



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

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

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## Immigration and Asylum

### Scottish Parliament Motion

**S5M-24233 Bob Doris (SNP): Christine Murray's Inspirational Service of Asylum Seekers and Refugees** – That the Parliament commends the extraordinary service of Christine Murray in supporting asylum seekers and refugees to rebuild their lives in Scotland after being forced to flee from war-ravaged countries such as Bosnia and Iraq; praises her role as a team leader, guiding a team of 20 people within St Rollox Church's community outreach programme to conduct English lessons, provide clothing, food and financial support since 2002; applauds Christine's establishment of a charity shop and hosting of the North Glasgow Community Food Initiative, respectively allowing for low-cost yet valuable clothing and food items to be donated and subsequently purchased, enabling the buyers to gain a sense of dignity in doing so; recognises that Christine has been described within her community as a "voice for the voiceless" amongst other

complimentary phrases like "leaving behind a stunning legacy" and "a practical, supportive listening ear", and wishes Christine the absolute best for the future as she retires from 19 inspirational and purposeful years of service to those looking to rebuild their lives.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-24233>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

### **Biometric Residence Permits**

**Anne McLaughlin (SNP)** [152562] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effect on refugees of delays in the delivery of a biometrics residence permit after gaining a positive decision.

**Anne McLaughlin (SNP)** [152563] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many UKVI applicants have waited longer than the estimated 10 days to receive their biometrics residence permit after a positive decision in (a) 2018, (b) 2019 and (c) 2020.

**Anne McLaughlin (SNP)** [152565] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many complaints her Department has received on the time taken to produce biometrics residence permits in the last three years.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** While a delay in receiving the Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) may make accessing public services more difficult for all customers, since 20 January 2021 the standard pre-delivery email to customers has included their BRP number and guidance on how to use the online right to work and right to rent services to prove their entitlements.

We are also investigating the possibility of including National Insurance Numbers in the same message to further assist customers.

Data relating to correspondence performance is published here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/customer-service-operations-data-november-2020>

We are currently unable to break this down into complaints specifically related to BRP delays.

UKVI does not hold figures relating to the number of customers who have waited longer than 10 working days to receive their BRP after a positive decision between 2018 and 2020.

However, it does have service level agreements with its production provider the Driver and Vehicle Licencing Agency (DVLA) and its secure delivery provider FedEx which took over the contract in February 2020. Prior to this, DX held the contract.

The DVLA has a target of producing 90% of BRPs within 24 hours of receiving the production request and 100% within 48 hours. It achieved the following:

Financial Year	24 hour target	48 hour target	Outside of 48 hours
2018/19	96.80%	99.40%	0.60%
2019/20	93.90%	100	0
2020/21 (to 5/2/21)	72.40%	97.40%	2.60%

FedEx and DX both had a target to attempt first delivery for 99% of BRPs within 48 working hours of collection of the BRP from DVLA.

DX consistently met this target during the years it had responsibility for the contract. For financial year 2020 to end December 2020 FedEx were achieving 94.4%. UKVI is working closely with FedEx to improve this performance and an improvement plan is in place to achieve this.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-10/152562>  
and  
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-10/152563>  
and  
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-10/152565>

### **Immigration: Coronavirus**

**Florence Eshalomi (Labour)** [152680] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that foreign nationals who reside in the UK and are in the process of applying for Indefinite Leave to Remain are not unfairly penalised in their application if they do not meet the requirement to live in the UK for more than 180 days in a given one year period if they are currently abroad but cannot afford to return to the UK due to the financial cost of the new covid-19 quarantine health measures that will come in to force on Monday 15 February.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** For Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR), applicants must meet continuous residence requirements and are generally only allowed to be out of the UK for a maximum of 180 days in a 12-month period. However, absences beyond 180 days can be allowed if there are serious or compelling reasons. Examples in current guidance include reference to a pandemic, and certain extended absences due to Covid-19 could fall within this definition. Each case would be considered on its own facts.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-10/152680>

### **Visas: EU Countries**

**Lloyd Russell-Moyle (Labour Co-op)** [155308] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to expand the Tier 5 visa scheme to include European countries.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Following the end of free movement, as part of the new single global points immigration system, EU, EEA, and Swiss citizens, alongside nationals of all other European countries, are able to benefit from the full range of core T5 (Temporary Worker) routes.

Whilst the Hon Member is not clear which of the routes under Tier 5 he is actually referring to, it might from the wording be the T5 (Temporary Worker) Youth Mobility Scheme (YMS). This 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. It currently includes one European Country, San Marino, following a bilateral agreement between our two nations.

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. We do however, remain open to concluding further agreements on this reciprocal basis, including with European countries.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-19/155308>

### **Graduates: Visas**

**Paul Blomfield (Labour)** [155013] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reason continuous residence in the UK under a Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneurship) visa does not count towards the five years continuous residency condition for indefinite leave to remain.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur) was a temporary route designed to enable graduates to bridge the gap between studies and the Tier 1 (Entrepreneur)/ Innovator routes.

As a temporary route it did not lead to settlement and any time spent on this route would only contribute to meeting a continuous requirement under the provision for

long term residents.

Individuals on the Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur) route are able to switch into either the Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) or Innovator routes at any point during their permission and start their journey to settlement.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-19/155013>

### **National Insurance: Migrants**

**Christine Jardine (Liberal Democrat)** [156524] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, on what date people who have not entered the UK on a visa will be able to apply for a national insurance number.

**Reply from Guy Opperman:** Prior to allocating a National Insurance Number, the applicants identity must be confirmed.

For the majority of applicants, who have already had their identity verified through another government department, primarily the Home Office, they are able to apply for a National Insurance Number. This includes visa holders, EU/EEA nationals who have been granted settled or pre-settled status through the EU Settlement Scheme and UK passport holders.

For applicants who have not had their identity verified, they will still be required to attend a face to face identity check. The reopening of our face to face service is linked to the recent government guidelines on Covid-19 restrictions and we are currently working on plans to reopen the service at the earliest opportunity in line with these guidelines.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-22/156524>

### **Coronavirus: Migrants**

**Stephen Timms (Labour)** [151591] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether support payments are available to people with no recourse to public funds who are unable to access Test and Trace Support Payments; and if he will make a statement.

**Reply from Helen Whately:** Those who do not meet the criteria for Test and Trace Support Payments, are on a low income and will face financial hardship as a result of self-isolating could be eligible for a £500 discretionary payment. Local authorities are responsible for the criteria used for discretionary payments in their area. Local authorities can make a £500 discretionary payment to individuals who have been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace, are employed or self-employed and are unable to work from home and will lose income as a result.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-09/151591>

### **Migrants: Finance**

**Jessica Morden (Labour)** [154874] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the processing times are for the removal of the no recourse to public funds condition in migrants' visas for applicants who have lost their jobs as a result of the covid-19 pandemic and are experiencing severe financial hardship.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Migrants with leave under the Family and Human Rights routes can apply, for free, to have their NRPF condition lifted by making a 'change of conditions' application if they are destitute or at risk of destitution, if the welfare of their child is at risk due to their low income, or where there are other exceptional financial circumstances.

The Home Office does not hold data on the processing times for the removal of the no recourse to public funds condition in migrants' visas for applicants who have lost their jobs as a result of the covid-19 pandemic and are experiencing severe financial hardship. Data published covers all change of conditions applications, regardless of the reason the application has needed to be made.

Change of conditions decisions are being prioritised and are being dealt with compassionately. Data published in November 2020 shows that 85% of change of conditions applications have been granted and the average time taken to make a decision is now 17 days, down from 45 days in the previous quarter. Against a backdrop of a huge increase in change of conditions applications there has been a significant drop in processing times.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-19/154874>

### **NHS: Migrant Workers**

**Drew Hendry (SNP)** [153304] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether time within the UK built up under the NHS visa extension can be used for meeting time threshold requirements for Indefinite Leave to Remain applications.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** In April last year the Government introduced the automatic visa extension for those working for the NHS and independent healthcare providers. This scheme extended the visas of eligible workers for 12 months.

The majority of those who have benefitted from this scheme are on visas which have a route to settlement, such as Skilled Worker and its predecessor Tier 2 (General).

For those on a route to settlement, this period of 12 months will count towards the time they need to complete to qualify.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-11/153304>

### **Social Services: Migrant Workers**

**James Wild (Conservative)** [152664] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what discussions he has had with the Home Secretary on the effect of the delay in accepting the Migration Advisory Council recommendation to include senior care workers in the Shortage Occupancy List.

**Reply from Helen Whately:** My Rt. Hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care has regular discussions with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on a range of matters, including immigration. The Government continues to consider the Migration Advisory Committee's recommendations on the Shortage Occupations List carefully in light of recent changes to the immigration system and the economic impact of COVID-19.

It should be noted that senior care workers do not need to be on the Shortage Occupations List to qualify for the Health and Care Visa or Skilled Worker Route, so long as sponsors are offering a salary of at least £25,600, or £20,480 if they qualify as a new entrant.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-10/152664>

*The most recent Shortage Occupations List, 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)

### **Community Relations: British National (Overseas)**

**Stephen Kinnock (Labour)** [152548] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, with reference to the BN(O) visa scheme, which Minister is leading on the integration of British Nationals (Overseas) into local communities.

**Reply from Luke Hall:** The UK has a strong historic relationship with the people of Hong Kong. This Government is proudly honouring its promise to uphold the freedoms of BN(O) status holders, allowing them to build a new life for them and their family here.

Departments across Government are working together closely to ensure that all necessary support and guidance is provided for all BN(O) status holders who take advantage of our generous offer and come and live, work and study in the UK.

Further details will be set out in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-10/152548>

### **British National (Overseas): Hong Kong**

**Alyn Smith (SNP)** [153369] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, which Minister is responsible for (a) overseeing the Hong Kong BN(O) Visa and (b) ensuring the welcome and integration of BN(O) passport holders to the UK.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** On 31 January the new Hong Kong BN(O) route launched. The route will enable BN(O) status holders and their eligible family members to come to the UK to live, work and study. This new route reflects the UK's historic and moral commitment to those people of Hong Kong who chose to retain their ties to the UK by taking up BN(O) status at the point of Hong Kong's handover to China in 1997.

The Home Secretary continues to oversee the implementation of the immigration route.

Due to the cross-cutting nature of this policy, departments across the UK Government are working together, along with the devolved administrations given their responsibilities, to identify how support and guidance can be provided to ensure BN(O) status holders have every opportunity to thrive.

Further details will be set out in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-11/153369>

### **Windrush Generation: Compensation**

**Jack Dromey (Labour)** [154928] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for urgent and exceptional support have been made under the Windrush Compensation Scheme; and how many of those applications were successful.

**Reply from Priti Patel:** Details regarding the amount of applications for urgent and exceptional support made under the Windrush Compensation Scheme; and how many of those applications were successful can be accessed at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/update-to-hasc-on-windrush-28-april-2020>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-19/154928>

### **Windrush Generation: Compensation**

**Jack Dromey (Labour)** [154933] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many outstanding claims there are under the Windrush Compensation Scheme.

**Reply from Priti Patel:** The Home Office publishes information on how many claims have been submitted along with further data and information online at the following address:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/windrush-compensation-scheme-data-february-2021>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-19/154933>

*The following nine questions all received the same answer*

### **Windrush Generation: Compensation**

**Jack Dromey (Labour)** [154924] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what information her Department holds on the number of claimants under the Windrush Compensation Scheme that had legal representation; and how many of those claims were successful compared to those made by claimants who are not known to have been legally represented.

**Jack Dromey (Labour)** [154925] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what information her Department holds on the number of claimants under the Windrush Compensation Scheme seeking a Tier 1 or Tier 2 review the Department who had legal

representation; and how many of those reviews were successful compared to those made by claimants who are not known to have been legally represented.

**Jack Dromey (Labour)** [154926] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many awards of legal fees have been made under the Windrush Compensation Scheme.

**Jack Dromey (Labour)** [154927] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many claimants under the Windrush Compensation Scheme received advice from the Citizens Advice; and how many of those claimants were successful.

**Jack Dromey (Labour)** [154929] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Tier 1 and Tier 2 reviews under the Windrush Compensation Scheme resulted in a change to the original decision.

**Jack Dromey (Labour)** [154930] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Tier 1 and Tier 2 reviews under the Windrush Compensation Scheme resulted in a (a) financial award where previously the claimant had been found to be ineligible, (b) financial award where previously the claimant had been found to have zero entitlement and (c) higher financial award than had been granted in the original determination.

**Jack Dromey (Labour)** [154931] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many claimants under the Windrush Compensation Scheme (a) accepted and (b) did not accept the determination from her Department.

**Jack Dromey (Labour)** [154932] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applicants to the Windrush Compensation Scheme have been deemed to be ineligible by (a) resident country, (b) reason for decision and (c) ages of the applicants.

**Jack Dromey (Labour)** [154934] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many claims under the Windrush Compensation Scheme have been resolved in (a) less than two months, (b) between two and four months, (c) between four and six months, (d) between six and 12 months and (e) over 12 months.

**Reply from Priti Patel:** The Home Office has no published data to answer these questions. The information is not readily available in a reportable format nor held centrally and could only be obtained at a disproportionate cost.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-19/154924>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-19/154925>

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<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-19/154926>

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<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-19/154927>

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<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-19/154929>

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<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-19/154931>

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<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-19/154932>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-19/154934>

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**David Simmonds (Conservative)** [155502] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the EU Settlement Scheme, what her Department's outreach and engagement strategy is to ensure (a) care workers and (b) other key workers from the EU in sectors with low pay and precarious employment arrangements are (i) reached, (ii) made aware of the scheme, and (iii) supported to apply.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Over five million applications have been made to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS), and over 4.5 million grants of status have been made, delivering on the government's promise to secure the rights of millions of Europeans in UK law for years to come.

A comprehensive range of communications activity has been delivered to date to increase awareness of the EUSS across sectors and audience demographics including EEA and Swiss national key workers and those working in the social care sector.

Communications activity includes extensive engagement with a wide range of stakeholders, a refresh of EUSS promotional materials, and an extensive new wave of targeted UK advertising on social media, website banners, catch up TV and radio, launched earlier this month, to ensure EEA and Swiss citizens are aware of the scheme and supported to apply.

To support applicants the Home Office has provided up to £17million in grant funding to a network of 72 organisations that provide bespoke support to vulnerable and hard to reach EU citizens and their family members eligible to apply to EUSS. We recently announced a further £4.5 million of funding to the 72 organisations to continue the support services beyond the 30 June 2021 deadline.

Communications to reach eligible workers via their employer have been ongoing since the scheme's launch with hundreds of engagement events delivered alongside the provision of an employer toolkit, equipping organisations with the information required to support their staff. This has included a bespoke event for NHS employers, and with a number of regional strategic migration and enterprise partnerships.

NHS employers, Scottish Social services and Wales Social care also sit on EUSS advisory groups.

Workers in the social care sector were given early access under the pilot phases of the scheme and we have provided extensive outreach and support to the sector. We continue to work closely with the Department for Health and Social Care, and Local Authorities to provide support and materials to eligible individuals working in the sector.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-19/155502>

*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**

**Colum Eastwood (SDLP)** [152674] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to extend the period for EU Settlement Scheme applications for people resident in Northern Ireland; and whether the Government plans to include EU Settlement Scheme applications in a request for an extension to the grace period for the Northern Ireland Protocol as a result of the covid-19 pandemic.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** There are no plans to extend the deadline for applications to the EU Settlement Scheme.

We have continued to receive and process thousands of applications a day to the scheme throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, with more than 5 million applications received and more than 4.6 million applications concluded by 31 January 2021.

Support for applicants who need it has remained available, including from the network of 72 organisations across the UK now grant-funded by the Home Office to help vulnerable people apply to the scheme.

In line with the Withdrawal Agreement, the Government has made clear, where a person has reasonable grounds for missing the 30 June 2021 deadline for applications to the EU Settlement Scheme by EU citizens and their family members resident in the UK by the end of the transition period, they will be given a further

opportunity to apply.

Published guidance for EUSS applicants on the impact of COVID-19 is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-eu-settlement-scheme-guidance-for-applicants>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-10/152674>

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

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

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

#### **Free School Meals: Migrants**

**Stephen Timms (Labour)** [151592] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, when his Department plans to (a) conclude and (b) publish the review in respect of the extension of free school meals to children from low-income families affected by no recourse to public funds.

**Stephen Timms (Labour)** [151593] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what estimate his Department has made from the October 2020 schools census of the number of children from families with no recourse to public funds accessing free school meals.

#### **Free School Meals: Undocumented Migrants**

**Stephen Timms (Labour)** [151594] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether he has made an assessment of the potential merits of extending free school meals eligibility to undocumented children.

**Reply from Vicky Ford:** We are continuing to work with departments across government to evaluate access to free school meals for families with no recourse to public funds. In the meantime, the temporary extension of eligibility will continue 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 can be viewed 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>

At present, data is not available regarding the take-up of free school meals from children from families with no recourse to public funds during the temporary extension.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-09/151592>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-09/151593>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-09/151594>

#### **Coronavirus: Vaccination**

**Stephen Timms (Labour)** [912290] What plans [does the Minister's] Department [have] for the covid-19 vaccination of undocumented migrants.

**Reply from Nadhim Zahawi:** The main aim for the COVID-19 vaccine programme is to protect all those individuals most at risk from mortality and morbidity, without discrimination.

As a result, all undocumented migrants will be able to access COVID-19 vaccinations free of charge in line with the advice on prioritisation set out by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-23/912290>

#### **Coronavirus: Undocumented Migrants**

**Barry Gardiner (Labour)** [142760] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what public information he is providing to reassure (a) illegal migrants and (b)

overstayers that they should not avoid medical treatment if they have symptoms of covid-19, and can come forward for (i) medical assistance or (ii) to receive immunisation without being reported to the Home Office.

**Reply from Edward Argar:** The Department has published a message on the National Health Service website stating that overseas visitors to England, including anyone living in the United Kingdom without permission, will not be charged for testing or treatment for COVID-19 or for vaccination. The message also states that no immigration checks are needed to receive these services.

This message has been shared with Public Health England and included in the migrant health guide. Translated information on testing and treatment is currently available in 40 languages and will shortly be updated to include the information on vaccination. The Department is engaged in producing further communications materials and is working with other government departments to ensure this message reaches vulnerable migrant groups.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-25/142760>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Asylum: Coronavirus**

**Patrick Grady (SNP)** [151752] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department has taken to help ensure that asylum seekers arriving at the UK border from red list countries can (a) quarantine effectively and (b) proceed with their asylum claim during the covid-19 pandemic.

**Patrick Grady (SNP)** [151753] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the Government plans to seek to recoup the cost of hotel quarantine from asylum seekers arriving at the UK border from red list countries during the covid-19 pandemic.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Asylum seekers are not going to be denied entry to the UK from red-list countries and their asylum claims will be processed as usual.

The Home Office have a statutory duty to accommodate any asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute. Asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute are provided with free, fully furnished accommodation while their applications for asylum are considered. The Accommodation providers recognise the challenge of managing COVID 19 within our accommodation estate and are working closely with Public Health England (PHE) on how their guidance on social distancing and self-isolation is properly applied, while ensuring that people can continue to access essential services.

The accommodation is provided for free to those asylum seekers in receipt of asylum support and we do not recoup costs.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-09/151752>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-09/151753>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Asylum: Coronavirus**

**Patrick Grady (SNP)** [151754] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the Government plans to deny entry to the UK to asylum seekers arriving at the UK border from red list countries during the covid-19 pandemic.

**Patrick Grady (SNP)** [151755] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of asylum seekers from countries on the red list who have arrived at the UK border since March 2020.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Asylum seekers are not going to be denied entry to the UK from red-list countries and their asylum claims will be processed as usual.

We have a legal obligation to provide asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute with accommodation, and as such the Home Office will continue to provide

accommodation in which asylum seekers can self-isolate to stop to spread of Covid. The Home Office publishes data on asylum applications in the [Immigration Statistics quarterly release](#). Data on the number of asylum applications in each quarter, broken down by nationality is published in table Asy\_D01 of the [asylum detailed datasets](#). The latest data are to the end of September 2020, with data to the end of December 2020 due to be published on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021. Additionally, the Home Office publishes a high-level overview of the data in the [asylum and resettlement summary tables](#). The 'contents' sheet contains an overview of all available data on asylum.

The published data does not show the country from which the asylum seeker left when they began their journey (or through which country or countries the asylum seeker subsequently travelled) in order to reach the UK, or when they arrived in the UK. Some asylum seekers may have been in the UK (or another country) for some time before claiming asylum. An individual with a particular nationality may not have actually been in that country for a significant length of time prior to claiming asylum. It is therefore not possible to say from the available data whether or not the individual has recently travelled from a 'red list' country.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-09/151754>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-09/151755>

### **Asylum: Military Bases**

**Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru)** [152595] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the value is of the contracts awarded to Clearsprings Ready Homes Ltd for running the temporary accommodation site for asylum seekers at (a) Penally camp in Pembrokeshire and (b) Napier barracks in Kent.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** We do not publish the costs of our accommodation & support contracts as they are considered commercially sensitive.

The use of MoD sites lessens our reliance on hotels and provides savings for the taxpayer of approximately 50 per cent.

We are working to reduce the cost of the asylum system, which is under significant pressure, and are considering a number of accommodation options while we fix the broken asylum system to make it firmer and fairer.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-10/152595>

### **Asylum: Napier Barracks**

**Holly Lynch (Labour)** [149794] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, pursuant to the Answer of 4 February 2021 to Question 146935, what advice Public Health England provided in respect of the removal of residents from Napier Barracks.

**Reply from Nadine Dorries:** Following initial investigations, Public Health England advised moving those who are clinically vulnerable and those who have testing negative off-site. If it was not possible to relocate all negative individuals off site, then they should be accommodated separately on-site, with numbers in groups kept as small as possible to reduce the risk of ongoing transmission. This has remained the advice since.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-05/149794>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

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

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

### Asylum: Applications

**Lord Hylton (Crossbench)** [HL13178] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they aim to have decided on all asylum applications within six months; and how they will ensure that such decisions comply with international law.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We are fixing a broken asylum system and creating a new one which will be fairer and firmer and compassionate towards those who need our help.

There are a number of factors that contribute to the length of time to process asylum claims but we are determined to clear the backlog, speed up decisions and prevent people becoming stuck in the system for long periods of time.

We are working to streamline cases and have already made significant progress in prioritising cases with acute vulnerability, those in receipt of the greatest level of support including, Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children, and those that require a reconsideration.

Asylum Operations has developed a recovery plan focused on returning interviews and decisions back to pre-COVID-19 levels as soon as possible. We are also seeking to secure temporary resources to assist from within the Home Office and other government departments, along with other potential options.

The Home Office publishes wide-ranging Asylum Instructions and Country Policy Information Notes which provide guidance on how asylum and human rights claims should be handled. All Decision-Making staff undergo comprehensive training and their work is regularly quality-assured to ensure that all decisions comply with International Law.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-09/hl13178>

### Asylum: Crime

**The Earl of Sandwich (Crossbench)** [HL13280] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many asylum seekers given leave to remain in the UK over the last five years have committed (1) minor, and (2) serious, offences; and of this number, how many ultimately applied for and received indefinite leave to remain.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Asylum seekers who are granted refugee status or humanitarian protection will usually be granted a period of limited leave (for 5 years) along with any dependants included on the claim. When their leave is due to expire, they must apply for further leave for themselves and any qualifying dependants if they want to remain in the UK.

After 5 years limited leave, an individual becomes eligible to apply for settlement in the UK (which constitutes indefinite leave to remain) but this is a privilege and not an automatic right.

Settlement may be refused where protection is no longer required; or where there is evidence of criminality or concerns about their character, conduct or associations such that they should be denied the benefits of permanent residence in the UK. Those who no longer need protection can return home in safety or apply to stay under other provisions of the Immigration Rules. Those who are still at risk of serious harm in their country are not expected to return there and where appropriate they will be granted limited leave if they do not qualify for settlement.

The available published data on asylum-related grants of settlement (indefinite leave to remain) are published in settlement tables se\_02\_q and se\_02 in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release'. The published data do not show whether the applicant had previously committed 1) minor, and (2) serious, offences.

To capture the numbers requested would require a manual trawl of data and to do so would incur disproportionate cost. There are no plans to identify these individuals

separately within our published statistics.

[Settlement Tables](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-10/hl13280>

*The following five questions all received the same answer*

### **Asylum: Military Bases**

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL13126] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many migrants are currently being accommodated in (1) Napier Barracks, and (2) the Penally military training camp, compared to the numbers accommodated in (a) December 2020, and (b) January 2021.

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL13127] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many migrants accommodated in (1) Napier Barracks, and (2) the Penally military training camp, have been diagnosed with COVID-19; and whether there have been any COVID-19 related fatalities at these camps.

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL13128] To ask Her Majesty's Government what medical facilities are available at (1) Napier Barracks, and (2) the Penally military training camp.

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL13129] To ask Her Majesty's Government how social distancing is observed when transporting migrants (1) to, and (2) from, (a) Napier Barracks, and (b) the Penally military training camp.

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL13130] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether (1) Napier Barracks, and (2) the Penally military training camp, are (a) adequate, and (b) satisfactory, for the purpose of accommodating migrants.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Due to pressures on the asylum system caused by the pandemic and high intake, the Home Office had to identify available contingency accommodation and put it to use quickly to ensure we could meet our statutory duty to provide accommodation to any asylum seeker who would otherwise be destitute.

Following a review of available government property, the Ministry of Defence agreed to temporarily hand over two of their sites: the Penally Training Camp in Pembrokeshire and the Napier Barracks in Kent. These sites were both suitable and immediately available to be used to house asylum seekers. The accommodation, which until recently was used by the MOD is safe, habitable, fit for purpose and correctly equipped in line with existing asylum accommodation standards contractual requirements.

We have appropriate health care provision at both sites, having worked closely with the Local Health Board in Pembrokeshire and Clinical Commissioning Group in Kent. At Napier Barracks, asylum seekers have access to a prescribing nurse on site, who is linked to the local GP surgery where the asylum seekers are all registered. Transportation is made available, where necessary, to take asylum seekers to any in person medical appointments required.

Our accommodation providers have worked closely with Public Health England and Wales to ensure that all Covid-19 regulations are met and social distancing can be adhered to, including while transporting asylum seekers to and from accommodation sites, this includes the deep cleaning of vehicles and restrictions on the number of people being transported at any one time.

We do not publish figures on the number of asylum seekers accommodated in initial accommodation (including temporary) sites, however the numbers 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>

We also do not publish figures on the numbers of asylum seekers who have tested

positive for, or have passed away, from Covid-19.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-08/hl13126>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-08/hl13127>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-08/hl13128>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-08/hl13129>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-08/hl13130>

### **Human Trafficking: Convictions**

**Lord Browne of Belmont (DUP)** [HL13163] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many convictions relating to human trafficking were recorded in (1) 2019, and (2) 2020.

**Reply from Lord Wolfson of Tredgear:** The Ministry of Justice has published information on convictions for offences relating to human trafficking, up to December 2019, available in the 'Principal offence proceedings and outcomes by Home Office offence code' data tool, attached and here:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/938554/HO-code-tool-principal-offence-2019.xlsx](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/938554/HO-code-tool-principal-offence-2019.xlsx)

Offences relating to human trafficking and their offence codes, are the following:

- 03608 Arrange or facilitate travel of another person with a view to exploitation,
- 03611 Commit offence of kidnapping or false imprisonment with intention of arranging travel with view to exploitation,
- 03612 Do act prohibited by slavery and trafficking risk or prevention order,
- 07201 Arranging or facilitating arrival of a person into the UK for sexual exploitation (trafficking),
- 07202 Arranging or facilitating travel of a person within the UK for sexual exploitation (trafficking),
- 07203 Arranging or facilitating departure of a person from the UK for sexual exploitation (trafficking),
- 07204 Intentionally arrange / facilitate the arrival in / entry into the UK / another country of a person with a view to their sexual exploitation,
- 07205 Intentionally arrange / facilitate travel of a person within the UK / another country with a view to their sexual exploitation,
- 07206 Intentionally arrange / facilitate the departure of a person from the UK / another country with a view to their sexual exploitation,
- 07819 Trafficking people into the UK for the purpose of exploitation,
- 07820 Trafficking people within the UK for the purpose of exploitation,
- 07821 Trafficking people out of the UK for the purpose of exploitation.

In 2019, there were 25 convictions for offences relating to the above human trafficking.

Data for 2020 is due to be published in May 2021.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-09/hl13163>

### **Human Trafficking**

**Lord Browne of Belmont (DUP)** [HL13164] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps the National Crime Agency is taking to address people smuggling.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government remains committed to tackling Organised Immigration Crime (OIC) and disrupting the Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) responsible. The NCA undertakes investigations into complex and serious OIC offences, arresting offenders in the UK and overseas and bringing

them to justice.

The NCA is the operational lead for the OIC Taskforce. The Taskforce is a critical element of the UK government's multi-agency response to tackling people smuggling. It takes a whole of route approach, deploying over 150 multi-agency officers to operate in 17 countries, with Crown Prosecution Service prosecutors placed in key source and transit countries to disrupt OCGs profiting from illegal migration. In these locations the Taskforce works with partner law enforcement and prosecution agencies to gather intelligence, build resources and share expertise to disrupt people-smuggling networks. The NCA are actively engaging bilaterally and multilaterally with partner countries to tackle specific cases of OIC activity.

As part of its Taskforce activities, the NCA also works alongside the Home Office Clandestine Threat Command targeting the small boats threat. Activity includes enhancing the collective understanding of the threat, developing intelligence and executing an effective operational response. The Taskforce has also played a significant role in the investigation in the UK's response to the deaths of 39 Vietnamese migrants in a lorry in Essex in October 2019 which led to the prosecution of the offenders.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-09/hl13164>

*The following four questions all received the same answer*

#### **Human Trafficking: Children**

**Baroness Doocey (Liberal Democrat)** [HL13168] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to combat child trafficking.

**Baroness Doocey (Liberal Democrat)** [HL13169] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the types of exploitation experienced by child trafficking victims in the UK; and whether they have identified any change in the types of such exploitation over the past 10 years.

**Baroness Doocey (Liberal Democrat)** [HL13170] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the reason why some potential child trafficking victims are recorded as having experienced an unknown type of exploitation; and whether that can influence the outcome of any reasonable grounds decision made under the National Referral Mechanism.

**Baroness Doocey (Liberal Democrat)** [HL13171] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to reduce the number of potential child trafficking victims recorded as facing an unknown type of exploitation under the National Referral Mechanism.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** This Government is committed to tackling the heinous crime of modern slavery and ensuring that all victims, including children, are provided with the support they need.

The Home Office continues to work with a range of partners to identify and deliver effective prevention activity. This includes awareness raising initiatives such as the Government's 'Hidden in Plain Sight' campaign and the #SlaveryonYourDoorstep campaign led by CrimeStoppers. We also have a dedicated GOV.UK resources page that provides up-to-date information on how to spot the signs of modern slavery and report concerns.

Where children are found to be potential victims of human trafficking or modern slavery their safety and welfare are addressed as a priority. Local authorities are responsible for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children in their area, including child victims of modern slavery. Local children's services will work in close co-operation with the police and other statutory agencies to offer potentially trafficked children the protection and support they require.

With regard to the types of exploitation experienced by child trafficking victims in the UK and any change in the types of exploitation being identified over the past 10

years, the Home Office publishes statistics on National Referral Mechanism (NRM) referrals on a quarterly basis. The NRM statistics for 2012 to 2016 can be found here:

<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20170404150655/http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/publications/national-referral-mechanism-statistics>

The NRM statistics for 2017 to 2018 can be found here:

<https://nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/who-we-are/publications?search=&category%5B%5D=3&=%2Fwho-we-are%2Fpublications%3Flimit%3D15%26sort%3Dtitle%26direction%3Dasc&limit=100&tag=>

The 2019 report and Q1-Q3 of 2020 can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-referral-mechanism-statistics>

With regard to why some potential child trafficking victims are recorded as having experienced an unknown type of exploitation, the Home Office is currently addressing an earlier identified error that occurred in the data processing for the Q1-Q3 of 2020 statistics where some sexual exploitation referrals were miscategorised as 'Not recorded or unknown'. Once this error is rectified, the number of sexual exploitation referrals will be higher than in the current statistical bulletins and the number of 'not recorded or unknown' referrals will be lower. The updated data will be released alongside the Quarter 4 (October to December 2020) statistics which are being prepared and will be released on 18 March 2021.

At the Reasonable Grounds stage of the National Referral Mechanism, the standard of proof is 'suspects but cannot prove'. In Q2 and Q3 of 2020, 96% of Reasonable Grounds decisions made on child cases were positive.

Prior to the NRM digital case working system going live in January 2020, data collection on NRM cases included an 'unknown' exploitation category for any unknown case exploitation types. Since the new system has been introduced, there is now an 'other exploitation' free-text box that First Responders can fill in on the referral form to explain why they are unable to identify the exploitation type. The information contained within this box is considered by a Decision Maker when making the Reasonable Grounds decision. However, for data reporting purposes, this is classified as 'unknown'.

Reasonable Grounds decisions are made based on the account of exploitation submitted in the form and not specifically on the exploitation type data, which is recorded to enable data analysis rather than to specifically support decision-making.

The Home Office continues to work with First Responders to ensure they understand the indicators of different exploitation types and, in July 2020, we released a new First Responder e-learning module which includes support on this issue.

[National Referral Mechanism Stats](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-09/hl13168>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-09/hl13169>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-09/hl13170>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-09/hl13171>

## UK Parliament Early Day Motion

**Claudia Webbe (Independent) [1530] Immigration Rules and rough sleepers – That**

this House is appalled by the Government's Immigration Rules which came into effect on 1 December 2020 that make rough sleeping grounds for refusing or cancelling someone's right to remain in the UK; fears that those new immigration rules will push people further away from seeking support and will also make people more vulnerable to exploitation; is aware that the Government has indicated that the rough sleeping grounds for cancelling or refusing someone's permission to be in the UK will only be used sparingly, yet is concerned that that is only a rhetorical commitment and that the scope of the grounds to refuse or cancel someone's right to remain in the UK as set out in the Immigration Rules is very broad; is alarmed that those rules do not include protections for people who are illegally evicted from private properties; recognises that specialist organisations working in homelessness, including Crisis, have expressed concern that that will make the work of outreach teams trying to support people sleeping rough much harder, as people fear that engaging with services could put them at risk of being detained and deported; and urges the Government to scrap that cruel policy and instead work towards eradicating the scourge of rough sleeping in the UK for all people, regardless of their immigration status.  
<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/58119>

## New Publications

### **Updated Guidance: Windrush scheme: support in urgent and exceptional circumstances**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/windrush-scheme-support-in-urgent-and-exceptional-circumstances/windrush-scheme-support-in-urgent-and-exceptional-circumstances-accessible>

### **Windrush Compensation Scheme data: February 2021**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/963172/Windrush\\_Compensation\\_Scheme\\_-\\_February\\_2021.ods](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/963172/Windrush_Compensation_Scheme_-_February_2021.ods)

### **Windrush Task Force Data: February 2021**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/963786/UKVI\\_VC\\_WRTF\\_Q4\\_2020\\_Published.ods](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/963786/UKVI_VC_WRTF_Q4_2020_Published.ods)

### **Hong Kong BN(O) visa: UK government launch digital process**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/hong-kong-bnovisa-uk-government-launch-digital-process>

### **EU Settlement Scheme quarterly statistics, December 2020**

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

### **Draft revised guidance on adults at risk in immigration**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/draft-revised-guidance-on-adults-at-risk-in-immigration-detention-february-2021/draft-revised-guidance-on-adults-at-risk-in-immigration-accessible-version>

### **Updated: Overview of the immigration system**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-december-2020/overview-of-the-immigration-system>

### **Summary of latest statistics**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-december-2020/summary-of-latest-statistics>

**How many people come to the UK each year (including visitors)?**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-december-2020/how-many-people-come-to-the-uk-each-year-including-visitors>

**Why do people come to the UK? To work**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-december-2020/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-to-work>

**Why do people come to the UK? To study**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-december-2020/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-to-study>

**Why do people come to the UK? For family reasons**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-december-2020/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-for-family-reasons>

**How many people do we grant asylum or protection to?**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-december-2020/how-many-people-do-we-grant-asylum-or-protection-to>

**How many people continue their stay in the UK or apply to stay permanently?**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-december-2020/how-many-people-continue-their-stay-in-the-uk-or-apply-to-stay-permanently>

**How many people are detained or returned?**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-december-2020/how-many-people-are-detained-or-returned>

**Updated asylum and resettlement datasets**

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

**Updated managed migration datasets**

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

**Visas and Citizenship data: February 2021**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/963775/UKVI\\_VC\\_Transparency\\_Q4\\_2020\\_Published.ods](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/963775/UKVI_VC_Transparency_Q4_2020_Published.ods)

**RASI (Resettlement, Asylum Support and Integration) data: February 2021**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/964255/UKVI\\_RASI\\_Q4\\_2020\\_Published..ods](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/964255/UKVI_RASI_Q4_2020_Published..ods)

**Migration: Key fundamental rights concerns**

[https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra\\_uploads/fra-2021-migration-bulletin\\_en.pdf](https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2021-migration-bulletin_en.pdf)

## News

**Number of visa overstayers almost doubles in five years**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/02/23/number-visa-overstayers-almost-doubles-five-years/>

**Number of people granted asylum or protection in UK halved in 2020, figures show**  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/uk-asylum-seeker-covid-home-office-b1807206.html>

**Home Office dodges second request about Glasgow asylum seeker review**  
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/19115703.home-office-dodges-second-request-glasgow-asylum-seeker-review/>

**Home Office to 'accelerate' movement of asylum seekers from hotels to long-term accommodation**  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-seeker-hotel-accommodation-home-office-b1806087.html>

**'We're losing hope': The refugees waiting for the homes they were promised in Britain**  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/refugee-resettlement-home-office-coronavirus-b1799714.html>

**Concerns raised over 'squalid' Serco asylum seeker housing in Derby**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2021/feb/25/concerns-raised-over-squalid-serco-asylum-seeker-housing-in-derby>

**More than 170 migrants try to cross Channel in one day as dozens detained at Dover**  
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/02/22/170-migrants-try-cross-channel-one-day-dozens-detained-dover/>

**Channel migrants should face 'red list' quarantine, say Tory MPs**  
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/02/23/channel-migrants-should-face-red-list-quarantine-say-tory-mps/>

**Asylum seeker drowned near Dover as his brother arrived alive in a dinghy**  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-seeker-drowns-dover-inquest-b1805712.html>

**Covid cases among asylum seekers at Napier barracks higher than thought**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/feb/24/covid-cases-among-asylum-seekers-at-napier-barracks-higher-than-thought>

**Priti Patel blames asylum seekers after nearly 200 test positive for coronavirus at Napier Barracks**  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/priti-patel-asylum-seekers-napier-barracks-coronavirus-home-office-b1806773.html>

**200 positive Covid cases at Kent migrant camp Napier Barracks**  
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/top-civil-servant-reveals-kent-migrant-camp-has-200-positive-cases-rnklb6vr3>

**Napier barracks Covid outbreak blamed on asylum seekers not following social distancing rules**  
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/02/24/napier-barracks-covid-outbreak-blamed-asylum-seekers-not-following/>

## **Priti Patel U-turn on end to detention for refugee women**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/feb/27/revealed-priti-patel-u-turn-on-end-to-detention-for-refugee-women>

## **Migrant domestic abuse victims 'turned away from everywhere' during pandemic**

<https://metro.co.uk/2021/02/19/migrant-domestic-abuse-victims-denied-refuge-in-lockdown-13988460/>

TOP

## **Equality**

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

#### **Further Education: Ethnic Groups**

**Toby Perkins (Labour)** [154961] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many BAME people currently hold posts as (a) heads of further education colleges and (b) further education governors.

**Reply from Gillian Keegan:** Our College Staff Survey (CSS) 2018 found that 9% of heads (principals) of further education colleges in England were from a Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) background (87% white, 4% preferred not to say). This data is self-reported from 140 principals. The CSS also reports that 4% of leaders generally, encompassing those at other management levels and governors, were from a BAME background (91% white, 2% other and 3% preferred not to say). This data is self-reported from 2,486 leaders. We are unable to distinguish the ethnicity of governors because of a low response rate from this group. The CSS is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/college-staff-survey-2018>

The Education and Skills Funding Agency will introduce a comprehensive further education workforce data collection from the academic year 2020/2021, including ethnicity data. This will be mandatory from the following academic year (2021/2022). This will enable us to better identify the proportion of governors from a BAME background.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-19/154961>

#### **Travellers: Caravan Sites**

**Martin Docherty-Hughes (SNP)** [152549] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that the protections afforded to Gypsies and Travellers under the Public Sector Equality Duty are encompassed in her response to the 2019 consultation, Strengthening police powers to tackle unauthorised encampments with regard to (a) criminalising trespass and (b) seizing homes.

**Reply from Kit Malthouse:** The Government is committed to ensuring all communities are treated fairly. We are equally clear that we will not tolerate law breaking.

That is why we set out in the Queen's Speech in December 2019 our firm aim to bring forward legislation which will help police tackle unauthorised encampments where they cause harm and disruption.

All responses to the consultation have been considered and the Government response will be published soon.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-10/152549>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

### Apprentices: Ethnic Groups

**Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated)** [HL13285] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to increase participation rates of people from Black, Asian, and minority ethnic communities in apprenticeship programmes.

**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 Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) background in apprenticeships, with a particular increase in the proportion of higher-level apprenticeship starts. In the 2019/20 academic year apprentices from BAME backgrounds accounted for 13.3% starts compared to 12.5% starts in 2018/19. At higher levels, level 4 and above, BAME representation exceeds the national working age population, sitting at 16% for 2019/20 academic year.

During National Apprenticeship Week 2021, we announced the new chair of the Apprenticeship Diversity Champions Network, my hon. Friend, the Member for Great Grimsby, Lia Nici, who will be responsible for setting and shaping the network's objectives, working alongside the department.

The network champions apprenticeships and diversity amongst employers and encourages people from underrepresented groups, including those with disabilities, women and people from BAME backgrounds, to consider apprenticeships. It currently has 88 members including Channel 4, Siemens Plc, Lloyds Banking Group and several NHS Trusts.

We are building on this work to ensure that we continue to see improved representation of people from BAME backgrounds 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 small to medium sized businesses, to understand what barriers they face in taking on apprentices and how they can support apprentices from different backgrounds. We will also be working closely with BAME representative groups to further understand how to retain and support progress for people from BAME backgrounds.

To encourage those from underrepresented groups to consider apprenticeships, we are promoting apprenticeships in schools across England through our Apprenticeship Support and Knowledge programme. This free service provides schools and teachers with resources and interventions to help better educate young people about apprenticeships and traineeships.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-10/hl13285>

## News

**TUC: BME unemployment is rising twice as fast as white workers during pandemic**

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/news/tuc-bme-unemployment-rising-twice-fast-white-workers-during-pandemic>

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# Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answer

### Business of the House: Antisemitism

**Christian Wakeford (Conservative):** Yesterday, the Union of Jewish Students and the Bristol Jewish Society held a virtual rally to call on the University of Bristol to finally take action against the lecturer David Miller, who brazenly states that Jewish students are an “enemy” that must be “defeated”, that prominent Jewish people and organisations are a “pillar of Islamophobia” and that Jewish students who have the audacity to complain about his comments are part of a Zionist “lobby”, which is a well-known antisemitic conspiracy theory. The rally was called after the university failed to take action, despite the complaint being originally placed in 2019. Can we have time for a debate on the need to improve university complaints procedures, which are failing Jewish students?

**Reply from Jacob Rees-Mogg:** My hon. Friend brings to the attention of the House comments that are deeply wicked and the sort of thing that decent people simply do not say. We expect higher education providers to be at the forefront of tackling antisemitism, making sure that higher education is a genuinely fulfilling and welcoming experience for everyone. Providers should have robust policies and procedures in place to comply with the law, to investigate and to swiftly address hate crimes, including any antisemitic incidents that are reported. Antisemitism is one of the most evil creeds and thoughts. It has been a blot on the history of the world for hundreds of years and it has no place in our society. Universities must be part of ensuring that antisemitism ceases to exist.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-02-25/debates/210225700001/BusinessOfTheHouse#contribution-DEA627EA-0F6C-4590-900E-DED997A289A7>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

### Hate Crime

**Julian Lewis (Conservative) [156232]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the definition of hate crime as any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone based on a personal characteristic is compatible with the principles of the (a) objective application of justice, (b) equal treatment under the law and (c) presumption of innocence unless proved guilty; what (i) internal and (ii) cross-departmental assessments have recently been carried out of the operation of (A) legislation and (B) guidelines defining crimes in terms of people’s perceptions; and if she will make a statement.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** The police and Crown Prosecution Service define and record hate crime as “any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on a person's race or perceived race; religion or perceived religion; sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation; disability or perceived disability and any crime motivated by hostility or prejudice against a person who is transgender or perceived to be transgender.”

Part of the purpose of this definition is to encourage victims of hate crime to come forward to report, reflecting the recommendations from the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry. It is the responsibility of the police to investigate allegations of criminal activity and decide whether or not a specific incident should be treated as a hate crime.

In 2018 the Government asked the Law Commission to undertake a full review of the coverage and approach of current hate crime legislation. That review is due to conclude this year.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-22/156232>

Information about the Law Commission review referred to above can be read at <https://www.lawcom.gov.uk/project/hate-crime/>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

### Anti-semitism

**Baroness Deech (Crossbench)** [HL13242] To ask the Senior Deputy Speaker what steps can be taken against members of the House of Lords who express anti-Semitic opinions falling within the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of anti-Semitism in the course of their parliamentary duties and activities (1) during, and (2) outside, Parliamentary proceedings.

**Reply from Lord McFall of Alcluith:** The Code of Conduct requires members to treat those with whom they come into contact in the course of their parliamentary duties and activities (including parliamentary proceedings) with respect and courtesy. Behaviour that amounts to bullying, harassment or sexual misconduct is a breach of the Code. Under the definitions appended to the Code, harassment is unwanted physical, verbal or non-verbal conduct that has the purpose or effect of either violating a person's dignity or creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment for them and is related to the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010, including religion or belief. Anti-Semitic behaviour that amounts to harassment would thus be liable to sanction under the Code.

In relation to parliamentary proceedings, however, the Code of Conduct recognises the constitutional principle of freedom of speech and excludes members' views and opinions from the Commissioner for Standards' remit. It is open to all members to address offensive behaviour or language used in the course of proceedings.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-10/hl13242>

### Antisemitism: Universities

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL13213] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by the Community Security Trust Campus antisemitism in Britain 2018–2020, published on 17 December 2020; and what discussions they have had with (1) the government of Israel, and (2) the Community Security Trust, about (a) the findings of that report, and (2) the causes of antisemitism in universities in the UK.

**Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We have not made any assessment. The UK is committed to combatting the rise of anti-Semitism in all its forms, and we have a regular, frank and open dialogue with international partners on this issue.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-09/hl13213>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://cst.org.uk/data/file/3/6/Antisemitism%20on%20University%20Campuses.1609855878.pdf>

## Press Releases

**Understanding the nature of hate crime**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/understanding-the-nature-of-hate-crime/>

## **Commission for Countering Extremism publishes legal review**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/commission-for-countering-extremism-publishes-legal-review>

## **New Publications**

### **A Study into the Characteristics of Police Recorded Hate Crime in Scotland Report**

<https://tinyurl.com/ybl8rtkx>

### **Tables**

<https://tinyurl.com/yptxeegm>

### **Operating with Impunity Hateful extremism: The need for a legal framework**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/963156/CCE\\_Operating\\_with\\_Impunity\\_Accessible.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/963156/CCE_Operating_with_Impunity_Accessible.pdf)

## **News**

### **Hate Crime Bill: Humza Yousaf proposes detailed guidelines to quell fears over freedom of speech**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/hate-crime-bill-humza-yousaf-proposes-detailed-guidelines-to-quell-fears-over-freedom-of-speech-3143074>

### **Tough laws needed to end online hate, says watchdog**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/tough-laws-needed-to-end-online-hate-says-watchdog-thh8h3l3c>

### **Trying to stop extremism isn't Islamophobic**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/trying-to-stop-extremism-isnt-islamophobic-zlfq700fn>

### **Met Police: Racist attacks on offers doubles, new figures show**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-56155350>

### **Barnardo's reveals results of racism investigation**

<https://www.barnardos.org.uk/news/barnardos-reveals-results-racism-investigation>

### **Nurse who blew whistle on treatment of black staff at Whipps Cross Hospital wins £26k**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/nurse-who-blew-whistle-on-treatment-of-black-staff-at-whipps-cross-hospital-wins-26k-lql7sh7gh>

### **University of Southampton lecturer 'beaten up in racist attack'**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-hampshire-56209881>

### **Bristol University anti-Semitism row deepens as MPs urge vice-Chancellor to take action**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/02/22/bristol-university-anti-semitism-row-deepens-mps-urge-vice-chancellor/>

### **Don't sack University of Bristol professor accused of antisemitism, academics demand**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/dont-sack-university-of-bristol-professor-accused-of-antisemitism-academics-demand-tpnkzhnwz>

**Bristol University should sack conspiracist professor**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/bristol-should-expel-its-conspiracist-professor-htmgmhvw3>

**As a Jewish student at Bristol University, David Miller's anti-Semitic comments make me worried**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/02/22/jewish-student-bristol-university-david-millers-anti-semitic/>

**Trisha Goddard stuffed mouth with toilet paper to stop crying after racist bullies called her the n-word**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/news/trisha-goddard-racist-bullying-piers-morgan-b1807194.html>

**Racism inquiry labelled 'meaningless' by ex-pupil**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/racism-inquiry-labelled-meaningless-by-ex-pupil-9fg2nhbgc>

**Racism, prejudice and Covid's victims in ethnic communities**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/david-harewood-on-racism-prejudice-and-covid-s-victims-in-ethnic-communities-x55qns9qf>

**84% of black Britons reject toppling statues**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/84-of-black-britons-reject-toppling-statues-w2v5hf9f8>

**Man who sent antisemitic tweets on holiday avoids UK prosecution**

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2021/feb/23/man-who-sent-antisemitic-tweets-on-holiday-avoids-uk-prosecution>

**Progressives are obsessed with racism – so why do they ignore anti-Semitism?**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/books/what-to-read/progressives-obsessed-racism-do-ignore-anti-semitism/>

**Aston Villa report 'sickening' online racist abuse of teenage winger Tyreik Wright to police**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/premier-league/aston-villa/tyreik-wright-racist-abuse-social-media-b1806713.html>

**Aston Villa 'appalled' by racist abuse of teenager Tyreik Wright on Instagram**

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2021/feb/24/aston-villa-appalled-by-racist-abuse-of-teenager-tyreik-wright-on-instagram>

**'This cannot continue': Derby condemn racist abuse of Colin Kazim-Richards**

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2021/feb/27/cannot-continue-derby-social-media-abuse-of-colin-kazim-richards>

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## Other Scottish Parliament and Government

### Press Release

**Parliament must adapt to face future challenges, says Committee**

<https://www.parliament.scot/newsandmediacentre/117151.aspx>

## New Publication

**Standing Order Rule Changes - Inquiry into the resilience of the Scottish Parliament's practices and procedures in relation to its business**

<https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdnp.azureedge.net/published/SPPA/2021/2/23/67bb1cc0-ce9d-49be-8e2d-7f9af86b75d5/SPPAS052021R02.pdf>

## News

**Anas Sarwar wins Scottish Labour leadership race**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-56221768>

**Anas Sarwar: Who is the new Scottish Labour leader?**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-56211065>

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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/>

## Scottish Parliament Oral Answer

### Places of Worship (Reopening)

**Elaine Smith (Labour):** In Parliament on Tuesday, the First Minister said that she hoped that communal worship would restart on 5 April, which is the day after Easter Sunday. However, she went on to suggest that it could happen a few days earlier, possibly in time for important religious festivals such as Passover and Easter Sunday, which is the greatest Christian feast day.

If the First Minister will not allow the immediate reopening of places of worship to give Scottish Christians and members of other faiths equality with those in the rest of the United Kingdom, will she at least confirm on what date she intends to allow places of worship to reopen, and whether she will base access on the size of a church or other premises, rather than on an arbitrary number of 20 people? Will she also confirm that meaningful discussions are taking place with religious leaders on the matter?

**Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon):** Yes, constructive discussions are taking place. On Tuesday, I said that I recognise that 5 April falls just after Easter and Passover, and that we would take account of that. Assuming that that phase of reopening can start, it would absolutely be the intention to allow places of worship to open in time for the full Easter weekend. On the question of discussions with faith leaders, later on Tuesday afternoon, I had discussions with the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, and confirmed that to him. In terms of the restrictions on numbers, we will need to carefully consider the state of the virus, because it is about keeping people safe. We want people to be able to go to churches to worship, but we want them to be safe from Covid as well. If we are able to start that phase of reopening, we will ensure that it happens for places of worship in time for those important religious festivals.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13153&i=119080#ScotParlOR>

*The First Minister's statement referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13147&i=118979&c=2322369#ScotParlOR>

## Scottish Parliament Written Answers

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### Vaccination: Covid-19

**S5W-33894 Jeremy Balfour (Conservative):** To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on whether people employed in the funeral sector who are required to enter domestic properties, care homes and other environments that might see them exposed to the COVID-19 virus should be prioritised for access to vaccinations, and by what date it expects all such employees to be (a) offered a vaccine and (b) vaccinated.

**S5W-33913 Alexander Burnett (Conservative):** To ask the Scottish Government whether funeral directors and crematorium staff will be part of the second phase of key workers receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.

**Reply from Jeane Freeman:** The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) priority list has been updated to include funeral workers who are considered frontline funeral operatives and mortuary technicians / embalmers,

as they are both at risk of exposure and likely to spend a considerable amount of time in care homes and hospital settings where they may also expose multiple patients. They will be eligible for vaccination under category 2 of the JCVI list.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-33894>

and

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-33913>

## Scottish Government Press Releases

**Vaccines delivered to a third of Scotland's eligible population**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/vaccines-delivered-to-a-third-of-scotlands-eligible-population/>

**Next stage for vaccine programme**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/next-stage-for-vaccine-programme/>

**Gradually easing lockdown restrictions**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/gradually-easing-lockdown-restrictions/>

## 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): Strategic Framework update - February 2021**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-strategic-framework-update-february-2021/>

**Coronavirus (COVID-19): compliance self-assessment tool**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-compliance-self-assessment-tool/>

**Coronavirus (COVID-19): stay at home infographic**

Available in English, Arabic, Gaelic, Hindi, Polish, Punjabi, Simplified Chinese, Tamil, and Urdu.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-stay-at-home-infographic/>

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: Health Secretary's statement - 26 February 2021**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-health-secretarys-statement-26022021/>

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's statement - 25 February 2021**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-statement-25-february-2021/>

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's statement 24 February 2021**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-statement-wednesday-24-february-2021/>

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's statement - 23 February 2021**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-statement-23-february-2021/>

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's statement - 22 February 2021**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-statement-monday-22-february-2021/>

## **UK Government Press Releases**

**Prime Minister sets out roadmap to cautiously ease lockdown restrictions**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-sets-out-roadmap-to-cautiously-ease-lockdown-restrictions>

**Government updates on identifying and tackling COVID-19 disparities**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-updates-on-identifying-and-tackling-covid-19-disparities>

**New campaign encourages the nation to keep going and stay at home**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-campaign-encourages-the-nation-to-keep-going-and-stay-at-home>

## **UK Government Publications**

**Prime Minister's statement to the House of Commons on roadmap for easing lockdown restrictions in England: 22 February 2021**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-to-the-house-of-commons-on-roadmap-for-easing-lockdown-restrictions-in-england-22-february-2021>

**Second quarterly report on progress to address COVID-19 health inequalities**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/965093/Second\\_Covid\\_Disparities\\_Report\\_Final\\_2\\_.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/965093/Second_Covid_Disparities_Report_Final_2_.pdf)

## **News**

**Covid in Scotland: What rules are changing, and when?**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-53166816>

**How do Scotland and England's routes out of lockdown compare?**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-56181744>

**Muslim Council says UK ministers' refusal to cooperate has had 'tragic consequences'**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/feb/22/muslim-council-says-uk-ministers-refusal-to-cooperate-has-had-tragic-consequences>

**Muslim leaders asked to learn about vaccine amid uptake fears**

<https://www.centrafiftimes.com/news/national-news/19119315.muslim-leaders-asked-learn-vaccine-amid-uptake-fears/>

The postcode at the heart of the coronavirus crisis

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/02/24/stamford-hill-postcode-heart-coronavirus-crisis/>

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## Other News

Number of new FGM cases referred to NHS in England down by a quarter

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2021/feb/25/new-fgm-cases-referred-nhs-down-by-quarter>

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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>

Stage 2 consideration of amendments, Justice Committee

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13152&i=119045#ScotParlOR>

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

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

**Post-mortem Examinations (Defence Time Limit) (Scotland) Bill**

<https://beta.parliament.scot/bills/post-mortem-examinations-defence-time-limit-scotland-bill>

### UK Parliament

**Asylum Seekers (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

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

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

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

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

**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/>

**\*\* Evidence for Equality National Survey (EVENS): Documenting the Lives of Ethnic and Religious Minorities in a Time of Crisis** (closing date not stated)

[bit.ly/evensurvey](http://bit.ly/evensurvey)

**\*\* Glasgow Museums Legacies of Slavery & Empire Questionnaire** (closing date not stated)

<https://surveys.glasgowlife.org.uk/s/legacies/>

**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 (still open)*

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 (still open)*

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/>

## **\*\* Vaccine Information Fund**

*Running until August 2021*

Grants of up to £1,000 are available to eligible organisations to create appropriate resources and activities to ensure that all people in Scotland have informed and equal access to information about the vaccine. For information see <https://bemis.org.uk/vif/>

## **\*\* Equality and Human Rights Fund**

*Closing date 14 May 2021*

Scottish Government funding to support work which advances human rights, promotes equality and tackles discrimination around age, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, disability and race. Grants will support projects over the next three years, and there is no minimum or maximum amount that can be applied for. For information and to apply see <https://www.inspiringscotland.org.uk/what-we-do/our-funds/equality-and-human-rights/>

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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!***

#### **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/>

### **\*\* *this week!***

#### **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>

### **\*\* Exploring enablers and barriers to uptake of the COVID-19 Vaccine**

10 March 2021 (online, 10.00–11.30)

Voluntary Health Scotland event exploring the likely impact of the Covid-19 vaccine programme on health inequalities. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yap6qjib>

### **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>

### **\*\* Scotland's Human Rights Report Card: Getting Involved**

24 March 2021 (online, 10.30–12.30)

Scottish Human Rights Commission event to enable people to contribute to Scotland's 'Human Rights Report Card' which is sent to the United Nations every few years as part of the Universal Periodic Review, to help other countries around the world make recommendations back to our governments. For information and to register contact [events@scottishhumanrights.com](mailto:events@scottishhumanrights.com)

### **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>

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

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>

### **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** 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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