



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

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

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**The UK Parliament returns from recess on 22 February 2021.**

## Immigration and Asylum

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

#### British Nationality: Applications

**Meg Hillier (Labour Co-op)** [150715] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what fee changes she plans to propose for British Citizenship applications in the 2021-22 financial year.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** We keep our fees for immigration and nationality applications under review and ensure they are within the parameters agreed with HM Treasury and Parliament, as set out in Section 68 (9) of the Immigration Act 2014.

Child citizenship registration fees are the subject of current litigation. While the court

case is ongoing it would not be appropriate to comment on next steps.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-08/150715>

### **Medical Records: Immigrants**

**Claudia Webbe (Independent)** [148965] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether the personal data of those seeking access to NHS services is shared with immigration enforcement authorities.

**Reply from Edward Argar:** National Health Service trusts may contact the Home Office in relation to overseas visitors who are presenting or have presented for NHS secondary care treatment for the following two purposes:

- To complete an immigration status check through the Home Office Evidence and Enquiry service, where the trust is unable to establish this by any other means and this information is relevant to establishing a person's entitlement to free secondary care; and
- To notify the Home Office of individuals subject to immigration control with debts of £500 or more that have been outstanding for two or more months. In doing so they must follow strict processes, set out in the Department of Health and Social Care's guidance.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-03/148965>

### **Coronavirus: Vaccination**

**Claudia Webbe (Independent)** [148964] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what plans he has to extend access to covid-19 vaccinations to adults without indefinite right to remain status.

**Reply from Nadhim Zahawi:** Vaccination against COVID-19 is a primary care service and is free to all overseas visitors to England, including anyone living in the United Kingdom without permission. It is not, therefore, within scope of the National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 2015. As no charges apply, immigration status checks are not required in order to assess eligibility. This message has been shared with the public through the NHS website and Public Health England's Migrant Health Guide.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-03/148964>

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Alan Brown (SNP)** [151763] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of EU citizens still to apply for settled status; and if she will make a statement.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The latest published information on EU Settlement Scheme applications received can be found on the Home Office's 'EU Settlement Scheme statistics' web page available at:

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

The total number of applications received up to 31 January 2021 was 5.06 million (5,060,600).

The published figures refer specifically to applications made to the EU Settlement Scheme and cannot be directly compared with estimates of the resident population of EU/EEA nationals in the UK.

The published figures include non-EEA family members, Irish nationals, and eligible EEA citizens not resident in the UK, none of whom are usually included in estimates of the resident EU population.

Furthermore, the population estimates do not take account of people's migration intentions and will include people who have come to the UK for a range of purposes, including some who have no intention to settle permanently in the UK

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-09/151763>

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

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Holly Lynch (Labour)** [150854] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications to the EU Settlement Scheme are being processed each week on average; and what the average waiting time is for applicants submitting an application to that scheme.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The latest published information shows the total number of concluded applications to the EU Settlement scheme was 4.68 million up to 31 January 2021.

The latest figures can be found on the Home Office's 'EU Settlement Scheme statistics' web page available at:

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

Applications concluded by month and decision type are published in the detailed quarterly release –

[‘EU Settlement Scheme quarterly statistics, September 2020’](#)

The statistics for October to December 2020 will be released on 25 February 2021. Our aim is to process all applications to the EU Settlement Scheme as expeditiously as possible. Complete applications are usually processed in around five working days.

More information about processing times for applications under the scheme is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-application-processing-times/eu-settlement-scheme-pilot-current-expected-processing-times-for-applications>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-08/150854>

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

### **Asylum: Coronavirus**

**Jessica Morden (Labour)** [151645] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to allow people in receipt of Aspen cards under Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 to be able to obtain cash with those cards so that they can self-isolate when required during the covid-19 outbreak.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** For asylum seekers supported under Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 and who are accommodated in full board accommodation (such as hotels) a small weekly cash allowance is provided to allow for the purchase of essential items.

For those supported under Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 in Dispersed Accommodation they continue to have cash loaded onto their card which can be used on a chip and pin basis in stores across the UK. However, for those asylum seekers who are shielding or self-isolating our service providers have extended their wraparound services and will assist with the provision of food and other items where required.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-09/151645>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Asylum: Homelessness**

**Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour)** [151819] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she taking to prevent homelessness among asylum-seeking and refugee women during the covid-19 pandemic.

**Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour)** [151820] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, what steps she is taking to support (a) homeless and (b) other asylum-seeking and refugee women during the covid-19 pandemic.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Asylum seekers who are destitute and do not have adequate housing or the means of obtaining it are provided with accommodation from the Home Office, as well as other support to cover their essential living needs. This is in line with our statutory duties.

Individuals granted refugee status become eligible to the same local authority assistance with housing that is available to British Citizens and other permanent residents of the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-09/151819>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-09/151820>

### Human Trafficking

**Mohammad Yasin (Labour)** [149809] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the findings of the report by Women for Refugee Women After Exploitation entitled Survivors Behind Bars, published on 4 February 2021, that the detention of trafficking victims has increased since the introduction of the Adults at Risk policy in 2016; and if she will make a statement.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Government does not have an absolute exclusion from detention for any particular group. However, we fully accept that some groups of individuals can be at particular risk of harm in immigration detention. This is the basis of the Adults at Risk in immigration detention (AAR) policy, which strengthens the presumption against detention for vulnerable individuals.

The policy covers a wider range of vulnerabilities and its introduction has enabled Home Office staff to promptly identify whether a person is vulnerable and consequently whether they should be detained. This allows for a more rounded assessment of such vulnerabilities in a detention setting, along with a balanced assessment of any immigration compliance, criminality factors and expected date of removal. The greater the evidence of vulnerability, the less likely it is that the individual will be detained.

Additional safeguards are also in place which underpin detention decisions, including regular reviews to ensure detention remains lawful, appropriate and proportionate.

All Home Office staff working in the detention system are also given training and support to identify and act upon indicators of vulnerability, including recognising victims of trafficking and modern slavery, at the earliest opportunity. If an individual is suspected to be a victim of trafficking, they will be referred into the National Referral Mechanism.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-05/149809>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.refugeewomen.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Survivors-Behind-Bars-1.pdf>

*The most recent version of the Adults at Risk policy referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/721237/Adults\\_at\\_risk\\_in\\_immigration\\_detention\\_-\\_statutory\\_guidance\\_2\\_.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/721237/Adults_at_risk_in_immigration_detention_-_statutory_guidance_2_.pdf)

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

### Construction: Migrant Workers

**Lord Jones of Cheltenham (Liberal Democrat)** [HL13002] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, (1) to review the immigration criteria for

construction industry specialists, and (2) to amend the shortage occupation list to include (a) bricklayers, (b) plasterers, (c) plumbers, (d) carpenters, and (e) quantity surveyors.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Given the wider economic impact of the global pandemic and the number of UK based workers facing uncertainty about their employment or the need to find a new job at this time, the Government believes it is right our global points-based systems encourages employers to look to domestic recruitment and skills training in the first instance, rather than immigration. In March 2020, the Government commissioned the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to advise on the composition of the Shortage Occupation Lists (SOL) in light of the expanded skills threshold of the new Skilled Worker route, which came into effect on 1 December.

The MAC published its findings and recommendations on 29 September. The Government welcomed the MAC's comprehensive advice, which included a recommendation to add bricklayers and masons; however, we do not consider changes to the immigration rules or the SOLs should be made at this time, before assessing how the UK labour market develops post-Covid 19 and in response to the introduction of the new Points-Based Immigration System. Immigration policy should be considered alongside the strategies for the UK Labour Market not in isolation to them.

As published on 22 October, the Immigration Rules for the new Points-Based Immigration System include an Appendix Shortage Occupation Lists. This replaces the existing lists under Appendix K. The contents are the same.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-04/hl13002>

*Information about the Skilled Worker Route, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/skilled-worker-visa>

*The MAC report referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/927352/SOL\\_2020\\_Report\\_Final.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/927352/SOL_2020_Report_Final.pdf)

*The Immigration Rules referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/928751/CCS001\\_CCS1020373376-001\\_Statement\\_of\\_changes\\_in\\_Immigration\\_Rules\\_-\\_HC\\_813\\_PRINT\\_.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/928751/CCS001_CCS1020373376-001_Statement_of_changes_in_Immigration_Rules_-_HC_813_PRINT_.pdf)

### **General Practitioners: Asylum and Migrants**

**The Lord Bishop of Durham** [HL13248] To ask Her Majesty's Government what funding has been provided to local authorities (1) to support (a) asylum seekers, (b) refugees, and (c) migrants, to register with a GP, and (2) to ensure that those people are factored into COVID-19 vaccination plans.

**Reply from Lord Bethell:** The COVID-19 vaccine is available free of charge to anyone living in England, including those here without permission. The terms under which general practices are commissioned to deliver vaccination services enable practices to vaccinate unregistered patients. Individuals who are not registered with a practice will therefore be able to access the vaccine in line with the priority groups outlined by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisations (JCVI). However, we would strongly encourage everyone to register so that they may be more easily invited for vaccination.

NHS England and NHS Improvement are working with local government, voluntary, community and social enterprise partners and Healthwatch England on a campaign to support all people, particularly those in inclusion health groups, to register with a general practitioner (GP), which supports the identification of those who should be prioritised for the vaccine.

NHS England and NHS Improvement fund health assessment services



commissioned by clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) for destitute asylum seekers in the six Home Office-commissioned initial accommodation centres in England. In 2020/21, approximately £3.2 million was allocated to those CCGs. These services are in place to avoid disproportionate impact on local GP services and health assessment services may refer individuals for GP registration, which now includes prioritisation for COVID-19 vaccination in line with the JCVI's advice.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-10/hl13248>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Coronavirus: Vaccination**

**The Lord Bishop of Durham** [HL13250] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether migrants who have not paid the International Health Surcharge will be charged for a COVID-19 vaccination; and whether there will be any checks on a person's immigration status before such vaccinations are carried out.

**The Lord Bishop of Durham** [HL13251] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether COVID-19 vaccinations will be made available to EU nationals who have not confirmed their status under the EU Settlement Scheme after the 30 June deadline for applications has passed.

**Reply from Lord Bethell:** Vaccination against COVID-19 is a primary care service and is free to everyone living in England, including all overseas visitors, regardless of their immigration status or nationality. This includes anyone living in the United Kingdom without permission. This service is not within scope of the National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 2015 and as no charges apply, immigration status checks are not required in order to assess eligibility.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-10/hl13250>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-10/hl13251>

### **Immigration: EEA Nationals and EU Nationals**

**Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle (Green)** [HL12977] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many (1) EU, and (2) EEA, citizens with settled status have been denied citizenship because they did not have Comprehensive Sickness Insurance during their qualifying period of residence.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We are not aware of any applications for British Citizenship being refused purely based on the requirement for Comprehensive Sickness Insurance under EEA Regulations.

Holding Comprehensive Sickness Insurance is not a mandatory requirement for the award of British citizenship or for being awarded Settled Status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-03/hl12927>

### **Refugees: Families**

**Lord Hylton (Crossbench)** [HL12961] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 2 February (HL12281), whether they publicise the availability of Family Reunion Visas in (1) Europe, (2) the Middle East, and (3) North Africa; and if so, whether they advertise such availability (a) at embassies, (b) through the UNHCR, or (c) through other organisations.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** UKVI do not publicise visa services outside of GOV.UK, although it may raise awareness of specific routes via stakeholders and partners. Those who are granted asylum and humanitarian protection are informed of the Family Reunion visa.

All information on visa routes to the UK, including Family Reunion, are available on GOV.UK. Customers are able to check what visa type they may be eligible for and

access guidance on applying.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-03/hl12961>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

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

### **Asylum: Napier Barracks**

**The Lord Bishop of London** [HL12824] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the outbreak of COVID-19 at Napier Barracks, what plans they have to end the use of such barracks as asylum accommodation; and if they have no such plans, what steps they intend to take to ensure (1) that social distancing measures are adhered to, and (2) that the dignity and freedom of residents is upheld.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, we have taken decisive action to ensure that those seeking asylum in the United Kingdom have the support they need.

Given the unique challenges over recent months, it has been necessary to use contingency accommodation, such as former military barracks, to ensure there is always sufficient capacity to deliver our statutory obligations to destitute asylum seekers.

These sites have accommodated soldiers and army personnel in the past and are safe, secure and suitable accommodation, in which asylum seekers receive three meals a day, all paid for by the taxpayer.

Despite our best efforts and the robust measures in place at our sites, a number of asylum seekers accommodated at Napier recently tested positive for coronavirus. It was also incredibly disappointing that a number of individuals refused coronavirus tests and had refused to self-isolate or follow social distancing rules, despite repeated requests to do so.

In line with advice from Public Health England, over the last week the Home Office moved a number asylum seekers out of the site. The purpose of this move was to allow others at Napier to self-isolate more easily and facilitate a deep clean of the site.

A wide range of measures have been implemented to ensure guidance on social distancing and self-isolation are properly applied and we have worked closely with public health authorities throughout the pandemic to inform a national approach.

We take the wellbeing, dignity and freedom of those we support extremely seriously. Asylum seekers are not detained and are free to come and go from their accommodation, in line with coronavirus restrictions.

We continue to explore further options to ensure that we continue meet our statutory obligations to support and accommodate destitute asylum seekers at all times.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-01/hl12824>

### **Refugees: Penally Camp**

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL12845] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the living conditions for refugees being housed at the former army barracks at Penally.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the asylum system has faced significant pressures and it has become necessary to use additional temporary accommodation to ensure the Home Office can continue to meet all of its statutory obligations.

Penally Training Camp is temporary, contingency accommodation whilst we continue to address the issues putting pressure on the asylum system. The site was previously used by our armed forces and provides safe, suitable and warm accommodation in line with existing contractual requirements for asylum accommodation.

Most recently we asked an independent health and safety consultancy, Human Applications to carry out a rapid review of a number of asylum accommodation sites including Penally. The Home Office is reviewing the recommendations of the review and will seek to publish a summary of the recommendations. We will also hold round tables with stakeholders to discuss the recommendations, actions taken and proposed next steps.

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-01/hl12845>

## Press Releases

### Right to vote

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/working-for-change/policy-campaigns/right-to-vote/>

### Designing a pilot remote and rural migration scheme for Scotland - analysis and policy options: our response

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/designing-a-pilot-remote-and-rural-migration-scheme-for-scotland---analysis-and-policy-options-our-response/>

### EU asylum decisions exceed applications for first time since 2017 due to COVID-19

<https://www.easo.europa.eu/news-events/eu-asylum-decisions-exceed-applications-first-time-2017-due-covid-19>

## New Publications

### Voting in the 2021 Scottish Parliament election: FAQ for New Scots

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/New-Scots-FAQ-English.pdf>

Also available in:

Arabic

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/New-Scots-FAQ-Arabic.pdf>

Farsi

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/New-Scots-FAQ-Farsi.pdf>

Kurdish

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/New-Scots-FAQ-Kurdish.pdf>

### Supporting New Scots to vote in the 2021 Scottish Parliament election: Facilitator Guide

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/New-Scots-facilitator-guide.pdf>

### Supporting New Scots to vote in the 2021 Scottish Parliament election: Activities

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/New-Scots-facilitator-PowerPoint-slides.pptx>



**Designing a pilot remote and rural migration scheme: analysis and policy options**  
<https://tinyurl.com/yaxmfu9u>

**Welcome: a guide for new refugees**

A guide for adults who have been granted asylum in England to access public services and make the most of the opportunities in the UK.

Available in English, Albanian, Amharic, Arabic, Chinese, Farsi, French, Kurdish Sorani, Pashto, Punjabi, Tigrinya, Urdu, and Vietnamese.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/welcome-a-guide-for-new-refugees>

**We Journey Together**

Short film produced with participants from the Govan Community Project, representing the stories of 4 people going through the asylum process in the United Kingdom.

<https://www.wejourneytogether.org.uk/>

**Letter from Kevin Foster MP to Meg Hillier MP regarding Tier 2 irregular sponsorship charges for some small and/or charitable licence holders**

[http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2021-0143/Kevin Foster MP to PAC Chair-Update Irregular charges .pdf](http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2021-0143/Kevin_Foster_MP_to_PAC_Chair-Update_Irregular_charges_.pdf)

**Appeal Court Ruling:**

The Court of Appeal has upheld the ruling of the High Court that the £1,012 fee the Home Office charges children to register as a British citizen is unlawful.

<https://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWCA/Civ/2021/193.html>

## News

**'Scottish visa' call to tackle depopulation**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-56099418>

**'Scottish visa' after Brexit would tackle depopulation, say government advisers**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/brexit-scottish-visa-eu-depopulation-b1803974.html>

**Court of Appeal upholds High Court decision that Home Office £1,000 fee for children to register as British citizens is unlawful**

<https://prcbc.files.wordpress.com/2021/02/coapressrelease.pdf>

**Home Office urged to remove illegal £1000 children's fee immediately after court ruling**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/19101591.home-office-urged-remove-illegal-1000-childrens-fee-immediately-court-ruling/>

**UK's £1,000 child citizenship fee ruled unlawful by appeal court**

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2021/feb/18/uk-unlawfully-charging-1000-for-children-to-become-citizens>

**Thousands in Hong Kong sign up to BNO visa scheme for UK citizenship**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/thousands-in-hong-kong-sign-up-to-bno-visa-scheme-for-uk-citizenship-jbgffszbn>

**UK Government urged to extend rights of EU nationals amid warnings 'hundreds of thousands' face losing their rights**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/uk-government-urged-extend-rights-eu-nationals-amid-warnings-hundreds-thousands-face-losing-their-rights-3137610>

**More than 70pc of Channel migrant crossings prevented in post-Brexit crackdown**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/02/18/70pc-channel-migrant-crossings-prevented-post-brexit-crackdown/>

**Red Cross calls for 'urgent clarity' on exempting refugee families from quarantine fee**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/19094909.red-cross-calls-urgent-clarity-exempting-refugees-quarantine-fee/>

**Napier Barracks 'not suitable' for asylum seekers during pandemic**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-56089779>

**Napier barracks not suitable for accommodation, experts found**

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2021/feb/15/napier-barracks-not-suitable-for-accommodation-experts-found>

**Inside Napier: the former army barracks housing asylum seekers**

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/audio/2021/feb/17/inside-napier-former-army-barracks-housing-asylum-seekers-podcast>

**Home Office ignored Covid advice not to put asylum seekers in barracks**

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2021/feb/16/home-office-were-advised-not-to-house-asylum-seekers-in-napier-barracks>

**I'm a frontline domestic violence worker – the first time I refused refuge to migrants, I cried for five hours**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/domestic-violence-vawg-migrants-b1802351.html>

**Covid in Scotland: Refugee wins safety lawsuit against Edinburgh city council**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/covid-in-scotland-refugee-wins-safety-lawsuit-against-edinburgh-city-council-j5k2zk5bn>

**Asylum seeker brings case against Covid 'curfew' at London hotel**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/feb/19/asylum-seeker-brings-case-against-covid-curfew-at-london-hotel>

**Asylum seekers 'subjected to sexual harassment' in government hotels**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/feb/21/asylum-seekers-subjected-to-sexual-harassment-in-government-hotels>

**Woman 'evicted from asylum accommodation' in sub-zero temperatures**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-seeker-evict-hotel-home-office-uk-b1802889.html>

**Asylum-seekers are still struggling to access vital services without wi-fi or devices**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/gadgets-and-tech/asylum-seekers-wifi-data-devices-online-b1803619.html>

**Scrutiny failure on human trafficking shows Scottish institutions lack respect for victims**  
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/opinion-scrutiny-failure-human-trafficking-shows-scottish-institutions-lack-respect-victims-3134940>

**Vietnamese nationals most likely to be potential human trafficking victims in Scotland**  
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/crime/vietnamese-nationals-most-likely-be-potential-human-trafficking-victims-scotland-3136924>

**Woman and two men charged over human trafficking**  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-56090516>

**Two charged with human trafficking offences following investigation in Edinburgh and Glasgow**  
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/crime/two-charged-human-trafficking-offences-following-investigation-edinburgh-and-glasgow-3136856>

**End of an era as 'voice of the voiceless' in Glasgow retires**  
<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2021/end-of-an-era-as-voice-of-the-voiceless-in-glasgow-retires>

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## Community Relations

### News

**BBC to 'reflect on' controversial Woman's Hour interview with Muslim leader**  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-56123959>

**BBC Woman's Hour accused of 'hostile' interview with Muslim leader**  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-56109939>

**BBC to 'reflect' on Muslim Council interview condemned as strikingly hostile**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/media/2021/feb/19/bbc-to-reflect-on-muslim-council-interview-condemned-as-strikingly-hostile>

**Muslim leaders can't dodge the questions**  
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/muslim-leaders-cant-dodge-the-questions-twxr9r88v>

**There's a reason Muslim women struggle to make their voices heard**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/feb/15/muslim-women-voices-heard-islamophobia-media>

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## Equality

### UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

#### Unfair Dismissal: Ethnic Groups

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL12977] To ask Her Majesty's Government

what assessment they have made of the risk of increased vulnerability of BAME individuals to unfair employment dismissals; and what plans they have to strengthen unfair dismissal legislation.

**Reply from Lord Callanan:** There are laws in place to ensure fair procedure in redundancy and dismissal matters and to protect against discrimination. Employees who consider that their dismissal was unfair can complain to an employment tribunal, generally subject to a qualifying period of two years of continuous service. If an employee has been unlawfully discriminated against, there is no such qualifying period.

The Government collects data on claims to employment tribunals, but this is not disaggregated by the specific characteristics of the claimant.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-03/hl12977>

### **Equality: Travellers**

**Baroness Whitaker (Labour)** [HL13146] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to implement the undertakings they made in their response to the House of Commons' Women and Equalities Committee report Tackling inequalities faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, published on 5 April 2019.

**Reply from Lord Greenhalgh:** The Government made a number of commitments across departments in its response to the Committee's report in July 2019. While the Government's top priority has been to respond to the unprecedented challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic, we are continuing to progress the measures we outlined in our response to the Committee, chief among them our commitment to deliver a cross-government strategy to tackle the inequalities faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.

In our response to the Committee we committed to tackle inequalities in a number of areas, including education. My department has invested £400,000 into education and training programmes for over 100 Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children and young people, to receive extra tuition to catch up on lost learning during the pandemic, one-to-one support and expert guidance to help them progress in education or find employment.

This is in addition to the Department for Education's National Tutoring Programme, worth £350 million, which will increase access to high-quality tuition for the most disadvantaged young people over the 2020-21 academic year. The Department of Education also recently made the announcement about additional laptops and tablets to be made available in 2021 for schools and colleges.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-08/hl13146>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmwomeq/360/360.pdf>

## **News**

**Scottish police equality probe should be 'priority', says Humza Yousaf**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/scottish-police-equality-probe-should-be-priority-says-humza-yousaf-3135282>

**Black lawyer was told 'people like you don't become barristers'**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-england-london-56098148>

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# Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

## Scottish Parliament Public Petitions Committee

### **Racism in Education (PE1840)**

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13132&i=118863#ScotParlOR>

*The Scottish Government submission referred to by the Committee can be read at*

[https://www.parliament.scot/S5\\_PublicPetitionsCommittee/Submissions%202021/PE1840\\_C.pdf](https://www.parliament.scot/S5_PublicPetitionsCommittee/Submissions%202021/PE1840_C.pdf)

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

### **Social Media: Antisemitism**

**Robert Halfon (Conservative)** [151667] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, whether he has made an assessment of the potential merits of advising Ofcom as the Government's intended social media regulator to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism and ensure that social media companies comply with it to help tackle the increase in online antisemitic attacks.

**Reply from Caroline Dinenage:** The Government is committed to tackling racism, including the spread of antisemitic content online. In December 2020, we published the Full Government Response to the Online Harms White Paper consultation, which sets out new expectations on companies to keep their users safe online. Under a new legal duty of care, in-scope companies, including social media, will need to tackle illegal antisemitic content and activity on their services.

In addition, companies providing high-risk, high-reach services will need to set clear terms and conditions stating what legal but harmful material they accept (and do not accept) on their service. This may include antisemitic hate speech, which does not meet the threshold of a criminal offence. Companies will need to enforce these terms and conditions consistently and transparently, and could face enforcement action if they do not. All companies in scope will be required to have effective and accessible user reporting and redress mechanisms.

The Online Safety Bill, which will give effect to the regulatory framework outlined in the Full Government Response, including the appointment of Ofcom as the regulator, will be ready this year. There are no plans to specify the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-09/151667>

*The Government response referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/online-harms-white-paper/outcome/online-harms-white-paper-full-government-response>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Social Media: Racial Harassment**

**Lord Austin of Dudley (Non-affiliated)** [HL13042] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the way in which social media companies deal with racist abuse directed at footballers.

**Lord Austin of Dudley (Non-affiliated)** [HL13043] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the cooperation of social media companies with the police on incidents of online racist abuse.

**Reply from Baroness Barran:** The Culture Secretary and Sports Minister recently



led a roundtable discussion with current and former players from the Premier League, English Football League (EFL), Women's Super League (WSL) and Women's Championship, which discussed online racist abuse and players' perspectives on tackling discrimination in the game.

We are clear that the online racist abuse of football players is unacceptable. We must do all we can to tackle it. We are taking steps through the online harms regulatory framework to ensure that online abuse, whether anonymous or not, is addressed. Under a new legal duty of care, companies will need to remove and limit the spread of illegal content, including illegal online abuse. All companies will need to take swift and effective action against such content.

The police have a range of legal powers to identify individuals who attempt to use anonymity to escape sanctions for online abuse, where the activity is illegal. The government is working with law enforcement to review whether the current powers are sufficient to tackle illegal anonymous abuse online. The outcome of that work will inform the government's future position in relation to illegal anonymous online abuse

Companies providing high-risk, high-reach services will also need to undertake regular risk assessments to identify legal but harmful material on their services. These companies will need to set clear terms and conditions which explicitly state what categories of legal but harmful material they accept (and do not accept) on their service. Companies will need to enforce these terms and conditions consistently and transparently and could face enforcement action if they do not. The Online Safety Bill, which will give effect to the regulatory framework, will be ready this year.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-08/hl13042>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-08/hl13043>

### **Social Media: Racial Harassment**

**Baroness Brady (Conservative)** [HL13054] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that social media companies address the racist abuse of footballers.

**Reply from Baroness Barran:** The Culture Secretary and Sports Minister recently led a roundtable discussion with current and former players from the Premier League, English Football League (EFL), Women's Super League (WSL) and Women's Championship, which discussed online racist abuse and players' perspectives on tackling discrimination in the game.

We are clear that the online racist abuse of football players is unacceptable. We must do all we can to tackle it. We are taking steps through the online harms regulatory framework to ensure that online abuse, whether anonymous or not, is addressed. Under a new legal duty of care, companies will need to remove and limit the spread of illegal content, including illegal online abuse. All companies will need to take swift and effective action against such content.

Companies providing high-risk, high-reach services will also need to undertake regular risk assessments to identify legal but harmful material on their services. These companies will need to set clear terms and conditions which explicitly state what categories of legal but harmful material they accept (and do not accept) on their service. Companies will need to enforce these terms and conditions consistently and transparently and could face enforcement action if they do not. The Online Safety Bill, which will give effect to the regulatory framework, will be ready this year.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-08/hl13054>

## News

### **MSPs urged to halt Scottish Hate Crime Bill until after election**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/msps-urged-halt-scottish-hate-crime-bill-until-after-election-3136629>

### **Police watchdog inspector claims he was paid less than black female colleague because he's a 'white man'**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/02/16/police-watchdog-inspector-claims-paid-less-black-female-colleague/>

### **Man threatened to kill Muslims, burn a mosque, and bomb council property during 999 call**

<https://tellmamauk.org/jailed-man-threatened-to-kill-muslims-burn-a-mosque-and-bomb-council-property-during-999-call/>

### **Black and LGBT Edinburgh University students attacked in Zoom meeting**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-56100079>

### **Glasgow University admits racism is rife across campus**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/glasgow-university-admits-racism-is-rife-across-campus-m6zqdbf2f>

### **Edinburgh University launches review of buildings linked to racism and slavery**

<https://www.scotsman.com/heritage-and-retro/heritage/edinburgh-university-launches-review-buildings-linked-racism-and-slavery-3135756>

### **More than 120 charities give staff unconscious bias training amid accusations of 'virtue signalling'**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/02/19/120-charities-give-staff-unconscious-bias-training-amid-accusations/>

### **The scourge of 'institutional racism' remains a stubborn blight on Britain**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/scourge-institutional-racism-remains-stubborn-blight-britain-martyn-mclaughlin-3136542>

### **Wetherspoons to keep 'Black Boy' venue after Greene King changes its pubs' names**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/wetherspoons-black-boy-greene-king-racism-b1804586.html>

### **Football authorities in England accused of not taking Islamophobia seriously**

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2021/feb/15/football-authorities-england-accused-of-not-taking-islamophobia-seriously-grassroots-players-study-muslim>

### **Racist abuse towards players is football's 'biggest problem', says Arsenal chief Vinai Venkatesham**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/premier-league/racist-abuse-arsenal-vinai-venkatesham-b1804076.html>

### **Manchester United's Anthony Martial racially abused on social media in latest incident**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/premier-league/manchester-united/anthony-martial-instagram-racist-abuse-b1802212.html>

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## Other Scottish Parliament and Government

### Scottish Parliament Motion

**Bill Kidd (SNP) [S5M-24132] Chinese Year of the Ox** – That the Parliament recognises the start of the Chinese New Year on 12 February; notes that this year is the year of the Ox; wishes Chinese people in Scotland well in their celebrations, including members of the Association of Chinese Entrepreneurs in Scotland; appreciates and values Scotland's Chinese people, and thanks them for their collective action in food distribution to those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-24132>

### News

**Holyrood: Death threats received by third of MSPs, survey finds**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/19091207.holyrood-death-threats-received-third-mmps-survey-finds/>

**Third of Scottish MSPs have received death threats since election, poll finds**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/third-scottish-mmps-have-received-death-threats-election-poll-finds-3135110>

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## Health Information: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

### NHS

**Scottish COVID-19 vaccination helpline and booking service**

The Scottish COVID-19 vaccination helpline and booking service is available from 8am to 8pm, seven days a week on 0800 030 8013.

<https://nhs.uk/services/our-covid-19-response/covid-19-vaccination-helpline-and-booking-service>

**Coronavirus helpline**

People living in Scotland who don't have any symptoms but are looking for general information can call the coronavirus helpline. If you're a non-English speaker you can still use this service. Phone 0800 028 2816, tell the call handler that you need an interpreter, give the name of your preferred language and you will be connected to a Language Line interpreter. You will not have to pay for this.

**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 refugees and asylum seekers

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/care-support-and-rights/health-rights/access/healthcare-for-refugees-and-asylum-seekers>

## NHS Near Me (Scotland)

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

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

## NHS (England and Wales)

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

# Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

## Covid-19: Places of Worship

**Elaine Smith (Labour):** ... I wrote [to the First Minister] at the start of the year about the closure of places of worship, explaining the importance of communal worship for spiritual, social and psychological benefits, and I have received no response as yet. With schools beginning to return and Lent starting tomorrow, will the First Minister give some reassurance to Scotland's Christians that she will prioritise churches in her strategic framework so that they can be among the first places to reopen? We hope that that might be in time to celebrate Easter.

**Reply from the First Minister:** We will try to get places of worship back to normality. They are not closed, but the ability to worship normally and freely is restricted. I deeply regret that, as I know that everybody does, and we want to get that back to normality as quickly as possible. I do not want to pre-empt what we will set out in the strategic framework next week, but members will see a priority given to getting places of worship open again, given the importance that we attach to that. We will continue to do that as quickly as possible. I know that many people feel strongly about it and I understand that, but nobody in the Government, including me, wants anywhere to be operating less than normally for any longer than is necessary. It is easier for people to bear that with some settings than with others. We know how difficult it is with schools and care homes, and it is difficult for places of worship as well.

As we get the virus suppressed and continue to make progress with vaccination, that is what I mean when I say that we will have to make choices about what matters most to us. Sometimes those will be difficult choices, but the more we can build a consensus about the things that really matter—I would include places of worship in that—the more we can come out of this lockdown in a sensible and sustainable way and, I hope, avoid the need for another one later in the year.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13126&i=118815&c=2319967#ScotParlOR>

## Covid-19: Places of Worship

**Elaine Smith:** On a point of order, Presiding Officer. Earlier, in response to my question, the First Minister said that places of worship “are not closed.” However, the regulations state very clearly that they are closed for communal worship and private prayer and are allowed to open only for very small funerals and weddings. Therefore, will the First Minister take this opportunity to correct the record, as is allowed by our rules, because many people will be confused by the earlier assertion—[Interruption.] I think that we all know that it is

absolutely essential to be clear about the regulations that are in place. The importance of that cannot be overemphasised.

**The Presiding Officer:** That is not a point of order, but it is a helpful point of correction that I am sure the First Minister will—[Interruption.] The member has made a point about the information that was given, and I am sure that the First Minister will pay attention to it. I will give the First Minister a chance to respond, if she wishes to do so.

**Reply from the First Minister:** Thank you, Presiding Officer. I would not normally do this, but it is a really important point for many people across the country. Any careful listening to Elaine Smith's reading of the regulations and to what I said would show that there is no inconsistency.

Places of worship are not closed, but they are able to open only for very limited purposes. It is because I know how difficult and distressing that is for many people that I am so intent on all of us trying to get into a better position as quickly as possible. I would not want anyone to think that there is glibness or an inability to understand how serious the issue is. It does nobody any good for us to quibble over the precise wording when, in fact, we both articulated the decision correctly, although perhaps we put the emphasis in different places.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13126&i=118815&c=2319989#ScotParlOR>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

### Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups

**Harriet Harman (Labour)** [146753] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what proportion of people being treated in hospital for covid-19 identify as BAME in (a) Southwark, (b) London and (c) the UK.

**Reply from Jo Churchill:** Public Health England publishes ethnicity data for hospitalisations and those in critical care at a national level as part of the combined weekly flu and COVID-19 surveillance report. The latest data available to 4 February 2021, is attached. Data is not available at regional or local authority level.

[Hospital Admissions by Ethnicity](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-01/146753>

*The following four questions all received the same answer*

### Coronavirus: Vaccination

**Marsha de Cordova (Labour)** [129106] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, with reference to the findings of YouGov's survey for Queen Mary University of London that 39 per cent of ethnic minority and 70 per cent of white people living in London said they were likely to have the covid-19 vaccination, how the Government's vaccination public information campaign plans to target Black, Asian and ethnic minority communities.

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [131468] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to ensure take-up of the covid-19 vaccine in Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities.

**Apsana Begum (Labour)** [131494] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to encourage take up of the covid-19 vaccine in BAME communities.

**Sarah Owen (Labour)** [136069] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to engage with BAME communities to tackle vaccine hesitancy.

**Reply from Nadhim Zahawi:** The Department is working with Public Health England, NHS England and NHS Improvement and key stakeholders to encourage



uptake of the COVID-19 vaccine among black, Asian and minority ethnic communities. The Department is also working with community press, TV and radio stations to deliver information on vaccination in over a dozen languages. Activity is also focusing on working with trusted voices such as healthcare personnel, faith leaders, community influencers and community organisations for priority multicultural audiences, with a particular focus on Muslim, Polish, black African and Caribbean and Jewish communities. The Department is building on pre-existing relationships and established channels as well as reaching out to more influencers through virtual sessions.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-14/129106>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-17/131468>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-17/131494>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-11/136069>

*The survey results referred to above can be read at*

[https://docs.cdn.yougov.com/b3se2qb61u/QMULResults\\_201119\\_Vaccine\\_W.pdf](https://docs.cdn.yougov.com/b3se2qb61u/QMULResults_201119_Vaccine_W.pdf)

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

### Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups

**Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated)** [HL8648] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to make new COVID-19 regulations specifically to protect BAME communities from the virus.

**Reply from Lord Bethell:** For each change in restrictions, formal assessments are made through a Public Sector Equality Duty analysis, under section 149(1) of the Equality Act 2010. This along with other appropriate assessments considers the potential impacts on groups with protected characteristics as a result of restrictions. Where outbreaks occur in areas where there are large black, Asian and minority ethnic communities, local authorities should use their local knowledge to engage with and support those communities and we work with local authorities to consider whether national interventions are needed to protect people living in the area.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-30/hl8648>

## Scottish Parliament and Government Press Releases

### Test and Protect

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-test-and-protect/>

### Close contacts to be offered testing

<https://www.gov.scot/news/close-contacts-to-be-offered-testing/>

### Support for international students

<https://www.gov.scot/news/support-for-international-students/>

### Citizens Panel says Scottish Government must set out its Covid-19 strategy

<https://www.parliament.scot/newsandmediacentre/117115.aspx>

## Scottish Parliament and 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/>

**Report: Scottish Parliament Citizens' Panel on COVID-19**

<https://www.parliament.scot/20210218CVDCitizensPanelReportFinal.pdf>

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

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

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's statement Thursday 18 February 2021**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-statement-thursday-18-february-2021/>

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's statement - 17 February 2021**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-statement-17-february-2021/>

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's statement - 16 February 2021**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-statement-16-february-2021/>

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's statement - Monday 15 February 2021**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-statement-monday-15-february-2021/>

## UK Government Press Releases

**February interim findings from COVID-19 REACT-1 study published**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/february-interim-findings-from-covid-19-react-1-study-published>

**World's first coronavirus Human Challenge study receives ethics approval in the UK**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/worlds-first-coronavirus-human-challenge-study-receives-ethics-approval-in-the-uk>

## UK Government Publications

**REACT-1: real-time assessment of community transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) in February 2021**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/react-1-study-of-coronavirus-transmission-february-2021-final-results/react-1-real-time-assessment-of-community-transmission-of-coronavirus-covid-19-in-february-2021>

## Prime Minister's statement on coronavirus (COVID-19): 15 February 2021

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-ministers-statement-on-coronavirus-covid-19-15-february-2021>

## News

### Covid: Lower job take-up by BAME NHS staff 'a concern'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-leicestershire-56069325>

### Covid: Ethnicity vaccine gaps in over-70s

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-56096265>

### Covid: Vaccine uptake gap among BAME community

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-56114189>

### For Muslims wary of the Covid vaccine: there's every religious reason not to be

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/feb/18/muslims-wary-covid-vaccine-religious-reason>

### Glasgow priest Canon Tom White takes legal action against ministers to stop UK divide on lockdown right to worship

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/19096949.glasgow-priestcanon-tom-white-takes-legal-action-ministers-stop-uk-divide-lockdown-right-worship/>

### Priest sues for right to reopen churches in lockdown

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/priest-sues-for-right-to-reopen-churches-in-lockdown-m2sq3fh2x>

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## Other News

### Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator: 'Grace Period' coming to an end

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/news/grace-period-coming-to-an-end/>

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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>

Proposed amendments

<https://beta.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/current-bills/domestic-abuse-protection-scotland-bill/stage-2/marshalled-list-of-amendments-at-stage-2.pdf>

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

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

Stage 2 consideration of amendments, Justice Committee

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13129&i=118825#ScotParlOR>

Bill as amended at Stage 2

<https://beta.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/current-bills/hate-crime-and-public-order-scotland-bill/stage-2/bill-as-amended-at-stage-2.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

**The Windrush Compensation Scheme** (closing date 1 March 2021)

<https://committees.parliament.uk/call-for-evidence/317/the-windrush-compensation-scheme/>

**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!**

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

23 February 2021 (online, 7.00)

12 April 2021 (online, 7.00)

Community Security Trust webinar about security and risk management, and how to develop a security plan for places of worship. For information about the February webinar see <https://tinyurl.com/yxdc7kwg> and for April see <https://tinyurl.com/y329uhx7>

**\*\* this week!**

### **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>

**\*\* this week!**

### **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/>

### **\*\* Introduction to the SAFE programme**

3 March 2021 (online, 2.00)

Community Security Trust webinar about how the SAFE programme can help you improve the security of your community and place of worship. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y5ps5ybp>

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

9 March 2021 (online, 2.00)

7 April 2020 (online, 2.00)

Community Security Trust webinar providing an introduction to security for places of worship and faith communities. For information about the March event see <https://tinyurl.com/y4gakb6y> and for the April event <https://tinyurl.com/y23d82hn>

### **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/>

### **\*\* Online Security + Hate crime and your community**

17 March 2021 (online, 7.00)

Community Security Trust webinar covering Online Security (how to protect yourself and your community from online threats) combined with Hate Crime and your Community (how to deal with racial and religious hatred – especially in the digital age). For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yykp38wb>

## **\*\* Online Security + Hate crime and your community**

24 March 2021 (online, 2.00)

Community Security Trust webinar about the phases of an attack and how we can learn from past incidents to foil future attacks. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y4ctbg6m>

## **\*\* SAFE by CST: Q & A Session**

31 March 2021 (online, 7.00)

Community Security Trust question and answer session about the safety of your community. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y6js3ax2>

## **\*\* Event security for your community**

20 April 2021 (online, 7.00)

Community Security Trust webinar about appropriate security measures to ensure the safety of large numbers of people. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y5ahbbgu>

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## Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services

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

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

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**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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