org/our-services/training/>

### **No Recourse to Public Funds**

23 September 2020 online (10.00–12.00)

18 November 2020 online (10.00–12.00)

3 February 2021 online (10.00–12.00)

17 March 2021 online (10.00–12.00)

Positive Action in Housing course to help frontline workers identify a tenant's current status, clarify what this means in terms of access to public funds and plan effective support where difficulties arise. For information contact [training@positiveactionh.org](mailto:training@positiveactionh.org) or see <https://www.paih.org/our-services/training/>

### **3 Mottos to Guide our Approach to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**

29 September 2020 online (1.00–4.30)

Interfaith Scotland course considering diversity in its widest sense, and looking at three models which provide insight on our experience of difference: the role of the dominant identity and the idea of 'human neutral', why some people ignore or deny the disadvantages that others experience; and how to respond to misunderstandings or offence. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y3d47pyr> or contact Jamie Spurway [jamie@interfaithscotland.org](mailto:jamie@interfaithscotland.org)

### **Equality and Diversity in Workplace**

18 and 19 November 2020 (two day course) online (10.30–12.30)

Positive Action in Housing course outlining the fundamentals of how to create a respectful, supportive and inclusive working environment for a diverse staff and volunteer group, discuss the type of language that can be offensive and excluding, and debate how to challenge such behaviour in a constructive manner. For information contact [training@positiveactionh.org](mailto:training@positiveactionh.org) or see <https://www.paih.org/our-services/training/>

### **Interpreting Culture**

19 and 20 January 2021 (two day course) online (10.30–12.30)

Positive Action in Housing course to examine where culture comes from and look at examples of its extraordinary diversity, and focus on interactions with people from other cultures to improve understanding, confidence and trust. For information contact [training@positiveactionh.org](mailto:training@positiveactionh.org) or see <https://www.paih.org/our-services/training/>

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## **Useful Links**

**Scottish Parliament** <http://www.parliament.scot/>

**Scottish Government** <https://www.gov.scot/>

**UK Parliament** <http://www.parliament.uk/>

**GovUK (links to UK Government Departments)** <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations>

**European Parliament** <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/portal/en>

**One Scotland** <http://onescotland.org/>

**Scottish Refugee Council** <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk>

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

**Freedom from Torture** <https://www.freedomfromtorture.org/>

**Interfaith Scotland** <https://interfaithscotland.org/>

**Equality and Human Rights Commission** <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en>

**Equality Advisory Support Service** <http://www.equalityadvisoryservice.com/>

**Scottish Human Rights Commission** <http://www.scottishhumanrights.com/>

**ACAS** <http://www.acas.org.uk/>

**SCVO** <https://scvo.org.uk/>

**Volunteer Scotland** <https://www.volunteerscotland.net/>

**Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR)** <https://www.oscr.org.uk/>

**Scottish Fundraising Standards Panel** <https://www.goodfundraising.scot/>

**Disclosure Scotland** <https://www.mygov.scot/working-jobs/finding-a-job/disclosure/>

**Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services**

<https://www.volunteerscotland.net/for-organisations/disclosure-services/>

**BBC News** <https://www.bbc.com/news>

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The **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC)** is the representative body of all the Jewish communities in Scotland. It advances public understanding about the Jewish religion, culture and community, and also works in partnership with other organisations to promote good relations and understanding among community groups and to promote equality. (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC029438) <https://www.scojec.org/>



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



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

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