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

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## Immigration and Asylum

### Scottish Parliament Motion

**Sandra White (SNP) [S5M-24065] Refuweegee Supporting Communities Throughout the Pandemic** – That the Parliament commends the incredible efforts of the staff and volunteers at Glasgow Kelvin-based Refuweegee in providing emergency support packs of food, toiletries and entertainment to people across Glasgow with their no-questions-asked text service; understands that many foodbanks across the city have had to reduce their capacity or close due to the impact of the pandemic on the number of volunteers available, which has left many families struggling; believes Refuweegee's delivery services have been a lifeline, having reached over 15,000 people so far and currently delivering around 150 support packs a week to families in need; notes that their services have adapted during the pandemic to meet the needs of the local communities they support, including the distribution of technology, mobile phones and clothing, and thanks all staff

and volunteers for their commitment to providing assistance and support to families and individuals who have struggled throughout the pandemic.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-24065>

## UK Parliament Debate

### Deportation of Foreign National Offenders

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-02-02/debates/6F20BEF8-5E7D-44C7-8D5C-A427BB2D47DC/DeportationOfForeignNationalOffenders>

## UK Parliament, Ministerial Statement

### Hong Kong British National (Overseas) Route

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Priti Patel)** [HCWS751] I am pleased to confirm that the Government have launched the Hong Kong British national (overseas) (BNO) route on 31 January 2021.

The introduction of the Hong Kong BNO route follows the imposition of the national security law on Hong Kong by the Chinese Government in June 2020, which restricted the rights and freedoms of the people of Hong Kong and breached the joint declaration.

The basis for this route was established through changes to the immigration rules made on 22 October 2020, creating a route to settlement for BNO status holders from Hong Kong.

Eligible BNO status holders, and their family members, will be able to come to the UK to live, study and work. After five years in the UK, they will also be able to apply for settlement, followed by citizenship after a further 12 months.

As I have said throughout the development of this route, this is absolutely the right thing to do, in recognition of the historic commitment of the UK to the people of Hong Kong, and specifically to those who elected to retain their ties to the UK through obtaining BNO status. I am also pleased to announce that from 23 February 2021, applications to the route can be made through a fully digital process, using the new technology developed for the UK's points-based immigration system.

This means that if an eligible applicant holds a BNO, Hong Kong special administrative region (HKSAR), or EEA biometric passport, they will be able follow a quicker and easier process by submitting their biometrics to validate their identity through a smartphone app, rather than visiting a visa application centre. Successful applicants will receive a digital status, which they will be able to check and prove online.

BNO status holders and their dependants are the second group after EEA nationals to have access to this new digital process, which further upholds our commitment to them.

In addition to the new route for BNO status holders, individuals from Hong Kong will also be able to apply to come to the UK under the terms of the new points-based immigration system, which will enable them to come to the UK in a wider range of professions and at a lower general salary threshold than in the past. They are also able to use student routes and have access to the youth mobility scheme.

Further detail about the route, including detailed applicant guidance, can be found at [www.gov.uk/british-national-overseas-bno-visa](http://www.gov.uk/british-national-overseas-bno-visa).

HMG is working to ensure BNO status holders who take up this offer feel fully supported and welcomed when starting their life in the UK. I look forward to welcoming applications from those individuals who wish to make the UK their home.

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-02-01/debates/2102018000008/HongKongBritishNational\(Overseas\)Route](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-02-01/debates/2102018000008/HongKongBritishNational(Overseas)Route)

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

### British Nationality: Assessments

**Holly Lynch (Labour)** [144730] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of Life in the UK citizenship tests taken have been passed by nationality annually since 2010 in (a) English, (b) Welsh and (c) Scots Gaelic.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Since 2010 there has been one test taken in Welsh by a Brazilian national and one test taken in Scots Gaelic by a German national.

Table 1 shows the number of tests taken by nationality. Table 2 shows the proportion of LitUK tests that have been passed by nationality.

[PQ 144730 - tests taken and passed](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-27/144730>

### British Nationality: Assessments

**Holly Lynch (Labour)** [144731] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how applicants taking the Life in the UK citizenship test are able to find out the (a) number of incorrect answers and (b) correct answers to those questions.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Customers who fail the Life in the UK test are not informed of the number of questions they answered incorrectly, and they are not given the correct answers. They are told they have failed the test and are advised which subject areas of the official handbook they need to study.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-27/144731>

### British Nationality: Assessments

**Holly Lynch (Labour)** [144732] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure Life in the UK citizenship test centres (a) correctly inform applicants of their results and (b) receive unannounced inspections from her Department.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Life in the UK (LitUK) test is a computer delivered test and automatically marked, which mitigates against any potential incorrect results. We are not aware of any cases where a customer has been given an incorrect result.

The Home Office undertakes a schedule of unannounced inspections of all LitUK test centres. This has been impacted as a result of Covid-19 during 2020/21, but will recommence when it is appropriate to do so.

In addition to the inspections undertaken by the Home Office, the test provider is required to undertake audits of each of the test centres. Each centre will receive a combination of both an in-person audit and remote audit undertaken via CCTV monitoring.

Also, the test provider is required to facilitate independent third-party mystery shopping events for each test centre assessing the security arrangements at the centre.

The results of both the audits and mystery shopping events are provided to the Home Office officials for review and monitoring purposes. These audits and mystery shopping events and Home Office review thereof have continued during 2020/21.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-27/144732>

### Veterans: Foreign Nationals

**Dan Jarvis (Labour)** [146885] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what recent discussions he has had with the Home Secretary on the immigration status of non-UK born veterans.

**Reply from Johnny Mercer:** The Secretary of State for Defence has met with the Home Secretary on a number of occasions, most recently in December 2020, to discuss how we could offer greater flexibility in future to serving personnel wishing

to remain in the UK on discharge. Subject to collective agreement we will launch a public consultation in due course.

The Office of Veterans Affairs in the Cabinet Office is the lead in relation to veterans with immigration concerns, and I met with the Immigration Minister in the Home Office last year to discuss the issue.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-01/146885>

### **Veterans: Foreign Nationals**

**Dan Jarvis (Labour)** [146886] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of support that is available to non-UK born veterans on their Indefinite Leave to Remain visa applications (a) during their service and (b) once discharged.

**Reply from Johnny Mercer:** Information and advice is provided to Serving personnel from their Chain of Command, welfare staff Joint Service Publications, Defence Information Notices and the Service Leavers Guide. If the issue cannot be resolved at Unit level, or where specialist immigration advice or support is required, individuals will be sign posted to the appropriate organisations such as the Home Office.

During transition from and after leaving the service, the Defence Transition Service (DTS) delivers a full range of transition support for individuals. This includes the provision of, tailored information and guidance. DTS will also facilitate access to support a service leaver may need, from other Government departments, local authorities, the NHS or trusted charities.

After discharge, the Veterans UK Welfare Service provides support to all veterans both overseas and in the UK, regardless of nationality. This includes helping them to access the relevant information and advice about their individual circumstances.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-01/146886>

### **Veterans: Foreign Nationals**

**Dan Jarvis (Labour)** [146888] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many non-UK born veterans have sought judicial review of their Indefinite Leave to Remain applications in each the last 10 years.

**Reply from Johnny Mercer:** Judicial Reviews relating to immigration decisions including those seeking reviews of Indefinite Leave to Remain in the UK applications are a matter for the Home Office. The Home Office have advised that most such cases would be dealt with via an Immigration Tribunal and there is no central data held on that.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-01/146888>

### **Visas: Families**

**Patrick Grady (SNP)** [143811] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of amending income requirements for family visas to account for temporary reductions in income during the covid-19 pandemic.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** We have already made several adjustments to support those affected by the COVID-19 outbreak, including those seeking to renew spousal visas.

These adjustments are among a range of measures put in place by the Home Office to support those affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. These are set out for customers on GOV.UK and are available here:

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

These are unprecedented times. We continue to monitor the situation closely and

may make further adjustments to requirements where necessary and appropriate.  
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-26/143811>

### **Visas: British National (Overseas)**

**Christine Jardine (Liberal Democrat)** [146997] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what preparations she has made for the introduction of the new British National (Overseas) visa; and what plans are in place to ensure the successful integration into the UK of Hongkongers.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** On 31 January 2021 the UK Government introduced a new immigration route for British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) status holders in Hong Kong, providing the opportunity for them and their eligible family members to live, work and study in the UK.

We recognise the integration of BN(O) status holders and their family members is crucial to help arrivals to thrive in their new lives in the UK. We want BN(O) status holders and their families to feel welcome and safe in the UK; have the support to learn English and/or Welsh; to be economically active; and have access to education as appropriate.

Work is taking place across the UK Government alongside civil society groups and others to support the effective integration of BN(O) status holders arriving in the UK in the coming months.

Further information on specific provisions across the four nations of the UK will be set out in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-01/146997>

### **Immigration: Health Insurance**

**Navendu Mishra (Labour)** [142079] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether women who have gaps in their Comprehensive Sickness Insurance (CSI) as a result of maternity leave or childcare responsibilities will still qualify for citizenship if those gaps result in an applicant that has been resident in the UK for 10 years not fulfilling the CSI requirement.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** No woman who had gaps in comprehensive sickness insurance as a result of maternity leave or childcare responsibilities has had their application for citizenship refused on such a basis.

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. The British Nationality Act allows us to exercise discretion over this requirement in the special circumstances of any particular case. 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.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-22/142079>

### **NHS: Migrant Workers**

**Holly Lynch (Labour)** [140870] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how many NHS health and social care workers of non-British nationality were working in the UK as of 20 January 2021; and what proportion of those people had indefinite leave to remain as of that date.

**Reply from Helen Whately:** As at September 2020 there were 176,965 NHS staff with a non-UK nationality. Information on the proportion of staff who had indefinite leave to remain as at September 2020 is not held centrally.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-20/140870>

### **Health Services and Social Services: Migrant Workers**

**Drew Hendry (SNP)** [144726] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the potential merits of extending visas for health and social care workers for the duration of the covid-19 pandemic.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The UK Government recognises the vital contribution overseas NHS, health and social care workers have and continue to make in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.

Earlier in the year we offered free visa extensions for key, frontline health professionals whose visas were due to expire between 31 March 2020 and 1 October 2020.

On 20 November, we announced we will renew this offer for those eligible health professionals and their family dependants whose visas expire between 1 October 2020 until 31 March 2021. More details of this announcement can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/thousands-more-health-workers-to-benefit-from-visa-extensions>

We will keep the free extension offer under review to ensure we continue supporting the health and care sector in tackling this pandemic.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-27/144726>

### **Migrant Workers: Young People**

**Charles Walker (Conservative)** [145752] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of extending Tier 5 visas for overseas 18 to 30 year olds; and if she will make statement.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Youth Mobility Scheme (YMS) is a cultural exchange programme, allowing young people aged 18 to 30 from participating countries and territories to experience life in the UK for up to two years.

The UK currently operates nine Youth Mobility Scheme (YMS) arrangements with Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Korea, San Marino, Japan, Monaco, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. We have indicated our desire to negotiate further agreements with our international partners.

However, as each YMS is subject to a bilateral, reciprocal agreement which also provides benefit to UK Nationals, the Home Office will not add nations to the scheme unilaterally in the absence of such an agreement.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-29/145752>

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Hilary Benn (Labour)** [143691] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government has taken to communicate to (a) international airlines and (b) international border authorities that the EU Settlement Scheme operates without physical documentation.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** In preparation for delivery of the UK's future border immigration systems regular stakeholder engagement meetings were held with representatives from the maritime, rail and air carrier organisations to consult on the likely shape of new border processes as well as the impact for them of the UK's exit from the EU. Carriers are also engaged at a more local level with Border Force teams based at ports.

An all carrier alert was issued immediately prior to the end of transition through established channels and since January 1<sup>st</sup> Carriers have made use of the direct access they have in the UK and overseas to Home Office officials should they require specific advice on individual passengers.

In addition, the Home Office's overseas liaison network provide support to international border authorities should it be required.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-26/143691>

## Repatriation: EU Nationals

**Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour)** [146999] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the cost to the public purse is of including EU nationals in the voluntary returns scheme.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** EEA nationals may qualify for a voluntary return through the Voluntary Returns Service following the ending of free movement on 31 December 2020.

As an entirely voluntary scheme, it is not possible to accurately predict the volume of cases the service will receive. Equally, the cost of a voluntary return depends on the individual circumstances of the case, and therefore we are not able to provide a definitive figure.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-01/146999>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### Asylum

**Stuart C McDonald (SNP)** [142959] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum claims have been made in the UK since 1 January 2021; and how many of those claims have been found inadmissible under the terms of the immigration rules introduced by the Statement of Changes to the Immigration Rules, HC 1043, published on 10 December 2020.

**Stuart C McDonald (SNP)** [142960] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum claims made prior to 1 January 2021 have been found inadmissible under the terms of the immigration rules introduced by the Statement of Changes to the Immigration Rules, HC 1043, published on 10 December 2020.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office publishes data on asylum applications in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release'. Data on the number of asylum applications are published in Table Asy\_D01 and data on the number and type of asylum initial decisions are published in table Asy\_D02 of the Asylum and Resettlement datasets.

Figures on the number of asylum application decisions made in the first quarter of 2021 are due to be published on 27 May 2021. Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the '[Research and statistics calendar](#)'. We are working to bring inadmissibility decisions in line with current reporting and hope to publish that information in the same timeframe.

We are reviewing the cases of those who claimed asylum before 1 January and their suitability for decision-making under the new rules. If it is appropriate for any claimants to receive decisions under the new provisions, they will be informed of that, in line with the Home Office published policy guidance.

The Home Office current published guidance is clear that we will serve an inadmissibility decision only when an individual's return is agreed by a third country. The Home Office continues to work closely with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development to secure agreements to enable returns to be made. Any case where return is not possible within 6 months from the date of claim will be admitted to the asylum process and will have their asylum claim substantively considered in the UK. Information on the Home Office inadmissibility rules can be found on gov.uk under '[Inadmissibility: third country cases](#)'.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-25/142959>  
and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-25/142960>

*The statement of changes to Immigration Rules referred to above can be read at*  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/943127/CCS207\\_CCS1220673408-001\\_Statement\\_of\\_changes\\_in\\_Immigration\\_Rules\\_HC\\_1043\\_Web\\_accessible\\_.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/943127/CCS207_CCS1220673408-001_Statement_of_changes_in_Immigration_Rules_HC_1043_Web_accessible_.pdf)

## Asylum

**Clive Betts (Labour)** [145738] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers have been transferred into each local authority area in England in the last two years.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The latest published Immigration Statistics detail the number of asylum seekers accommodated in each local authority area, which includes those in hotel and wider government facilities. These statistics can be found at

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

Data is published on a quarterly basis, with the latest information published 26 November 2020. The next quarterly figures are due to be released in February 2021.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-29/145738>

## Asylum: Children

**Thangam Debbonaire (Labour)** [144713] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to Question 137959, what support her Department is providing to help children who live in initial asylum hotel accommodation who (a) are enrolled in a local school to access space, an internet connection and the devices necessary for home learning and (b) are to be enrolled in a local school.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office and its providers are taking the steps to ensure that children are able to access education as quickly as possible, including liaising with local authorities to source and provide educational activity packs and securing tablets and Wi-Fi to ensure that service users are able to access online resources.

We prioritise the dispersal of families with children from hotels to ensure that children can attend school in the locality of where they will live.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-27/144713>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-14/137959>

## Asylum: Housing

**Alex Norris (Labour Co-op)** [147017] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the ban on evictions applies to people who receive leave to remain and are asked to leave NASS accommodation.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Throughout the pandemic we have taken decisive action to ensure those seeking asylum in the UK have the support they need.

This has included providing accommodation for everyone who required it and pausing the cessation of support so that appropriate public health guidance could be followed. It was made clear from the outset that this was a temporary measure which would be brought to an end as soon as it was safe to do so.

The cessation of asylum support and transition to mainstream provision for those granted refugee status is taking a careful, phased approach in conjunction with relevant partners including the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government and local authorities. We have shared our approach with public health authorities and will continue to work within health guidelines and legal advice.

Those who have been granted asylum receive a cessation notice affording a 28-day grace period and Move-on support is provided throughout by the Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility (AIRE) service, operated by Migrant Help.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-01/147017>

### **Asylum: Temporary Accommodation**

**Jack Lopresti (Conservative)** [142901] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that asylum seekers are housed in temporary accommodation that is local to their point of entry.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** In order for the Home Office to fulfil their statutory obligation to accommodate asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute, asylum accommodation is provided on a no choice basis and accommodation may not be provided near to the point of entry.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-25/142901>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Asylum: Temporary Accommodation**

**Stuart C McDonald (SNP)** [143789] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department has taken to provide access to temporary alternative asylum accommodation sites including military barracks for (a) legal representatives, (b) NGOs and (c) health professionals.

**Stuart C McDonald (SNP)** [143790] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many visits have been made to each temporary asylum accommodation site since 1 October 2020 by (a) legal representatives, (b) NGOs and (c) health professionals.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Our accommodation providers will accommodate visits from legal representatives, NGOs and health professions wherever possible and appropriate provided they have prior notice (except for in the event of an emergency) and social distance guidelines are followed.

We do not hold information on the number of visits made to alternative accommodation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-26/143789>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-26/143790>

### **Asylum: Temporary Accommodation**

**Stuart C McDonald (SNP)** [143791] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been moved out of temporary alternative asylum accommodation; and to what locations those people have been moved.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Asylum seekers who have made an application for support and accommodation are accommodated in temporary “initial” accommodation while they are waiting for their support application to be considered. The current pandemic is resulting in people being accommodated in initial accommodation for longer than usual before being dispersed.

We do not publish the information requested, although the number of asylum seekers accommodated in each local authority can be found at

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-26/143791>

### **Asylum: Temporary Accommodation**

**Stuart C McDonald (SNP)** [143792] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been (a) detained or (b) accommodated in temporary alternative asylum accommodation for (i) longer than 28 days and (ii) longer than 3 months.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office does not detain anyone in temporary asylum accommodation. Our accommodation providers do not have enforcement powers and those we are accommodating are free to come and go as they please. We do not publish data on the length of time spent in initial or temporary accommodation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-26/143792>

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

### **Asylum: Temporary Accommodation**

**Stuart C McDonald (SNP)** [144703] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what arrangements exist to allow people (a) accommodated at temporary alternative asylum accommodation sites and (b) working at those sites, to leave from and return to the premises freely.

**Stuart C McDonald (SNP)** [144704] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what length of lease she has for each temporary alternative asylum accommodation site; and what options she has to extend each of those leases.

**Stuart C McDonald (SNP)** [144705] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to end the use of temporary asylum accommodation sites.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Asylum seekers accommodated are not detained and so are free to come and go, but are required to follow Covid-19 regulations (including observing a period of self-isolation where required in line with regulations). Movements in and out of sites are monitored and managed, for safety reasons. Asylum seekers are expected to stay in accommodation overnight, and a welfare call is made to anyone not on site by 10pm.

Those working at the sites are also free to come and go freely, again in line with Covid-19 regulations.

The Ministry of Defence has given permission to use the sites for 12 months. The use of contingency initial accommodation is temporary, and we will discontinue it as soon as we are able.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-27/144703>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-27/144704>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-27/144705>

### **Asylum: Military Bases**

**Rupa Huq (Labour)** [146968] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 28 January 2021 to Question 143018, what steps the Government is taking to improve living conditions at the (a) Napier and (b) Penally barracks temporary asylum seeker accommodation sites.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** We expect the highest standards from our providers, and we provide asylum seekers with safe, warm, suitable accommodation that is fit for purpose and correctly equipped in line with existing asylum accommodation standards and contractual requirements.

Accommodation provider Clearsprings Ready Homes have acted upon feedback and worked with voluntary organisations to provide activities and entertainment at both sites, to the extent Covid restrictions allow, and local faith leaders to provide further support and provision to meet religious needs.

We continue to work closely with our provider and partners to identify opportunities for improvement, as we do across our entire accommodation estate.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-01/146968>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-25/143018>

### **Asylum: Napier Barracks**

**Holly Lynch (Labour)** [143838] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what data her Department holds on the number of asylum seekers currently housed at Napier barracks who have tested positive for covid-19.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Asylum seekers at the barracks, in common with the rest of the population, must self-isolate if they test positive or have been exposed to someone who has. We are working closely with the local health authority and Public Health England and additional support staff, as well as on site medical staff, to ensure that all individuals who have to self-isolate can do so and are following all medical advice. Some individuals have not agreed to be tested. We do not publish data on the numbers of asylum seekers who have tested positive for covid-19.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-26/143838>

### **Asylum: Napier Barracks**

**Stephen Morgan (Labour)** [143892] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to protect the health and wellbeing of asylum seekers at Napier Barracks, Kent.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Refugees, asylum seekers and refused asylum seekers can register for and receive primary care free of charge in the same way as any other patient in any nation of the UK.

The Home Office has worked closely with the Clinical Commissioning Group in Kent to ensure that arrangements are in place for asylum seekers to access health care as required.

We work closely with our accommodation providers to ensure that all asylum seekers in supported accommodation are aware of, and have access to, Migrant Help's helpline. This service is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, if service users need help, advice or guidance, including signposting to relevant mental and medical health services.

Following a fire at Napier Barracks our service providers worked quickly to ensure that the fire damaged area was sealed off the rest of the accommodation was safe and secure for our service providers, that power was provided via generators and meals continued to be provided.

We keep arrangements at Napier Barracks under regular review working in partnership with local and national health and public health officials

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-26/143892>

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

### **Napier Barracks: Fires**

**Holly Lynch (Labour)** [146934] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effect of the recent fire at Napier Barracks.

**Holly Lynch (Labour)** [146935] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what damage was caused by the fire at Napier barracks; and how that fire has affected its ability to be used as asylum accommodation.

**Holly Lynch (Labour)** [146936] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether any (a) asylum seekers and (b) staff sustained injuries as a result of the fire at Napier Barracks.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** A number of asylum seekers at Napier Barracks previously tested positive for coronavirus. In line with advice from Public Health England, over the last week the Home Office moved a number of asylum seekers from the site.

The purpose of this was to allow others at Napier to self-isolate more easily and conduct a site-wide deep cleaning exercise.

On Friday, 29 January, a number of asylum seekers who remained at Napier objected to not being moved off site. They became aggressive toward staff on site, turned violent and set about destroying the barracks, putting lives in danger.

An accommodation block was set on fire resulting in a kitchen and canteen being

badly damaged. The fire-damaged block has been secured and cordoned off and other blocks remain in use. Meals continue to be provided to those accommodated at the site.

Kent Police and Fire & Rescue Service attended the site to maintain order and extinguish the fire. The situation is now under control: a number of arrests have been made and an investigation is ongoing. We are aware of one person with minor injuries, from which they are expected to make a full recovery.

We are clear that this type of action will not be tolerated, and the Home Office will support the police to take robust action against those vandalising property, threatening staff and putting lives at risk.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-01/146934>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-01/146935>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-01/146936>

### **Asylum: Napier Barracks**

**Zarah Sultana (Labour)** [147079] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department was aware of the presence of asbestos at Napier barracks in Kent when it authorised the site to house people seeking asylum in the UK.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** We expect the highest standards from our providers and we provide asylum seekers with safe, warm, suitable accommodation that is fit for purpose and correctly equipped in line with existing asylum accommodation standards and contractual requirements.

Risk assessments for the site included consideration of asbestos, given as with many older properties the possibility that asbestos may be present. The risk assessment concluded there was minimal risk through use of the buildings.

In tackling the fire on 29 January, Kent Fire and Rescue Services confirmed that the risk from asbestos remained minimal, and firefighters followed full asbestos procedures and protocols in the course of their duties.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-01/147079>

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

### **Asylum: Temporary Accommodation**

**Wendy Chamberlain (Liberal Democrat)** [143913] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 18 January 2021 to Question 136619, what steps she has taken to ensure that the suitable dispersed accommodation (a) is adequately heated, hygienic, and covid compliant and (b) will meet the medical and psychological needs of vulnerable male asylum seekers.

### **Asylum: Penally**

**Wendy Chamberlain (Liberal Democrat)** [143912] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 18 January 2021 to Question 136619, what the timescale is for the decommissioning of Penally Camp as temporary accommodation for asylum seekers.

**Wendy Chamberlain (Liberal Democrat)** [143914] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that the facilities at Penally Camp are (a) adequately heated, (b) hygienic and (c) covid-19 compliant.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** In recent months we have faced additional challenges which have required us in some instances to temporarily use hotels and other contingency accommodation, to fulfil our statutory obligations towards asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute whilst their claims are considered.

MOD has given permission to use Penally Training Camp for 12 months, but the use of this facility is temporary, and we will discontinue it as soon as we are able.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-26/143913>  
and  
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-26/143912>  
and  
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-26/143914>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-12/136619>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Asylum: Penally Camp**

**Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru)** [145082] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers does her Department intend to transfer into the temporary accommodation site at the Penally training camp over the next four weeks.

**Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru)** [145083] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers will be transferred out of the temporary accommodation site at the Penally training camp in the next four weeks.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** We are not able to provide the information requested.

We have a statutory obligation to provide accommodation to asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute. Due to the unpredictable nature of asylum intake we are unable to forecast the number of people to be accommodated at Penally over the next four weeks.

Transfer out of Penally is dependant on the amount of dispersed accommodation being available through people being granted asylum and moving on and the procurement of additional dispersal properties. We are unable to predict the number of people who will be dispersed from Penally camp in the next four weeks.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-28/145082>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-28/145083>

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

#### **Asylum: Penally Camp**

**Nia Griffith (Labour)** [144635] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the cost to Dyfed Powys Police has been of policing in connection with the asylum seeker accommodation in Penally for the financial year 2020-2021, over and above any additional funding allocated by her Department for that purpose.

**Nia Griffith (Labour)** [144636] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the projected cost to Dyfed Powys Police is of policing in connection with the asylum seeker accommodation in Penally for the financial year 2021-22, over and above any additional funding allocated by her Department for that purpose.

**Nia Griffith (Labour)** [144637] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to provide additional funding to Dyfed Powys Police to ensure that the cost of policing in relation to the asylum seeker accommodation in Penally is not taken from its existing budget.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office has agreed to provide £2.5m of Special Grant funding to Dyfed-Powys Police in respect of these costs up to September 2021.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-27/144635>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-27/144636>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-27/144637>

### Asylum: Children

**Thangam Debbonaire (Labour)** [142012] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that all children of school age and who live in initial asylum accommodation are receiving access to education during the covid-19 lockdown announced in January 2021.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Initial accommodation is short term accommodation and previously children would not be enrolled in school until they have been dispersed, however, during the pandemic families have been in initial accommodation for longer than usual. To ensure children are able to have access to education our provider staff are signposting parents to how to obtain a school place with the local authority.

We are prioritising families with children for dispersal from Initial Accommodation to longer term dispersed accommodation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-22/142012>

### Asylum: Children

**Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat)** [144652] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied child asylum seekers were granted refugee status or humanitarian protection in (a) 2019 and (b) 2020.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office publishes data on asylum applications in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on the number of asylum applications and initial decisions on applications are published in table Asy\_D01 and Asy\_D02 of the [asylum and resettlement detailed datasets](#), which include a breakdown on unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) and year of application or initial decision.

Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data relate up to September 2020. Additionally, the Home Office publishes a high-level overview of the data in the '[summary tables](#)'. The 'contents' sheet contains an overview of all available data on asylum and resettlement.

Immigration Statistics will be updated on February 25<sup>th</sup> 2021 which will include data up to December 2020.

Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the '[Research and statistics calendar](#)'.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-27/144652>

### Immigrants: Detainees

**Stuart C McDonald (SNP)** [143793] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans her Department has made for (a) when and (b) how the covid-19 vaccine is planned to be offered to people held in immigration detention.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The safety and health of people detained in our care is of the utmost importance. The Home Office has robust contingency plans in place and continues to follow national guidance issued by Public Health England (PHE), Health Protection Scotland and the National Health Service (NHS).

All immigration removal centres (IRCs) have communicable disease contingency plans, based on PHE advice, and dedicated health facilities run by doctors and nurses which are managed by the NHS or appropriate providers. Detained individuals arriving at IRCs are medically assessed by a nurse within two hours of their arrival, are offered an appointment with a doctor within 24 hours and have access to medical assistance throughout their detention. Additionally, all admissions to Heathrow, Gatwick, Yarl's Wood and Dungavel IRCs are offered a Covid-19 test on arrival at the IRC.

COVID-19 vaccinations are at the centre of the Government's plan to ensure life

can return to normal as soon as possible. Detailed planning is underway between the Home Office, NHS and Public Health Authorities to prepare for the delivery of vaccinations in IRCs when they become available. Vaccinations in IRCs will be administered by the NHS, or other commissioned healthcare service provider.

The decision about who will be eligible for the vaccine in Health and Justice settings, which includes IRCs, is being decided by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) in line with JCVI priorities 1 – 9, with NHS plans in place to have offered a first vaccine dose to all those in priority groups 1-4 by mid- February.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-26/143793>

### Detention Centres

**Stuart C McDonald (SNP)** [144706] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the current (a) capacity and (b) occupancy rate is of each immigration removal centre.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office publishes statistics on people in detention on the last day of each quarter in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on people in detention under immigration powers, are published in Table Det\_03a of the '[Detention summary tables](#)'

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

Figures on people in detention at the end of December 2020 will be published on 25 February 2021.

The table below sets out the operational capacity for each immigration removal centre (if all rooms and beds are in use) and the current occupancy rate as of 28 January 2021.

IRC	Total Operating Capacity 2021	Current occupancy rate as of 28 January 2021
Brook House	448	11
Colnbrook	330	30
Dungavel House	125	21
Harmondsworth	635	108
Morton Hall	352	90
Tinsley House	162	0
Yarl's Wood	410	30
Total	2462	290

In order to meet operational needs and demands, we will continue to operate the immigration removal estate, in a flexible manner.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-27/144706>

### Human Trafficking: British Nationality

**Louise Haigh (Labour)** [143840] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the (a) longest and (b) average time is for victims of human trafficking to receive naturalisation as British citizens.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** There is no separate application route to citizenship for victims of human trafficking and so they are considered alongside all other citizenship applications.

This means we cannot separate out data for this cohort through normal reporting mechanisms. Transparency data with information on service standards for citizenship applications can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visas-and-citizenship-data-november-2020>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-26/143840>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

### Free School Meals: Immigrants

**Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour)** [HL12226] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the letter from Baroness Williams of Trafford to all peers on 22 October 2020 on issues raised during the Report stage of the Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill, whether the Department for Education's review of how immigration status and restrictions interact with free school meal and other educational entitlements was completed during the autumn term; if so, (1) whether, and (2) when, this review will be published; and if not, when this review will be completed.

**Reply from Baroness Berridge:** We are working with departments across government to evaluate access to free school meals for families with no recourse to public funds. This review has not been formally concluded at present. In the meantime, the extension of eligibility will continue with the current income threshold until a decision on long-term eligibility is made.

Once the review is complete, we will update our guidance accordingly. Our current guidance regarding the extension is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance/guidance-for-the-temporary-extension-of-free-school-meals-eligibility-to-nrpf-groups>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-18/hl12226>

*The letter referred to above can be read at*

[http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2020-0623/Baroness Williams to All Peers-ISSC Bill Report stage.pdf](http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2020-0623/Baroness%20Williams%20to%20All%20Peers-ISSC%20Bill%20Report%20stage.pdf)

### Visas: Dependants

**The Lord Bishop of Durham** [HL12278] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many individuals have been granted an Adult Dependent Relative visa since 2016; and how many of those Adult Dependent Relative visas were granted through appeal.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The entry clearance data which is published and available can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/managed-migration-datasets> (Select Entry Clearance visas granted outside the UK) ...

Her Majesty's Courts & Tribunals Service data relating to appeal outcomes is published here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/tribunal-statistics-quarterly-july-to-september-2020>

The data required for this question in terms of how many were granted through appeal cannot be produced through normal data cycles and would involve manual reconciliation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-19/hl12278>

### Visas: Dependants

**The Lord Bishop of Durham** [HL12279] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many applications for Adult Dependent Relative visas have been refused since 2016.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The data required for this question cannot be produced through normal data cycles and would involve the need for a manual trawl which would incur cost.

The entry clearance data which is published and available can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/managed-migration-datasets> (Select Entry Clearance visas granted outside the UK)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-19/hl12279>

## Visas: Dependants

**The Lord Bishop of Durham** [HL12280] To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the changes to the Immigration Rules in 2012, how many British citizens they estimate emigrated to take care of dependents due to a family member being refused an Adult Dependent Relative visa.

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

The Home Office would be best placed to provide information about Adult Dependent Relative visa refusals since 2012.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) does publish estimates of the numbers of British citizens emigrating from the UK[1]. Table 1 shows the numbers of British citizens the ONS estimates to have emigrated from 2012 onwards. 2019 is the latest year for which data is available.

The ONS publishes statistics on reasons for migration. However, data are not collected on the numbers of citizens who have emigrated to take care of dependents due to a family member being refused an Adult Dependent Relative (ADR) visa. Therefore, the ONS are unable to estimate how many citizens emigrate for that purpose nor how many are due to the refusal of an ADR visa. ...

Year	Estimate	+/-CI
2012	143	14
2013	134	12
2014	137	13
2015	124	13
2016	134	13
2017	129	13
2018	125	15
2019	138	17

Source: ONS

[1] <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/datasets/longterminternationalmigrationcitizenshiptable201a>

[2] Numbers in thousands

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-19/hl12280>

## Windrush Generation

**The Lord Bishop of Durham** [HL12342] To ask Her Majesty's Government on what date they plan to commence hosting "reconciliation events" with individuals from the Windrush generation.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We are hosting a series of events to allow members of the Windrush generation and their wider community to share their experiences. By engaging with their stories, the Home Office can acknowledge, continue to learn from the past and take the necessary measures to improve the culture in the department.

We also want to celebrate the contribution of members of the Windrush generation to the UK, as a form of cultural commemoration, rebalance the Home Office's relationship with communities and look to the future. As this kind of forum works best in person, we have had to delay their commencement, in light of Covid restrictions.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-20/hl12342>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Immigration: Hong Kong**

**Lord Goodlad (Conservative)** [HL12208] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people from Hong Kong have applied for residence in the UK in each of the last six months.

**Lord Goodlad (Conservative)** [HL12209] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people from Hong Kong they estimate will apply for residence in the UK in each of the next five years.

**Reply from Lord Greenhalgh:** The Hong Kong British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) route opened for applications on 31 January 2021.

From 15 July to 14 October 2020, a total of 2116 BN(O) citizens and their dependants have been granted Leave Outside the Rules at the border. Yet this data is not considered to be a reliable proxy for the number of people who may apply for the Hong Kong BN(O) Visa.

As set out in our impact assessment, our central range projects between 123,000 and 153,700 BN(O) citizens and their dependants will come in the first year and between 258,000 and 322,400 over five years.

Details of the impact assessment can be found at:

[https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukia/2020/70/pdfs/ukia\\_20200070\\_en.pdf](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukia/2020/70/pdfs/ukia_20200070_en.pdf)

[Impact Assessment](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-18/hl12208>  
and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-18/hl12209>

### **Refugees: Families**

**The Lord Bishop of Durham** [HL12281] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 16 June 2020 (HL4993), how many visas have been granted to extended family members of refugees outside the Immigration Rules.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office are unable to state how many visas have been granted to extended family members of refugees outside the immigration rules as this information is not published.

However, the Home Office do publish data on the number of Family Reunion visa grants, by age and can be found in the published Immigration Statistics at, Fam\_01.

An extract is contained in the table below;

Date of visa grant	Year ending Sept 2019	Year ending Sept 2020
Total grants	6,474	6,066
Under 18 (Age group for total family reunion grants)	3,236	3,197
18+ (Age group for total family reunion grants)	3,238	2,869

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-19/hl12281>

### **Asylum: Napier Barracks**

**Lord Judd (Labour)** [HL12225] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking in response to the hunger strikes and other protests undertaken by some of the residents of asylum seeker accommodation at Napier Barracks in Folkestone; what steps they are taking (1) to investigate, and (2) to address, the cause of such protests; what education and leisure facilities they (a) have provided, and (b) intend to provide, for use by those residents; and what provision is in place for (i) mental health, (ii) pastoral, and (iii) spiritual, support.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government takes the wellbeing of asylum seekers extremely seriously. We provide asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute with safe, warm and secure accommodation, whilst their

claims are being processed.

Since Napier Barracks opened for asylum accommodation, the Home Office has worked closely with Clearsprings and Migrant Help, providers of accommodation and advice services, and in partnership with local authorities, the police force and other partners to ensure that the site operates safely, securely, and in accordance with public health guidance. In addition to support provided on site, Home Office officials have held discussions with asylum seekers about their concerns and to provide further reassurance, including about their safety and wellbeing.

In response to the to the protests held at Napier, officials arranged a call with some of the residents to listen to their concerns. Reassurances were provided that moves out of the camp will shortly recommence, with vulnerability, time spent in the asylum process and overall length of stay in initial accommodation as a key considerations in this process. Weekly Home Office-led forums with residents will also be held going forward and surveys in relation to food and living standards at the site will be undertaken.

Asylum seekers' basic needs are being met, including three meals per day provided by an on-site chef. In addition, Clearsprings Ready Homes offers those on-site wraparound services including a variety of sports, leisure and educational activities on site. These include English classes, televisions and Wi-fi, and a games room with equipment including pool tables, footballs, basketballs and board games. Mobile telephones are provided if asylum seekers do not have one to ensure that contact can be made.

All asylum seekers have access to a 24/7 AIRE (Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility) service provided for the Home Office by Migrant Help where they can raise any concerns regarding accommodation or support services, and they can get information about how to obtain further support including legal advice where appropriate. At Napier Barracks the Home Office have worked closely with the Local Clinical Commissioning Group in Kent to ensure that arrangements are in place for asylum seekers to access health care as required. The operation of the sites takes cultural and religious needs into account. There are multi-faith rooms at both sites and catering will take account of dietary requirements in accordance with religious needs.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-18/hl12225>

## UK Parliament Early Day Motion

**Claudia Webbe (Independent) [1442] Undocumented migrants and covid-19 vaccination** – That this House believes that access to essential healthcare is a universal human right; regrets the continued existence of structural, institutional and systemic barriers in accessing NHS care experienced by undocumented migrants and those awaiting determination of their asylum, visa and immigration applications; considers that an effective public health response to the covid-19 crisis requires that the most vulnerable can afford to access food, healthcare, and self-isolate where necessary; understands that some of the most vulnerable people in society will not access vaccination against the virus, since to disclose their identity to the authorities would risk their arrest, detention and deportation; fears that without urgent Government intervention this will lead to further avoidable premature deaths, especially in the African, Asian and Minority Ethnic population; and therefore calls on the Home Office to grant everyone currently in the UK at this time who are undocumented migrants and those awaiting determination of their asylum, visa and immigration applications indefinite leave to remain, and to be eligible in due course to receive the covid-19 vaccination.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/58054>

## New Publication

**Highly Skilled Migrants: Indefinite Leave to Remain Refusals & Covid-19 Realities**

<https://migrantsrights.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/HSM-Report-Jan-2021.pdf>

## News

**Pandemic means UK can no longer track how many migrants are entering or leaving country**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/02/05/pandemic-means-uk-can-no-longer-track-many-migrants-entering/>

**Priti Patel vows to combat ‘plague’ of Channel people traffickers**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/priti-patel-vows-to-combat-plague-of-channel-people-traffickers-v5w5vvt3w>

**Scores of refugee children illegally detained after crossing Channel**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/children-refugees-channel-detained-home-office-b1798100.html>

**Home Office put refugees in barracks after fears better housing would ‘undermine confidence’ in system**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-seekers-napier-barracks-home-office-b1793951.html>

**Former immigration minister criticises use of barracks to house asylum seekers**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/feb/02/former-immigration-minister-criticises-use-of-barracks-to-house-asylum-seekers>

**Firm running asylum-seeker barracks in Kent stands to earn £1bn**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/feb/03/firm-running-asylum-seeker-barracks-in-kent-stands-to-make-1bn>

**The Napier barracks fire is an indictment of Britain's inhumane asylum system**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/feb/02/napier-barracks-fire-britain-asylum-system-priti-patel>

**Asylum seekers in barracks ‘blocked from GP access’ due to ‘gatekeeping’ by Home Office contractors**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-seekers-napier-barracks-healthcare-b1796501.html>

**Asylum seekers say they are risking their lives to leave UK after being held at ‘inhumane’ military barracks**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-seekers-europe-barracks-home-office-uk-b1797553.html>

**Asylum seeker dragged back into Covid-hit barracks after escape attempt**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/tv/news/asylum-seeker-dragged-back-into-covid-hit-barracks-after-escape-attempt-MDOM5m5Y>

### **Police filmed carrying asylum seeker into Kent barracks against his will**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/feb/03/police-filmed-carrying-asylum-seeker-into-kent-barracks-against-his-will>

### **Asylum seeker cannot remain at Kent army barracks, court says**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/feb/03/asylum-seeker-cannot-remain-at-kent-army-barracks-court-says>

### **Another asylum seeker relocated from Napier barracks after court order**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/feb/05/another-asylum-seeker-relocated-from-napier-barracks-after-court-order>

### **'We felt like we were animals': asylum seekers describe life in UK barracks**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/feb/02/we-felt-like-we-were-animals-asylum-seekers-describe-life-in-uk-barracks>

### **Military barracks are no place for the Home Office to house asylum seekers**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/military-barracks-are-no-place-for-the-home-office-to-house-asylum-seekers-h3m9bg3m8>

### **Teenage stowaway found alive in plane landing gear after 5,000-mile flight**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/02/05/teenage-boy-found-alive-plane-landing-gear-5000-mile-flight/>

### **UK towns with more immigrants do much better economically, study finds**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/immigration-economic-effect-uk-towns-b1798198.html>

### **Former refugee elected as Edinburgh University rector**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-55952679>

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## **Community Relations**

### **News**

#### **New Muslim leader in UK calls for more tolerance**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/new-muslim-leader-in-uk-calls-for-more-tolerance-sn60p7wzi>

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## **Equality**

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

#### **Remand in Custody: Ethnic Groups**

**Alex Cunningham (Labour)** [143753] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what comparative assessment he has made of the effect of remand custody on (a) Black, Asian and minority ethnic people and (b) white people.

**Reply from Lucy Frazer:** The decision to remand an individual in custody or to grant bail is solely a matter for the courts acting in accordance with the Bail Act 1976 and the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders (LASPO) Act 2012, which provides a framework of remand in custody and creates a presumption in favour of bail for all defendants involved in criminal proceedings.

A comparative assessment of the effect of remand on different ethnic groups has not been conducted. The Ministry of Justice holds information for remand outcomes broken down by ethnicity in the Magistrates' and Crown Court at the following links: Crown Court

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/888657/remands-crown-court-tool-2019.xlsx](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/888657/remands-crown-court-tool-2019.xlsx)

Magistrates Court

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/888658/remands-magistrates-court-tool-2019.xlsx](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/888658/remands-magistrates-court-tool-2019.xlsx)

Research by the Youth Justice Board on Ethnic disproportionality in remand and sentencing in the youth justice system was published on 21 January 2021 and can be accessed via the following link:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/952483/Ethnic disproportionality in remand and sentencing in the youth justice system.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/952483/Ethnic_disproportionality_in_rem_and_sentencing_in_the_youth_justice_system.pdf)

Routine Youth Justice Statistics 2019/2020 were released on 28<sup>th</sup> January also show remand broken down by ethnicity:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/youth-justice-statistics-2019-to-2020>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-26/143753>

### **HIV Infection: Ethnic Groups**

**Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour)** [143120] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to help prevent late diagnosis of HIV among (a) Black Africans, (b) Black Caribbeans and (c) other members of Black communities.

**Reply from Jo Churchill:** Local authorities are responsible for providing services which help to prevent late diagnosis of HIV in their communities. Public Health England (PHE) provides local authorities with data on late HIV diagnosis rates to support commissioning to improve health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities. HIV Prevention England, the national HIV prevention campaign funded by PHE and delivered by the Terrence Higgins Trust, aims to promote HIV testing to reduce undiagnosed and late HIV diagnoses in black African communities, men who have sex with men and other groups in which there is a higher or emerging burden of infection.

PHE's Innovation Fund has supported a range of projects between 2017 and 2020 that tested and evaluated new approaches to reducing late diagnoses and increasing testing among the most affected populations.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-25/143120>

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

### **Apprentices: Ethnic Groups**

**Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated)** [HL12390] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to provide practical support for employers to ensure racial and ethnic diversity amongst their Higher Level apprentices.

**Reply from Baroness Berridge:** Apprenticeships benefit people of all ages and backgrounds, and we want to ensure that more people from underrepresented backgrounds can undertake them, particularly those that offer higher wage returns

and progression opportunities. We are pleased to have seen positive outcomes in the representation of people from a BAME (Black, Asian and minority ethnic) background in apprenticeships, with a particular increase in the proportion of higher-level apprenticeship starts. In the 2019/20 academic year, 15.5% of higher apprenticeship starts were by those from BAME backgrounds, compared to 12.1% in the 2014/15 academic year.

We have worked with some of the country's most influential employers through our Apprenticeship Diversity Champions Network to promote best practice in recruiting and supporting apprentices from diverse backgrounds. We are building on this work to ensure that we continue to see improved representation of BAME people starting apprenticeships, especially in sectors that carry historic under-representation. We will work closely with these sectors to understand why this is the case, and to co-develop targeted solutions. We will also be working extensively with employers, with a particular focus on SMEs, to understand what barriers they face in taking on apprentices and how they can support apprentices from different backgrounds.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-20/hl12390>

## New Publication

**Letter from James Heapey MP to Fleur Anderson MP regarding British-born Muslim applicants and joiners to the UK Armed Forces from 2016 to 2020**

[http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2021-0098/fleur Anderson MP British born Muslim Armed Forces PQ 113240 113242.pdf](http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2021-0098/fleur_Anderson_MP_British_born_Muslim_Armed_Forces_PQ_113240_113242.pdf)

## News

**Black bosses 'shut out' by 'vanilla boys' club'**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-55910874>

**Oxford increases intake of BAME students despite making lowest number of offers in a decade**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/02/05/oxford-increases-intake-bame-students-despite-making-lowest/>

**Oxford University accepts over 100 black students**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/oxford-university-accepts-over-100-black-students-cnql73kpw>

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## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### News

**Reaction to Scottish Hate Crime Bill amendments left MSP 'alarmed and afraid'**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/reaction-scottish-hate-crime-bill-amendments-left-msp-alarmed-and-afraid-3121261>

**Hate Crime Bill is a taste of SNP things to come**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/19056858.hate-crime-bill-taste-snp-things-come-stuart-waiton/>

**Teenage leader of neo-Nazi group is UK's youngest terror offender**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/feb/01/teenage-leader-of-british-neo-nazi-group-admits-terror-offences>

**Neo Nazi teen becomes Britain's youngest convicted terrorist**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/02/01/neo-nazi-teen-becomes-britains-youngest-convicted-terrorist/>

**Schoolboy was FKD 'cell leader' for online network of violent neo-Nazis**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/schoolboy-was-fkd-cell-leader-for-online-network-of-violent-neo-nazis-zwwkxdwdg>

**University watchdog to crack down on institutions which don't use IHRA definition of antisemitism**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/02/02/university-watchdog-crack-institutions-dont-use-ihra-definition/>

**Sussex music hall singers' 'racist' gravestones to be re-engraved**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-sussex-55917605>

**Tackle racism or face huge fines, minister warns social networks**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/tackle-racism-or-face-huge-fines-minister-warns-social-networks-zmbr0kzlb>

**Glasgow Rocks basketball player 'disgusted' by racial harassment**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-55949810>

**Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich 'appalled' by racist abuse directed at Reece James**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/premier-league/chelsea/roman-abramovich-reece-james-racism-b1795877.html>

**'Appalled' Roman Abramovich writes to Chelsea players following racist abuse towards Reece James**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/football/2021/02/01/appalled-roman-abramovich-writes-chelsea-players-following-racist/>

**Merseyside and Manchester clubs issue joint statement condemning racism**

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2021/feb/06/merseyside-and-manchester-clubs-issue-joint-statement-condemning-racism>

**Rivals join forces to condemn racism**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/rivals-join-forces-to-condemn-racism-sg5glwjgc>

**Chelsea's Roman Abramovich increases funding to fight 'appalling' racist abuse**

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2021/feb/01/chelseas-roman-abramovich-increases-funding-to-fight-appalling-racist-abuse>

**Rashford leads way in fight to tackle pernicious effects of racism**

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/blog/2021/feb/01/rashford-leads-way-in-fight-to-tackle-pernicious-effects-of-racism>

**PFA to back players taking legal action against social media trolls after racist messages sent to Marcus Rashford**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/football/2021/01/31/pfa-back-players-taking-legal-action-against-social-media-trolls/>

**Duke of Cambridge: Racist abuse in football is 'despicable' and 'must stop'**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/royal-family/2021/01/31/prince-william-racist-abuse-football-despicable-must-stop/>

**Is football's racism battle being lost on social media?**

<https://www.bbc.com/sport/football/55887106>

**Racial abuse: Is ending anonymity on social media the answer?**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-55888066>

**Alex Jankewitz: Southampton contact police over racist abuse aimed at teenage midfielder**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/premier-league/southampton/racist-abuse-player-man-utd-b1797197.html>

**Southampton will support Alex Jankewitz in 'every way they can' after racist abuse on social media**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/football/2021/02/04/southampton-will-support-alex-jankewitz-every-way-can-racist/>

**Ian Wright 'disappointed' after teenager Patrick O'Brien given probation over racist abuse**

<https://www.bbc.com/sport/football/55916729>

**Ian Wright 'disappointed' after racial abuser escapes criminal conviction**

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2021/feb/03/ian-wright-disappointed-after-racial-abuser-escapes-criminal-conviction>

**Ian Wright criticises decision not to hand Irish teenager who racially abused him a criminal conviction**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/football/2021/02/03/ian-wright-criticises-decision-not-hand-irish-teenager-racially/>

**Ian Wright condemns 'light punishment' for teenager's racial abuse on Instagram**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/ian-wright-condemns-light-punishment-for-teenagers-racial-abuse-on-instagram-z6t68sk7t>

**'Embarrassing': Police probe racist abuse of three basketball players forced from their Glasgow home**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/19070258.embarrassing-police-probe-racist-abuse-three-basketball-players-forced-glasgow-home/>

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## Other UK Parliament and Government

### News

**Downing Street adviser on ethnic minorities considered resigning**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-55945281>

**No 10 adviser on ethnic minorities nearly quit over 'politics of division'**

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2021/feb/05/no-10-adviser-ethnic-minorities-close-resigning-tory-samuel-kasumu>

**No 10 adviser on ethnic minorities considered resigning over Conservatives' 'politics steeped in division'**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/ethnic-minorities-adviser-samuel-kasumu-resign-b1798038.html>

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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>

**Protect-Scot contact tracing app**

<https://protect.scot/how-it-works>

**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

### Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups

**Naz Shah (Labour)** [144708] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what the weekly data is of covid-19 infection from October 2020 to date, by ethnicity.

**Reply from Jo Churchill:** Public Health England publishes the weekly incidence of COVID-19 cases by ethnicity in the weekly National Flu and COVID-19 Surveillance report, which is available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/national-flu-and-covid-19-surveillance-reports>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-27/144708>

### Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups

**Naz Shah (Labour)** [144709] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what the weekly data is on deaths as a result of covid-19 from October 2020 to date, by ethnicity.

**Reply from Jo Churchill:** Public Health England (PHE) reports weekly numbers of deaths in England in people with a laboratory-confirmed positive COVID-19 test, who died within 28 days of the first positive specimen date. This data is reported in the weekly National Flu and COVID-19 Surveillance report, which is available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/national-flu-and-covid-19-surveillance-reports>

PHE also reports the weekly proportion of these deaths by ethnic group. This is available in the weekly surveillance reports.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-27/144709>

### Coronavirus: Vaccination

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [131469] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to tackle vaccine disinformation among Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities to ensure take-up of the covid-19 vaccine.

**Reply from Nadhim Zahawi:** The Department understands the danger of vaccine disinformation and is working closely with Public Health England, NHS England and NHS Improvement and other departments to ensure that everyone has access to the accurate information they need when getting vaccinated.

As part of this campaign to tackle misinformation the Department has reached out to black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities to ensure transparency and has brought community leaders and trusted voices on board to support departmental efforts.

Externally, the Department of Health and Social Care is also working with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport to help social media platforms identify and take action on incorrect claims on the virus, including anti-vaccination narratives that could endanger people's health. Further to this there are also BAME-targeted TV, radio and newsprint partnerships aimed at providing clear and accurate messaging about the COVID-19 vaccine programme which is being translated into 13 languages.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-17/131469>

### Coronavirus: Vaccination

**Taiwo Owatemi (Labour)** [143921] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps the Government has taken to tackle (a) misinformation and (b) disinformation about the covid-19 vaccine among people from BAME backgrounds.

**Reply from Nadhim Zahawi:** We are working with the Department for Digital,

Culture, Media and Sport to help social media platforms identify and take action against incorrect claims about the virus in line with their terms and conditions. This includes anti-vaccination narratives that could endanger people's health. The Counter Disinformation Unit looks for trends on social media platforms so that it can work with them and other partners to respond to misleading content rapidly.

Senior clinicians, Ministers and officials are also holding regular briefing sessions with stakeholders, medical charities, faith groups and black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) community leaders about the vaccines we have authorised for use and the vaccine rollout. Additionally, the Government is sponsoring content on social media channels and a range of news media outlets to provide information and advice to communities across the community.

The communications plan includes targeted information and advice via TV, radio and social media and is being translated into 13 languages. Print and online material, including interviews and practical advice has appeared in 600 national, regional, local and specialist titles including BAME media for African, Asian, Bangladeshi, Bengali, Gujarati, Jamaican, Jewish, Pakistani and Turkish communities.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-26/143921>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Coronavirus: Disease Control**

**Sarah Owen (Labour)** [144853] To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office, if he will make an assessment of the efficacy of the Government's communications strategy during the covid-19 outbreak at reaching people whose first language is not English.

#### **Coronavirus: Vaccination**

**Sarah Owen (Labour)** [144854] To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office, what assessment he has made of the efficacy of the Government's communications strategy at tackling vaccine hesitancy amongst Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities.

**Reply from Penny Mordaunt:** I refer the Hon. Member to the answer given to PQ [55066](#) on 10 June 2020, and PQ [96936](#) on 7 October 2020.

To date, Covid-19 material has been translated into 26 languages, and has been made available to all local authorities as editable assets.

Working with the Cabinet Office, vaccine communications from DHSC have appeared in 600 national, regional, local and specialist titles, including BAME media for Asian, Bangladeshi, Bengali, Gujarati and Pakistani communities. To improve our understanding of vaccine hesitancy, we are now working with over 90 faith, healthcare provider networks, influencers and experts from a range of communities.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-27/144853>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-27/144854>

*Some of the information in languages referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-guide-for-older-adults>

*Public Health Scotland information in a number of different languages can be read at*

<http://www.healthscotland.com/documents/37397.aspx>

## **Scottish Government Press Releases**

### **Vaccine programme exceeds expectations**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/vaccine-programme-exceeds-expectations/>

**More people supported to self isolate**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/more-people-supported-to-self-isolate/>

**New measures to tackle virus**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/new-measures-to-tackle-virus/>

## **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/>

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: Deputy First Minister's statement - 5 February 2021**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-deputy-first-ministers-statement-5-february-2021/>

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's statement - 4 February 2021**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-statement-4-february-2021/>

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's statement 3 February 2021**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-statement-3-february-2021/>

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's statement 2 February 2021**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-statement-2-february-2021/>

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's statement - 1 February 2021**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-statement-01-february-2021/>

## **UK Government Press Release**

**We must all keep following the steps that make a real difference**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/we-must-all-keep-following-the-steps-that-make-a-real-difference>

## **UK Government Publication**

**Prime Minister's statement on coronavirus (COVID-19): 3 February 2021**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-ministers-statement-on-coronavirus-covid-19-3-february-2021>

## Other Organisations

**London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine**

**Extremely high SARS-CoV-2 seroprevalence in a strictly-Orthodox Jewish community in the UK**

[https://datacompass.lshtm.ac.uk/id/eprint/2084/1/Preprint\\_UK\\_Jewish\\_SARS-CoV-2.pdf](https://datacompass.lshtm.ac.uk/id/eprint/2084/1/Preprint_UK_Jewish_SARS-CoV-2.pdf)

**Runnymede Trust**

**Ethnic inequalities in COVID-19 mortality: A consequence of persistent racism**

<https://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/Runnymede%20CoDE%20COVID%20briefing%20v3.pdf>

**Perth & Kinross Association of Voluntary Service**

**Information in English, Bulgarian, Polish, and Romanian about how to register with a GP**

Videos

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLR-KcgoCyiQCijDm12YpHobSnXCFXPOQO>

Leaflets

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/1tbsflmc7ujtmq8/AAD\\_y3VuB47qj1xQntJceRdma?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/1tbsflmc7ujtmq8/AAD_y3VuB47qj1xQntJceRdma?dl=0)

## News

**Black people half as likely to have had jab but four times as likely to die with Covid**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/black-people-half-as-likely-to-have-had-jab-but-four-times-as-likely-to-die-with-covid-gnch7hqcb>

**Concern over low vaccine uptake among minority NHS staff groups**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/coronavirus-vaccine-nhs-bame-staff-b1797503.html>

**Orthodox Jews in London have one of world's highest rates of Covid infection – study**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/covid-orthodox-jews-london-b1796482.html>

**64% of London's ultra-Orthodox Jews infected with Covid**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/64-of-londons-ultra-orthodox-jews-infected-with-covid-5dhkw3lz0>

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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>

**Domestic Abuse (Protection) (Scotland) Bill**

<https://beta.parliament.scot/bills/domestic-abuse-protection-scotland-bill>

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

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

Stage 2, Justice Committee

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13097&i=118558#ScotParlOR>

Proposed amendments

<https://beta.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/current-bills/hate-crime-and-public-order-scotland-bill/stage-2/daily-list-of-amendments-2-february-2021.pdf>

and

<https://beta.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/current-bills/hate-crime-and-public-order-scotland-bill/stage-2/daily-list-of-amendments-3-february-2021.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 Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill**

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

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

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

### **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

### **Use of hotels and barracks as contingency asylum accommodation**

(closing date 19 February 2021)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/call-for-evidence-an-inspection-of-the-use-of-hotels-and-barracks-as-contingency-asylum-accommodation>

### **Human Rights Act Review** (closing date 3 March 2021)

<https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/93/human-rights-joint-committee/news/138635/call-for-evidence-the-governments-independent-human-rights-act-review/>

### **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/>

### **Racial inequality in health and social care workplaces** (closing date not stated)

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/inquiries-and-investigations/inquiry-racial-inequality-health-and-social-care-workplaces>

### **Black Lives in Scotland** (closing date not stated)

<https://blacklivesinscotland.typeform.com/to/YFrnnHSC>

### **Social Distance, Digital Congregation: British Ritual Innovation under COVID-19**

(closing date not stated)

<https://bric19.mmu.ac.uk/take-the-survey/>

### **Experiences of people with refugee status who are renting private property in Scotland**

(closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/YDR67MN>

### **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>

### **Adapt and Thrive**

*Running until March 2021*

This programme, which is part of the Scottish Government Community and Third Sector Recovery Programme, offers grants of up to £75,000, loans, and specialist advice to organisations across the third sector to adapt to the challenges presented by COVID-19 and build back better to thrive in the future. For information see

<https://scvo.scot/support/coronavirus/funding/scottish-government/community-recovery/atf>

### **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/>

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## Events, Conferences, and Training

\*\* new or updated this week

**\*\* this week!**

### **Refugee Week Slow Conference**

to 11 March 2021 (online)

A series of free online workshops exploring arts and culture for change, and to gain new skills, grow your networks, and reflect on work and practice, in preparation for Refugee Week 2021. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y6ao5ufa>

**\*\* this week!**

### **Hate crime and your community**

8 February 2021 (online, 7.00)

Community Security Trust webinar about How to deal with racial and religious hatred – especially in the digital age. The webinar will be of interest to any member of a community that feels vulnerable to violent extremism and hate crime. This will include people who regularly attend a place of worship, and in particular community leaders, managers of places of worship and people who wish to become involved in making their community and place of worship as safe as possible. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y6p95oal>

**\*\* this week!**

### **Basic security for your place of worship**

11 February 2021 (online, 7.00)

Community Security Trust introduction to security for places of worship and faith communities. The webinar will be of interest to any member of a community that feels vulnerable to violent extremism and hate crime. This will include people who regularly attend a place of worship, and in particular, community leaders, managers of places of

worship, and people who wish to become involved in making their community and place of worship as safe as possible. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y3u2jzws>

### **Online Security**

17 February 2021 (online, 7.00)

Community Security Trust webinar on how to protect yourself and your community from online threats. The webinar will be of interest to any member of a community that feels vulnerable to violent extremism and hate crime. This will include people who regularly attend a place of worship, and in particular community leaders, managers of places of worship, and people who wish to become involved in making their community and place of worship as safe as possible. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y4qdpm9y>

### **Organising security for your place of worship**

23 February 2021 (online, 7.00)

Community Security Trust webinar about security and risk management, and how to develop a security plan. The webinar will be of interest to any member of a community that feels vulnerable to violent extremism and hate crime. This will include people who regularly attend a place of worship, and in particular community leaders, managers of places of worship and people who wish to become involved in making their community and place of worship as safe as possible. For information about the 25 January webinar see <https://tinyurl.com/yx8gw3y8> and for 23 February see <https://tinyurl.com/yxdc7kwg>

### **\*\* Ethnicity and Covid-19: Addressing the impact of the pandemic on Black and Minority Ethnic people**

25 February 2020 (online, 11.00)

JRF/Runnymede webinar to explore evidence and policy recommendations relating to the impact of the pandemic on BME people. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y53oskg4>

### **Black and Minority Ethnic Women's Experiences of Domestic Abuse**

26 February 2021 (online, 10.00–12.30)

Scottish Women's Aid webinar to raise awareness and broaden understanding of the varied issues for black and minority ethnic women and their children experiencing domestic abuse, forced marriage and other types of gender based violence. For information see <https://womensaid.scot/learning-development/>

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

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/>

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

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/>

## **No Recourse to Public Funds**

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/>

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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/>

**SCoJeC**  
Scottish Council of  
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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

**BEMIS**  
Empowering Scotland's Ethnic and  
Cultural Minority Communities

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



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

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