



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

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

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The Scottish Parliament is in recess until 29 August 2021.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

European Union Settlement Scheme

Emma Roddick (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with the Home Office regarding the reported backlog in processing applications for the European Union settlement scheme. (S6T-00104)

Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, External Affairs and Culture (Angus Robertson): It is unacceptable that, with eight days to go to the EU settlement scheme deadline, there is now a backlog of more than 300,000 unresolved cases. The Scottish Government has consistently been clear that the deadline should be extended. On 16 June, the Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development wrote to Lord Frost requesting a discussion on the issue

at EU exit committee meetings. We have yet to receive a response. I also requested an extension when I met the United Kingdom Minister for Immigration Compliance and Justice. We will continue to do everything that we can to support EU citizens, including seeking an extension.

Emma Roddick: The settled status deadline poses huge risks to EU nationals, who have contributed so much to our society. It would simply be unacceptable for people to lose their rights overnight. It is of course wrong that EU nationals who live here are being forced by the UK Government to apply to stay in Scotland but, given that they have to do so, what steps is the Scottish Government taking to encourage all EU nationals to apply before the deadline?

Reply from Angus Robertson: I completely agree that the upcoming deadline poses significant unfair risks to EU nationals. We have continually requested at the very least an extension to the EUSS deadline. Let me be clear that any refusal to extend that deadline is a choice by the UK Government.

The Scottish Government is supporting EU citizens through our stay in Scotland campaign, through which we have spent more than £1 million on helping people to apply to the EUSS scheme, including through media campaigns across radio, digital and social media platforms, and toolkits that provide information and signposting to be made available to EU citizens. The funding has also been used to offer advice and support through Citizens Advice Scotland, the Citizens Rights Project and JustRight Scotland guidance on the rights of EU citizens.

Emma Roddick: Many key sectors in Scotland—in particular, here in the Highlands—such as hospitality and farming, are already struggling to recruit employees as a result of Brexit. There could not be a worse time to risk compounding that problem if people lose their right to work as a result of the UK Government's deadline. Is the cabinet secretary concerned that this reckless Tory policy could risk damaging Scotland's recovery from the pandemic?

Reply from Angus Robertson: Yes, I am very concerned that the policy will harm key sectors across Scotland. It is my view and that of the Scottish Government that EU citizens who live in the UK should not need to apply to retain the rights that they have had to live, work and study in Scotland. The EU settlement scheme should be replaced with a declarative scheme that automatically allows EU citizens to retain their rights. At the very least, the UK Government should extend the deadline for applying to the EU settlement scheme.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13244&i=120090#ScotParlOR>

UK Parliament Debates

Draft British Nationality Act 1981 (Immigration Rules Appendix EU) (Amendment) Regulations 2021

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-06-21/debates/0c1d592c-5f23-429d-9e96-47db225284e1/DraftBritishNationalityAct1981\(ImmigrationRulesAppendixEU\)\(Amendment\)Regulations2021](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-06-21/debates/0c1d592c-5f23-429d-9e96-47db225284e1/DraftBritishNationalityAct1981(ImmigrationRulesAppendixEU)(Amendment)Regulations2021)

Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 (Juxtaposed Controls) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order 2021

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-06-22/debates/9A5A0F93-AE8F-410B-97EE-301B36244880/NationalityImmigrationAndAsylumAct2002\(JuxtaposedControls\)\(Amendment\)\(No2\)Order2021](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-06-22/debates/9A5A0F93-AE8F-410B-97EE-301B36244880/NationalityImmigrationAndAsylumAct2002(JuxtaposedControls)(Amendment)(No2)Order2021)

and

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-06-24/debates/B4A6911B-75F9-401C-BB92-1C0AF1EA2B34/NationalityImmigrationAndAsylumAct2002\(JuxtaposedControls\)\(Amendment\)\(No2\)Order](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-06-24/debates/B4A6911B-75F9-401C-BB92-1C0AF1EA2B34/NationalityImmigrationAndAsylumAct2002(JuxtaposedControls)(Amendment)(No2)Order)

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Immigration: Sharing of Data between HMRC and Home Office

Anne McLaughlin (SNP): What [the Minister's] Department's policy is on the sharing of data between HMRC and the Home Office for immigration purposes. (901611)

Reply from the Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Jesse Norman): Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs has a strict duty of confidentiality in relation to information it holds on taxpayers. HMRC will share information on individuals or employers with the Home Office for immigration purposes only where a clear legal basis exists, and it will share or disclose only the information that is necessary and proportionate to the intended purpose through strict adherence to data protection principles, including the UK general data protection regulation. Personal data that is disclosed is minimised where it can be and strictly governed and subject to audit.

Anne McLaughlin: It is not necessary and proportionate in the cases I have been hearing about. In one case, someone who had been here as a highly skilled migrant for 10 years was refused the right to remain because he had miscalculated his tax by £1.20 years previously. What global talent does the Minister think will want to take the risk of uprooting their families to another country that may well kick them out for something HMRC previously said was a minor issue?

Reply from Jesse Norman: For reasons that I have described, I cannot comment on individual cases. However, the hon. Lady is welcome to raise them with HMRC on behalf of her constituents. I can tell her that legislation provides very specific, well-designed information-sharing gateways under an umbrella memorandum of understanding governing all data sharing between the two sides, and all of that is grounded in strict obedience with the law.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-06-22/debates/3A4B9614-310C-41DC-8496-045052879B03/ImmigrationSharingOfDataBetweenHMRCAndHomeOffice>

Prime Minister's Questions: Windrush Day

Janet Daby (Labour): Yesterday was Windrush Day, the 73rd anniversary of the arrival of Caribbean people from Commonwealth countries in 1948, yet this year it is a reminder of the appalling failure of the Government's Windrush compensation scheme, which has been so disturbingly slow and extensively bureaucratic that at least 21 people have died while waiting for justice and only 687 people have received any payment at all. Given the repeated delays and the failure of the Home Office to provide justice for the Windrush generation, does the Prime Minister now accept that the scheme must be handed over to an independent body to prevent prolonged suffering? (901694)

Reply from the Prime Minister: I accept the injustice that was done to the Windrush generation and renew the apologies on behalf of the Government for our share of responsibility. Yes, I do want to make sure that the compensation scheme is accelerated; I spoke to the people responsible for distributing it just the other night. I also said—I hope the House would agree—that I hope that in due time the name Windrush will be associated not just with that injustice, though it was appalling, but with the amazing contribution, sacrifice and effort of the Windrush generation to this country, that Windrush is a positive name for the people of this country, and that, indeed, Windrush is regarded as the Mayflower of our country.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-06-23/debates/BA80A265-D450-45EF-91FD-4A3D82359DD8/Engagements#contribution-C9EAE97D-B0D1-48B3-BD19-4AAA8E0C2F7C>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

British Nationality and Visas

Navendu Mishra (Labour) [16973] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applicants are waiting to be processed for their visa due to the time taken to take and process citizenship tests in (a) the UK and (b) Stockport borough and constituency.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The information requested is not held centrally; to obtain it could only be done at disproportionate cost.

Customers are required to book a Life in the UK test as part of their application for British Citizenship or Settlement in the UK and are unable to complete their application until they have passed the test.

Results are issued to the customer within 10 minutes of completing the test. If a customer fails, they need to wait 7 days before taking the test again and are able to take the test as many times as they need to.

Once a customer has passed the test and has then submitted their application, a decision will be made as soon as possible.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-16/16973>

Migrants: National Insurance

Lyn Brown (Labour) [17705] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to help ensure that (a) employers, (b) financial institutions and (c) the Student Loans Company are aware that a National Insurance number is not required for a person to have the right to (i) work and (ii) access relevant services in the UK.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office has published extensive guidance for employers on how to conduct a check to establish whether an individual has a right to work. A list of acceptable documents which enable an individual to demonstrate they have the right work is set out in the Employers Guide to Right to Work Checks:

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

We keep our guidance under regular review and will consider whether there is more we can do to provide advice to employers on this matter.

My officials are also in regular dialogue with their counterparts in the Department for Work and Pensions, which has the lead on National Insurance Number policy.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-17/17705>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration and Visas

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [16893] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many cases are still to conclude for (a) visa applications and (b) immigration cases as at 16 June 2021.

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [16894] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how long on average people have waited for the full processing of (a) visa applications and (b) immigration cases in the most recent period for which figures are available.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office is committed to ensuring all applications are considered without unnecessary delay. Information on our immigration routes with service standards and whether they have been processed against these standards is available as part of our transparency data, at: [Migration transparency data](#).

If an application is deemed complex and expected to take longer than the standard processing timescale, UKVI will write to the customer within the standard processing time and explain what will happen next. The published information on processing times for complex/ non straightforward visa applications is published as

part of the Migration Transparency data, available at [Migration transparency data](#). All asylum claims are carefully considered on their individual merits on the evidence available to the decision maker. We are committed to ensuring asylum claims are considered without unnecessary delay, so those who need protection are granted as soon as possible. Although we concentrate on oldest cases there may be reasons where some applications may be prioritised due to several factors such as vulnerability. Delays may also occur where we require further information/investigations before a decision can be made on the application.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-16/16893>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-16/16894>

Immigration: Fees and Charges

Rupa Huq (Labour) [16172] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the financial impact of immigration and nationality application fees on applicants; and what plans she has to reduce those fees.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Immigration and nationality fees are kept under 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 most recent fees regulations were laid on 10 March 2021 and can be viewed via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visa-fees-transparency-data>

These are accompanied by an impact assessment which can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2021/269/impacts/2021/12>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-15/16172>

Visas: Married People

Nicholas Brown (Labour) [17692] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the potential merits of means-testing the spouse visa fee.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Immigration and nationality fees are kept under 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. Full details can be reviewed via the following link:

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

These include the cost of processing the application, the wider cost of running the migration, borders and citizenship system and the benefits which are likely to accrue from a successful application.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-17/17692>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Migrants: Finance

Angela Eagle (Labour) [18470] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has made an estimate of the cost to the public purse of removing the No Recourse to Public Funds condition from all people currently subject to that condition.

Angela Eagle (Labour) [18471] To ask the Secretary State for the Home Department, what recent estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of abolishing the No Recourse to Public Funds condition.

Reply from Chris Philp: The principle of No Recourse Public Funds (NRPF) was established as far back as 1971 and is a condition which successive governments have applied to those in the UK with temporary immigration status. Migrants here without lawful status are also subject to NRPF.

NRPF restrictions are an important part of immigration policy designed to assure the public that controlled immigration brings real benefits to the UK, and does not place excessive demands upon the UK's finite resources. We have no plans to lift or abolish the NRPF condition and have made no estimates of the cost of doing so.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-18/18470>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-18/18471>

Immigration: Hong Kong

Bambos Charalambous (Labour) [16921] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps the Government plans to take to ensure that people from Hong Kong arriving with BNO visas will be effectively integrated into UK society.

Reply from Eddie Hughes: On 31 January, the UK launched a new immigration route for British National (Overseas) [BN(O)] status holders and their dependents. On 8 April, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government announced a new UK-wide Welcome Programme to support Hong Kong BN(O) status holders with a package worth £43.1 million.

Alongside this announcement, a comprehensive Welcome Guide was published on Gov.uk

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/welcome-a-guide-for-hong-kong-british-national-overseas-visa-holders-in-the-uk>

for Hong Kong BN(O)s settling in the UK, in both English and Cantonese.

To co-ordinate support and offer practical advice to BN(O)s, MHCLG is working to establish a network of Welcome Hubs across the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-16/16921>

Immigration Controls: EU Nationals

Stephen Morgan (Labour) [16203] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure EU nationals are not unnecessarily delayed or detained by the UK Border Force when travelling to the UK as a result of changes to the immigration system following the UK's departure from the EU.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The risks posed by the global pandemic remain significant, hence there are restrictions for inbound passengers, such as 10-day managed quarantine, self-isolation at home, and stringent testing will apply to people differently dependent on the country destination list. EU nationals are not exempt from these requirements and they operate in addition to the requirements of the Immigration Rules.

We are maintaining 100% Border Health Measures checks, carried out to keep the public safe, while maintaining an efficient border. However, with additional checks to keep the country safe, some delays are to be expected. EU nationals (or any visitors) coming to the UK, without a visa, would not realistically be able to undertake any of the activities listed as a "short trip" which would normally be permitted under the visitor route, while also complying with the requirement for a 10-day self-isolation requirement.

Those who are considering moving here for work or study should check the requirements for entry. We have worked incredibly closely with EU partners to make sure people are aware of these new requirements, including a multi-million-pound awareness campaign across the EU.

EU nationals coming to work, or study must prove they meet our entry requirements. We urge people to check the requirements before travelling, as they may be refused permission to enter at the border.

All Border Force Officers have a duty to act professionally. Border Force staff

receive a comprehensive package of training prior to operational deployment. Comprehensive guidance and training plans have been developed and adapted to upskill BF frontline officers in new policy, process, and system changes.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-15/16203>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Fleur Anderson (Labour) [19716] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many EU citizens have not yet applied for the EU Settlement Scheme.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office publishes data on the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) in the '[EU Settlement Scheme statistics](#)'.

The published figures refer specifically to applications made to the EUSS and cannot be directly compared with estimates of the resident population of EU citizens in the UK.

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-21/19716>

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

Fleur Anderson (Labour) [19717] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will extend the EU Settlement Scheme deadline beyond 30 June 2021.

Reply from Kevin Foster: There are no plans to extend the 30 June 2021 deadline for applications to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) by those EU citizens and their family members resident in the UK by the end of the transition period.

The Home Office has invested nearly £8 million in marketing campaigns to encourage EU citizens and their family members to apply to the EUSS. We recently launched a new wave of UK advertising to ensure EU citizens and their family members are aware of the deadline and know they need to apply. We are also working closely with employers, local authorities and charities to raise awareness. We have continued to receive and process thousands of applications a day to the EUSS throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, with more than 5.2 million applications concluded by 31 May 2021. We are committed to making sure everybody eligible for the scheme can apply, including those who are vulnerable or need extra support. There is significant help available from a network of 72 organisations across the UK grant funded by the Home Office with £22 million to help vulnerable people apply to the EUSS, including after the 30 June 2021 deadline.

In line with the Citizens' Rights Agreements, we have made clear where a person eligible for status under the scheme has reasonable grounds for missing the 30 June 2021 deadline, they will be given a further opportunity to apply. Non-exhaustive guidance on reasonable grounds for submitting a late application was published on 1 April 2021 and will underpin a flexible and pragmatic approach to dealing with such applications.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-21/19717>

The guidance referred to above can be read under the heading "Reasonable grounds for failing to meet the deadline" at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/988540/main-euss-guidance-v12.0-gov-uk.pdf

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

Ruth Jones (Labour) [16217] To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, what recent discussions he has had with the Home Secretary on the deadline for EU citizens living in Wales to register for the EU Settlement Scheme.

Reply from Simon Hart: I have regular discussions with the Home Secretary on a wide range of subjects including the EU settlement scheme (EUSS).

In addition, my officials are in regular contact with colleagues in the Home Office about how they can best support their efforts.

UK Government has worked extensively to promote awareness of the EUSS. The Home Office has already spent a total of £4.6 million on marketing campaigns to encourage those EU citizens and their family members who have not yet applied to do so. The Home Office recently launched a new £1.5 million wave of UK-wide advertising to ensure EU citizens and their family members are aware of the deadline and know they need to apply.

As of May 2021, the Home Office received 92,700 applications through the EU Settlement Scheme from EEA citizens living in Wales.

The UK Government is committed to making sure everybody eligible for the EUSS can apply, including those who are vulnerable or need extra support. Since April 2019, £17 million has been awarded by the UK Government in grant funding to a network of 72 organisations, who provide a wide range of invaluable support across the UK, ensuring those most at-risk continue to get the help they need.

The UK Government has two grant funded organisations; Tros Gynnal Plant and Newport Mind who operate and provide a wide range of support services to vulnerable and hard to reach EU citizens across Wales.

The UK Government has committed a further £4.5 million of grant funding for the period 1 April to 30 September this year to fund the current network of 72 organisations to continue to provide a range of support across the UK well beyond the 30 June deadline.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-15/16217>

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

The following four questions all received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Bambos Charalambous (Labour) [16925] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the long-term costs to local authorities of supporting residents who miss the deadline for the EU Settlement Scheme.

Bambos Charalambous (Labour) [16926] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the costs to local authorities of supporting residents with pre-settled status to secure settled status over the next five years.

Bambos Charalambous (Labour) [16927] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent guidance has been given to local authorities as the EU Settlement Scheme deadline approaches.

Bambos Charalambous (Labour) [16929] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to make funding available to support (a) late applicants and (b) people with pre-settled status apply for settled status.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The success of the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) – with more than 5.6 million applications received and more than 5 million grants of status, to 31 May 2021 – has been underpinned by joint working with and support for local authorities.

This includes £22 million in Home Office grant funding, through to 30 September 2021, for 72 organisations across the UK (including several local authorities and local government associations) to help vulnerable people – so far more than 310,000 – to apply to the EUSS. We have also provided additional funding, following a new burdens assessment, for local authority work in helping looked after children and care leavers to obtain EUSS status.

Alongside this, we have provided guidance, a toolkit of communications resources and ongoing webinars and other support for local authority staff concerning the EUSS.

We will continue to work closely with local authorities as we approach the 30 June 2021 deadline for applications to the EUSS by those resident in the UK by the end of the transition period on 31 December 2020. We will take a pragmatic and flexible approach to dealing with late applications in line with the non-exhaustive guidance on this published on 1 April 2021.

The entitlement to central and local government benefits and services of those granted EUSS status, whether on the basis of an in-time or late application, is consistent with our obligations under the Citizens' Rights Agreements.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-16/16925>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-16/16926>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-16/16927>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-16/16929>

The guidance referred to above can be read under the heading "Reasonable grounds for failing to meet the deadline" at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/988540/main-euss-guidance-v12.0-gov-uk.pdf

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

Clive Lewis (Labour) [15325] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what guidance her Department plans to provide to (a) care workers and (b) other EU citizens who fail to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme by 30 June 2021; and if she will publish that guidance.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Non-exhaustive guidance on reasonable grounds for submitting a late application has already been published.

The guidance can be found at pages 26 to 44 of the caseworker guidance, EU Settlement Scheme: EU, other EEA and Swiss citizens and their family members, which is available here:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-caseworker-guidance

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-14/15325>

The guidance referred to above can be read under the heading "Reasonable grounds for failing to meet the deadline" at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/988540/main-euss-guidance-v12.0-gov-uk.pdf

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

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [16150] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, whether there will be an opportunity for people to apply for EU Settled Status after the end of June 2021.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The EU Settlement Scheme will remain open to applications after 30 June 2021, including:

- where the applicant has reasonable grounds for missing the deadline applicable to them;
- where a person granted pre-settled status is applying for settled status;
- where the applicant is a relevant family member joining an EEA or Swiss citizen resident in the UK by the end of the transition period;
- where the applicant is a relevant family member of a qualifying British citizen and has returned with them to the UK by 29 March 2022 after living together in the EEA or Switzerland since before the end of the transition period.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-15/16150>

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

Drew Hendry (SNP) [19621] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the statutory parenting duties and responsibilities the Government has in respect of looked after children and care leavers and the vulnerabilities and challenges they may face, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that (a) looked after children and (b) legally recognised care leavers (i) have completed applications to the EU Settlement Scheme and (ii) are not affected by (A) late and (B) missed applications.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office is committed to continuing to engage 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.

The Home Office remains focused on ensuring all eligible children in care apply in time. It's recognised however, this vulnerable cohort can change over time, with new children coming into care. We are 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.

Where a Local Authority has failed by the relevant deadline to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme on behalf of a child under the age of 18, this would constitute reasonable grounds for the child – including where they are now an adult – to make a late application to the scheme when they become aware of this, for example when they first need to demonstrate their right to work in the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-21/19621>

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

Drew Hendry (SNP) [19622] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if her Department will make an assessment of the effect of the EU Settlement Scheme on the rights of (a) refugee children and (b) children in care under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office is committed to continuing to engage 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 require.

The Home Office remains focused on ensuring all eligible children in care apply in time. It's recognised however, this vulnerable cohort can change over time, with new children coming into care.

We are committed to working with Local Authorities to ensure this work continues after the deadline.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-21/19622>

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

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Anneliese Dodds (Labour) [18570] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether people who (a) had a freedom of movement right to reside on 31 December 2020 or (b) were defined as a relevant family member of a person who had a freedom of movement right to reside on 31 December 2020 and (c) make an application to the EU Settlement Scheme on or before 30 June 2021 will still have the right to reside with protected rights while their application is being decided after 30 June 2021.

Anneliese Dodds (Labour) [18571] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential effect of not providing official confirmation of (a) protected rights and (b) a pending application to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) on the rights of EU nationals and relevant family members while they wait for a decision on that application to the EUSS.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Under the Citizens' Rights (Application Deadline and Temporary Protection) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020, those who apply before the deadline, but whose application is not decided until after it, will have their existing EU law rights protected pending the outcome of their application, including any appeal.

Those who have submitted a valid EUSS application by 30 June 2021 will be issued with a certificate of application. Pending the outcome of the application, they will be able to rely on their certificate of application as proof of eligibility to access their right to work or rent when this is verified by the Home Office employer and landlord checking services.

The Department for Work and Pensions and HM Revenue & Customs will also be able to determine an individual's status with the Home Office using existing services.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-18/18570>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-18/18571>

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

Social Security Benefits: EU Nationals

Fleur Anderson (Labour) [19715] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if she will make it her policy to allow EU citizens who miss the deadline to apply for the EU Settlement Scheme to continue to claim benefits.

Reply from Justin Tomlinson: Access to benefits for non-UK nationals depends on their immigration status. EEA and Swiss nationals, and their family members, resident in the UK at the end of the transition period need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme to maintain entitlement to taxpayer funded benefits.

Those currently receiving benefits will not see their payments stop automatically from 1 July. It is, however, important that anyone who hasn't applied to the EUSS does so quickly, including if the HO contacts them following the deadline, to ensure that benefit payments don't stop.

The Government has been running a national communication campaign to make sure individuals are aware of the need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme ahead of the 30 June deadline. In addition to the national campaign, HM Government has been contacting DWP claimants to make sure that they are aware of the need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme ahead of the deadline to protect their rights.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-21/19715>

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

Neil Coyle (Labour) [18532] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government is taking to work with (a) employers and (b) landlords to ensure that people who (i) applied for the EU Settlement Scheme before the June 2021 deadline and (ii) do not receive a decision until after that deadline has passed have their rights and entitlements upheld while that application is pending.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Consistent with the Citizens' Rights Agreements, the rights of an individual who has made a valid application to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) before 30 June 2021, will have their rights protected and can continue to live their life in the UK.

EEA citizens who submit a valid EUSS application by 30 June will be issued with a Certificate of Application. Pending the outcome of their application, they can rely on this to demonstrate their eligibility for work and rent, when it is verified by the Home Office employer and landlord checking services.

Guidance for employers and landlords was published on GOV.UK on 18 June which sets out the steps they should take when carrying out right to work or right to rent checks from 1 July. We have a comprehensive and ongoing programme of engagement with businesses of all sizes, across the UK, to ensure they fully understand their obligations as employers and landlords of EEA citizens.

The Home Office also has established an employer and landlord helpline. This service is equipped to provide advice on compliance with right to work and rent checks.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-18/18532>

The guidance referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/994996/Employer_right_to_work_checks_supporting_guidance.pdf

and

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/994998/Landlords_guide_to_right_to_rent_checks.pdf

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

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

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Stephen Morgan (Labour) [16204] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the availability of digital and physical certificates of covid-19 vaccination status, if she will review the decision not to provide EU citizens with physical proof of Settled Status.

Feryal Clark (Labour) [16986] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department,

whether her Department has made an assessment of the potential merits of introducing an alternative means to prove settler status for EU Nationals, such as a (a) mobile application where a pdf download can be held and (b) telephone service where paper copies can be ordered to avoid future instances of problems caused by the Government website being inaccessible.

Reply from Kevin Foster: We are developing a border and immigration system which is “digital by default”, which over time means we will increasingly replace physical and paper-based products and services with accessible, easy to use online and digital services.

Individuals continue to receive written notice of their immigration status by email or letter, which they can keep for their personal records if they wish and can use when contacting the Home Office. Should users find themselves unable to access their digital status information online, we have a call centre which can assist them to use the service.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-15/16204>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-16/16986>

Refugees: Resettlement

Bambos Charalambous (Labour) [16186] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of refugees who will be helped annually by the new UK Resettlement Scheme.

Reply from Chris Philp: Through the UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS) we continue to welcome vulnerable refugees in need of protection to the UK. The number of refugees we resettle every year depends on a variety of factors including local authorities’ capacity and wider public sector capacity for supporting refugees and the extent to which Community Sponsorship continues to thrive. This year, the recovery from the pandemic will clearly be a significant factor affecting capacity. We are working closely with our partners to assess the capacity for resettlement in the months ahead and will continue to welcome those in need in the years to come.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-15/16186>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum

Bambos Charalambous (Labour) [17801] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum claims were received in (a) 2014, (b) 2018, (c) 2020 and (d) 2021 to date.

Bambos Charalambous (Labour) [17802] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum claims were decided in (a) 2014, (b) 2018, (c) 2020 and (d) 2021.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office publishes data on asylum applications in the ‘[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)’. Data on the number of asylum applications lodged in the UK are published in table Asy_D01 of the [asylum and resettlement detailed datasets](#), and includes a breakdown for year of application. Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the ‘Notes’ page of the workbook. The latest data relate to March 2021.

Additionally, the Home Office publishes further data on asylum and resettlement in the [asylum and resettlement summary tables](#). The ‘contents’ sheet contains an overview of all available data on asylum and resettlement.

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-17/17801>

and

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum

Bambos Charalambous (Labour) [17800] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many staff were allocated to processing asylum claims in (a) 2014, (b) 2018, (c) 2020 and (d) 2021.

Bambos Charalambous (Labour) [17803] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum claims were decided within the 26-week period in (a) 2014, (b) 2018, (c) 2020 and (d) 2021 to date.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office are unable to state how many asylum applications were decided within the 26-week period in 2014, 2018, 2020 and 2021 to date but can state the number of applications decided within the 24-week period (6 months) from Q2 2014 to Q2 2020.

This information can be found at Asy_01 of the published Migration Transparency data: [Immigration & Protection data: February 2021](#)

The number of staff who were allocated to processing asylum claims in 2021 is not recorded and held in a reportable format. To obtain this information would require detailed reporting against multiple cost centres and could only be obtained at disproportionate costs.

However, the Home Office can provide the number of asylum case working staff from 2014 to 2020. This data can be found in ASY_04 of the published Transparency data:

[Immigration & Protection data: February 2021](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-17/17800>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-17/17803>

Asylum

Jim Shannon (DUP) [16103] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that asylum applications are considered in a timely manner.

Reply from Kevin Foster: We have already made significant progress in prioritising cases with acute vulnerability and those in receipt of the greatest level of support, including Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children. Additionally, we are prioritising older cases and cases where an individual has already received a decision, but a reconsideration is required.

The Home Office is pursuing a programme of transformation and business improvement initiatives which will speed up decision making, reduce the time people spend in the system and reduce the numbers who are awaiting an interview or decision.

This includes an uplift in decision making capacity and providing improved training and career progression opportunities to aid retention of staff. We are continuing to develop existing and new technology to help build on recent improvements such as digital interviewing and move away from a paper-based system.

There are three key areas of focus in the short to medium term to reduce the number of outstanding asylum cases by improving efficiency and productivity, reducing the outstanding case load and building high performing teams.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-15/16103>

Asylum: Children

Bambos Charalambous (Labour) [16184] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what safeguards are in place to protect unaccompanied children who are

wrongly diverted to adult asylum support services.

Reply from Chris Philp: The welfare of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children is an absolute priority. We are fully adhering to our statutory duties and we have improved both our facilities and the way we deal with arrivals in response to the unprecedented rise in small boat crossings.

Young people are prioritised to ensure the necessary welfare and security checks are completed in the shortest amount of time. After this they are collected by a local authority and cared for by social services.

We have contracted a team of social workers as a temporary measure to support the Kent Intake Unit, with the aim of strengthening the unit's age assessment and child safeguarding processes.

KIU includes a non-detained facility (called the 'Atrium') where asylum claimants are able to wait once their asylum claim has been registered and it has a specific area for minors and other vulnerable customers which is operated by the Refugee Council (NGO) under contract from the Home Office.

If there is doubt about the age of an individual, they will be referred to a Local Authority for a Merton compliant age assessment to ensure they are diverted to the correct support services.

If any concerns about a service user's age become apparent once they are in asylum support accommodation, the relevant local authority will be informed so they can take appropriate safeguarding action.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-15/16184>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Finance

Jessica Morden (Labour) [17701] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what risk assessments were made ahead of her Department's change of contractor for the provision of Aspen cards.

Jessica Morden (Labour) [17702] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have waited over four weeks for access to a working Aspen card from the date of their application in (a) the UK, (b) Wales and (c) Newport East in 2021.

Reply from Kevin Foster: All Home Office projects, including the delivery of the new contract providing asylum support payments, have robust risk management mechanisms and practices in place. Engagement with our strategic delivery partners, accommodation providers and Migrant Help-including the consideration of risks-took place well in advance of the project rollout/go-live.

This will continue through an already-established service delivery management process which ensures ongoing risks are understood and appropriately managed across the many different provisions which support the asylum-seeking population. The number of people eligible for asylum support; as well as the card activation rate; is a fluid and fluctuating figure. They change on a daily basis due to new service users entering the system, the provision of support and card activation numbers in particular increasing over time.

Fully functioning and tested Aspen cards have been distributed to all service users. The vast majority have activated it and have been using it successfully since the service went live on Monday 24th May 2021. Where replacement cards have been requested, they are being actioned swiftly and are being dispatched to service users accordingly.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-17/17701>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-17/17702>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Finance

Tony Lloyd (Labour) [16790] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what information she holds on the progress on the roll-out of the Aspen card; and what percentage of those planned to receive that card have received it to date.

Tony Lloyd (Labour) [16791] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what guidance her Department has published for people who have not yet received the Aspen card.

Reply from Kevin Foster: If a service user is eligible for asylum support and a payment card but has not received their card, they have been advised this should be reported to Migrant Help as per the existing published process and guidance for service user concerns or issues.

Migrant Help will forward the concern onto the relevant operational team to investigate and action a replacement card, if needed, as well as issue an Emergency Cash Payment (ECP) to cover the period until the card arrives and is activated.

Service users can also contact their accommodation provider who have been instructed to reach out to service users known to not have activated their cards. Through these checks, accommodation providers are actively ensuring service users have both received their card and activated accordingly as well as self-authorise ECPs accordingly.

Finally, service users can also reach out to any third sector representatives/voluntary sector partners to escalate an issue on their behalf. Third sector colleagues have a direct escalation route to Home Office teams where they can direct issues (such as the need for replacement cards and issuing ECPs to service users) for Home Office colleagues to investigate and action.

The vast majority of service users have now received their new Aspen card, activated it and have been using it successfully since the service went live on Monday 24th May 2021.

Numbers are fluid as activation numbers continue to increase on a daily basis as well as having new eligible asylum seekers coming into the system over the same period of time.

We are proactively working with partners to ensure any eligible service users receive their new Aspen card and activate it successfully. In the interim, Emergency Cash Payments (ECPs) are being provided to support their critical needs.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-16/16790>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-16/16791>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Finance

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [19665] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the consistency across the UK of the provision of emergency cash payments by accommodation providers to asylum seekers during the transition of the Aspen card contract.

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [19666] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of people who were entitled to receive asylum support that did not have a functioning Aspen card on (a) Monday 24 May, (b) Friday 28 May and (c) Friday 4 June 2021.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Emergency cash payments (ECPs) are a longstanding operational contingency provision in place for several years.

ECPs have been used to support service users who had issues with their Aspen card over the transition period. All accommodation providers have been instructed

to ensure ECPs are provided to those in critical need of support during this period. Their use has been further adapted to meet the demand and remove barriers to authorisation which allow swift deployment.

Those who have issues or are unsure how they can activate their cards are able to contact the 24/7 Migrant Help helpline. There was an initial spike in relation to the volume of calls during the first week after going live, however the number of calls to Migrant Help has since reduced. Migrant Help also maintained the availability of their webchat and the Raise and Issue communication channels.

Migrant Help increased staffing numbers to support service users in the weeks ahead of the new service going live and thereafter during the transition. Additionally, during the transition to the new payment provider, there was an out of hours operational team working alongside Migrant Help to ensure ECPs could be provided to those who required a payment. Migrant Help continue to be the first point of contact to support service users in relation to any issues faced regarding asylum support.

Fully functioning Aspen cards, including translated instructions on how to activate them, were distributed to all service users via first class post prior to the transition date of 24 May. The majority of eligible card holders had completed this activation process by 24 May and have had access to funds via their card.

However, some card holders had yet to successfully activate their card by this date. As part of the transition of services we are working with our new card service supplier PFS to enhance data and understand the reasons behind the residual cards which are yet to be activated.

In addition, our accommodation and advice service providers are working closely to target support to all such service users to encourage and assist with those who are still yet to activate their cards. This includes ensuring subsistence support remains available through access to Emergency Cash Payments where appropriate and replacement cards are issued where delivery problems are reported to us.

It is not currently possible therefore to provide an accurate breakdown of the reasons some cards have not been activated or what proportion of this is due to a delivery issue.

Our latest available management information suggests the following approximations for the activation of cards:

- As of 28/05 – approximately 73% of service users has activated their card
- As of 04/06 – this figure rose to approximately 83%
- As of 22/06 –over 93% of service users had activated their new Aspen card

It should be noted these figures have been taken from a live operational database and have not been quality assured to National Statistics or Official Statistics publication standard.

We continue to work with strategic delivery partners to ensure all cards are successfully received and activated with the appropriate service users being targeted for assistance.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-21/19665>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-21/19666>

Asylum: Coronavirus

Bambos Charalambous (Labour) [16923] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers living in high-risk environments have been offered a covid-19 vaccine.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The accommodation we provide is safe, habitable and fit for purpose.

Asylum seekers have the same access to the Covid-19 vaccination as the general

population.

The Home Office will follow the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advice on prioritisation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-16/16923>

Asylum: Housing

Jim Shannon (DUP) [16104] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to work with local authorities to help ensure the adequacy of the supply of suitable asylum accommodation.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office has been working with asylum accommodation providers, Local Authorities and Strategic Migration Partnerships to increase the amount of accommodation that is available for asylum seekers so that we can eliminate the need for the use of contingency accommodation.

We are grateful to those local authorities who participate in the dispersal scheme and will continue to work in partnership with them to procure suitable accommodation.

Sadly, many local authorities do not currently participate in the dispersal scheme, making it harder to procure sufficient dispersal accommodation. I would encourage them to step up and play their part in the UK-wide effort to provide accommodation to those seeking asylum who would otherwise be destitute.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-15/16104>

Asylum: Napier Barracks

Bambos Charalambous (Labour) [16924] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the steps necessary to prevent future covid-19 outbreaks at Napier Barracks.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The accommodation has been adapted to ensure social distancing can be maintained and occupancy in dormitories is limited to ensure a minimum distance between beds of at least two metres.

This is complemented by a range of additional safety measures including increased cleaning, availability of personal cleaning products and hand sanitisers, lateral flow tests for all residents three times a week and a track and trace system. Our service providers have robust plans in place to minimise the risk of an outbreak of COVID-19 and an action plan should a COVID-19 outbreak occur.

We have established links to the appropriate leads from the local authority, PHE and statutory bodies and are committed to working with them to support the people we accommodate and the wider community. Regular Multi-Agency Forums are held to ensure concerns are understood, so issues are managed and resolved accordingly.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-16/16924>

Hassockfield Immigration Removal Centre

Alan Campbell (Labour) [16014] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what consultation her Department has undertaken with the local community on plans to open a new immigration detention centre for women in County Durham.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office has acquired the former Hassockfield Secure Training Centre in County Durham and will open it as an immigration removal centre for women by the autumn.

Discussions with Durham County Council have taken place and will continue throughout the development of plans for the site. Engagements with local councillors, other local stakeholders and interested non-governmental organisations will take place over the coming weeks.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-15/16014>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Clothing

Dawn Butler (Labour) [16047] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Answer of 22 April 2021 to Question 183092, who in her Department is responsible for distributing clothing to incoming migrants; and what the process is for that matter.

Dawn Butler (Labour) [16048] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Answer of 22 April 2021 to Question 183092 on Asylum: Clothing, if she will provide an itemised breakdown of what was purchased for the £5,415.90.

Reply from Chris Philp: Home Office department, the Clandestine Channel Threat Command are responsible for the provision of basic clothing to migrants who are disembarked at the Tug Haven (having been intercepted crossing the channel in small boats). Migrants often cross the channel in poor weather conditions and without adequate clothing. In such circumstances they are invariably very wet and cold and at risk of hypothermia if dry clothing is not provided. This provision of dry clothing forms part of our duty of care in these circumstances, wherever possible we use recycled clothing from charitable organisations rather than buying new.

The following items were purchased, 225 pairs of lace up canvas shoes, 26 pairs of flip flops, 440 T-shirts, 333 sweatshirts and 337 jogging bottoms.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-15/16047>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-15/16048>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-19/183092>

Asylum: LGBT People

Martyn Day (SNP) [15324] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure LGBTQ+ individuals seeking asylum in the UK from homophobic, biphobic or transphobic persecution are (a) treated fairly and with dignity and (b) protected from persecution and harassment during their application.

Reply from Kevin Foster: All LGBTQ+ individuals seeking asylum in the UK are given every opportunity to disclose information relevant to their claim before a decision is taken, including where it may be sensitive or difficult to disclose.

Each case is considered on its individual merits by caseworkers who receive extensive training. All available evidence is carefully and sensitively considered in light of published country information ensuring all individuals are treated fairly and with dignity.

The Home Office work closely with a range of organisations specialising in asylum and human rights protection to trans and LGB communities.

We ensure LGBTQ+ asylum seekers are signposted to relevant NGOs specialising in the support of these individuals. This is done through an information leaflet given to all asylum claimants at the point of claim which includes sections on legal advice, additional help and assistance with links to relevant legal bodies and support organisations.

LGBTQ+ claimants can access specialist support upon claiming asylum from Rainbow Migration (formerly known as the UK Lesbian & Gay Immigration Group (UKLGIG)) who will guide them through the asylum procedure, including providing relevant information. They also offer one-to-one and group peer support to claimants.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-14/15324>

Migrants: Detainees

Bambos Charalambous (Labour) [16185] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, what plans she has to reinstate (a) Action Access and (b) other alternative schemes to immigration detention.

Reply from Chris Philp: As part of the Department's immigration detention reform programme, we are committed to a series of two pilots exploring alternatives to detention.

The first of these pilots, Action Access, provided women who would otherwise be detained with a programme of support in the community. This pilot concluded on 31 March 2021 after operating for two years, as planned. The second pilot, the Refugee and Migrant Advisory Service, is currently supporting both men and women in the community and will remain in operation for two years until June 2022. We are working with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on these pilots and they have appointed the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) to independently evaluate this work. These evaluations will be published, with the evaluation report of the Action Access pilot scheduled for Summer 2021. We will use the evaluations of these pilots to inform our future approach to case-management focused alternatives to detention.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-15/16185>

Migrants: Detainees

Alan Campbell (Labour) [16015] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department has taken to reduce the use of immigration detention for women who have survived torture, rape or trafficking.

Reply from Chris Philp: The government remains committed to using detention only where necessary. Indeed, the vast majority (95%) of people liable to be removed from the UK are granted immigration bail and there continues to be a general downward trend in the use of detention since 2015.

The Home Office will always seek to facilitate voluntary return as an alternative to detention and enforced removal. Where the use of detention is considered necessary, we recognise that some people may be particularly vulnerable to harm. This is the basis of the Adults at Risk in Immigration Detention (AAR) policy, which strengthens the presumption against detention for vulnerable adults. The AAR policy enables officials to identify vulnerable individuals and consequently make balanced decisions about the appropriateness of their detention. Under the policy, women who have survived torture, rape or trafficking will be detained only when the evidence of vulnerability in their particular case is outweighed by the immigration considerations, including immigration compliance, criminality factors and expected date of removal.

Additional safeguards are also in place for those in detention displaying such vulnerabilities, including regular reviews of detention and reporting mechanisms to ensure that particularly vulnerable individuals are brought to the attention of those with direct responsibility for authorising, maintaining and reviewing detention. The recently amended decision-making process for potential victims of modern slavery also includes a Modern Slavery Needs Assessment to identify victims' recovery needs and establish whether they can be met in detention.

All Home Office staff working in the detention system are also given training and support to identify and act upon indicators of vulnerability at the earliest opportunity.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-15/16015>

The policy referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/988028/adults-at-risk-policy-v6.0-gov-uk.pdf

Asylum: Deportation

Bambos Charalambous (Labour) [16183] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, how many pending readmission or transfer agreements to return asylum seekers the UK has with other countries.

Reply from Chris Philp: The UK already has arrangements with many countries across the world to facilitate the returns of asylum seekers.

The Joint Political Declaration between the EU and UK agreed in December 2020 noted the UK's intention to engage in bilateral discussions with the most concerned Member States to discuss suitable practical arrangements, including on asylum and illegal migration. These discussions are continuing, and we have recently agreed a migration partnership with India.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-15/16183>

Deportation: India

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [18551] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has (a) had discussions with relevant stakeholders and (b) set a target for the number of Indian nationals to be deported in talks with India on the Migration and Mobility Partnership MoU.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Secretary signed the UK-India Migration and Mobility Partnership (MMP) on 4 May. We continue to discuss implementation arrangements with Government of India counterparts. Whilst the agreement contains a number of mutually beneficial provisions including measures that will improve the speed and efficiency of returns processes we have no targets pertaining to the return of Indian nationals and no deportation targets.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-18/18551>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Migrant Workers

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL801] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many immigrants are currently part of the UK labour force; what estimate they have made of the value of the labour of immigrant workers in the UK; and what assessment they have made of the level of immigration required by the UK labour market in each of the next five years.

Reply from Lord Callanan: As the UK builds back from the pandemic, our new points-based immigration system will attract top talent from around the world while also supporting the enormous potential of our domestic workforce.

High-skilled migration can boost growth and drive the international competitiveness of the UK's high-growth innovative businesses. Bespoke immigration routes will enable more students, scientists, academics, investors and entrepreneurs to come to the UK and contribute to our economic growth.

The Government recognise and value the contribution that people from all over the world have made to our culture, society and economy. The independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) set out in detail the contribution to the economy by EEA migration in its 2018 report, which is published on the GOV.UK website.

The Office for National Statistics estimates the numbers of people not born in the UK and the number of people who are not UK nationals, within the UK labour force, from the Labour Force Survey. However recent level estimates have been temporarily suspended until they are reweighted to better account for the recent population movements.

The overall needs of the UK labour market are owned and kept under close review by the Department for Work and Pensions. Immigration policy and the Points Based System are matters for the Home Office.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-07/hl801>

The report referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/741926/Final_EEA_report.PDF

Immigration: Hong Kong

The Lord Bishop of Southwark [HL896] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to help the applicants for British National (Overseas) visas in the first three months of 2021 (1) to move to, and (2) to integrate in, the UK.

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: On 31 January, the UK launched a new immigration route for British National (Overseas) [BN(O)] status holders and their dependents. On 8 April, my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government announced a new UK-wide Welcome Programme to support Hong Kong BN(O) status holders with a package worth £43.1 million. Alongside this announcement, a comprehensive Welcome Guide was published <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/welcome-a-guide-for-hong-kong-british-national-overseas-visa-holders-in-the-uk>

for Hong Kong BN(O)s settling in the UK, in both English and Cantonese. To co-ordinate support and offer practical advice to BN(O)s, MHCLG is working to establish a network of Welcome Hubs across the UK.

[Welcome Guide](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-08/hl896>

Immigration Controls: EU Nationals

The Lord Bishop of Southwark [HL818] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that there has been a change in attitude among Border Force officers towards EU citizens arriving in the UK since 1 January.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: While international travel is disrupted due to the pandemic, we have updated our guidance to clarify overseas nationals, including EU citizens, who have been refused entry to the UK and are awaiting removal should be granted immigration bail, where appropriate.

It should be noted 95% of individuals with no leave to remain in the UK are managed within the community rather than detained.

Border Force treat all arrivals with respect and consider each passenger's situation on an individual basis to check everyone entering the UK has the right to do so.

Those who are considering moving here for work or study should check the requirements for entry, including the Border Health Regulations relating to the global pandemic set by the UK and Devolved Governments. We have worked closely with EU partners to make sure people are aware of these new requirements, including a multi-million awareness campaign across the EU.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-07/hl818>

Immigration: EU Nationals

The Lord Bishop of Southwark [HL819] To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to extending the EU Settlement Scheme beyond 30 June.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We have continued to receive and process thousands of applications a day to the EU Settlement scheme throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, with over 5.6 million applications received and over 5 million grants of status made by 31 May 2021. Given this success we have no plans to extend the deadline for applications to the EU Settlement Scheme.

The Home Office has invested nearly £8 million in marketing campaigns to encourage EU citizens and their family members to apply to the scheme. We recently launched a new wave of UK advertising to ensure EU citizens and their family members are aware of the deadline and know they need to apply. We are

also working closely with employers, local authorities and charities to raise awareness.

In line with the Citizens' Rights Agreements, we have made clear where a person eligible for status under the scheme has reasonable grounds for missing the 30 June 2021 deadline, they will be given a further opportunity to apply. The non-exhaustive guidance on reasonable grounds for submitting a late application was published on 1 April 2021 and includes where there are compelling practical or compassionate reasons why a person may have been unaware of the requirement to apply to the scheme by the deadline or may have failed to do so.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-07/hl819>

The guidance referred to above can be read under the heading "Reasonable grounds for failing to meet the deadline" at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/988540/main-euss-guidance-v12.0-gov-uk.pdf

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

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL958] To ask Her Majesty's Government what records they will maintain relating to the timing of applications for settled status, particularly of individuals applying before 1 July but whose applications are granted on or after that date.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office records the date on which all applications to the EUSS are received and concluded.

Our aim is to process all applications to the EU Settlement Scheme as expeditiously as possible. Complete applications are usually processed in around five working days.

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

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

The latest published information shows the total number of concluded applications to the EU Settlement scheme was 5.27 million up to 31 May 2021.

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

Applications concluded by month and decision type are published in the detailed quarterly release – [EU Settlement Scheme quarterly statistics, March 2021](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-09/hl958>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL957] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to section 10A of the British Nationality Act 1981, to be inserted on 1 July 2021, what information will be provided to EU citizens who settle in the UK on or after 1 July 2021 regarding the effect of that section and its application to any child born of such citizens while in the UK.

British Nationality: Children

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL959] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to provide access to the records to any child to whom section 10A of the British Nationality Act, to be inserted on 1 July 2021, relates to; and what other steps they will take to ensure that a child is able to confirm their British citizenship acquired under

this section, whether during childhood or adulthood.

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL960] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will provide access to the records relating to section 10A of the British Nationality Act 1981, to be added on 1 July 2021, to the parent, local authority or other guardian with responsibility for the child.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The British Nationality Act 1981 (Immigration Rules Appendix EU) (Amendment) Regulations 2021 will be an important means by which we protect the nationality rights of children who might otherwise be adversely affected in consequence of, or in connection with, the ending of free movement.

We will publish their introduction and operation using our usual methods such as gov.uk, but will also ask those who have been dealing with the EU Settlement Scheme more generally to raise awareness through the stakeholders they already engage with, including Local Authorities.

We anticipate many children who need to benefit from the provision will already have access to the requisite information to establish their nationality, not least as much of it will have been supplied by their parent as part of the EU Settlement Scheme application. Nonetheless, where there are evidence gaps, we are establishing processes to assist any applicants, and ideally without the need to ask for further information from the child or their parent. This includes the EUSS record itself given its importance to the operation of these provisions.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-09/hl957>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-09/hl959>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-09/hl960>

The regulations referred to above can be read at

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2021/9780348223125>

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

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

Refugees: Children and Females

The Lord Bishop of Southwark [HL895] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the findings published by Together With Refugees on 1 June that two-thirds of women and children currently accepted by the Government as refugees would be deemed inadmissible under their New Plan for Immigration, published on 24 March.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I do not recognise the figures presented in the Together with Refugees publication of 1 June regarding women and children. Some mention is made in the report of illegal entry figures quoted in the New Plan for Immigration policy statement, and to wider published data, but neither support the specific conclusions made in the publication.

In drawing its conclusions, Together with Refugees states: "The new rules would mean that all those who claim asylum after arriving in the UK through an irregular route would face removal to a third country, with their asylum claim only progressing if removal is not possible..." That is not how the current policy operates, nor how we intend the future process to operate.

Our current policy is clear that decisions are made on a case-by-case basis, not rigidly or en masse. Irregular entry is not the sole criterion or even a necessary criterion on which inadmissibility processes operate. Inadmissibility applies only where someone has a connection to or has been present in a safe third country before coming to the UK.

There are many circumstances where the inadmissibility rules would not be applied, including: to an unaccompanied child; to someone who has had no opportunity to claim asylum in the safe third country, for instance, because they were under the control of traffickers; to someone who demonstrates that in their particular case, return to the third country would place them at risk of harm; and to someone who demonstrates that in their specific circumstances there are reasons under the Human Rights Act why they should remain in the UK.

There will be instances where the inadmissibility rules will apply to families. We know that some people, including women with children, reach safe EU countries where they have the opportunity to claim asylum and obtain the protection they need, but then as a matter of preference, choose to make further unnecessary and dangerous journeys to the UK. Such actions from people who have already reached safety exposes not only the claimants themselves to significant danger, but also their children and the individuals involved in their rescue.

Our inadmissibility rules aim to deter anyone thinking of making a dangerous journey to the UK when already in a safe country, and make it clear that those who could and should have claimed asylum in the first safe country they enter may not have their claims determined in the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-08/hl895>

The New Plan for Immigration, referred to above, can be read at

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

Information about the Together with Refugees data referred to above can be read at

<https://togetherwithrefugees.org.uk/media-release-women-and-children-abandoned-by-proposed-refugee-rules-reveals-new-campaign-coalition/>

Refugees: Resettlement

The Lord Bishop of Southwark [HL894] To ask Her Majesty's Government when they plan to resume resettlement programmes for refugees.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Parliament was informed by Written Ministerial Statement on 18 March that the new global UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS) commenced on completion of the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2021-03-18/hcws855>

We are committed to welcoming vulnerable refugees through resettlement in the months and years to come, as well as through other safe and legal routes such as Refugee Family Reunion. Since 2015 we have resettled over 25,000 refugees through our resettlement schemes, in addition to granting over 29,000 Refugee Family Reunion visas in the last 5 years. As set out in the New Plan for Immigration we will continue to strengthen our resettlement offer as a safe and legal route to the UK for refugees in need of protection.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-08/hl894>

Asylum: Finance

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL802] To ask Her Majesty's Government how much was the weekly benefit payment received by asylum seekers in each of the last 10 years.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute can obtain support from the Home Office. The support package usually consists of free, furnished accommodation (with utility bills and council tax paid) and a weekly cash allowance to meet other essential living needs.

The standard weekly cash allowance for a single adult asylum seeker over the past 10 years is set out in the table below.

Year	Weekly Rate
From 18 April 2011	£36.62
From 6 April 2015	£36.95
From 6 February 2018	£37.75
From 15 June 2020	£39.60
From 22 February 2021	£39.63

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-07/hl802>

Asylum: Finance

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL803] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the failure to pay benefits to asylum seekers due to contractual changes to the ASPEN card payments system; and what steps they will take to ensure that this does not happen again.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The PrePaid Financial Services (PFS) solution is a well-established Mastercard pre-paid card that is used by organisations across the UK as well as abroad and has undergone over 5 months of rigorous testing to integrate with Home Office systems.

Service users were notified of the transition in advance and a significant majority of service users have received their Aspen card and successfully activated it. For those who have done this the service is functioning as expected. The cards are fully working, withdrawals and purchases are being made and the automated IVR activation line is operating well.

Transitions of this nature are complex, and plans to mitigate anticipated issues were, and remain, in place. Cash payments were made available in emergencies. We will continue to work with the remainder of service users to activate their cards and ensure they are supported throughout.

As part of our management of service contracts continuous improvement assessments will be factored in throughout the contract term and implemented accordingly.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-07/hl803>

Asylum: Finance

The Lord Bishop of Southwark [HL893] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of delays in the issuing of the Aspen payment cards to asylum seekers.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The PrePaid Financial Services (PFS) solution is a well-established Mastercard pre-paid card used by organisations across the UK as well as abroad and has undergone over 5 months of rigorous testing to integrate with Home Office systems.

Service users were notified of the transition in advance and a significant majority of service users have received their Aspen card and successfully activated. The service is functioning as expected for those who have activated their card. The cards are fully working, withdrawals and purchases are being made and the automated IVR activation line is operating well.

Transitions of this nature are complex, and plans to mitigate anticipated issues were, and remain, in place. Cash payments were made available in emergencies. We will continue to work with the remainder of service users to activate their cards and ensure they are supported throughout.

Our main focus is to ensure all remaining service users have an activated card so the new service can be accessed and support payments received.

As part of our management of service contracts continuous improvement assessments will be factored in throughout the contract term and implemented accordingly.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-08/hl893>

Asylum: Napier Barracks

Lord Boateng (Labour) [HL916] To ask Her Majesty's Government when any (1) minister, or (2) senior civil servant, last visited the refugee accommodation at Napier Barracks; and what assessment they made of the living conditions there.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: There is a weekly home office presence at Napier Barracks, with senior civil servants regularly visiting the site, most recently on 2 June. Significant improvements to conditions at Napier have been recognised.

Ministers Foster and Philp have visited Napier Barracks.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-09/hl916>

Asylum: Napier Barracks

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL888] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) whether the outbreak of COVID-19 at Napier Barracks is now over, and (2) the safety of Napier Barracks for new arrivals of asylum seekers.

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: There is currently nobody housed at Napier Barracks who has tested positive for COVID 19. The previous outbreak was declared over on 6 March 2021.

We have sought Public Health England advice on how we can make best use of this accommodation, working within the constraints of the configuration, whilst minimising risks from COVID-19. We are using dormitories as shared rooms, but limiting occupancy ensuring a minimum distance between beds of at least 2 metres. This is complemented by a range of additional safety measures including increased cleaning of surfaces, availability of hand sanitisers, a track and trace system, three weekly lateral flow tests for residents and staff and lateral flow tests on arrival for visitors. We also communicate with residents around COVID-19 control measures. We continue to work with health and public health bodies to ensure an acceptable level of risk in relation to Covid-19.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-08/hl888>

Asylum: Napier Barracks

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL804] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many immigrants have been detained at Napier Barracks in each of the past six weeks for which figures are available.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: No-one is detained at Napier Barracks as service users accommodated there are free to come and go as they please.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-07/hl804>

Penally Camp

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL889] To ask Her Majesty's Government how the Penally Training Camp is now being used; and what discussions they have had, if any, with the Welsh Government about this camp.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Penally site was last used to accommodate asylum seekers on 19 March 2021.

The site was handed back to the MOD on 13 May 2021

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-08/hl889>

Detainees: EU Nationals

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL761] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to change their practice of detaining and deporting EU citizens visiting family in the UK who do not possess the correct documentation.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Now freedom of movement has ended, EU Citizens can continue to visit the UK, without a visa, for short trips such as holidays, job interviews and to visit family.

Individuals without the necessary immigration permission for the activities that they intend to undertake in the UK, or where Border Force staff do not believe they meet the requirements for entry as a visitor, may be refused permission to enter at the border, which makes them liable for detention.

Due to COVID-19, the removal of an individual who has been refused may be delayed by a lack of flight availability or the need for an individual to provide a negative COVID test to meet the relevant EU Member State entry requirement.

The Home Office has issued a clarification to frontline officers to favour immigration bail where the imminent removal of an individual is impacted by the above.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-07/hl761>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration Controls: EU Nationals

The Lord Bishop of Southwark [HL816] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the increase in the number of EU citizens refused entry to the UK in the first quarter of 2021 compared to the same period in 2020.

Detainees: EU Nationals

The Lord Bishop of Southwark [HL817] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many EU citizens were detained on entry to the UK in the first quarter of 2021 compared to the same period in 2020; and what guidance they issue to immigration staff on making decisions about detention on entry.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: While international travel is disrupted due to the pandemic, we have updated our guidance to clarify overseas nationals, including EU citizens, who have been refused entry to the UK and are awaiting removal should be granted immigration bail, where appropriate.

Overseas nationals seeking entry into the UK at this time must not only comply with the requirements of the Immigration Rules, but the prevailing Border Health Regulations set by the UK and Devolved Governments relating to the global pandemic. Failure to comply with the health regulations can also see entry refused. Detention of a person may be appropriate in some cases, including to keep the public safe. Border Force treat all arrivals with respect and consider each passenger's situation on an individual basis to check everyone entering the UK has the right to do so. Most people detained under immigration powers spend only very short periods in detention.

Home Office publish transparency data figures, can be accessed via published data in the link below: [Immigration Enforcement data: February 2021](#)

The latest data on enforced returns (of which 'deportations' is a subset) are published in the returns summary tables (opens in a new tab). The data include the number of returns which occurred from detention. More detailed breakdowns, including nationality breakdowns, can be found in [Ret_D01 of the Returns detailed dataset](#).

The Home Office seeks to return people who do not have any legal right to stay in the UK, which includes people who:

- enter, or attempt to enter, the UK illegally (including people entering clandestinely and by means of deception on entry);
- overstay their period of legal right to remain in the UK;

- breach their conditions of leave;
- are subject to deportation action; for example, due to a serious criminal conviction and
- have been refused asylum.

Data on the number of people entering and leaving detention are published in the [Detention summary tables](#). Data on reason for leaving detention (including those 'Returned from the UK') are published in [table Det_04a of the 'Detention summary tables'](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-07/hl816>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-07/hl817>

Asylum: Deportation

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL890] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many individuals were on board UK deportation flight Esparto 11; and to which countries they were deported.

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: The Operation Esparto 11 returns charter flight departed on 12 August 2020. Fourteen people in total were returned under the Dublin Regulation to Germany and France on this flight.

The Government's efforts to facilitate entirely legitimate and legal returns of people who have entered the U.K. through illegal routes are too often frustrated by last minute challenges submitted hours before a scheduled flight. These claims are very often baseless and entirely without merit, but are given full legal consideration, leading to removal being rescheduled.

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/2021-06-08/hl890>

Human Trafficking: Organised Crime

Lord Browne of Belmont (DUP) [HL928] To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent steps they have taken to tackle gangs involved in people smuggling and organised immigration crime.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government stands resolute in its commitment to tackle Organised Immigration Crime (OIC). We continue to pursue the Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) who facilitate illegal travel to the UK and who exploit vulnerable migrants, knowingly putting people in life-threatening situations.

In March 2021, the Government published the New Plan for Immigration which contains provisions to establish legislation to deter illegal entry into the UK, thereby breaking the business model of criminal trafficking networks and protecting the lives of those they endanger. We continue to work at pace to bring this legislation forward so we can crack down on the despicable criminal gangs behind people smuggling. The Government has taken steps to tackle OIC on social media platforms, reducing the space in which OCGs operate. In March 2021, the Immigration Compliance and Justice Minister met with the National Crime Agency and senior representatives from social media companies to discuss how they can more effectively tackle OIC online. As a result, all partners agreed to develop a joint action plan to tackle content advertising illegal OIC services. This action plan is currently awaiting agreement before implementation. Reinforcing this commitment to tackle OIC activity online, in June 2021 the Home Secretary wrote to CEOs of key social media companies urging them to do substantially more to proactively identify and remove posts promoting OIC, particularly illegal Channel crossings.

We continue to take steps to tackle highly dangerous entry methods facilitated by these OCGs. As a result of our efforts, more than 4,000 people have been prevented from making the Channel crossing to the UK so far this year. In June 2021, the Government bolstered this effort by utilising the UK G7 Presidency, calling for firmness amongst member states in dealing with ruthless criminality that puts lives in danger and poses a risk to our border security.

The Government will continue to work tirelessly to stop the criminal networks facilitating OIC and protect the lives of those they wish to exploit.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-09/hl928>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru) [225] EU Settlement Scheme – That this House is concerned that many resident EU citizens may lose their rights to live and work in the UK following the June 30 2020 deadline of the EU Settlement Scheme; notes that over 5 million applications have been made to the Scheme, over 90,000 coming from people in Wales; further notes that as the Government does not know the precise numbers of eligible people, it is not possible to know how many have not yet registered; acknowledges the barriers that some EU citizens and non-EU family members face in obtaining settled status, including a lack of awareness or understanding, misconceptions regarding the application process, difficulties evidencing residency or identity and confusion around deadlines; recognises that eligible applicants may lose their rights if their case is unresolved beyond 30 June 2020 and that this will likely impact upon vulnerable applicants with complicated cases; and calls on the Government to extend the application deadline beyond June 30, ensuring that nobody loses their current rights and fulfilling its commitment to fair treatment for all resident EU nationals in the UK as outlined in the EU (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/58672>

Press Releases

‘Scotland is a better country because you are here’ - FM

<https://www.gov.scot/news/scotland-is-a-better-country-because-you-are-here-fm/>

UK Government must clear EU Settlement backlog

<https://www.gov.scot/news/uk-government-must-clear-eu-settlement-backlog/>

Nation pays tribute to the Windrush Generation

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nation-pays-tribute-to-the-windrush-generation>

Mitie Care & Custody (C&C) Ltd awarded Home Office contracts to run Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre (IRC) and Derwentside IRC

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mitie-care-custody-cc-ltd-awarded-home-office-contracts-to-run-dungavel-immigration-removal-centre-irc-and-derwentside-irc>

New Publications

EU Settlement Scheme: Updated information leaflet

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

EU Settlement Scheme: Updated introduction for community groups

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-introduction-for-community-groups/eu-settlement-scheme-introduction-for-community-groups>

EU Settlement Scheme: Updated introduction for employers

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-introduction-for-employers/eu-settlement-scheme-introduction-for-employers>

EU Settlement Scheme: Updated introduction for local authorities

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-introduction-for-local-authorities>

Letter from Kevin Foster MP to Yvette Cooper MP regarding arrangements for British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) status holders from Hong Kong at the UK border and in the UK before 19 July 2021

http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2021-0502/Kevin_Foster_MP_to_Yvette_Cooper_MP.pdf

Ministerial Authorisation under the Equality Act 2010: Equality (Leave outside the rules at the border for Hong Kong British National Overseas Citizens) Authorisation (No. 3) 2021

http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2021-0502/Ministerial_Authorisation.pdf

UNHCR Global Trends report: Forced Displacement in 2020

<https://www.unrefugees.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Global-Trends-2020.pdf>

News

EU immigration to the UK underestimated by 1.6 million

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2021/06/24/eu-immigration-uk-underestimated-16-million/>

Immigration from EU was underestimated by 1.6 million people between 2012-2020

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/immigration-from-eu-was-underestimated-by-1-6-million-people-between-2012-2020-jsmz3mts8>

EU citizens make up a third of the population of some British towns

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/06/25/eu-citizens-make-third-population-british-towns/>

Brexit: Deadline for EU citizens to apply for settled status risks second Windrush scandal – Jenny Gilruth MSP

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/brexit-deadline-for-eu-citizens-to-apply-for-settled-status-risks-second-windrush-scandal-jenny-gilruth-msp-3286791>

Brexit: EU citizens given 28-day deadline to apply to stay in UK

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-57562285>

Final call for the EU settlement scheme, but it risks leaving many behind

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/final-call-for-the-eu-settlement-scheme-but-it-risks-leaving-many-behind-t63qs79ns>

130,000 Europeans to lose benefits in Brexit cut-off

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/130-000-europeans-to-lose-benefits-in-brexit-cut-off-nf2fpkhjc>

Settled status enforcement notices are 'recipe for disaster' for EU citizens in UK
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/jun/24/settled-status-enforcement-notice-are-recipe-for-disaster-for-eu-citizens-in-uk>

Windrush Day 2021: 'I wanted to put my culture out there'
<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-england-suffolk-57553424>

Celebrating the Windrush Generation on Windrush Day
<https://www.tuc.org.uk/blogs/celebrating-windrush-generation-windrush-day>

Windrush Day: 'We're still being hurt by the policies that caused the scandal'
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/windrush-day-scandal-b1869970.html>

Transfers of asylum seekers to Napier barracks suspended
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/jun/22/transfers-of-asylum-seekers-to-napier-barracks-suspended>

High court ruling leaves refused asylum seekers at risk of homelessness
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/jun/22/high-court-ruling-refused-asylum-seekers-risk-homelessness>

Five arrested after 'racially-aggravated offences' aimed at asylum seekers within grounds of Napier Barracks
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/napier-barracks-asylum-seekers-racially-attack-kent-police-b1871243.html>

MPs urge Priti Patel to scrap plans for women's immigration detention centre
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/women-immigration-detention-centre-county-durham-b1871698.html>

Asylum campaigners mark Glasgow knife attack anniversary
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-57622440>

Park Inn: one year on
<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/park-inn-one-year-on/>

Calls for inquiry into deaths of asylum seekers in Glasgow
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/jun/25/calls-for-inquiry-into-asylum-seekers-deaths-in-glasgow>

Scotland's population figures show that it needs migrants
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/scotlands-population-figures-show-that-it-needs-migrants-scotsman-comment-3287315>

Operation Fort: Three gang members convicted of human trafficking
<https://www.cps.gov.uk/cps/news/operation-fort-three-gang-members-convicted-human-trafficking>

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Travellers: Caravan Sites

Navendu Mishra (Labour) [16972] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what support the Government is giving to local authorities to provide permanent and temporary sites for Gypsies, Roma and Travellers.

Reply from Christopher Pincher: The Government encourages local planning authorities to make their own assessment of need for traveller sites and in producing their local plan, to identify sites to meet that need

Local authorities and Registered Providers (like housing associations) can bid for funding through our £11.5 billion 2021-2026 Affordable Homes Programme. They can use this funding for permanent traveller sites, along with other forms of affordable housing

On behalf of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) recently held a series of events for local authorities to enhance their understanding of planning for Gypsies, Roma and Travellers to support future site provision.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-16/16972>

Students: Islam

Zarah Sultana (Labour) [18608] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment he has made of the effect of interest-bearing student loans on the number of Muslim students entering Higher Education over the last seven years.

Reply from Michelle Donelan: The government published research in May 2019 on higher education and how religious beliefs and the current student finance system influence these decisions. This research is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/alternative-student-finance-current-and-future-students-perspectives>

The government has also assessed the effect of interest-bearing loans on Muslim students in the impact assessment for the Higher Education and Research Act, which included provisions to enable the introduction of an Alternative Student Finance (ASF) product. The impact assessment was published in December 2017 and is available here:

https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukia/2017/182/pdfs/ukia_20170182_en.pdf

The government is considering the ASF product carefully alongside its other priorities and will provide a further update with the full and final conclusion of the Post-18 Review of Education and Funding. The interim report of the review was published on 21 January 2021, and the review is scheduled to conclude alongside the next multi-year Spending Review. An update on the ASF product will be provided at that time.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-18/18608>

New Publication

Letter from Baroness Scott of Bybrook to Lord Paddick regarding the number of individuals recorded as from a black or black British background in i) the prison population and ii) at English and Welsh higher education providers

http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2021-0508/Baroness_Scott_to_Lord_Paddick.pdf

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Hate Crime

Navendu Mishra (Labour) [16970] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps the Government is taking to raise awareness of hate crime and encourage reporting in addition to the Hate Crime Action Plan, published in 2016, and the 2018 Refresh.

Reply from Eddie Hughes: The Government is now considering a range of options to tackle hate crime beyond the current action plan. We will work with other departments and civil society partners to explore possible approaches, and to ensure a range of views from communities are taken into consideration.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-16/16970>

The action plans referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/927673/2016_Hate_Crime_Action_Plan.pdf

and

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/748175/Hate_crime_refresh_2018_FINAL_WEB.PDF

Hate Crime: Ethnic Groups

Navendu Mishra (Labour) [16969] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reasons her Department did not collect information on the race or ethnicity of victims of hate crime until 2021.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: We introduced this data requirement following the successful experimental pilot to disaggregate religious hate crime data under the 2016-2020 Hate Crime Action Plan. Each new data requirement needs close engagement with forces to ensure data recording is accurate and consistent.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-16/16969>

Religious Hatred: Hinduism

Navendu Mishra (Labour) [16971] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what plans the Government has to renew its strategy on hinduphobia; and which stakeholders the Government plans to engage as part of that process.

Reply from Eddie Hughes: The Hate Crime action plan (2016) and the Hate Crime action plan Refresh (2018) set out the Government's plans to tackle hatred directed at anyone for their race, sexuality, disability, gender identity or religion, including that of the Hindu community.

The Government is now considering a range of options to tackle hate crime beyond the 2018 plan. We will work with other departments and civil society partners to explore possible approaches, and to ensure a range of views from communities are taken into consideration.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-16/16971>

The action plans referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/927673/2016_Hate_Crime_Action_Plan.pdf

and

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/748175/Hate_crime_refresh_2018_FINAL_WEB.PDF

Schools: Racial Discrimination

Justin Madders (Labour) [13988] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what his Department's policy is on how school complaints relating to racism are (a) identified and (b) recorded.

Reply from Nick Gibb: Previous departmental guidance on Recording and Reporting Racist Incidents, published by the Department for Children, Schools and Families, encouraged state-funded schools to record, monitor, and report all racist incidents to their responsible body, informing local authorities at least annually of the pattern and frequency of any incidents. This changed with the introduction of the Equality Act 2010. Under section 149(1) of the Equality Act 2010 (the Public Sector Equality Duty), state-funded schools must, in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act; advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Under regulation 4 of the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties and Public Authorities) Regulations 2017, state-funded schools must publish information annually to demonstrate their compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty. Identifying and reporting incidents of prejudice-related behaviour can help responsible bodies to identify any actions required to eliminate discrimination, evaluate whether actions taken are effective and demonstrate compliance with the Equality Act 2010.

Academies also have their own procedures by which they record complaints. The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2010, Part 7, section 25, paragraph j – 'provides for a written record to be kept of all complaints'. Complaints about racism in a school should first be made to the school itself. The Department may then be asked to consider them and does so on an individual basis, depending on the nature of the complaint and whether it falls within the scope of the Secretary of State's powers of intervention. These are set out under sections 496/7 of the Education Act 1996 for maintained schools and the funding agreements in place for academy and free schools.

The Department does not use a separate category to identify school complaints relating to racism. Depending on the level of detail provided by the complainant, some complaint handling teams may record that the nature of the complaint is linked to racism under a broader subject heading of behaviour (for incidents involving pupils), governance (if a school's policy or governance is deficient under the Equality Act 2010) or staff conduct (if an employee is accused of inappropriate conduct).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-10/13988>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Navendu Mishra (Labour) [231] **Rise of anti-Indian racism** – That this House welcomes the contributions of Indians to British society; condemns the racism they face on a daily basis; calls on key institutions to urgently address this type of prejudice; recognises the 1.3 million Indians who fought for Britain during WWI and have contributed greatly to all levels of society over the past century; pays tribute to the thousands of British Indians who work in the NHS and have served the nation tirelessly throughout the covid-19 outbreak; acknowledges research by The 1928 Institute which revealed that 80 per cent of British Indians have faced prejudice because of their Indian identity, with Hinduphobia the most prevalent; abhors the use of dog whistle language including the widespread use of phrases, such as Indian variant, which proliferates anti-Indian racism on social media and

in wider society; and calls on the Government to take steps to urgently address this worrying rise.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/58678>

News

Scottish Labour councillor facing fresh investigation over anti-semitism row comments

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/scottish-labour-councillor-facing-fresh-24399510>

SNP MSP James Dornan apologises for false anti-Catholic claims

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/19398735.snp-msp-james-dornan-apologises-false-anti-catholic-claims/>

Hate crime legislation will inevitably have 'chilling effect', says top lawyer

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/19389685.hate-crime-legislation-will-inevitably-chilling-effect-says-top-lawyer/>

Edinburgh University to hire racism monitor

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/edinburgh-university-to-hire-racism-monitor-x0xr5vrzd>

Artists call for 'white-run' UK Chinese gallery to be defunded in racism row

<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2021/jun/21/artists-call-for-white-run-uk-chinese-gallery-to-be-defunded-in-racism-row>

James Corden: Petition objecting to 'racist' Late Late Show segment reaches over 40,000 signatures

<https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/news/james-corden-late-show-racist-b1872570.html>

Jamie Oliver to stop using the term 'Kaffir lime leaves' in his recipes due to racist connotations

<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/food-and-drink/jamie-oliver-kaffir-lime-leaves-b1869806.html>

Rangers video 'edited with sectarian language'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-57610794>

The word Caucasian is 'racist' and must be banned, say academics

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/06/25/academics-call-word-caucasian-banned-racist-classification-humans/>

TOP

Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Scottish Parliament Motion

Pam Gosal (Conservative) [S6M-00471] The Hard Work Carried Out by Scotland's Places of Worship – That the Parliament acknowledges and welcomes the hard work carried out by Scotland's gurdwaras, mandirs, synagogues, churches, mosques and all other places of worship; believes that the patience shown by all concerned has

been commendable as they struggle without their congregation; recognises that the work carried out by religious communities during the COVID-19 pandemic has been a lifeline to many, and believes that it has been an example and an inspiration to all.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/votes-and-motions-search/S6M-00471>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Online Worship

Jim Shannon (DUP) [17737] To ask the Member for South West Bedfordshire, representing the Church Commissioners, what assessment the Church has made of the impact on church attendance of online worship.

Reply from Andrew Selous: Though it is too early to assess the full impact of online worship, thousands of clergy have been provided with training to use new technology to enable them to produce virtual services. The majority of parishes have also offered some form of online worship live-streaming or bespoke recordings of worship and prayers

One specific advantage of online services has been the ability to broadcast weddings and funerals online. This has enabled family and friends to join in from across the world who may have been prevented from travelling.

The decision on whether to continue with some form of online resource alongside in-person worship will be taken at a parish level, taking into account the local community and accessibility needs.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-17/17737>

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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 Parliament Oral Answer

Covid-19: Places of Worship

John Mason (SNP): As the First Minister knows, churches and other places of worship have been keen to follow the guidelines. However, they are also keen to reduce social distancing and to sing again. Can she clarify when that will happen?

Reply from the First Minister: I know that singing, particularly congregational singing, is important to faith communities. The guidance for the safe use of places of worship advises that congregational singing can take place from level 1 and that small groups, such as a choir or a band, can sing and play from level 2. At all other levels—3 and 4, which no part of the country is in at the moment—singing should be avoided because of the heightened risk of transmission.

From 19 July, we will be in a position to reduce physical distancing in all indoor spaces, including places of worship, to 1m, assuming that that is supported by the data. We will continue to engage with and support faith and belief communities as we move forward. I know that they are very keen to get all aspects of worship back to normal.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13244&i=120091&c=2335674#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Covid-19: Funerals

Finlay Carson (Conservative) [S6W-00607] To ask the Scottish Government when family members who are double-vaccinated against COVID-19 and wearing face coverings and outdoors will be able to take a burial cord at a funeral in a level 1 protection area.

Reply from Maree Todd: The Scottish Government understands how difficult ongoing restrictions at funeral services are for those who are bereaved and wish to pay their final respects to a loved one.

We continue to review all of the funeral restrictions on a regular basis taking into account the stage of the pandemic, the public health risks and the impact on bereaved families.

Our funeral services guidance sets out that funeral directors can, on a case by case basis, undertake a risk assessment to assess whether the family can have a role in taking a cord at the graveside, given physical distancing requirements. The options should be discussed with the relatives beforehand and decisions should be

made with compassion, as well as understanding of the risks.

The conclusion of the physical distancing review is expected shortly, which will consider the implications of 2 metre physical distancing at funeral services. Not all vaccines prevent transmission and inoculation is not a guarantee against contracting COVID-19, nor is it guaranteed to prevent you from passing it on. However, we do know that the COVID-19 vaccines significantly reduce both mortality and morbidity. Further research is being conducted on the effect of the vaccination programme on transmission overall in relation to current and new variants of concern. Until we know more, it is essential that everyone continues to follow public health guidance and the COVID-19 protection level rules which apply in their Local Authority area.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-00607>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Debate

Covid-19: Religious and Ethnic Minority Communities

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-06-22/debates/11930C75-2851-4687-AAAF-5A38DE6D7925/Covid-19ReligiousAndEthnicMinorityCommunities>

Scottish Government Press Release

Self-registration portal for all over 18s

<https://www.gov.scot/news/self-registration-portal-for-all-over-18s/>

Scottish Government Publications

Coronavirus (COVID-19): daily data for Scotland

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

Coronavirus (COVID-19): trends in daily data

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

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

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

Guidance: Coronavirus (COVID-19): wedding ceremonies and civil partnership registrations, receptions and celebrations

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-weddings-civil-partnerships-receptions-celebrations/>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): review of physical distancing in Scotland

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-review-physical-distancing-scotland-june-2021/>

UK Government Press Release

3 in 5 UK adults receive both doses of COVID-19 vaccine

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/3-in-5-uk-adults-receive-both-doses-of-covid-19-vaccine>

UK Government and Parliament Publications

The R value and growth rate

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

COVID-19 and the use and scrutiny of emergency powers

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/6212/documents/69015/default/>

How people with a vaccine spent their time - one year on from the first UK lockdown: Great Britain, March 2021

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/articles/howpeoplewithavaccinespenttheirtimeoneyearonfromthefirstuklockdown/greatbritainmarch2021>

News

Covid in Scotland: Vaccine self-registration portal launches

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-57625339>

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New Publication

Staying safe online Advice for Parents and Carers

<https://www.cyberscotland.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Staying-Safe-Online-advice-for-parents-and-carers.pdf>

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

UK Parliament

**** Asylum Seekers (Accommodation Eviction Procedures) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2995>

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

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2918>

**** Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) (No. 2) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3003>

**** Asylum Seekers (Return to Safe Countries) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2961>

**** Barnett Formula (Replacement) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2982>

**** Housing Standards (Refugees and Asylum Seekers) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3002>

**** Human Trafficking (Child Protection) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2953>

**** Human Trafficking (Sentencing) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2963>

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

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2986>

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

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3005>

**** Modern Slavery (Amendment) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2892>

Bill as introduced

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/41860/documents/390>

First Reading, House of Lords

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-06-15/debates/00A57768-EAD6-4391-B79F-78ED84828A6E/ModernSlavery\(Amendment\)Bill\(HL\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-06-15/debates/00A57768-EAD6-4391-B79F-78ED84828A6E/ModernSlavery(Amendment)Bill(HL))

Online Safety Bill (Draft)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/draft-online-safety-bill>

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2883>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

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

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

**** closes this week!**

Protect Duty (closing date 2 July 2021)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/protect-duty>

Immigration Costs for Armed Forces Personnel (closing date 7 July 2021)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/immigration-fees-public-consultation>

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>

**** Scottish Parliament: what matters to you?** (closing date 30 July 2021)

<https://engage.parliament.scot/group/10027>

Black Lives in Scotland (closing date not stated)

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

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>

**** closes this week!**

Public Confidence in Policing: Seldom Heard Communities

Closing date 1 July 2021

Police Scotland, the Scottish Institute for Policing Research and Scottish Police Authority funding for projects and activities which will meet genuine evidence gaps and support Police Scotland to further contact and engagement with all elements of communities in Scotland, particularly those groups which are seldom heard. For information see <http://sipr.ac.uk/research-activities/seldom-heard-communities-grants>

Fife Equality Community Grants

Closing date 9 July 2021

Fife Centre for Equalities small grant programme (between £100 and £300) to help community-led groups to build their capacity to engage with wider diverse communities and to improve public's awareness about their activity. For information see <https://bit.ly/FifeEqGrants>

Adapt and Thrive

Applications remain open into July – no closing date given

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>

Hate Crime Security Fund for Places of Worship

Closing date 21 July 2021

This fund aims to reduce the vulnerability to hate crime that some places of worship across Scotland face. The Scottish Government has made £500,000 available for the provision of capital security measures and improvements. These measures are intended to reduce the risk of hate crimes to places of worship in Scotland and provide reassurance for faith communities who worship at them. ...

Applications are welcomed from individual places of worship of all faiths who can demonstrate their vulnerability to hate crime, whether or not a crime has been committed or reported to the police. ...

Up to 100% grants are available for the installation of up to three security measures and improvements,

You can apply for a maximum of £20,000 to cover all or part of your proposed security measures and improvements. ...

<https://www.impactfundingpartners.com/open-applications/hate-crime-security-fund>

and

<https://tinyurl.com/4ujukfuf>

Henry Duncan Grants for mental health and wellbeing

Closing date 21 July 2021

The health, economic and social impacts of the coronavirus pandemic are likely to increase people's need for mental health support. Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities have been among those most impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. This is likely to affect people's mental health, for example through fear and anxiety, experience of illness or loss of loved ones. Research has shown that Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities are disadvantaged when accessing mental health and well-being services, including the quality of care they receive. This is due to racism, structural and institutional inequalities, fear, stigma and discrimination. For these reasons, Henry Duncan Grants 2021 includes a strand focused on Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities. For information see

<https://www.corra.scot/grants/henry-duncan-grants/>

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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**** this week!**

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>

Introduction to Working with Religious Diversity

15 July 2021 (online, 10.30–12.30)

Interfaith Scotland workshop on improving confidence in discussing and responding to the religion and belief of those we work with. The event will explore guiding principles behind working with religion and belief diversity, and take a closer look at the core beliefs and cultural practices of Islam, Sikhism and Judaism. For information see

<https://tinyurl.com/fsbvp2ac> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

Advantage Is Invisible – Understanding Unintentional Discrimination

29 July 2021 (online, 10.30–12.30)

Interfaith Scotland course exploring the nature and patterns of discrimination, focussing on unintentional discrimination, and exploring its prevalence. For information see

<https://tinyurl.com/u6tb4ext> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals

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

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>

Intention Versus Impact – Exploring Challenges Around Group Labels And Unintended Offence

25 August 2021 (online, 13.30–15.30)

Interfaith Scotland workshop exploring the terminology used to describe groups, particularly in relation to protected characteristics such as race, disability, religion and belief. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/z7wcfh46> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

Debiasing Our Systems, Debiasing Ourselves – Introduction To Tackling Unconscious Bias

14 September 2021 (online, 10.30–1.30)

Interfaith Scotland session exploring the evidence of unconscious bias, methods for reducing its impact on decisions and behaviour, and describing the steps that we can take to become more aware of potential bias and how to reduce its impact. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/tamy4rv> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

Interpreting Culture – Improving Cross-Cultural Communication

14 October 2021 (online, 10.30-13.00)

Interfaith Scotland course to explore how culture forms a lens through which we interpret behaviour, and learn how to improve our inter-cultural communication. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/27mj9h3b> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

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), and the theme for 2021 is Together for Our Planet. Event submissions are now open and can be registered on the [Scottish Interfaith Week website](#). Sign up to the [Scottish Interfaith Week newsletter](#) to receive updates.

3 Mottos For Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

17 November 2021 (online, 13.00–16.30)

Interfaith Scotland course considering diversity in its widest sense, looking at three models which provide insight on our experience of difference: the role of the dominant identity in shaping organisations; why some people overlook the disadvantages that others experience; and how to respond to misunderstandings or offence. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/b762err8> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

Working With People From Diverse Religion & Belief Identities

14 December 2021 (online, 13.00–16.30)

Interfaith Scotland course on improving confidence in discussing and responding to the religion and belief of those we work with. The event will explore the core beliefs and cultural practices of the main faiths, and individual needs that may arise from a person's faith or belief identity. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/83rwadrb> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

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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/disclosure-types>

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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