



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.

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

The Scottish Parliament will be in recess until 4 May 2021.

It will be dissolved on 5 May, and the elections will take place on 6 May 2021.

The UK Parliament session was 'prorogued' (i.e. ended) on 29 April 2021. The next session will begin with the State Opening of Parliament on 11 May 2021.

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Debates

Immigration

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-04-28/debates/DF27757B-7F63-4D87-ABDA-DF7BD1B70715/Immigration>

Support for Asylum Seekers

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-04-27/debates/A3F6363E-6A0C-4B20-9308-C4A8253497E0/SupportForAsylumSeekers>

Immigration Detention: Victims of Trafficking

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-04-27/debates/8E6419E8-D642-4D24-B834-FB25EF7AE8E5/ImmigrationDetentionVictimsOfTrafficking>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Naturalisation

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [185402] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will assess the potential merits of amending the immigration rules to give officials the power in exceptional circumstances to waive the need to have been in the UK at the start of the qualifying period for naturalisation.

Reply from Kevin Foster: On 24 March 2021, as part of the New Plan for Immigration, the Home Secretary announced several proposed changes to British nationality law.

These included a proposal to allow the requirement to have been in the UK at the start of the qualifying period to be waived in exceptional circumstances

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-21/185402>

The Plan referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/new-plan-for-immigration/new-plan-for-immigration-policy-statement-accessible>

British Nationality: Children

Mohammad Yasin (Labour) [185448] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when she plans to complete the review into child citizenship fees following the Court of Appeal February 2021 ruling that the current rate is unlawful.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office has acknowledged the Court of Appeal's judgment and has committed to reviewing the child citizenship registration fee in line with its duties under Section 55. This review is on-going and the results will be published in due course

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-21/185448>

The ruling referred to above can be read at

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

British Nationality: Children

Chris Law (SNP) [185914] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the answer of 13 April 2021 to Question 175906 on British Nationality: Children, what review of fees for immigration and nationality applications has the Department undertaken in response to the Court of Appeal's ruling on citizenship application fees for children.

Reply from Kevin Foster: As advised in the answer to PQ 175906, all fees for immigration and nationality applications are kept under regular review and we ensure they are within the parameters agreed with HM Treasury and Parliament, as set out in Section 68 (9) of the Immigration Act 2014.

The Home Office has acknowledged the recent judgement and is reviewing the fee in line with its duties under Section 55.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-22/185914>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-25/175906>

The ruling referred to above can be read at

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

British Nationality: Children in Care

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [184542] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reasons local authorities are required to pay £1000 to register a child in their care for UK citizenship.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Fees have been set taking account of the criteria set by Section 68(9) of the Immigration Act 2014, passed under the coalition government, which include: the cost of processing the application, the benefits and entitlements provided by a successful application and the wider cost of the BICS system. Full details of which can be reviewed via the following link:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/22/section/68>

The Home Office keeps fees for immigration and nationality applications under review and ensures they are within the parameters agreed with Parliament.

There are several exceptions to application fees in the United Kingdom which protect the most vulnerable, including for young people who are in the care of a local authority. As such, there is a fee exception for indefinite leave to remain for children in local authority care.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-20/184542>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Coronavirus: Vaccination

Neil Coyle (Labour) [136539] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether he plans to require NHS staff organising covid-19 vaccination appointments to ask patients for proof of residence in the UK.

Neil Coyle (Labour) [136540] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether he plans to require NHS staff organising covid-19 vaccination appointments to report undocumented migrants to the Home Office.

Reply from Nadhim Zahawi: Vaccination against COVID-19 is offered to every adult living in the United Kingdom free of charge, regardless of immigration status. Entitlement to free National Health Service treatment is generally based on ordinary residence in the UK. A person who can show they have taken up ordinary residence in the UK can access all NHS services immediately, including COVID-19 vaccinations, based on clinical need. No immigration checks are needed to receive these services and the NHS is not required to report undocumented migrants to the Home Office.

A NHS number is not needed to make a booking for a COVID-19 vaccine or when attending a vaccination appointment. If individuals are registered with a general practitioner (GP), then their GP will contact them in due course. We understand that not everyone is registered with a GP, including those experiencing homelessness, people who may not live in a fixed location, refugees and those seeking asylum or simply because an individual chooses not to.

If they are not registered with a GP, NHS regional teams, working with various appropriate local systems will contact unregistered people to ensure they are offered the vaccine. The General Practice COVID-19 vaccination programme 2020/21 Enhanced Service Specification enables practices working within their Primary Care Network groupings from shared vaccination sites to vaccinate unregistered patients provided they are eligible for a vaccination.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-12/136539>

and

Migrants: Coronavirus

Nadia Whittome (Labour) [179719] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how many people who (a) are refugees, (b) have indefinite leave to remain, (c) have a temporary visa, such as a work or spouse visa, and (d) with no immigration status have been vaccinated against covid-19.

Reply from Nadhim Zahawi: We do not collect this information. COVID-19 vaccinations are offered to every adult living in the United Kingdom free of charge, regardless of immigration status and no immigration checks will be carried out.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-12/179719>

Health Services: Interpreters

Vicky Foxcroft (Labour) [174913] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he has taken to support children who need to interpret for their parents during medical appointments.

Reply from Jo Churchill: Appropriate interpreting services should be provided to all patients requiring them and responsibility for meeting patients' communication needs within the National Health Service rests with local providers. The NHS provides interpreting services to patients where applicable to ensure that patients are able to communicate effectively and appropriately with clinicians and other health service professionals.

NHS England's guidance on commissioning interpretation services in primary care states that children under 16 years old should never act as interpreters, due to serious concerns around Gillick competence and safeguarding. Their guidance is available at the following link:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/guidance-for-commissioners-interpreting-and-translation-services-in-primary-care.pdf>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-24/174913>

Migrants: Taxation

Afzal Khan (Labour) [182096] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 13 April 2021 to Question 174258 on Immigration: Disclosure of Information, if she will publish the (a) Partnership Agreement, (b) Data Usage Agreement and (c) any relevant Memorandum of Understanding between HMRC and her Department.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office does not routinely publish copies of its data sharing agreements or Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with other Government Departments or other bodies.

All Home Office data sharing activity is in line with the UK Data Protection and other relevant legislation and in line with government security guidance. When required and in line with the ICO code of practice on data sharing the Department will write and agree a data sharing agreement/MoU to regulate and govern this data sharing. These agreements will vary depending on the type of data being shared, the purposes for which is being shared and who it is being shared with.

The Home Office has a large number of such agreements including the agreements referred to in this question, however these are not routinely published.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-16/182096>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-23/174258>

British National (Overseas): Hong Kong

Virendra Sharma (Labour) [185828] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing,

Communities and Local Government, how he plans to signpost Hong Kongers to the Government's support package for people coming to the UK on the Hong Kong BN(O) route announced in April 2021.

Reply from Eddie Hughes: The new Hong Kong-UK Welcome Hubs will play a core role in signposting Hong Kong BN(O) status holders and their dependents to support that is available. Each area will develop unique plans, but we expect Welcome Hubs to work with MHCLG to fund local Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise groups who will be able to offer face-to-face orientation and partner with local authorities to refer people to support.

We will continue to update the recently published Welcome Pack on Gov.UK as a comprehensive resource to help Hong Kongers navigate life in the UK and settle into their communities.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-22/185828>

Information about the support package referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/national-welcome-for-hong-kong-arrivals>

British National (Overseas): Hong Kong

Virendra Sharma (Labour) [185829] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, with reference to his Department's press release of 8 April 2021, National welcome for Hong Kong arrivals, when the welcome hubs in England will (a) launch and (b) be ready to support Hongkongers as they integrate into their local communities.

Reply from Eddie Hughes: MHCLG will provide funds to Hong Kong-UK Welcome Hubs in the coming weeks. Strategic Migration Partnerships across the UK – who will host Welcome Hubs – have begun to put plans in place to support Hong Kong BN(O) status holders and their dependents.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-22/185829>

The press release referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/national-welcome-for-hong-kong-arrivals>

British National (Overseas): Hong Kong

Virendra Sharma (Labour) [185830] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, whether he will provide support to English language lesson providers to meet the potential increase in demand as Hongkongers migrate to the UK.

Reply from Eddie Hughes: MHCLG is providing up to £14.7 million in this financial year for local authorities in England to arrange English language provision for Hong Kong BN(O) status holders relocating to their areas.

Local authorities can deliver these classes in a range of ways, including by working with accredited English language schools.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-22/185830>

Immigration: EU Nationals

John Redwood (Conservative) [185782] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many EU citizens have been granted settled status to remain in the UK.

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

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-22/185782>

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

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [184543] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department plans to provide an appeal mechanism for EU citizens residing in the UK whose applications for (a) pre-settled status and (b) full-settled status have been refused.

Reply from Kevin Foster: We have already been providing such a mechanism for over a year.

Since 11pm on the 31 January 2020, anyone who makes an application under the EU Settlement Scheme and is refused pre-settled or settled status has a right of appeal against the decision.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-20/184543>

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

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [184540] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department plans to take to ensure that children born to parents with EU settled status residing in the UK will not be deported when residing in the UK themselves.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Any child who is born in the UK to parents with settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) will automatically be a British Citizen at birth.

If a child is born in the UK to parents with pre-settled status under the EUSS, the parents will be able to apply, free of charge, on behalf of the child for status under the EUSS in order to confirm their rights under the Citizens' Rights Agreements.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-20/184540>

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

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [184541] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking (a) to ensure local authorities apply to the EU Settled Status scheme on the behalf of children in their care and (b) where local authorities have failed to make that application.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office is committed to engaging with local authorities as they undertake their responsibilities to ensure all eligible looked after children and care leavers are supported to make an application to the EUSS. The Home Office will ensure caseworkers liaise with and support applicants to get the status they deserve.

Our engagement includes direct communications with social workers, and those making applications on behalf of looked after children, children in care and care leavers to provide support and information. We will also work with supporting organisations to assist with the evidence which could be provided and apply evidential flexibility where possible.

To monitor the progress local authorities are making with this important work, last year the Home Office contacted Directors of Children's Services to ask them to take part in a survey to help us better understand the numbers of EU children in looked after care and care leavers who may be eligible to apply for the EUSS. A follow up survey has since been issued, and the details of both surveys can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-home-office-looked-after-children-and-care-leavers-survey-2020>

Provisional data from survey returns up to 25 March 2021 indicate a 99% response

rate so far, with over 65% of eligible children having applied to the EUSS (up from 46% at the end of November 2020). A final report and supporting data will be published later in May 2021.

This information is vital to help us support social workers and council officers and plan for the final months before the application deadline. Using the data from the survey, the Home Office has delivered workshops, guidance, targeted engagement and direct communications with local authorities responsible for children's services. The Home Office remains focused on ensuring all eligible children in care apply in time. It is recognised however, this vulnerable cohort can change over time, with new children coming into care. We are therefore committed to working with Local Authorities to ensure this work continues after the deadline.

In line with the Citizens' Rights Agreement, there remains scope, indefinitely, for a person eligible for status under the EUSS to make a late application to the scheme where there are reasonable grounds for their failure to meet the deadline applicable to them. We have now published guidance for caseworkers on reasonable grounds for making a late EUSS application, which includes where a local authority has failed to make an application on behalf of a child in their care and where a parent or legal guardian failed to apply on behalf of someone aged under 18.

The guidance, which reflects our engagement with stakeholders on this issue, is not exhaustive and all cases will be considered on a flexible and pragmatic basis in light of their particular circumstances.

You can find the guidance at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-caseworker-guidance>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-20/184541>

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

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

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Tom Hunt (Conservative) [183299] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government is taking to intercept boats crossing the English channel before the arrival of those boats onshore.

Reply from Chris Philp: These are dangerous and unnecessary crossings, which are often illegally-facilitated and which we are determined to end. We are working closely with the French to prevent these crossings and to go after the criminality that profits from them.

Those efforts have seen numbers of gendarmes reservists doubled, enabling wider ranging deployment. Technology and intelligence capabilities are also being used to prevent crossing attempts and to inform operational responses on beaches and inland. Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) is paramount in the approach taken by both ourselves and the French once migrant vessels are at sea. The French continue to stop the majority of those attempting to cross, and over twice as many crossings have been prevented so far in 2021 compared to the same point in 2020.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-19/183299>

Asylum: Eritrea

Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat) [185826] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the reasons for the increase in asylum applications from Eritrean nationals in 2020.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office publishes data on the number of applications for asylum in the UK, broken down by nationality, in its quarterly Immigration Statistics release. The number of applications made by Eritreans in each year are available in the Immigration Statistics, Asy_01c:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/961749/asylum-summary-dec-2020-tables.xlsx

All asylum and human rights applications from Eritrean nationals are carefully considered and assessed on their individual merits in accordance with our international obligations.

Each individual assessment is made against the background of the latest available country of origin information and any relevant caselaw. The Eritrean Country Policy and Information Notes (available on gov.uk) outlines our position.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-22/185826>

The Country Policy and Information Notes referred to above can be read at

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/726192/Eritrea - NS Illegal Exit v5.0e July 2018 .pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/726192/Eritrea_-_NS_Illegal_Exit_v5.0e_July_2018_.pdf)

Asylum: Interviews

Justin Madders (Labour) [185945] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average waiting time was for an asylum interview in the most recent period for which figures are available.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office is unable to state the average waiting time for an asylum interview, in the most recent period for which figures are available, as the Home Office does not publish this information and it could only be obtained at disproportionate costs.

However, the Home Office does publish data on the number asylum applications awaiting an initial decision by duration, for main applicants only. This data can be found at Asy_04 of the published Immigration Statistics:

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-22/185945>

Asylum: Mental Health Services

Sam Tarry (Labour) [183313] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to provide mental health support to (a) asylum seekers who have come to the UK from war torn countries with a record of severe human right abuses and (b) other people seeking asylum in the UK.

Reply from Chris Philp: Asylum seekers can access the same NHS health services as UK citizens while their asylum claim is pending, and this of course includes mental health services. Home Office staff and contractors may make referrals to NHS healthcare providers where they become aware of serious health issues.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-19/183313>

Asylum: Domestic Abuse

Lisa Cameron (SNP) [183192] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps he is taking to ensure that parents and children fleeing abusive relationships abroad are protected from having to return to their country of origin under the Hague Convention on Child Abduction.

Reply from Chris Philp: When a left-behind parent applies to the court for the return of a child under the 1980 Hague Child Abduction Convention, and where the taking parent opposes return, the taking parent can bring evidence before the court that there is a grave risk that the child's return would expose the child to physical or psychological harm or otherwise place the child in an intolerable situation. The decision is for the court on the evidence put in front of it. In such cases, the court will consider evidence of an abusive relationship which has affected the child.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-19/183192>

Asylum: Temporary Accommodation

Dan Carden (Labour) [184536] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what comparative cost benefit analysis her Department has made of the respective cost to the public purse of continuing to provide temporary accommodation to failed asylum seekers under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 and the effect of not providing such accommodation on the effect on street homelessness.

Reply from Chris Philp: Failed asylum seekers and other migrants unlawfully present in the UK are not eligible for mainstream welfare and housing benefits. Accommodation is available under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, but only where the individuals are taking reasonable steps to leave the UK or there is a practical or legal obstacle preventing their departure. Failed Asylum Seekers should leave the UK and return to their country of origin - support will be given to them to do that via voluntary return or we will seek an enforced return. No assessment has been made of the impact of changing the legislation so that failed asylum seekers are provided with accommodation without these conditions, but the cost to the public purse is likely to be extremely high, particularly as such a policy is very likely to encourage unfounded asylum applications and there would be little incentive for the individuals to leave the UK when their claims are rejected.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-20/184536>

The following five questions all received the same answer

Deportation: Vietnam

Holly Lynch (Labour) [185434] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people are set to be deported via the charter flight to Vietnam scheduled for 21 April 2021.

Holly Lynch (Labour) [185435] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether any of the people onboard the deportation flight to Vietnam scheduled for 21 April 2021 have been through the National Referral Mechanism.

Holly Lynch (Labour) [185436] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department has taken to ensure that none of the people set to be deported via the charter flight to Vietnam scheduled for 21 April 2021 have been subjected to exploitation in the UK and have a right to remain in the UK.

Holly Lynch (Labour) [185437] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she has taken to ensure that people set to be deported on the charter flight to Vietnam scheduled for 21 April 2021 have received appropriate legal advice.

Holly Lynch (Labour) [185438] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether one of the people due to be deported on the charter flight to Vietnam scheduled for 21 April 2021 has made a legal submission on the grounds of being a potential victim of trafficking; and what the outcome was of that legal submission.

Reply from Chris Philp: Every week we remove people who have no right to be here from the UK to different countries. During the Covid-19 pandemic, we have continued to return and deport foreign national offenders and other immigration offenders where flight routes have been available to us, both on scheduled flights and charter flights.

The Government is committed to tackling the heinous crime of modern slavery and ensuring that victims are provided with the support they need to rebuilt their lives. Each and every person on the flight had the appropriate opportunity to raise any representations which were carefully considered and responded to in accordance with published policy. All individuals on a charter flight have opportunities for legal advice and the UK only ever returns those who both the Home Office and, where appropriate, the courts are satisfied do not need our protection and have no legal basis to remain in the UK.

This Government's priority is keeping the people of this country safe, and we make

no apology for seeking to remove dangerous foreign criminals and other immigration offenders.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-21/185434>

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<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-21/185435>

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<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-21/185437>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-21/185438>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

British Nationality: Assessments

Lord Wallace of Saltaire (Liberal Democrat) [HL14854] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many applicants for (1) British citizenship, and (2) long-term residence in the UK, took the Life in the UK test in (a) Welsh, and (b) Scots Gaelic, in each of the last three years for which figures are available.

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: In the last 3 years, there has been one Life in the UK test taken in Welsh, and no tests have been taken in Scots Gaelic.

The test taken in Welsh was a customer applying for British Citizenship.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-12/hl14854>

Immigration: Fees and Charges

Lord Wallace of Saltaire (Liberal Democrat) [HL14855] To ask Her Majesty's Government how they calculate the fees for (1) British citizenship, and (2) long-term residence in the UK, applications; and whether those fees are used (a) only to cover the direct expenses incurred from such applications, and (b) to defray the overall Home Office budget.

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: All immigration and nationality fees are set taking account of the criteria set out at Section 68(9) of the Immigration Act 2014:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/22/section/68>

These criteria include the cost of processing the application; the benefits and entitlements provided by a successful application; and, the wider cost of running the Border, Immigration and Citizenship (BIC) System.

Fees from immigration products and services contribute to funding a sustainable BIC System and ultimately reduce the reliance on tax-payer funding. The Home Office keeps fees for immigration and nationality applications under review and ensures they are within the parameters agreed with Parliament.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-12/hl14855>

Migrants: Convictions

Lord Woolley of Woodford (Crossbench) [HL14859] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many highly skilled Tier 1 (general) migrants who have been refused indefinite leave to remain have been convicted of a criminal offence in the UK.

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: Home Office Migration Statistics do not capture the number of highly skilled Tier 1 (general) migrants who have been refused indefinite leave to remain and have been convicted of a criminal offence in the UK.

The Home Office does publish data on how many Tier 1 applications have been refused or granted. These can be found in our published statistics under 'Extensions' at:

Migrants: Taxation

Lord Woolley of Woodford (Crossbench) [HL14858] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether highly skilled Tier 1 (general) migrants were notified of the sharing of their tax return data between Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and the Home Office for visa decisions; and if so, how.

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: The following information is provided to potential applicants, before they chose to 'apply now'. This outlines information may be shared with other public organisations in the UK:

How we use your data

The Home Office will use the personal information you provide to decide whether to grant your application. We may also share your information with other public and private sector organisations in the UK and overseas. For more detail please see the [Privacy Notice for the Border, Immigration and Citizenship system](#). This also sets out your rights under the Data Protection Act 2018 and explains how you can access your personal information and complain if you have concerns about how we are using it.

In addition to this, where highly skilled Tier 1 (general) applications had been refused, individuals were notified their information had been shared via their refusal notice.

Those applications we are considering post Balajigari (and others) v the Secretary of State of April 2019, also have concerns put to them in a minded to refuse letter.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-12/hl14858>

Immigration: Hong Kong

Lord Green of Deddington (Crossbench) [HL14736] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many (1) people, and (2) children, are included in the 27,000 British Nationals (Overseas) applications referred to in their press release of 8 April, National welcome for Hong Kong arrivals.

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: The new Hong Kong BN(O) route was launched on 31 January 2021, with the new digital application launching on 23 February.

As of 19 March 2021, approximately 27,000 BN(O) status holders and their family members have applied for the route.

Further breakdown of the application numbers and updated figures will be published as part of the the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release', the next update is due for publication on 27 May 2021 and will be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-12/hl14736>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Lord Green of Deddington (Crossbench) [HL14735] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the number of applications made under the EU Settlement Scheme; and of why this number is now nearly one million more than the upper estimate included in the report Impact Assessment for EU Settlement Scheme – Updated analysis, published in March 2019.

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: The latest published information on EU Settlement Scheme applications and outcomes can be found in the Home Office's 'EU Settlement Scheme statistics' monthly publication, which is available at:

[EU Settlement Scheme statistics](#)

The Impact Assessment for the EU Settlement Scheme (March 2019) is available at:

[The Immigration and Nationality \(Fees\) \(Refund, Waiver and Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019](#)

This discussed the assumptions, risks, uncertainties and exclusions surrounding its estimate of eligible citizens and made clear it should be considered as indicative and not as minimum and maximum estimates.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-12/hl14735>

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

Immigration: EU Nationals

Lord Foulkes of Cumnock (Labour) [HL14731] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many applications to the EU Settlement Scheme from people both over the age of 65 and living in Scotland have been successful.

Lord Foulkes of Cumnock (Labour) [HL14732] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many non-Irish EU citizens over the age of 65 living in Scotland they estimate have not applied for the EU Settlement Scheme.

Lord Foulkes of Cumnock (Labour) [HL14733] To ask Her Majesty's Government what reasons have been identified for unsuccessful applications for the EU Settlement Scheme from people over 65 living in Scotland; under what circumstances late applications will be permitted; what exceptional circumstances will be permitted; and how mitigation for (1) illness, and (2) disability, will be taken into account.

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: The latest published information to the end of December 2020 shows 3,670 people over the age of 65, resident in Scotland, were granted settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) and a further 1,080 were granted pre-settled status, representing 98.5% of applications concluded for over 65s resident in Scotland. 20 applications were refused on eligibility or suitability grounds, 40 were withdrawn or void and less than 10 were invalid.

The latest figures can be found in table EUSS_04 on the Home Office's 'EU Settlement Scheme statistics' web page available at:

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

The published figures for the EUSS refer specifically to applications made to the scheme and cannot be directly compared with Office for National Statistics estimates of the resident population of EU/EEA nationals in the UK. The published EUSS figures include non-EEA national family members, Irish nationals and eligible EEA citizens not resident in the UK, none of whom are usually included in ONS estimates of the resident EU/EEA national population.

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

On 1 April 2021, the Home Office published non-exhaustive guidance on what constitutes reasonable grounds for missing the 30 June 2021 deadline for applications to the EUSS by those EU, EEA and Swiss citizens, and their family members, resident in the UK by the end of the transition period. This will underpin a flexible and pragmatic approach to considering late applications under the scheme, including in light of illness and disability issues.

The guidance can be found in 'Making an application: deadline' in 'EU Settlement Scheme: EU, other EEA and Swiss citizens and their family members' at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-caseworker-guidance>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-12/hl14731>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-12/hl14732>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-12/hl14733>

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

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

Immigration Controls

Baroness Neville-Rolfe (Conservative) [HL14931] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the statement by the Home Secretary on 24 March (HC Deb, cols 921–36), what are the (1) family reunion rights, (2) associated timescales, for asylum seekers who are granted asylum, and (3) the family reunion rights for illegal arrivals from a safe country.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The current family reunion policy allows a partner and children under 18 of those granted protection in the UK to join them here, if they formed part of the family unit before the sponsor fled their country. Over 29,000 visas have been issued under this route in the last 5 years.

Currently, a person is eligible to sponsor a family reunion application as soon as they have been granted refugee status or humanitarian protection. There is no limit or timescale when they stop becoming eligible, other than if they become naturalised and obtain British citizenship. Once someone overseas applies for a family reunion visa, our customer service standard is 60 UK working days for straightforward cases.

As set out in the New Plan for Immigration policy statement published on 24 March, we are committed to review the refugee family reunion routes available to refugees who have arrived through safe and legal routes. Subject to considering consultation responses, those who are granted the new temporary protection status are proposed to have limited family reunion rights. We have initiated a comprehensive consultation and engagement process which is open now until 6 May. We will use this opportunity to listen to a wide range of views from stakeholders across the sector, as well as members of the public. All policy development will be undertaken in line with the law, including our equalities duties and international obligations.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-14/hl14931>

The statement referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-03-24/debates/464FFFBB-ECA5-4788-BC36-60F8B7D8D9D1/NewPlanForImmigration>

The consultation referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/new-plan-for-immigration>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Asylum: Temporary Accommodation

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL14913] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many asylum seekers with school-age children are currently housed in contingency accommodation; and how long they expect it will be before such asylum seekers are allocated dispersal accommodation.

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL14914] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there is a list of requirements that dispersal accommodation must meet.

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL14915] To ask Her Majesty's Government what requirements they have established with Migrant Help (1) to log and record every call made to the service by asylum seekers in contingency accommodation, and (2) to set a target time for responding to issues raised in these calls, as part of its contracts with that charity; and what assessment they have made of whether Migrant Help is fulfilling any such requirements in carrying out such contracts.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Migrant Help provide a helpline

available to asylum seekers 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, service levels for the services they provide can be found in their contract at

<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/028be8bb-3c69-494d-bfdd-59c2e1b34379?p=@UFQxUIRRPT0=NjJNT08=>

Migrant Help performance is monitored during monthly Contract Management Groups and quarterly Strategic Relationship Management Boards.

Details of the accommodation requirements can be found online at www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk. A link to the contract for the North East, Yorkshire & Humber region is at

<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/24c6a868-8e1a-4775-8d4f-ab750854d367>

We do not publish data on the number of asylum seekers living in contingency accommodation. However, when a family is accommodated at a hotel, they are prioritised for dispersal to ensure the children can settle in more permanent accommodation and attend school.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-14/hl14913>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-14/hl14914>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-14/hl14915>

Asylum: Housing

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL14716] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many asylum seekers they have asked (1) Mears, (2) Serco, and (3) Clearsprings Ready Homes, to provide accommodation for as part of Operation Oak.

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: We currently have c8100 people in hotels, with our providers working to procure sufficient accommodation across the UK to exit contingency accommodation and maintain a business as usual operation thereafter.

We require providers to work at pace but have directed them to only procure accommodation which is safe and secure for asylum seekers and the communities in which they live.

We remain committed to working in partnership with local authorities, through the use the Strategic Migration Partnerships to ensure the views of local authorities are included when forward planning.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-12/hl14716>

Asylum: Housing

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL14717] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there is a maximum recommended length of stay for asylum seekers in contingency accommodation before they are offered more suitable long-term accommodation.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: There is no maximum recommended length of stay for asylum seekers in contingency accommodation.

The global pandemic and the pause on the cessation of support has meant that the supported population has grown and in order to ensure the health of both asylum seekers and the community in which they live the Home Office has had to use contingency accommodation to avoid destitution.

We would encourage Local Authorities who do not currently house supported asylum seekers, such as Durham, to participate in the asylum dispersal scheme so that we can minimise the length of stay in contingency accommodation

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-12/hl14717>

Migrants: Detainees

Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat) [HL14981] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people have been held for 28 days or longer in immigration detention in the last year.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office publishes statistics on length of detention of people in detention in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release' Immigration statistics quarterly release - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk). Data on length of detention of people in detention on the last day of each quarter are published in table Det_03c. Data on the length of detention of those leaving detention throughout the year, are published in Table Det_04b of the 'Detention summary tables' (See attached copy of the Detention Summary and Detention data sets)

Further breakdowns can be found in the Immigration detention detailed datasets Returns and detention datasets - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Figures on people in detention at the end of March 2021 will be published on 27 May 2021.

Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the 'Research and statistics calendar'. immigration - Research and statistics - GOV.UK

[Detention Summary Tables](#)

[Detention Data Sets](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-15/hl14981>

UK Parliament Home Affairs Committee

Evidence session: The UK's offer of visa and settlement routes for residents of Hong Kong

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/2091/html/>

Press Release

Artist shortlist for national Windrush Monument revealed

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/artist-shortlist-for-national-windrush-monument-revealed>

New Publications

Letter from Kevin Foster MP to Yvette Cooper MP and others regarding proposed changes to the Immigration and Nationality (Fees) Order 2016

<http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2021-0379/Kevin Foster to HASC Chair-Immigration and Nationality Fees Order.pdf>

Letter to the Prime Minister, Home Secretary and Secretary of State for Scotland on the New Immigration Plan

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/letter-to-the-prime-minister-home-secretary-and-secretary-of-state-for-scotland-on-the-new-immigration-plan/>

Families of Missing Migrants: Their Search for Answers, the Impacts of Loss and Recommendations for Improved Support

<https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/families-missing-migrants-uk.pdf>

News

UK immigration overhaul slated as ‘vague, unworkable, cruel and potentially unlawful’

<https://www.independent.co.uk/independentpremium/refugee-asylum-immigration-home-office-consultation-b1839612.html>

Priti Patel’s new immigration plans are a ‘nasty cruel attack’ on children’s rights

<https://www.independent.co.uk/independentpremium/priti-patel-immigration-children-rights-b1839045.html>

Hundreds of migrants have died trying to reach UK, report claims

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/04/29/hundreds-migrants-have-died-trying-reach-uk-report-claims/>

Three times more migrants crossing Channel than last year

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/three-times-more-migrants-crossing-channel-than-last-year-3bds7s8cj>

People-smugglers posting deflated boats to France from the UK

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/people-smugglers-posting-deflated-boats-to-france-from-the-uk-bfvkc2q8h>

People smugglers looking to buy boats for cash from UK sailors

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/04/29/people-smugglers-looking-buy-boats-cash-uk-sailors/>

Home Office should have its oversight of asylum housing removed, say MPs

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-seekers-accommodation-home-office-b1838206.html>

Priti Patel blasted for ‘immoral’ dawn raids on asylum seekers

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/19264233.priti-patel-blasted-immoral-dawn-raids-asylum-seekers/>

Home Office to resume evicting some asylum seekers ‘with immediate effect’

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/apr/27/home-office-to-resume-evicting-some-asylum-seekers-with-immediate-effect>

Priti Patel would have had me deported, says charity chief

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/priti-patel-would-have-had-me-deported-says-charity-chief-p0sk5hm7t>

Illegal migrants ‘smuggled out of UK to avoid deportation and then back again’

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/04/30/illegal-migrants-smuggled-uk-avoid-deportation-returning-court/>

Glasgow Girl aims to be first asylum seeker at Holyrood

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/glasgow-girl-aims-to-be-first-asylum-seeker-at-holyrood-ddmgq6c25>

TOP

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Artificial Intelligence: Equality

Mark Hendrick (Labour Co-op) [187146] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that (a) gender and (b) racial discrimination is not incorporated into the development of artificial intelligence systems.

Reply from John Whittingdale: We recognise the need to address gender disparities in AI. In 2019, DCMS via the joint DCMS/BEIS Office for AI worked with the Office for Students and DfE to deliver new conversion course Masters courses at Universities across the country, with scholarships for people from underrepresented backgrounds, including women, black, and disabled students. The programme launched last September and the cohort of 1265 students that started included, 40 per cent women, one quarter black students, and 15 per cent disabled students. For those receiving a scholarship, the figures were even more encouraging – with 76 per cent of scholarship students going to women, 45 per cent of the students identifying as black and 24 per cent as being disabled. The upcoming National AI Strategy, being led by the Office for AI, looks to double down on such commitments to further improve diversity.

In addition to improving diversity via the conversion course Masters programme, in 2019, DCMS partnered with the World Economic Forum to create guidelines for responsible public sector procurement of AI systems. In June 2020, the guidelines were published on GOV.UK and operationalised through Crown Commercial Service's AI Marketplace, launched September 2020. The Guidelines, which build on the Government's Data Ethics Framework, recommend that AI procurement in Government be conducted by diverse teams, and stipulate that specific steps be taken to ensure the Public Sector Equality Duty is upheld – including performing an equality impact assessment alongside data protection impact assessments. Crown Commercial Services have implemented a baseline ethical standard for suppliers to be added to the procurement system. These concrete interventions are intended to mitigate against gender or racial bias being incorporated into AI systems procured into the public sector, which at 40% of the economy, sets the standard for AI suppliers in the wider economy.

The Government's Data Ethics Framework and 'Guide to Using AI in the Public Sector', alongside other area-specific guidance available on GOV.UK, support the ethical and safe use of algorithms in the public sector.

Further to this, as part of our commitment in the National Data Strategy, the Cabinet Office are exploring appropriate and effective mechanisms to deliver more transparency on the use of algorithmic assisted decision making within the public sector and to monitor their impact; and are working with leading organisations in the field of data and AI ethics to do so.

The Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation, in their report into algorithmic bias, make a number of recommendations to Government to reduce or mitigate the propensity for algorithms to encode bias. The Government is currently reviewing those recommendations.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-26/187146>

The guidance referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidelines-for-ai-procurement/guidelines-for-ai-procurement>

and

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/964786/A_guide_to_using_AI_in_the_public_sector_Print_version_.pdf

The Data Strategy referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-national-data-strategy/national-data-strategy>

The report referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/957259/Review_into_bias_in_algorithmic_decision-making.pdf

Military Decorations: Ethnic Groups

James Daly (Conservative) [184580] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many armed forces personnel from a BAME background have been nominated for a military honour which was not awarded in the last 10 years; and what representations his Department has received on posthumously awarding Walter Daniel Tull a military honour in recognition of his service in World War One.

Reply from Leo Docherty: Nominations for military honours which are subsequently unsuccessful are not retained by the Government.

The Government has received many representations requesting that Lieutenant Walter Tull be awarded an honour in recognition of his bravery. Although his actions were no doubt courageous, it is a longstanding principle of our national honours and awards system not to make retrospective awards. This policy dates back to an Army Order of 1919 that stated that no further awards would be given for services in First World War. This principle remains in force today.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-20/184580>

Education: Ethnic Groups

Diane Abbott (Labour) [182010] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how his Department plans to (a) narrow the attainment gap and (b) tackle racial inequalities in education through the covid-19 education recovery package and catch-up programme.

Reply from Nick Gibb: The Government is taking steps to close the educational attainment gap and improve the education of disadvantaged children and young people of all ethnic backgrounds. The Department recognises that the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak has been felt most heavily by disadvantaged children and young people, and so it is important that we target support towards these children. On 24 February, the Department announced a £700 million Education Recovery package, building on the £1 billion provided in 2020. As well as a range of measures to support all pupils to recover lost education, the package includes significant funding aimed at addressing the needs of disadvantaged pupils. This includes a one off £302 million Recovery Premium for the next academic year that will be allocated to schools based on disadvantage funding eligibility. Schools with more disadvantaged pupils will therefore receive larger allocations. Within this package is a £22 million accelerator fund to scale up evidence based approaches that support children and young people in disadvantaged areas.

In June 2020, as part of the £1 billion COVID-19 catch up package, the Department announced £350 million to fund the National Tutoring Programme for disadvantaged students in the 2020/21 and 2021/22 academic year. The programme will provide additional, targeted support for those children and young people who have been hardest hit from disruption to their education as a result of school closures. Teachers and school leaders should exercise professional judgement when identifying which pupils would benefit most from this additional support.

There is extensive evidence that tutoring is one of the most effective ways to accelerate pupil progress, and the Department wants to extend this opportunity to

disadvantaged and vulnerable learners. We are funding small group tuition for 16 to 19 year olds and early language skills in Reception classes. The Department is also providing over £400 million to support access to remote education and online social care services. To date, over 1.29 million laptops and tablets have been delivered to schools, trusts, local authorities and further education providers.

£200 million will be made available to secondary schools to deliver face to face summer schools. Funding is allocated on the basis of schools' existing year 7 pupils, but there is flexibility for schools to draw in other pupils should they identify a need. Schools will identify the pupils most in need of support and will be able to target provision based on pupils' needs.

The ongoing provision of pupil premium funding, which is worth £2.5 billion this financial year, aims to close the attainment gap between disadvantaged pupils and their peers. It allows school leaders to tailor the support they provide, based on the needs of their disadvantaged pupils, with the aim of accelerating their progress and improving their educational attainment.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-16/182010>

The announcements referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-education-recovery-package-for-children-and-young-people>

and

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/billion-pound-covid-catch-up-plan-to-tackle-impact-of-lost-teaching-time>

Assessments: Ethnic Groups

Diane Abbott (Labour) [182006] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps he is taking to (a) encourage greater standardisation in teacher assessments and (b) discourage racial bias in forthcoming transition from school exams to teacher assessments.

Reply from Nick Gibb: The Department is confident that the system of teacher assessed grades, underpinned by clear guidance published by the Joint Council for Qualifications, will ensure the grades students receive are as fair and consistent as possible. In addition to this guidance, exam boards have provided grade descriptors and exemplar materials to support teachers. The grade descriptors and materials exemplify the established performance standard that is maintained each year by awarding organisations. To ensure that there is a common basis to all teacher assessed grades, teachers are being asked to apply the performance standards described in the grade descriptors to the evidence of students' work this year.

Students should have confidence in their grades this year and it is vital that teachers are supported to avoid any unconscious bias. Awarding organisations will provide assessment materials, guidance, and training to support centres to make fair, consistent, and evidence-based decisions which are without bias. Ofqual have also published information for centres about making objective judgements this year, available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/information-for-centres-about-making-objective-judgements>

Centres will be encouraged to allow students to see the evidence used to determine their grade in advance of that grade being submitted. This transparency should enable any errors or circumstances relating to particular pieces of evidence to be taken into account in advance of the grade submission. Students' grades will also go through internal and external quality assurance processes to ensure errors are identified and that judgements are as consistent as possible. Internal standardisation will help mitigate the risk of unconscious bias in judgements of students' grades. Centres will set out how they will ensure objectivity in their centre

policies, which will be reviewed by exam boards.

There will also be an appeals system as a safety net to resolve any errors not identified during the earlier parts of the process. The Department has made clear that every student will have the right to appeal their grade.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-16/182006>

Education and Training: Ethnic Groups

Diane Abbott (Labour) [182008] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps he is taking to increase racial diversity in teaching and training workforces, particularly in schools and universities that have large proportions of students from Black and Asian backgrounds.

Reply from Nick Gibb: The teaching workforce is more racially diverse than ever before, with recruitment into Initial Teacher Training (ITT) becoming more representative of the wider population. The Department recognises, however, that we must go further to attract and retain the diverse range of talented teachers we need in our classrooms.

To support recruitment, the Department is building and rolling out a new application service for teacher training. The Apply for teacher training service has been designed and extensively tested with a diverse range of potential applicants to ensure it helps remove barriers to teachers applying for ITT courses. Apply for teacher training is currently in public beta, running alongside the existing application service for teacher training. As the Department rolls out the service, we will continue to develop and test interventions to support people from diverse backgrounds in becoming teachers.

Furthermore, the Department's 'Teaching – Every Lesson Shapes A Life' recruitment campaign is targeted at audiences of students, recent graduates, and potential career changers inclusive of all ethnicities, and we take every effort to ensure that our advertising is fully reflective of this across the full range of marketing materials we use.

Alongside a focus on recruitment, it is important the Department continues its work to retain more teachers from diverse backgrounds. This will be supported by our work to ensure that all new entrants to teacher training have the best possible start to the early stage of their career. From September 2020 onwards, new trainee teachers will undergo training based on the ITT Core Content Framework which sets out a core minimum entitlement for all trainees, describing the fundamental knowledge and skills that all new entrants to the profession need to effectively teach and support all children.

Following on from their training, from this September, all new teachers will be entitled to two years of funded high quality professional development including the support of a dedicated mentor, through the Early Career Framework reforms. Schools will receive additional funding so new teachers can spend time away from the classroom for this extra training and mentoring. Together, these reforms will ensure that all new teachers will develop the skills, expertise, and confidence they need to thrive in the classroom.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-16/182008>

ICT: Ethnic Groups

Diane Abbott (Labour) [182011] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what plans he has to improve access IT equipment for Black and Asian children living in low-income households.

Reply from Nick Gibb: The Government is providing over £400 million to support remote education and online social care services, including making 1.3 million laptops and tablets available for disadvantaged children and young people.

To date, over 1.29 million laptops and tablets have been delivered to schools, trusts, local authorities and further education providers. The Department has also partnered with the UK's leading mobile operators to provide free data to help over 30,000 disadvantaged children get online, as well as delivering over 75,000 4G wireless routers for pupils without connection at home.

Laptops and tablets are owned by schools, trusts, local authorities or further education providers, who can lend these to children and young people who need them. Allocations of devices to schools and colleges are based on the number of pupils or students they have who are eligible for free school meals or free meals. This approach ensures that support provided by the Government reaches those families that need it most.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-16/182011>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

The following three questions all received the same answer

Commission On Race and Ethnic Disparities

Lord Anderson of Ipswich (Crossbench) [HL14986] To ask Her Majesty's Government what were the terms of reference for the independent Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities; and when were those terms of reference established.

Lord Anderson of Ipswich (Crossbench) [HL14987] To ask Her Majesty's Government when drafts of (1) the foreword, and (2) any sections, of the report of the independent Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities were first seen by (a) the Prime Minister, (b) the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury and Equalities Minister, (c) any Cabinet Minister, and (d) any political adviser to the Government.

Lord Anderson of Ipswich (Crossbench) [HL14988] To ask Her Majesty's Government what contribution (1) the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury and Equalities Minister, and (2) any political advisor to the Government, made to (a) the foreword, and (b) any sections, of the report of the independent Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities, prior to its publication on 31 March.

Reply from Baroness Berridge: The terms of reference for the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities were set by the Government and published on 16 July 2020. They are available online on GOV.UK. The Commission submitted its independent report to the Prime Minister and the Minister for Equalities on 31 March 2021.

The report is the work of the independent Commissioners. Ministers and political advisers to the Government did not contribute to the report.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-16/hl14986>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-16/hl14987>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-16/hl14988>

The report referred to above can be read at

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/974507/20210331 - CRED Report - FINAL - Web Accessible.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/974507/20210331_-_CRED_Report_-_FINAL_-_Web_Accessible.pdf)

Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities: HSBC

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL14893] To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the involvement of HSBC UK in the report of the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities; and why no other banks were mentioned or included in the report.

Reply from Baroness Berridge: The Commission engaged with a wide range of

stakeholders, including banks and financial institutions not limited to HSBC, either to hear evidence or to discuss recommendations. The list of those with whom the Commission engaged is available in 'Appendix D: Stakeholders' of the report.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-13/hl14893>

The report referred to above can be read at

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/974507/20210331 - CRED Report - FINAL - Web Accessible.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/974507/20210331_-_CRED_Report_-_FINAL_-_Web_Accessible.pdf)

Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL14894] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to review areas of the report of the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities which have been criticised.

Reply from Baroness Berridge: The Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities report makes an important contribution to both the national conversation about race, and our efforts to level up and unite the whole country.

We are carefully considering the report's findings and recommendations. We will publish a Government response in due course. This Government remains fully committed to building a fairer Britain and taking the action needed to address disparities wherever they exist.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-13/hl14894>

The report referred to above can be read at

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/974507/20210331 - CRED Report - FINAL - Web Accessible.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/974507/20210331_-_CRED_Report_-_FINAL_-_Web_Accessible.pdf)

Apprentices: Ethnic Groups

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL15122] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that BAME communities receive apprenticeship outreach information.

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 working with some of the country's most influential employers through our Apprenticeship Diversity Champions Network, which consists of over 85 employers, to promote best practice in recruiting and supporting apprentices from diverse backgrounds. We are building on this work to ensure that we continue to see an improved representation of people from ethnic minority backgrounds starting apprenticeships, especially in sectors that carry historic under-representation. The Network will report during National Apprenticeship Week 2022 on how to better reach out to target communities and improve on-programme retention.

To increase the outreach of information of apprenticeships to students of all backgrounds, we are promoting apprenticeships in schools 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.

The department is co-funding, along with the Home Office, a series of activity delivered by the Stephen Lawrence Day Foundation. This work includes supporting young people, particularly those from ethnic minority backgrounds, into level 3 advanced technical digital apprenticeships using the Foundation's extensive network of contacts and partners. The Careers and Enterprise Company supports schools and colleges to connect with employers so that young people have opportunities to explore all available options. These interactions aim to increase

their knowledge of a range of career possibilities and training options, including apprenticeships. We committed in our Skills for Jobs white paper to improve the careers information available to young people and adults by updating the National Careers Service website to bring together all information on learning and careers routes available, such as apprenticeships. We will introduce interactive careers maps, which will show the occupations and careers options that technical or higher technical options can open the door to.

The Baker Clause requires all maintained schools and academies to publish a policy statement setting out opportunities for providers of technical education – including taught courses and apprenticeships – to visit schools to talk to all year 8 to 13 pupils, and to make sure the statement is followed. In the Skills for Jobs white paper, we committed to introduce a 3-point-plan to enforce the Baker Clause. We will consult shortly on proposals to strengthen the legislation. Subject to the outcome of the consultation, we plan to introduce these changes alongside tougher formal action against non-compliance and making government-funded careers support for schools conditional on Baker Clause compliance.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-20/hl15122>

Press Release

**Speech by the chair of the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities,
Dr Tony Sewell CBE**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/speech-by-the-chair-of-the-commission-on-race-and-ethnic-disparities-dr-tony-sewell-cbe>

New Publications

Controversial race report amended after backlash over slavery comments

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/04/30/controversial-race-report-amended-backlash-slavery-comments/>

UK should 'reflect on good of the Empire', says author of controversial race report

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/04/28/uk-should-reflect-good-empire-says-author-ofcontroversial-race/>

Engaging with easy to ignore communities

<https://centreforequalities.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/EASY-TO-IGNORE-GUIDE-Mar-2021.pdf>

The Changing Distribution of the Male Ethnic Wage Gap in Great Britain

<http://ftp.iza.org/dp14276.pdf>

News

Miscarriage rates 'over 40% higher' in black women

<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-56889861>

UK's first hijabi firefighter: 'Firefighters don't look like me'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-england-nottinghamshire-56846739>

ONS to publish suicide data by ethnicity from June as charities say ‘no excuse’ for gaps in data

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/suicide-ethnicity-data-black-lives-matter-b1837609.html>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Lords Ministerial Statement and Q&A

Commonwealth War Graves Commission: Historical Inequalities Report

The statement made last week in the House of Commons by the Secretary of State for Defence was read in the House of Lords (see details in [MEMO 26/4/2021](#))

col 2078 Lord Tunnicliffe (Labour): ... This is an important moment for the commission and the country in coming to terms with past injustices and dedicating ourselves to future action. The report is a credit to the commission of today, but its content is a great discredit to the commission and the Britain of a century ago.

It is estimated that up to 54,000 casualties—predominantly Indian, east African, west African, Egyptian and Somali personnel—were commemorated unequally. As many as 350,000 were not commemorated by name or not commemorated at all. The report found that the failure to memorialise these casualties adequately was rooted in “the entrenched prejudices, preconceptions and pervasive racism of contemporary imperial attitudes.”

Today, belatedly, we aim to commemorate in full the sacrifice of the many thousands who died for our country in the First World War and have not yet been fully honoured. We will remember them. ...

col 2079 Baroness Smith of Newnham (Liberal Democrat): ... if the intention of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission is to reflect everybody’s contribution equally, regardless of rank, nationality or faith, it is absolutely crucial that the war graves actually do that. In particular, if one visits war graves and assumes that what one is seeing gives a full picture of the loss of life that was incurred during the First or Second World War but we then find that that is not the case, it is a problem not just for those who were lost and their families but for everybody seeking to understand the contribution made, particularly in the First World War, by citizens of the Empire.

There is often a tendency to talk about the United Kingdom, or Britain, winning the war; that is, a tendency to talk about British history as if it is about servicemen—it was essentially men in those days—who came from the United Kingdom or mainland Britain losing their lives. However, many hundreds of thousands from across the Empire and the countries that are now part of the Commonwealth gave their lives. It is crucial that they are remembered. ...

I also want to know what the Government are planning to do to ensure that the Commonwealth War Graves Commission has the resources to try to rectify some of these inequalities. It goes beyond simply saying, “Have we managed to identify people or are we just going to put up another plaque saying ‘Plus 10,000 others, identities unknown’?” Will the Government help the commission to look for ways of being more creative about how we understand the past, how we acknowledge the gaps in our history and our understanding of history, and how we understand the debt that we owe to so many Commonwealth countries?

The reasons why so many people were not named and not commemorated are particularly shocking. As the noble Lord, Lord Tunnicliffe, pointed out, when you get into the depths of the report, it is not 54,000 or 170,000: it is potentially another 350,000 people. If we did not

know who they were—if people had been buried in mass graves, for example—that is one thing, but if there was simply a sense that, somehow, some lives mattered less, that is another. Perhaps that was the view 100 years ago but it absolutely should not be the view now.

col 2080 We need to look for ways to ensure that history, as it is taught in 2021, can be understood in its global context. ... Have the Government begun to think about how we can look again at our history and ensure that we pay honour to all those who gave their lives, regardless of their creed, colour, country of origin or rank in society? All those lives—all the fallen—matter equally.

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: ... this is an important report which makes for sober reading. The report of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission special committee makes clear that in the aftermath of World War 1, in certain parts of the world, the Imperial War Graves Commission failed to live up to its core founding principle of equality in death for all, as was mentioned earlier, regardless of status, religious belief or ethnicity. Moreover, while the IWGC itself was at fault, the British Government at that time, together with colonial Administrations, also failed in their duties and were complicit in the decision-making that led to the outcome described in the report. ...

It is worth my reflecting as well that a further 45,000 to 54,000 casualties, predominantly Indian, east African, west African, Egyptian and Somali personnel, were commemorated unequally, usually in registers or collectively on memorials but not by individual name. At least a further 116,000 casualties—and potentially as many as 350,000—predominantly but not exclusively east African and Egyptian personnel, were not commemorated by name or possibly not commemorated at all. This is sobering and absolutely needs to be addressed ...

col 2081 ... many of the 10 recommendations laid out have specific timelines. This is an important piece of work; each of the 10 recommendations—all of which the Government have accepted, by the way—are rolled out with sunsets and timelines for work to be completed. ... I am absolutely certain that those from our country who are based in countries where there is much work to be done, including in Egypt, Sierra Leone, west Africa and Nigeria, will be called on to help with this work and complete the investigations. ...

... it is important that we remember each individual. This will be done through addressing the 10 recommendations, where there will be openness towards creativity; communities should engage in the areas that we want to look at, and countries themselves should engage with the war graves commission and the special committee to see what can be done to honour those who have fallen in defence of their country. That could be in the form of a physical memorial or—we are looking at this very carefully—a digital means. ...

Lord Pickles (Conservative): My Lords, I would like to address an equal injustice. It is over 100 years since the death of Lieutenant Walter Tull. ... He broke through prejudice and precedent by becoming the first person of colour to command white troops. Such was his leadership and gallantry that Lieutenant Tull was recommended for a Military Cross. Through a combination of precedent and racial prejudice, he was denied that award. Will my noble friend address this ancient wrong with a view to awarding Lieutenant Tull a posthumous and well-deserved Military Cross?

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: ... The actions of Walter Tull in the First World War were no doubt very brave, and the Government have received many representations requesting that he be awarded an honour for his bravery along the lines of what my noble friend has said. However, it is a general principle of our national honours and awards system not to make retrospective awards. This policy dates back to the end of the First World War, when in 1919 an army order was published stating that no further awards would be given for services in that war.

That principle remains in force today.

col 2082 **Lord Singh of Wimbledon:** My Lords, only after my comparatively recent criticism on radio that millions of Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs had fought and died in the two world wars was it agreed by the Blair Government to invite other faiths to join Christians and Jews at the Cenotaph observance. Ignorance and prejudice pervade all societies. Does the Minister agree that, rather than showing periodic righteous indignation when racism hits the headlines, the Government and faith leaders should lead in ensuring that the dignity and equality of all human beings is made central to the teachings of both history and religion?

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: I certainly agree with the noble Lord, who makes an extremely good point. ...

col 2083 **Lord Griffiths of Burry Port (Labour):** ... I have visited a war cemetery in Kariokor in the outskirts of Nairobi, and found that all the graves of those who had fought in the Second World War were appropriately commemorated. ...

I have also visited cemeteries in Karen and Asmara in Eritrea. It was most touching to see that the fallen in February and March 1941 saw Indians, Sikhs, Muslims, British Christians and whoever buried in the same yard and, as it says in the record, "According to the rites and ceremonies of their particular religion". Could it be that this was general practice, the improvement that had been made by the time of the Second World War? ...

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: The noble Lord makes a very good point in focusing particularly on the Second World War. Of course the report focuses only on the First World War. ...

col 2084 **Lord Woolley of Woodford (Crossbench):** ... In life, hundreds of thousands of African and Asian soldiers, many of whom were coerced into the British Army, were treated with little or no respect during the Great War. In death, those brave soldiers were treated with utter contempt. Professor Michèle Barrett, who worked with David Lammy on uncovering this monumental scandal, found documentation from the Imperial War Graves Commission in 1920 stating that "Most of the natives" —Africans—"who have died are of a semi-savage nature and do not attach any sentiment to the graves of their dead."

"Shocking", "appalling" and "shameful" are just a few of the adjectives that you would put to that statement. ...

What is also shocking is that it is a clear fact that in 2010, nearly 100 years later, with officials in full knowledge of the facts, nothing was done. We need to know why. ...

col 2085 **Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie:** ... The words "appalling" and "shameful" came from the noble Lord, and I totally agree with that. ... think it is appropriate to say that, even though it is over 100 years ago, good praise needs to be given to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission now, along with the Government —linking into DCMS, I should say—when it comes to looking really seriously at these past injustices and putting them right. ...

To read the statement and lengthy Q&A in full see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-04-26/debates/B7AB5234-CB07-4AEC-8CED-CAEC28029EA0/CommonwealthWarGravesCommissionHistoricalInequalitiesReport>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.cwgc.org/media/noantj4i/report-of-the-special-committee-to-review-historical-inequalities-in-commemoration.pdf>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Department for Education: Racial Discrimination

Justin Madders (Labour) [181043] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many complaints relating to allegations of racism were made to his Department in (a) 2018, (b) 2019 and (c) 2020.

Reply from Nick Gibb: We are clear there is no place for racism in our society or education system. The Department does not keep a central record of all complaints made to us directly. However, from July 2020, the Department's School Complaints Unit began recording whether 'racial discrimination towards a pupil' has been cited as a factor in complaints made to, or about, local authority maintained school. Subsequently, racial discrimination towards a pupil was cited as a factor in eight complaints about local authority maintained schools. At the time of their approach, none of the complainants had attempted to resolve their concerns locally, using the schools' own complaints procedure, so were advised to do so. Whilst complaints about a school can be made to the Department, in most cases complainants should follow the local complaints procedure in the first instance. All schools are required to have a complaints procedure in place and we have published guidance on this for maintained schools, academies and independent schools:

Maintained schools:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-complaints-procedures/best-practice-advice-for-school-complaints-procedures-2019>

Academies:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/setting-up-an-academies-complaints-procedure>

Independent schools:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulating-independent-schools>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-14/181043>

Hate Crime: Asians

Apsana Begum (Labour) [184563] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her Department's policy is on the use of the term Oriental by the Metropolitan Police in reference to hate crimes against people from East and South East Asia; and whether her Department plans to review the use of that term.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: From 1 April we have asked forces to use the below categories, in relation to recording the ethnicity of victims of hate crime:

Asian

Indian

Pakistani

Bangladeshi

Any Other Asian Background

Black

Black Caribbean

Black African

Any Other Black Background

Mixed

White And Black Caribbean

White And Black African

White And Asian

Any Other Mixed Background

Not Stated

Chinese and other

Chinese

Any Other Ethnic Group

White

White British

White Irish

Any Other White Background

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-20/184563>

New Publication

Former police officer jailed for National Action membership

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/cps/news/former-police-officer-jailed-national-action-membership>

News

First police officer convicted of belonging to neo-Nazi terrorist group is jailed

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/04/30/first-police-officer-convicted-belonging-neo-nazi-terrorist/amp/>

Benjamin Hannam: Secret neo-Nazi in Metropolitan Police jailed for four years

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/benjamin-hannam-secret-neo-nazi-in-metropolitan-police-jailed-for-four-years-2kvx7jswg>

Social media giants that fail to crack down on racism to face multi-million pound fines

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/04/29/social-media-giants-fail-crackdown-racism-face-multi-million/>

Sports bodies to boycott social media for bank holiday weekend over abuse

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2021/apr/29/major-sports-bodies-84-hour-social-media-boycott-over-online-abuse-facebook-twitter>

Cricket and rugby join British football's weekend boycott of social media

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2021/apr/28/cricket-unites-to-join-english-footballs-weekend-boycott-of-social-media>

PFA urges players' sponsors to join landmark social media boycott over online racism 'epidemic'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/football/2021/04/24/english-football-announces-landmark-social-media-boycott-online/>

Prince William joins social media boycott over online abuse

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/duke-of-cambridge-joins-social-media-boycott-over-online-abuse-djmtcs8vk>

Prince William joins sport's social media boycott over racist abuse

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/social-media-boycott-prince-william-b1840307.html>

Social media blackout: 'Deleting abuse is part of my morning routine'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-56943542>

UK universities are institutionally racist, says leading vice-chancellor

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2021/apr/28/uk-universities-are-institutionally-racist-says-leading-vice-chancellor>

British university campuses feel like '1930s Germany' for Jewish students, minister warned

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/04/27/british-university-campuses-feel-like-1930s-germany-jewish-students/>

Conservative MPs call Bristol University a ‘hotbed of antisemitism’

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/apr/27/conservative-mps-call-bristol-university-a-hotbed-of-antisemitism>

‘Stellar’ lecturer suspended after students accuse him of racism

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/stellar-lecturer-suspended-after-students-accuse-him-of-racism-3gh08fsm9>

Is Uni Racist? review: despite the provocative title, this documentary was well intentioned – and shocking

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/tv/2021/04/28/uni-racist-review-despite-provocative-title-documentary-intentioned/>

May Day Morris dancers wear blue makeup over racism concerns

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-hampshire-56956071>

Manchester United suspend season-ticket holders over racist abuse of Son Heung-min

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/manchester-united-season-ticket-holders-racism-suspended-b1840147.html>

Chelsea ban individual for 10 years over antisemitic abuse

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/chelsea-fan-ban-antisemitic-abuse-b1840284.html>

Tony Clubb suspended by Wigan after racism accusation

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/tony-clubb-suspended-by-wigan-after-racism-accusation-k8l7lr99p>

TOP

Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Marriage and Religion

Baroness Cox (Crossbench) [HL15092] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to their Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper, published on 14 March 2018, what progress they have made on exploring "the legal and practical challenges of limited reform relating to the law on marriage and religious weddings".

Reply from Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: As the Government has made clear, this is a difficult issue which requires careful consideration. The Law Commission is separately looking at aspects of the problem through their review of the law governing legal marriage ceremonies. The Law Commission has now consulted with a wide range of groups with an interest and is considering the responses received. The Government looks forward to receiving the Law Commission's final report and recommendations later this year and will give them careful consideration. The Government is aware that a separate Nuffield Foundation study, launched in September 2020 and due to report later this year, is investigating why marriage ceremonies occur outside of the legal framework for weddings in England and Wales. The Government will also wish to consider its findings.

Any proposals affecting how religious groups are permitted to conduct marriages must be thoroughly assessed for their fairness.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-20/hl15092>

The Green Paper referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/696993/Integrated_Communities_Strategy.pdf

Information about the Law Commission review referred to above can be read at

<https://www.lawcom.gov.uk/project/weddings/>

Information about the Nuffield Foundation study referred to above can be read at

<https://www.nuffieldfoundation.org/project/wedding-not-marriage-exploring-non-legally-binding-ceremonies>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Religious Practice: Islam

Lord Pearson of Rannoch (Non-affiliated) [HL15175] To ask Her Majesty's Government, in pursuit of their anti-terrorism policies, what plans they have, if any, to require services in mosques in the UK to be conducted in English.

Lord Pearson of Rannoch (Non-affiliated) [HL15176] To ask Her Majesty's Government, in pursuit of their anti-terrorism policies, what discussions, if any, they have had with Islamic faith leaders to discuss the language in which services in mosques are conducted.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: HMG has no plans to mandate English language in any religious service as part of the Government's Counter-Terrorism Strategy CONTEST. Everyone has a right to freedom of religion under Article 9 of the Human Rights Act and is one of the fundamental rights that we will always protect in this country

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-21/hl15175>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-21/hl15176>

Religious Practice: Islam

Lord Pearson of Rannoch (Non-affiliated) [HL14977] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Greenhalgh on 8 April (HL14593), whether they will now answer the question put, namely, in pursuit of their anti-terrorism policies, (1) what assessment they have made of any Islamist teaching in (a) mosques, and (b) madrassas, in the UK, (2) what assessment they have made of the number of Imams in the UK who cannot speak English, and (3) what plans they have to require services in mosques in the UK to be conducted in English.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We look at and assess all evidence of those that radicalise others through their support for or justification of violence and will not tolerate those who spread divisive and harmful narratives.

HMG has made no assessment of the number of Imams present in the UK as part of the Government's Counter-Terrorism Strategy CONTEST, nor of their language skills. HMG has no plans to mandate English language in any religious service as part of the Government's Counter-Terrorism Strategy CONTEST. Everyone has a right to freedom of religion under Article 9 of the Human Rights Act and is one of the fundamental rights that we will always protect in this country.

As outlined in our previous response, the Immigration Rules governing T2 Minister of Religion roles require applicants to demonstrate a strong command of the English language in order to qualify for a visa.

Whether through Islamism or any other ideology, the Government is committed to tackling those who spread views that promote violence and hatred against individuals and communities in our society, and that radicalise others into terrorism. We remain of the view that the propaganda used by Islamist extremists is a distortion of true Islam.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-15/hl14977>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-24/hl14593>

Out-of-school Education: Islam

Lord Pearson of Rannoch (Non-affiliated) [HL15177] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Lord Agnew of Oulton on 4 February 2020 (HL646) and 13 February 2020 (HL1377 and HL1414) and by Baroness Berridge on 12 March 2020 (HL2002), and in pursuit of their anti-terrorism policies, what plans they have, if any, to allow Ofsted to inspect madrassas in the UK which provide teaching for fewer than 18 hours per week.

Reply from Baroness Berridge: As indicated in my answer to Question HL2002 on 12 March 2020, madrassas are generally considered to be out-of-school settings, which are not captured by a single dedicated regulatory framework, and therefore are not subject to inspections by Ofsted or the department.

However, as explained previously, the department is taking forward a package of measures to enhance safeguarding in out-of-school settings, safeguarding children from all forms of harm, including extremism and terrorism.

The main phase of this work concluded in March 2020. We are currently considering how the outputs can be used to help inform best practice on how existing legal powers, held by local authorities, the police, Ofsted and other departments and agencies, can best be used to address safeguarding and welfare concerns. We are also looking into what more we might need to do at a national level.

In addition to this, we have also published a voluntary code of practice for out-of-school setting providers, such as madrassas, to support them in understanding what they need to do to run a safe setting. This is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/keeping-children-safe-in-out-of-school-settings>

Accompanying guidance for parents and carers is also available to help them make more informed choices when considering out-of-school settings for their children, including the red flags to look out for and what steps to take where they might have concerns.

As indicated in my previous answer, if the department became aware of a setting where children were at risk of harm, we would work closely with relevant agencies, such as the local authority, Ofsted or the police to take action.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-21/hl15177>

The answers referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-01-21/hl646>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-02-05/hl1377>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-02-06/hl1414>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-02-27/hl2002>

TOP

Health Information: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

NHS

Coronavirus helpline

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

NHS Inform (Scotland)

Latest guidance about COVID-19 from NHS Scotland and the Scottish Government, including social distancing and stay at home advice.

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus>

Protect-Scot contact tracing app

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

Healthcare for refugees and asylum seekers

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

NHS Near Me (Scotland)

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

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

NHS (England and Wales)

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

Scottish 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/>

UK Government Publications

The R value and growth rate

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-r-value-and-growth-rate>

Other Organisations

Scottish Human Rights Commission

Commission cautions that any moves to introduce COVID-19 status certificates must take full account of human rights

<https://www.scottishhumanrights.com/news/commission-cautions-that-any-moves-to-introduce-covid-19-status-certificates-must-take-full-account-of-human-rights/>

COVID-19 Status Certificates: Human Rights Considerations

https://www.scottishhumanrights.com/media/2176/21_04_28_-covid-certificates-and-human-rights-vfinal.pdf

TOP

New Publication

Complex differences in infection rates between ethnic groups in Scotland: a retrospective, national census-linked cohort study of 1.65 million cases

<https://tinyurl.com/3k6k5suh>

TOP

Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

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!**

Meeting the Charity Test Guidance – updates (closing date 5 May 2021)

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/news/consultation-on-our-meeting-the-charity-test-guidance-updates/>

**** closes this week!**

New Plan for Immigration (closing date 6 May 2021)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/new-plan-for-immigration>

Patient Safety Commissioner role for Scotland (closing date 28 May 2021)

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/consultation-patient-safety-commissioner-role-scotland/>

**** Evidence for Equality National Survey (EVENS)** (closing date 30 June 2021)

<https://evensurvey.co.uk/>

Possible changes to the immigration and asylum rules in relation to tribunal reform [in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland] (closing date 14 July 2021)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/possible-changes-to-the-immigration-and-asylum-rules-in-relation-to-tribunal-reform>

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>

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>

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/>

See <https://vimeo.com/showcase/8240754> for a series of short presentations introducing the Equality and Human Rights Fund.

Short one-to-one surgery sessions will be available every Wednesday afternoon until 28 April. This is an opportunity to speak with one of the Equality and Human Rights Fund team and ask any questions specific to your organisation and proposed application. See <https://www.picktime.com/a7e36ee9-56cd-4891-8179-262758c331a7> to book an appointment.

New Scots Refugee Integration Delivery Project

Closing date 22 May 2021

Scottish Government funding for organisations and community groups across Scotland involved in supporting refugees and people seeking asylum. Projects will enable refugees in Scotland to live in safe, welcoming and cohesive communities where they are able to build diverse relationships and connections; understand their rights, responsibilities and entitlements and exercise these to pursue full and independent lives; access well-coordinated services, which recognise and meet their rights and needs; and ensure their rights, needs and aspirations inform the policy, strategic planning and legislation which impacts upon them. For information see

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/new-scots-refugee-integration-delivery-fund-guidance/pages/background/>

Adapt and Thrive

Running until June 2021

This programme, which is part of the Scottish Government Community and Third Sector Recovery Programme, offers grants of up to £75,000, loans, and specialist advice to organisations across the third sector to adapt to the challenges presented by COVID-19

and build back better to thrive in the future. For information see <https://scvo.scot/support/coronavirus/funding/scottish-government/community-recovery/atf>

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/>

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** Racial Disparities in Mental Healthcare**

11 May 2021 (online, 7.00–8.15)

Stuart Hall Foundation/Centre on the Dynamics of Ethnicity conversation to explore the racial inequalities and injustices that surround mental health in the UK. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/tm5ba95e>

Scotland's Human Rights Report Card Session 2: Drafting a report for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) - guidance and top tips

12 May 2021 (online, 10.30–12.30)

Scottish Human Rights Commission session focussing on the importance of building coalitions to send out strong messages, guidance and top tips on writing a report for consideration in the UPR process, and how to use UPR recommendations to create policy change. For information contact events@scottishhumanrights.com

What Went Wrong? COVID-19, Accountability and Building Back Better

17 May 2021 (online, 10.00–3.00)

Amnesty International in Scotland / Human Rights Consortium Scotland event to reflect on the experience of human rights during the pandemic in Scotland. It will also address the future – what should COVID recovery look like if human rights protection is central to this? What about human rights accountability? For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2jdn38f2>

Windrush engagement events

25 May 2021 (online, 5.00–6.00)

Home Office events to raise awareness of the Windrush Compensation Scheme and the work of the Windrush Taskforce. For information see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/windrush-engagement-events>

Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals

9 June 2021 (online, 10.30–12.30)

4 August 2021 (online, 10.00–12.30)

6 October 2021 (online, 10.00–12.30)

12 January 2022 (online, 10.30–12.30)

2 March 2022 (online, 10.00–12.30)

PAiH training on 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 see <https://tinyurl.com/24ba4stk>

Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

16 June 2021 (online, 10.00–12.30)

18 August 2021 (online, 10.00–12.30)

20 October 2021 (online, 10.00–12.30)

19 January 2022 (online, 10.00–12.30)

9 March 2022 (online, 10.00–12.30)

PAiH 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 see <https://tinyurl.com/24ba4stk>

No Recourse to Public Funds

30 June 2021 (online, 10.30–12.30)

27 October 2021 (online, 10.30–12.30)

26 January 2022 (online, 10.00–12.30)

PAiH workshop 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 see <https://tinyurl.com/24ba4stk>

Scottish Interfaith Week 2021

31 October to 7 November 2021 (Scotland-wide)

Scottish Interfaith Week will coincide with COP26 (United Nations Climate Change Conference 2021). The theme for 2021 is Together for Our Planet and individuals, faith communities and organisations across Scotland will be encouraged to host climate-related events for the week. For information see <https://scottishinterfaithweek.org/> or sign up to the [Scottish Interfaith Week newsletter](#).

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Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services

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

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

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



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



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

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