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

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**The UK Parliament is in recess until 5 January.**  
**The Scottish Parliament will be in recess from 24 December to 9 January.**  
**The next issue of MEMO will be published on 10 January 2022.**

## Immigration and Asylum

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

#### Asylum Seeker Accommodation: RAF Manston

... **The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Tom Pursglove)**: As the House knows, there has been an unacceptable rise in the number of small boat crossings. It is absolutely right that the Government take all necessary steps in response to what is an ongoing challenge. A new triage facility is being established on part of the Ministry of Defence site at Manston in Kent. It will provide safe and secure accommodation for migrants while the Government carry out the necessary checks. Used

alongside existing reception arrangements at the port of Dover, the site will enable the processing of large numbers of arrivals simultaneously. We take the welfare of migrants seriously and will ensure that they receive basic welfare provisions, including hot food, fresh clothing, and, where necessary, medical care.

In the new year, we intend to expand activity at the Manston site to conduct more detailed security and initial asylum screening in parallel before people are dispersed. Arrivals will be expected to remain on-site for a maximum of five days while the security and initial asylum processing checks are undertaken, until they leave to go into further, appropriate accommodation. Our aim is to make our processes more efficient and to reduce pressure on the overall asylum system.

However, this is only one part of a wider process. The Government remain committed to bringing an end to dangerous and unnecessary small boat crossings. We are overhauling our asylum system to ensure that people-smugglers cannot profit from human misery. The tragic deaths in the channel last month underlined in horrific fashion just how dangerous these journeys are. Our new plan for immigration will reform the system and build one that is fair on those who play by the rules and firm on those who do not. It will reduce pull factors by making it more difficult for migrants to remain here where they have no lawful right to do so. The British people want to see change, and the Government are firmly committed to delivering that change.

**Roger Gale (Conservative):** The former RAF barracks at Manston is about to be released by the Ministry of Defence and is required, once the site has been cleared, by local people for housing. It lies adjacent to Manston airport, which we hope to see reopened in the near future as an airfield once the long-awaited development consent order has been determined. This is not an appropriate site for the proposed purpose.

On Friday 10 December, I received an email from the executive officer of Kent Wing informing me that 2433 Air Training Unit had been given until today, 15 December, to vacate premises at the former RAF barracks and fire training school “in order that an Immigration Centre could be established there”.

This was described as “not for us to debate; it is an order to us”.

That was the first that I had heard of this Home Office-instigated proposal. There had been no consultation with me, as the Member of Parliament, with the leader of the county council, with the leader of Thanet District Council, or, I believe, with the county constabulary. I spoke to the Minister of State on that day and was promised a full briefing, with civil servants present.

The leader of Thanet District Council was called by Home Office officials at 5 pm on Monday, two days ago, and the leader of Kent County Council at 6 pm. Again, there was no consultation, and to date, Kent’s senior health officer has not been consulted or even informed officially that the Home Office, which has known of the developing cross-channel people trafficking issue for months, and of the developing crisis for weeks, was proposing to create a screening and processing centre at the unsuitable Manston Road site. Neither were proposals for a phase 2 transfer and triage facility from Tug Haven to Manston discussed; nor was a further proposal for a phase 3 expansion of facilities, to handle the still-to-be-determined number of migrants over an unspecified length of time, consulted on. All we were told by the civil servant leading the project who, as I understand, was working from home and has not visited the site, is that the Home Office is establishing a processing centre—not might be, is establishing—before Christmas.

When I met the Minister of State yesterday, I asked that a stop be put on the project and that proper consultation be facilitated, with a degree of courtesy that from the Home Office has been signally lacking to date. From reports of phone calls made last night, it is clear that officials have ignored that request and are blundering on—hence my request for an urgent question, Mr Speaker. It appears to me that the Home Secretary and Minister of State have been blindsided by officials into yet another knee-jerk reaction to a problem that ought to have been foreseen, and should have been avoided.

As it stands, the current dog-whistle proposal appears to transfer arrivals securely from Tug Haven to Manston barracks, where they will be accommodated, in mid-winter, in marquees, and detained securely while they are being processed. There is no indication as to how the site will accommodate those human beings, how they will be made secure, or what facilities will be made available, other than statutory on-the-site medical services. These are real people who have been subjected to great misery as a result of circumstances that we may discuss on another occasion. As a result of the lack of foresight and preparation, it is now proposed that people should be processed under largely unsuitable conditions, simply to satisfy a perceived demand that can, and should, be met by other means.

I have identified at least one clean, comfortable, and secure operational vessel that can, if commissioned, meet the immediate and longer term need, and I am advised that others are available. I would be grateful if the Minister would now instruct the team to do as I have already requested, put this unacceptable and unworkable proposal on hold, and properly, thoroughly, and swiftly examine the viable alternatives. Perhaps while doing so he could conduct the consultations that ought to have been held weeks ago. Trying to railroad a bad idea through the shelter of the Christmas recess can only have unfortunate and undesirable consequences for the communities and people affected, and for the Government.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** ... I appreciate that the current pressures are real and challenging for our staff on the ground, and we must be responsive to the issues and challenges they face in going about their work. Of course, this issue has come about directly in response to the high numbers of crossings we have seen, which have been so vivid, and about which I know people across our country are concerned. Safety is very much at the forefront of our consideration, not just for the arrivals, but for our staff in the way I have alluded. ...

We have had to move at pace, and the most recent inspection confirms how important it is that we take the steps we are proposing. ...

My right hon. Friend asked when activities at this facility will start. We are planning to have potential overspill facilities in place over the next few days. In terms of volumes, we will keep that under review. At the moment, we are assessing the capacity and capabilities of the site and what is appropriate to it, and there will of course be times when the site is empty, when crossings are not happening. He asked who will go there. This is an overspill site for Tug Haven and initial processing. We would expect men, women and children to go there as necessary, but for a maximum of five days. We will manage unaccompanied asylum-seeking children separately under the existing arrangements with social services.

My right hon. Friend asked whether this is a permanent arrangement. We will keep our use of the Manston site under review, but we expect to continue to use it for some time. He has suggested some alternatives. If he would like to share those details with me, I would be happy to take that away and look at what he is suggesting, but I go back to the key point in all of this, which is that the Government's objective is to end these channel crossings. ...

**Holly Lynch (Labour):** ... people are becoming trapped in our asylum system by the Home Office, having had their claims deemed inadmissible, but without any functioning agreements in place to move anyone through and out of the system. The Minister has said that 4,561 notices of intent have been served, yet only five people have been returned.

The Minister has said that this site is an attempt to improve the efficiency of the system, so can he explain to the House why the Government passed these inadmissibility rules when the consequences are that thousands of people have endured longer stays in the asylum system than necessary? That is to the detriment of a person's wellbeing and makes no sense for the Home Office at all. The initial asylum decisions taken by the Home Office have dropped from 28,623 in 2015 to 14,758 now, which is contributing to the backlog.

Some 64% of those waiting for a decision on their asylum claims are waiting longer than the six-month target, so the backlogs in processing times are crippling the system. I would be grateful if the Minister could explain why progress on the rates of decision making has collapsed.

The Minister says that RAF Manston barracks will be used more as a reception centre than long-term accommodation, but we know that public health and fire safety advice was ignored by the Home Office prior to Napier and Penally barracks opening as asylum accommodation. We have heard once again about how consultation with local agencies has sadly been absent.

Given what we know about the new variant, dormitory-style accommodation must be avoided if we are to protect those accommodated there, staff and the wider community. Can the Minister confirm whether RAF Manston barracks will have an advisory committee? Can he rule out that children will be held there, and can he provide assurances that this is a temporary measure?

Given that this Government have promised the Afghan citizens resettlement scheme, why has the scheme still not been established, and why has eligibility for the Afghan relocations and assistance policy scheme been tightened overnight? I would be incredibly grateful for some insight on that decision.

Finally, in September 2020, the Home Office was by the inspectorate about the inadequate facilities at Tug Haven for dealing with vulnerable people, especially children, who may have experienced dangerous journeys. What assurances can the Minister give us that Manston barracks would be a significant improvement on the current situation?

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** ... what we are talking about here is a very considerable number of arrivals. Of course, it is right and proper that we have appropriate and safe facilities in place to process those arrivals in a manner that is fitting and of course has safety at the forefront. We believe that the steps I have set out today are necessary to achieve that and to make sure that we have the capacity, with the ultimate aim of course of stopping these crossings from happening in the first place, which is something that we are continuing to work towards. ...

We believe very strongly, and I know that Opposition Members have different views on this, that people should seek asylum or claim asylum in the first safe country that they reach. That is of course the quickest route to safety. ...

On asylum processing, of course one thing that I very much want to see, as do my ministerial colleagues, is cases decided more quickly. We want to provide sanctuary to those who need it as quickly as possible and to return those with no right to be here without needless delays. ...

**To read this very lengthy question and answer session in full see**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-12-15/debates/3B643F39-5A87-4F5E-938A-16249D81125C/AsylumSeekerAccommodationRAFManston>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Afghanistan

### Refugees: Afghanistan

**Caroline Lucas (Green)** [91911] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will extend the entry clearance period for family member visa applications for Afghan nationals to allow for the complexities of collecting documents from visa application centres in third part countries.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Home Office has recently taken steps to significantly extend the period during which a person is required to collect their documents from visa application centres, prior to entering the UK, from 30 days to 90 days. If a person's vignette has expired, they can also apply for a replacement by completing the online form on GOV.UK:

<https://www.gov.uk/transfer-visa>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-13/91911>

### **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op)** [87756] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the delay in opening the Afghan citizens resettlement scheme is due to difficulties in moving people from bridging hotels into resettlement homes.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** We are working across government and with partners such as UNHCR to design and open the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme amidst a complex and changing picture. We are committed to working in step with the international community to get this right, and we will set out more details soon. Information on the eligibility, prioritisation and referral of people for the ACRS is set out in the policy statement published on gov.uk on 13 September, available at [www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghanistan-resettlement-and-immigration-policy-statement](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghanistan-resettlement-and-immigration-policy-statement)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-06/87756>

### **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**Brendan O'Hara (SNP)** [91986] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the Government's policy is on the eligibility of lily pad evacuees for resettlement under the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** The first to be resettled through the ACRS will be some of those who arrived in the UK under the evacuation programme, which included individuals who were considered to be at particular risk.

Eligible people will be prioritised and referred for resettlement to the UK as set out in the policy statement published on gov.uk on 13 September, available at [www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghanistan-resettlement-and-immigration-policy-statement](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghanistan-resettlement-and-immigration-policy-statement)

The ACRS will be focused on people affected by events in Afghanistan, who are located in Afghanistan or in the region.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-13/91986>

### **Afghanistan: Refugees**

**Dan Jarvis (Labour)** [90874] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many Afghan nationals applied to the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy scheme between 1 April 2021 and 15 August 2021.

**Reply from James Heapey:** As at 15 August 2021, 3,946 valid applications had been made to the ARAP scheme since its launch on 1 April 2021.

These were applications that had been assessed as legitimate, demonstrated by the provision of biometric data and visa application forms. The ARAP team also received a significant number of duplicate applications and others which did not meet these criteria which are not included in this total.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-10/90874>

*Information about the Afghan Relocations Assistance Policy, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy-information-and-guidance>*

### **Afghanistan: Refugees**

**Dan Jarvis (Labour)** [91996] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many Afghan nationals deemed eligible for relocation to the UK were successfully evacuated before 28 August 2021; and what proportion (a) received letters of eligibility (b) received letters of eligibility and were called forward to Hamid Karzai International Airport.

**Reply from James Heapey:** Approximately 7,000 Afghan Nationals were

evacuated to the UK under the ARAP Scheme between 1 April and 28 August 2021. All necessary precaution was taken to ensure that established processes were abided by during OP PITTING. However, whilst the fast-moving situation developed, military and civilian personnel on the ground exercised an appropriate level of due diligence, balancing the urgent need to evacuate and the imminent threat to life. As a result the information requested is not held.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-13/91966>

### **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**Lloyd Russell-Moyle (Labour Co-op)** [90935] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of Afghans who arrived under Operation Pitting have received Indefinite Leave to Remain.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** In view of the urgency of the situation the majority of those who entered the UK during the evacuation phase were initially granted limited leave to enter with access to public funds and employment. This status is not a bar to them being permanently housed or to starting their life in the UK, including taking employment.

The Home Office has now started the process to support them in applying for and being granted Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR). Our aim is to conclude this process before individuals' leave to remain expires. All those evacuated will be provided with ILR.

Communications have been issued advising individuals of next steps to progress permanent residence in the UK. They also provide links to guidance and information on how prospective employers and landlords can contact the Home Office to confirm individuals' right to take employment and rented accommodation.

More information can be found in the Afghanistan Resettlement and Immigration Policy Statement

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghanistan-resettlement-and-immigration-policy-statement/afghanistan-resettlement-and-immigration-policy-statement-accessible-version#afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-10/90935>

## **UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Other Immigration and Asylum**

### **Immigration**

**Dan Jarvis (Labour)** [91970] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the administrative cost is of each (a) Indefinite Leave to Remain and (b) naturalisation application in financial year 2021-22.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Home Office publishes data on the estimated unit cost of all UK Visa, immigration and citizenship services, which can be accessed via the following link: [Visa fees transparency data](#).

The published data sets out our fees as at 11 October 2021. The associated published unit costs are based upon the expenditure incurred by the Home Office in the 2017/2018 financial year. The estimated unit costs are due to be updated following the audit of the 2021/2022 Home Office accounts.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-13/91970>

### **Visas: Married People**

**Alan Brown (SNP)** [88765] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the current processing time is for the determination of a decision on a spousal visa application.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Entry Clearance applications for spouse visas have a published service standard of 60 working days.

Leave to Remain applications for spouse visas have a published service standard of eight weeks.

Indefinite Leave to Remain applications for spouse visas have a published service standard of six months.

The Home Office publishes data on visa applications in [Migration transparency data](#)

Data on processing times for applications for spousal visas are published in table VC\_02 of the [Transparency data overview: Visas and Citizenship data: Q2 2021](#)

Information on how to use the [Transparency data overview: Visas and Citizenship data: Q2 2021](#) can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data relates to year ending September 2021.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-07/88765>

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**John Spellar (Labour)** [87569] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent estimate her Department has made of the cost of providing physical cards as proof of settled status.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** If we were required to issue a physical card to everyone who is granted status under the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS), we would have to provide them with biometric cards akin to the biometric residence permit we plan to phase out by the end of 2024.

During the passage of The Immigration and Social Security Coordination (EU Withdrawal) Act 2020, we estimated it would cost at least £270m if each of the 3.6m EEA citizens granted leave under the EUSS at that time was provided with a biometric card.

Up to the end of September this year over 5.2 million people had obtained a grant of status under the EUSS. We therefore expect this estimate to now be much higher.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-06/87569>

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

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

### **Children in Care: EU Nationals**

**Mark Hendrick (Labour Co-op)** [90832] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many children in local authority care are EU citizens that were born in the UK; and what proportion have applied to the EU Settlement Scheme.

**Reply from Will Quince:** The information requested relating to children looked after by English local authorities is not held centrally. Information for Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland is a matter for the devolved administrations.

From 4 October to 30 November 2021, the Home Office undertook the most recent in a series of surveys of local authorities in England, Wales and Scotland and of Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland to provide an update on the estimated number of looked after children and care leavers eligible to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme. The figures were published at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-home-office-looked-after-children-and-care-leavers-survey-2020/eu-settlement-scheme-home-office-looked-after-children-and-care-leavers-survey-november-2021>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-10/90832>

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

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

### **Migrants: Finance**

**David Simmonds (Conservative)** [88858] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the annual saving to the public purse of the no recourse to public funds policy.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** The NRPF condition applies to most temporary migrants in the UK who are here lawfully, such as those on work and study visas, and to migrants in the UK unlawfully. The Home Office does not hold data on the total population present in the UK who are subject to NRPF and the Home Office's Chief Statistician wrote to the Office for Statistics Regulation last July to explain the reasons for this in more detail. His letter can be found at:

<https://osr.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/correspondence/response-from-daniel-shaw-to-ed-humpherson-parliamentary-question-response>

It is not feasible for the Home Office to collect data on whether a migrant with the NRPF condition would have applied for public funds should the condition not have been applied to them; it is therefore not possible to reliably estimate the annual saving to the public purse of the policy as a whole. Savings to the public purse are broadly achieved by only facilitating access to public funds for those with indefinite leave to remain (i.e. settled or permanent residence), refugees and protected persons, and those granted discretionary leave.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-07/88858>

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

**David Simmonds (Conservative)** [88857] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what recent assessment his Department has made of the potential merits of the continued provision of free school meals to children whose families are subject to the no recourse to public funds condition.

**Reply from Will Quince:** The department is working with departments across government to evaluate access to free school meals for families with no recourse to public funds. In the meantime, the extension of eligibility will continue with the current income threshold until a decision on long-term eligibility is made.

Once the review is complete, we will update our guidance accordingly. The department's current guidance regarding the extension can be viewed here:

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-07/88857>

### **Asylum: Local Government**

**Jacob Young (Conservative)** [89693] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many local authorities have signed up to the voluntary dispersal scheme for asylum seekers as of July 2022.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** There are currently 168 Local Authorities in the UK with supported asylum seekers residing in dispersal accommodation provided by the Home Office.

A further 24 local authorities have no-one residing in dispersal properties but have supported asylum seekers residing in contingency accommodation

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-08/89693>

### **Asylum**

**Barry Sheerman (Labour Co-op)** [87581] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to (a) maintain existing and (b) open new safe and legal routes to asylum in the UK.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** While there is no provision within our Immigration Rules

for someone to be allowed to travel to the UK to seek asylum or temporary refuge, the UK has a long history of supporting people in need of protection. Our resettlement schemes have provided safe and legal routes for tens of thousands of people to start new lives in the UK.

Since 2015, we have resettled more than 25,000 refugees through safe and legal routes direct from regions of conflict and instability - around half of whom were children. The UK continues to welcome refugees through the global UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS), Mandate Resettlement Scheme and Community Sponsorship Scheme. Additionally, as part of our response to the crisis in Afghanistan, the Government has announced the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) which will bring up to 20,000 people at risk fleeing Afghanistan to safety in the UK.

In addition to our resettlement schemes, we have provided safe and legal routes for tens of thousands of people through our refugee family reunion route, Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP) for those who heroically supported our armed forces in Afghanistan and the British National (Overseas) visa route for those affected by draconian laws restricting rights and freedoms in Hong Kong.

The Government's New Plan for Immigration will see us continue to provide safe and legal routes for those in fear of persecution and oppression in their home country.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-06/87581>

#### **Asylum: Identity Cards**

**Jessica Morden (Labour)** [89522] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average waiting time was for an Asylum Registration Card application to be processed by UKVI in (a) 2019, (b) 2020 and (c) 2021.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** An Application Registration Card (ARC) is produced as a routine part of the registration process for asylum applicants, and is not an immigration product in its own right which people apply for.

The system will produce and deliver an ARC within three days of the asylum screening taking place.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-08/89522>

#### **Asylum: Identity Cards**

**Jessica Morden (Labour)** [89523] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what support is available through her Department to asylum seekers who (a) have never been issued an Asylum Registration Card and (b) have seen their Asylum Registration Card expire.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Advice and guidance is published on GOV.UK which sets out the purpose of an ARC card, which is not required to access asylum support, and guidance on how to raise and issue with an ARC card.

[Application registration card \(ARC\)](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-08/89523>

#### **Asylum: Housing**

**Navendu Mishra (Labour)** [87880] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what progress she has made on moving asylum seekers out of hotels under Operation Oak; and what steps she is taking to improve the condition of housing for asylum seekers and refugees.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Small Boat crossings across the Channel have been exceptionally high this year as such intake of asylum seekers particularly in Autumn and Winter months has been higher than anticipated and has outstripped the numbers moved into dispersal accommodation. This has led to an increase in the

number of hotels in use to enable us to comply with statutory duties to accommodate people seeking asylum who are at risk of destitution.

We continue to work closely with providers to procure additional dispersal accommodation and are exploring options, such as funding for local authorities, to help widen dispersal and to utilise empty homes across various local authorities so we can reduce and ultimately end the use of hotels as contingency accommodation. The more offers from local authorities across the UK we receive, the quicker this process will be.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-06/87880>

### **Curriculum: Asylum**

**Sarah Olney (Liberal Democrat)** [90930] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if he will make a comparative assessment of the (a) percentage of asylum seekers at a school and (b) applications for disapplication of the national curriculum.

**Reply from Robin Walker:** The department does not collect data on the asylum seeker status of children and therefore cannot make an assessment of the percentage of asylum seekers at a school and applications for disapplication of the national curriculum.

The number of pupils recorded as not following the national curriculum is published at a school level in the file 'School level underlying data.' This is available at:

<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/school-pupils-and-their-characteristics>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-10/90930>

### **Napier Barracks**

**Alison Thewliss (SNP)** [91993] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she (a) has received and (b) is taking steps in response to advice from Public Health England on the (i) ongoing use of Napier Barracks, (ii) covid-19 outbreak in Napier Barracks and (iii) cases of active TB in Napier Barracks as of 13 December 2021.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** We have not received any advice from UK Health Security Agency on the ongoing use of Napier, however we continue to engage with UK Health Security Agency to ensure COVID 19 is managed effectively on site.

There are no current confirmed cases of active tuberculosis at Napier. The one person identified by the NHS was, on the advice of UK Health Security Agency, moved to alternative accommodation on 14 December 21.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-13/91993>

### **Napier Barracks**

**Alison Thewliss (SNP)** [91994] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people are accommodated in Napier Barracks who indicated in their asylum screening interview or ASF1 form that they are either a victim of trafficking, a victim of torture or suffering from mental health problems as of 13 December 2021.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** All individuals accommodated at Napier meet the suitability criteria. This is assessed via service user's asylum screening interview, ASF1's and any supporting evidence submitted by the service user or their representative.

Individuals considered vulnerable under the Asylum Seekers (Reception Conditions) Regulations 2005 regulation 4(3) and/or those who have been referred to the National Referral Mechanism as potential victims of trafficking are not suitable to be accommodated at Napier. Further suitability criteria can be found at: Allocation of accommodation policy [Asylum accommodation requests](#). Asylum seekers allocated to the accommodation have full access to the advisory services

provided by Migrant Help and are able to raise issues about their suitability to be accommodated at the site.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-13/91994>

### **Asylum: Napier Barracks**

**Alison Thewliss (SNP)** [91995] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people in total have been accommodated in Napier Barracks since April 2021.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** According to local data held by Clearsprings Ready Homes, 1033 service users have been accommodated at Napier Barracks since 9<sup>th</sup> of April 2021.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-13/91995>

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

### **Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre**

**Kate Osborne (Labour)** [87872] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, pursuant to his Answer of 29 November 2021 to Question 79500, which existing providers at Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre have expressed an interest in providing legal advice under the contingency arrangements at Derwentside IRC.

**Kate Osborne (Labour)** [87873] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, pursuant to the Answer of 29 November 2021 to Question 79500, what plans there are for (a) 30 minute appointments and (b) legal visits subsequent to 30 minute appointments under the Detained Duty Advice Scheme to be conducted (i) in-person or (ii) remotely under the contingency arrangements at Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre.

**Kate Osborne (Labour)** [87874] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, pursuant to the Answer of 29 November 2021 to Question 79500 on Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre, whether (a) 30-minute appointments and (b) legal visits subsequent to a 30 minute appointment under the Detained Duty Advice Scheme in all immigration removal centres were been conducted by phone in the latest period for which figures are available.

**Reply from James Cartlidge:** The Legal Aid Agency (LAA) operates free legal advice surgeries in IRCs in England. Individuals who are detained are entitled to receive up to 30 minutes of advice regardless of financial eligibility or the merits of their case. There is no restriction on the number of surgeries an individual may attend. If an individual who is detained requires substantive advice on a matter which is in scope of legal aid, full legal advice can be provided if the statutory legal aid means and merits criteria are met.

In order to provide access to Detention Duty Advice Scheme (DDAS) services for women held at Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre (IRC) from 1 January 2022, existing providers at Yarl's Wood IRC were invited to submit expressions of interest to provide services on a contingency basis. As a result, the following providers will be awarded rota slots at Derwentside IRC:

Provider	Immigration Advice Service
All Legal Solicitors	JCWI
Caveat Solicitors Limited	Milestone Solicitors Limited
CB Legal Advisory Limited	NR Legal Solicitors Limited
CK Solicitors	The Migrant Law Partnership
Duncan Lewis & Co	Virgo Consultancy Services Limited
Fadiga & Co	Woolfe & Co Solicitors Ltd

In line with Government advice on social distancing, the LAA DDAS is currently operating by phone in IRCs. Remote advice will be made available to women housed at Derwentside IRC on this basis. ... including during the latest period for which figures are available

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/legal-aid-statistics-quarterly-april-to-june-2021>

Any exceptions to this are at the discretion of individual IRCs, such as if there is a justifiable requirement for a provider to attend in person.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-06/87872>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-06/87873>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-06/87874>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-22/79500>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

### **British Nationality: Assessments**

**Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbotts (Conservative)** [HL4549] To ask Her Majesty's Government when they plan to update the Life in the UK test; and when the test was last updated.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Life in the UK test is based on the Life in the UK handbook, "Life in the UK: a guide for new residents". An updated impression of the current edition of the handbook was published in early 2020.

Questions in the test are reviewed on an ongoing basis. New questions were added between October 2020 and January 2021.

The test is kept under review and will be updated further as needed.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-30/hl4549>

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

**Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated)** [HL4584] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to expand the British National (Overseas) (BNO) visa scheme to people from Hong Kong who (1) are aged between 18 and 25, and (2) have a parent with BN(O) status.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Hong Kong BN(O) route is for those with BN(O) status and their eligible family members including adult children who were born on or after 1 July 1997 and who live with their parents. This is grounded in the UK's obligations to those who elected to retain ties to the UK by obtaining BN(O) status; and enables them to relocate as a family. We do not currently have any plans to change these requirements. Other routes are available to those without BN(O) status, including the undersubscribed Youth Mobility Scheme which offers 1,000 places each year to Hong Kongers and the new Skilled Worker Visa which enables individuals to come to the UK in a wider range of professions and at a lower general salary threshold than in the past.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-30/hl4584>

### **Windrush Compensation Scheme**

**Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated)** [HL4515] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to enable those pursuing claims through the Windrush Compensation Scheme to receive legal aid.

**Reply from Lord Wolfson of Tredegar:** The government has noted the recommendation of the Home Affairs Select Committee to consider the provision of specialist legal advice for applicants to the Windrush Compensation Scheme, potentially funded through legal aid. While we have no existing plans to expand the scope of the legal aid scheme to cover the Windrush Compensation Scheme, we will consider the recommendation in full and respond to the Home Affairs Select Committee in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-29/hl4515>

*Information about the Windrush Compensation Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-windrush-compensation-scheme>*

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Lord Green of Deddington (Crossbench) [HL4677]** To ask Her Majesty's Government how many EU citizens have been granted settled status since the introduction of the EU Settlement Scheme; how many who have been granted pre-settled status will qualify to apply for settled status in each calendar year from 2022 to 2026; and what proportion of applications for settled status from pre-settled status have been granted in the last 12 months.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office publishes data on the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) in the 'EU Settlement Scheme Statistics', which can be found on gov.uk.

The latest published information on EUSS applications concluded to 30 September 2021, can be found in tables EUSS\_03\_UK: (EU Settlement Scheme: concluded applications by outcome type and nationality - UK total) and EUSS\_MON, Table 5: (EU Settlement Scheme – Repeat applicants moving from Pre-settled to Settled status), in the Annex.

A person granted pre-settled status under the EUSS can apply for settled status as soon as they qualify for this. Applicants who have completed five years' continuous residence, or where other criteria for settled status without that length of continuous residence are met, are eligible for settled status. The Home Office cannot assess a person's eligibility for settled status until they make an application to the EUSS, and therefore cannot state how many of those granted pre-settled status or who are yet to apply to the scheme will be eligible for settled status in the period sought.

[Annex](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-03/hl4677>

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

### **Immigration: Exploitation**

**Lord McColl of Dulwich (Conservative) [HL4687]** To ask Her Majesty's Government how many grants of discretionary leave to remain have been made to victims of (1) human trafficking, and (2) modern slavery, with a positive conclusive grounds decision from the National Referral Mechanism in the last three financial years.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is the UK's system for identifying and providing access to support for potential victims of modern slavery/human trafficking.

The Home Office publishes quarterly statistics regarding the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) which can be found at on gov.uk.

The 2021 UK Annual Report on Modern Slavery has recently been published and can also be found on gov.uk, as well as statistics on immigration outcomes including figures for grants of discretionary leave.

Statistics on the immigration status and immigration outcomes for victims of modern slavery/human trafficking are not currently published.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-03/hl4687>

*The statistics referred to above can be read at*

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

*The report referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2021-uk-annual-report-on-modern-slavery/2021-uk-annual-report-on-modern-slavery-accessible-version>

### **Undocumented Migrants: English Channel**

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL4508] To ask Her Majesty's Government which countries the 27 migrants who drowned in the English Channel on 24 November were from.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** This tragic incident, in which at least 27 people lost their lives, occurred in French waters. Whilst the UK assisted in the immediate search and rescue operation and has offered support to the French authorities in their follow up operation, it remains a French-led criminal investigation. As such, it would be inappropriate for us to comment further except to refer the Noble Lord to the information which the French authorities have already put into the public domain.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-29/hl4508>

### **Undocumented Migrants: Biometrics**

**Lord Marlesford (Conservative)** [HL4652] To ask Her Majesty's Government what biometric details are taken from irregular migrants who arrive in the UK from France by boat; whether such details are taken from all irregular migrants arriving from France by boat; and whether it is possible for the UK immigration authorities to compare these details with records held by EU member states.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** People arriving by small boats across the Channel are subject to stringent checks on arrival in the UK and again as they are processed into the asylum system.

Immediately on arrival, initial identity checks are undertaken for all individuals over the age of five, based on the name given and fingerprints are checked against immigration and Police criminal databases.

Once triaged and moved to appropriate accommodation, arrivals will be subject to additional checks as part of the asylum intake process. This will include identity and biometric enrolment based on fingerprints taken, with details checked against law enforcement, immigration, Police and security databases. There may be some individual cases where these checks are not conducted. It is not possible to check these details against the EU systems to which the UK has access under the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement because use of those systems is only permitted for law enforcement, not immigration purposes.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-02/hl4652>

### **Undocumented Migrants: Coronavirus**

**Lord Marlesford (Conservative)** [HL4651] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether all irregular migrants arriving in the UK are tested for COVID-19; what proportion of such migrants have had positive COVID-19 test results; and how many migrants have had to be admitted to hospital as a result of COVID-19 within a week of arrival in the last 10-week period.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** All individuals arriving by small boats are tested by the Home Office for COVID-19 using a lateral flow test immediately on arrival. If the result is positive, they are immediately isolated along with any family members. Testing of migrants arriving in the UK by other irregular means may vary depending on who is the first responder. However, in line with recent updates to the Government's Coronavirus regulations, new arrivals to Immigration removal centres and residential short-term holding facilities are tested on or by day 2 by PCR test. Within asylum accommodation, the Department of Health and Social Care and the Home Office conduct day 2 and day 8 testing, which is administered and managed by our service provider staff on site.

The Home Office does not routinely publish information on the proportion of migrants testing positive for COVID-19.

### **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL4507] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many refugees from Afghanistan have been accepted into the UK for each of the past six months.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office publishes data on asylum in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release', which can be found on gov.uk. Data on the initial decisions made on asylum applications are published in table ASY\_D02 of the 'asylum and resettlement detailed datasets' which can be found in the attached Annex. Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data cover up to the end of September 2021. Additionally, the Home Office publishes a high-level overview of the data in the 'summary tables'. The 'contents' sheet contains an overview of all available data on asylum and resettlement.

The data show in the 6 months from April to September 2021, 246 Afghans (including dependants) were offered protection in the form of asylum, alternative forms of leave, or resettlement in the UK. Of these, 199 were granted asylum, 26 resettlement, and 37 were granted alternative forms of leave (such as humanitarian protection, discretionary leave).

Please note these statistics do not include the resettlement of those under the Afghanistan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS), the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) or similar Afghan schemes for locally engaged civilians, or those brought to the UK as part of Operation Pitting.

The UK evacuated around 15,000 individuals to the UK from Kabul during Operation Pitting. This is in addition to circa 2000 arrivals under ARAP between the end of June 2021 and when the evacuation began on 14 August.

Data on the ACRS and other schemes will be included in future statistical releases.

[Annex – Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-29/hl4507>

*Information about the Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>*

*Information about the Afghan Relocations Assistance Policy, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy-information-and-guidance>*

### **Asylum: Females**

**Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated)** [HL4586] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure that there is single sex housing for uncoupled women at all points during the asylum process.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office provides accommodation and other support to asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute.

Those receiving this support are not required to share sleeping quarters with unrelated individuals of the opposite sex, but may, depending on the circumstances, be placed in accommodation facilities which are used to house such individuals.

There are no plans to change these arrangements.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-30/hl4586>

## Press Releases

**Wales and Scotland unite to call for talks on concerns with UK asylum policy**

<https://gov.wales/wales-and-scotland-unite-call-talks-concerns-uk-asylum-policy>

**New secure site for processing illegal migrants**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-secure-site-for-processing-illegal-migrants>

## New Publications

**Report on an unannounced inspection of the residential short-term holding facilities at Larne House, Manchester Airport and Yarl's Wood: 23–26 August 2021**

<https://www.justiceinspectores.gov.uk/hmiprisons/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2021/12/Residential-web-STHFs-2021.pdf>

**Report on an unannounced inspection of the detention of migrants at Dover and Folkestone Detention facilities: Tug Haven, Kent Intake Unit and Frontier House: 8 October and 1–3 November 2021**

<https://www.justiceinspectores.gov.uk/hmiprisons/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2021/12/Kent-detention-facilities-web-2021.pdf>

## News

**Immigration: how Scotland sees itself and how migrants actually experience it**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/immigration-how-scotland-sees-itself-and-how-migrants-actually-experience-it-marcus-nicolson-3494082>

**Windrush members' human rights were breached by Home Office, High Court ruling finds**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/windrush-human-rights-breach-home-office-b1977561.html>

**'We find the UK pretty welcoming': the Hongkongers celebrating their first Christmas in Britain**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/we-find-the-uk-pretty-welcoming-the-hongkongers-celebrating-their-first-christmas-in-britain-n7mzgxv3s>

**Home Office facing legal action over rights of 2.5 million EU nationals**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/eu-nationals-brexit-legal-independent-monitoring-authority-b1975894.html>

**Home Office sued by watchdog set up to protect post-Brexit rights of EU citizens**

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2021/dec/14/home-office-sued-by-watchdog-set-up-to-protect-post-brexit-rights-of-eu-citizens>

**Priti Patel rule creates extra hurdle for EU citizens to stay in Britain**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/priti-patels-new-rule-is-a-blow-for-eu-citizens-who-live-in-britain-tdgw99z59>

**Fears grow that Home Office has lost will to resettle Afghans under threat**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/dec/12/fears-grow-that-home-office-has-lost-will-to-resettle-afghans-under-threat>

**UK tightens criteria for Afghans to enter despite 'warm welcome' pledge**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/dec/14/home-office-tightens-criteria-for-afghans-to-enter-despite-warm-welcome-promise>

**Scottish and Welsh Governments in joint demand for urgent Home Office talks**  
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/19785687.scottish-welsh-governments-joint-demand-urgent-home-office-talks/>

**Scottish and Welsh ministers condemn 'barbaric' proposals on Channel crossings**  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/priti-patel-scottish-welsh-channel-edinburgh-b1976685.html>

**France formally identifies 26 of the 27 people who died in Channel tragedy**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/dec/14/france-formally-identifies-26-of-the-27-people-who-died-in-channel-tragedy>

**Boat capsizing in Channel: 26 dead migrants identified**  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/channel-britain-paris-english-channel-france-b1976053.html>

**Migrant crossings: More than 900 cross Channel in two days**  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-59710100>

**Channel crossings continue as more migrants arrive in Kent**  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-office-dover-english-france-english-channel-b1977633.html>

**More than 130 people rescued after becoming stranded in the Channel**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/dec/17/more-than-130-people-rescued-after-becoming-stranded-in-the-channel>

**UK coastguard 'telling refugees in British waters to contact the French'**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/dec/13/uk-coastguard-telling-refugees-in-british-waters-to-contact-the-french>

**Callous smugglers send migrants to sea on dinghies made of plywood and gaffer tape**  
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/12/14/dinghies-plywood-gaffer-tape-made-migrant-channel-crossings/>

**Channel crossings: Smugglers are using 'death trap' boats, agency says**  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-59628067>

**Migrants brave freezing waters and flimsy boats to cross Channel**  
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/migrants-brave-freezing-waters-and-flimsy-boats-to-cross-channel-8nwfq0kvt>

**Legal challenge seeks to end UK's jailing of asylum seekers who steer boats**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2021/dec/12/legal-challenge-seeks-to-end-uks-jailing-of-asylum-seekers-who-steer-boats>

**Migrants jailed for steering dinghies across English Channel 'just wanted to claim asylum', court hears**  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/channel-boat-prosecutions-steering-appeals-b1976624.html>

**Kent migrants: Untreated burns and nowhere to sleep - report**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-59670176>

**Inspectors alarmed by conditions at centres for Channel migrants**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/inspectors-alarmed-by-conditions-at-centres-for-channel-migrants-03zqhvvc>

**Rape survivors arriving in UK on small boats neglected by authorities – report**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/dec/16/survivors-arriving-in-uk-on-small-boats-neglected-by-authorities-report>

**Pregnant refugees not being seen by doctors for weeks after reaching UK**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/dec/13/pregnant-refugees-not-being-seen-by-doctors-for-weeks-after-reaching-uk>

**Migrants including babies still held in ‘very poor’ conditions, inspectors say**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/migrants-english-channel-detained-conditions-b1976899.html>

**Processing site for migrants in Kent ‘unworkable and unacceptable’ – Tory MP**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/roger-gale-kent-home-office-conservative-ministry-of-defence-b1976698.html>

**Home Office accused of misleading public over migrant ‘pull factors’ claim by refusing to publish evidence**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-seekers-work-ban-review-pull-factors-home-office-uk-b1977560.html>

**Asylum seeker employment ban should be lifted, says government’s migration advisory body**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-seekers-work-ban-home-office-migration-advisory-committee-uk-b1976590.html>

**Let asylum seekers work in UK, migration advisers tell ministers**

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2021/dec/15/care-workers-fast-track-visas-uk-migration-advisory-committee>

**Employ asylum seekers to solve social care staff crisis, Government told**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/12/15/employ-asylum-seekers-solve-social-care-recruitment-crisis-government/>

**Patel urged to let care homes recruit asylum seekers**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/patel-urged-to-let-care-homes-recruit-asylumseekers-xtlh5kn7x>

**Trafficking victims entitled to back payments after court ruling**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/dec/17/trafficking-victims-entitled-to-back-payments-after-court-ruling>

**Helping 200 refugee families to rebuild their lives in Scotland**

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/helping-200-refugee-families-to-rebuild-their-lives-in-scotland/>

**'I used to be a senior official in the Afghan government – now I am just a refugee': Afghanistan chief opens up on relocating his family to Scotland**  
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/i-used-to-be-a-senior-official-in-the-afghan-government-now-i-am-just-a-refugee-afghanistan-chief-opens-up-on-relocating-his-family-to-scotland-3499670>

TOP

## Equality

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

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

**Paul Blomfield (Labour)** [89567] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the impact of the draft statutory guidance on Unauthorised Encampments on gypsy, Romani and traveller communities.

**Reply from Kit Malthouse:** We have carefully considered the impact the new measures might have on people with protected characteristics, including race and ethnicity, in accordance with the Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010. The overarching equality impact assessment was published in September and is publicly available.

[Home Office measures in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill: Equalities Impact Assessment](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-08/89567>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Prisons: Race Relations**

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [89666] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many people employed across the prison estate have race relations as the primary purpose of their role, as of 7 December 2021.

#### **Prisoners: Ethnic Groups**

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [89668] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what estimate she has made of the prison population who are BAME since 2017.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** Data held centrally does not provide information on the primary purpose of roles across the prison estate. This could only be provided at disproportionate cost as there would be a need for every prison in England and Wales to collate it locally.

Annual data on the prison population by ethnicity group can be found in Table A1.9i of the Offender Management Statistics Quarterly publication. In 2018, we also introduced a new table (Table A1.9ii) showing the prison population by 'detailed ethnicity group'. Both of these can be found at:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1006270/Population\\_30June2021\\_Annual.ods](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1006270/Population_30June2021_Annual.ods)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-08/89666>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-08/89668>

#### **Prisoners: Ethnic Groups**

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [88827] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what recent assessment he has made of the extent to which BAME people are over-represented in the prison system.

**Reply from Kit Malthouse:** Disparities in the number of minority ethnic men, as

well as women and young people, in the justice system is monitored and the data, including analysis of relative differences between groups, creates a detailed picture of where over-representation occurs. A comprehensive assessment of the ethnic population across the criminal justice system, including in prisons, published on 2 December, can be found in the *Ethnicity and the Criminal Justice system*. This now includes data-sharing on the educational background of offenders, broken down by ethnicity. The Youth Justice Board's report *Understanding Racial Disparity* was also published on 2 December.

Operational agencies covering criminal justice undertake their own analysis and develop measures to address differences where they cannot be explained or justified by other factors, such as offence type or geography. Detailed accounts of the steps being taken to improve the outcomes of Ethnic Minority men in the criminal justice system can be found in the published updates *Tackling Racial Disparity 2018 and 2020*.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-07/88827>

*Ethnicity and the Criminal Justice system*, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/ethnicity-and-the-criminal-justice-system-statistics-2020/ethnicity-and-the-criminal-justice-system-2020>

*Understanding Racial Disparity*, referred to above, can be read at

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1038886/Understanding\\_racial\\_disparity\\_accessible\\_2021.pptx](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1038886/Understanding_racial_disparity_accessible_2021.pptx)

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

### Government Departments: Ethnic Groups

**Lord Sikka (Labour)** [HL4740] To ask Her Majesty's Government which government departments do not invite (1) job applicants, and (2) promotion candidates, to provide any information about their ethnicity.

**Reply from Lord True:** Government departments that use the Government Recruitment Service (GRS) vX recruitment system to track candidates will collect diversity data on all applicants. Candidates applying on promotion via an external campaign will not be asked questions on their ethnicity. They are, however, expected to complete the diversity questionnaire.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-06/hl4740>

### Islam: Marriage

**Baroness Cox (Crossbench)** [HL4544] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether British Muslim women have the rights set out in paragraph nine of Resolution 2253 of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, published on 22 January 2019, specifically in relation (1) to obtaining the protection of legal marriage, and (2) to discriminatory practices in relation to religious divorce.

**Reply from Lord Wolfson of Tredegar:** The law has long made provision for couples, including Muslim couples, to marry in their place of worship in a way that gives them legal rights and protections. The Government shares the concern that some people may nonetheless marry in a way that does not give them these legal rights and protections, without appreciating the consequences.

We continue to explore limited reform and non-legislative options in this area with the greatest of care. This work will be informed by the forthcoming reports from the Law Commission on weddings, and from the Nuffield Foundation on religious weddings.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-30/hl4544>

The Resolution referred to above can be read at

<http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=25353>

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

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

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

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

## New Publication

**Diversity in Political Representation in Scotland - Data Improvement Project Proposal**

<https://tinyurl.com/mr2jeu52>

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## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### Scottish Parliament Motions

**Emma Roddick (SNP) [S6M-02541] Law Commission Hate Crime Recommendations**

– That the Parliament notes the Law Commission publication, Hate Crime Laws: Final Report, which concludes the Commission's review of hate crime and hate speech laws in England and Wales, and sets out consultation responses alongside the Commission's final recommendations; further notes the Commission's conclusion that the hate crime framework in England and Wales should not be adapted to include violence against women and girls, and the recommendation that sex or gender should not be added as a protected characteristic for the purposes of aggravated offences and enhanced sentencing; acknowledges the Commission's recommendation that, instead, the UK Government should undertake a review of the need for a specific offence of public sexual harassment, and what form any such offence should take; recognises the complexities surrounding these discussions, but considers that the Scottish Government must ensure the safety of women and girls in Scotland, and believes that Scotland could be a world leader in doing so; acknowledges what it sees as the pervasive daily issue of violence against women and girls; considers that public safety and protection should be made a priority of the utmost importance, and calls for actions to be taken in Scotland to address this, and looks forward to the forthcoming recommendations of the Misogyny and Criminal Justice in Scotland Working Group.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/votes-and-motions-search/S6M-02541>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/lawcom-prod-storage-11jsxou24uy7q/uploads/2021/12/Hate-crime-report-accessible.pdf>

**Jackson Carlaw (Conservative) [S6M-02600] Holocaust Memorial Day to be Marked on 27 January 2022**

– That the Parliament reflects on the horrors of the Holocaust; believes that it is important to impart the lessons of this despicable event to each generation so that everyone is instilled with an ethos of tolerance and respect for all, irrespective of background; recognises that the Holocaust was the systematic attempt to

murder all Jewish people living in Europe from 1941 to 1945; acknowledges that the Holocaust resulted in 6 million Jewish men, women and children being murdered in concentration and extermination camps and in ghettos and mass shootings; notes that Holocaust Memorial Day will take place on 27 January 2022 and that its theme will be “One Day”; understands that this theme, which can be interpreted in many different ways, has been chosen with the general aim that for the One Day of 27 January, people will come together to learn about and reflect on the horrors of the Holocaust and other genocides that took place in the years following 1945, in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur; further understands that underpinning the theme is the hope that, by educating others about past genocides, it will be possible to look forward to a future One Day where there is no genocide; agrees that the Holocaust is an incredibly dark chapter in human history and that the Memorial Day held on 27 January is an important opportunity to reinforce the necessity of striving to ensure that One Day, genocides will become a thing of the past.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/votes-and-motions-search/S6M-02600>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

### Islam: Discrimination

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Conservative)** [HL4705] To ask Her Majesty's Government when they plan to appoint the second independent expert to consider the definition of Islamophobia.

**Reply from Lord Greenhalgh:** This Government remains committed to stamping out anti-Muslim hatred and all forms of religious prejudice. It is unacceptable for anyone to feel unsafe while practicing their religion and we continue to take a zero-tolerance approach to anti-Muslim hatred.

We will outline our next steps with the review on the Definition of Islamophobia in due course, following the publication of the forthcoming Hate Crime Strategy.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-06/hl4705>

## New Publications

**“We are Generation Terror!”: Youth-on-youth Radicalisation in Extreme-right Youth Groups**

<https://cst.org.uk/public/data/file/2/4/We%20are%20Generation%20Terror.pdf>

**Independent review to address discrimination and advance anti-racism: London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine**

<https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/media/56316>

## News

**UK police chiefs consider public admission of institutional racism**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/dec/12/uk-police-leaders-debate-public-admission-institutional-racism>

**Coverage of Muslims and Islam in UK media is mostly negative, study finds**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/british-media-muslims-islam-islamophobia-b1976742.html>

**We are Generation Terror!**

<https://cst.org.uk/news/blog/2021/12/14/we-are-generation-terror>

**Structural racism at London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, finds report**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2021/dec/13/structural-racism-at-london-school-of-hygiene-tropical-medicine-finds-report>

**‘Appalling’ race rant woman who abused doorman to spend Christmas in prison**  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/birmingham-west-midlands-police-worcester-birmingham-city-wetherspoons-b1975264.html>

**What Covid taught us about racism – and what we need to do now**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2021/dec/16/systemic-racism-covid-gary-young>

**Racism in cricket: Diversity experts Plan4Sport to lead as Scottish cricket review starts in January**  
<https://www.bbc.com/sport/cricket/59652507>

**Independent Scottish cricket racism review to begin next month**  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/cricket/scottish-english-england-and-wales-cricket-board-sri-lanka-b1975744.html>

**Majid Haq: Scottish cricket racism review to start next month**  
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/majid-haq-scottish-cricket-racism-review-to-start-next-month-f65nbvqbc>

**Cricket racism 'makes you feel like an outsider'**  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-59688259>

**Reporting on racism: ‘There are days it feels we are getting somewhere’**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2021/dec/13/racism-sport-reporting-positive>

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## Other Scottish Parliament and Government

### New Publication

**Interim Site Design Guide for Gypsy/Traveller Sites in Scotland provided by Local Authorities and Registered Social Landlords**  
<https://tinyurl.com/ytmjtrbz>

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## Other UK Parliament and Government

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

#### Female Genital Mutilation: Clinics

**Anneliese Dodds (Labour) [57306]** To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what assessment he has made of the effect of the closure of specialist FGM clinics on survivors of FGM in the UK.

**Reply from Gillian Keegan:** While NHS England and NHS Improvement have not made a formal assessment, we would expect local commissioners to follow the

guidance to support commissioners in meeting the needs of women and girls with female genital mutilation (FGM).

NHS England and NHS Improvement have been working to gain an understanding of the services required to inform local commissioners' decision-making via the National Health Service FGM clinics project. NHS England and NHS Improvement are now evaluating the outcomes of the pilot study, while working with local systems to enable future provision.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-15/57306>

## Press Release

**PM call with First Minister of Scotland: 17 December 2021**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-call-with-first-minister-of-scotland-17-december-2021>

## New Publication

**Count of Traveller Caravans, July 2021 England**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1040638/TCC\\_July\\_2021\\_count.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1040638/TCC_July_2021_count.pdf)

## News

**Online Safety Bill: New offences and tighter rules**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-59638569>

**Human Rights Act: UK government unveils reform proposals**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-59646684>

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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>

#### **Book a flu or coronavirus booster vaccination**

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

### **Get a record of your coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination status**

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/covid-19-vaccine/after-your-vaccine/get-a-record-of-your-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination-status>

### **Protect-Scot contact tracing app**

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

### **Healthcare for refugees and asylum seekers**

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

### **NHS Near Me (Scotland)**

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

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

### **NHS (England and Wales)**

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

## **Scottish Government Press Releases**

### **Steps to accelerate booster programme**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/steps-to-accelerate-booster-programme/>

### **New measures required to slow the spread of Coronavirus**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/new-measures-required-to-slow-the-spread-of-coronavirus/>

## **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 speech– 17 December 2021**

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

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's statement – 14 December 2021**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-statement-14-december-2021/>

### **Scottish COVID-19 Inquiry: Analysis of the public and stakeholders views on the approach to establishing the public inquiry**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-covid-19-inquiry-analysis-public-stakeholders-views-approach-establishing-public-inquiry/>

## **Covid Public Inquiry: Deputy First Minister statement - 14 December 2021**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/covid-public-inquiry-deputy-first-minister-statement-14-december-2021/>

## **Updated Guidance**

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19): staying safe and protecting others**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-staying-safe-and-protecting-others/>

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19): Test and Protect**

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

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19): travel and transport**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-travel-and-transport/>

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19): safe use of places of worship**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-phase-3-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship/>

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19): tourism and hospitality sector**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-tourism-and-hospitality-sector-guidance/>

## **UK Government Press Releases**

### **Prime Minister and Head of the NHS call for volunteers to support National Booster Effort**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-and-head-of-the-nhs-call-for-volunteers-to-support-national-booster-effort>

### **Government and faith leaders join forces to support booster drive**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-and-faith-leaders-join-forces-to-support-booster-drive>

### **More than half of over 18s boosted against COVID-19**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-than-half-of-over-18s-boosted-against-covid-19>

## **UK Parliament and Government Publications**

### **The R value and growth rate**

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

### **Prime Minister's opening statement at COVID-19 press conference: 15 December 2021**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-opening-statement-at-covid-19-press-conference-15-december-2021>

### **Omicron and new coronavirus variants**

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9400/>

## Welsh Government Publication

### First Minister's Bame Covid-19 Advisory Group Report of the Scientific Risk Assessment Subgroup

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-12/first-ministers-black-asian-and-minority-ethnic-covid-19-advisory-group-scientific-subgroup-risk-assessment.pdf>

## News

### Covid in Scotland: New regulations come into force

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-59684764>

### Scots urged to limit socialising to three households

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-59655829>

### Covid in Scotland: Record day for booster vaccines

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-59674730>

### Covid: Cases hit new record as booster drive continues

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-59688186>

### Covid Scotland: Scotland's Covid-19 inquiry officially established with chair confirmed

<https://www.scotsman.com/health/coronavirus/covid-scotland-scotlands-covid-19-inquiry-officially-established-with-chair-confirmed-3494769>

### Covid in Scotland: Judge Lady Poole appointed to lead inquiry

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-59659110>

### Covid in Scotland: Inequality continues to cause ethnic minorities to be disproportionately affected by virus

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/covid-in-scotland-inequality-continues-to-cause-ethnic-minorities-to-be-disproportionately-affected-by-virus-dr-gwenetta-curry-3495583>

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## Other News

### Most minority ethnic Britons no longer trust police, poll finds

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/police-trust-black-lives-matter-b1973053.html>

### Use of 'BAME' label questioned by accounting watchdog

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2021/12/13/use-bame-label-questioned-accounting-watchdog/>

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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>

#### **Nationality and Borders Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3023>

#### **\*\* Online Safety Bill (Draft)**

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

Evidence session, Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Sub-Committee on Online Harms and Disinformation

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/3204/html/>

Report of the Joint Committee on the Draft Online Safety Bill

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/jt5802/jtselect/jtonlinesafety/129/129.pdf>

Select Committee statement, House of Commons

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-12-16/debates/4BFBD8B-7EE6-4179-8C1E-02E395E50766/JointCommitteeOnTheDraftOnlineSafetyBill>

## Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

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

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## Consultations

\*\* new or updated this week

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

### Proposed Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill

(closing date 22 December 2021)

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/proposals-for-bills/proposed-assisted-dying-for-terminally-ill-adults-scotland-bill>

**\*\* closes in two weeks!**

### Excess deaths in Scotland since the start of the pandemic (closing date 7 January 2022)

[https://yourviews.parliament.scot/covid19/excess-deaths-covid19-pandemic/consult\\_view/](https://yourviews.parliament.scot/covid19/excess-deaths-covid19-pandemic/consult_view/)

### Draft Northern Ireland Refugee Integration Strategy (closing date 21 February 2022)

<https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/consultations/draft-refugee-integration-strategy>

### \*\* Review of the operation of the Public Sector Equality Duty in Scotland

(closing date 7 March 2022)

<https://tinyurl.com/2hpz9wu9>

### Fearless Scotland – National Youth Survey (closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/fearless-Scotland>

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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

### Scotland's Winter Festivals 2021/2022 Small Grants Fund

*closing date: 17 January 2022*

Scottish Government / BEMIS grants of up to £2,000 are available to constituted, charitable and non-profit organisations or community groups to host an event for Burns Night. Scotland's Winter Festivals aim to mobilise the people of Scotland and those with an affinity to Scotland to join in the Burns Night celebrations. Our diverse ethnic and cultural minority communities are key elements of Scotland's past, present and future so BEMIS

## **Events, Conferences, and Training**

\*\* new or updated this week

### **Workshop for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Campaigners**

8 January 2022 (online, 10.00–4.00)

Friends, Families and Travellers workshop for Gypsy, Roma, Traveller, and nomadic people regardless of ethnicity, culture or background who want to build their skills in activism and campaigning. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y2pccu45>

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

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**

19 January 2022 (online, 10.00–12.30)

9 March 2022 (online, 10.00–12.30)

PAiH course to explore how the asylum system works from the perspective of a claimant and the process involved in making a claim for asylum. The course will also explore the barriers faced by both refugees and asylum seekers building a new life in Scotland and their respective entitlement to services. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/24ba4stk>

### **No Recourse to Public Funds**

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>

### **Light the Darkness: UK Holocaust Memorial Day 2022**

27 January 2022 (Glasgow and online, 6.30–8.30)

Households across the UK will be lighting candles and safely putting them in their windows to remember those who were murdered for who they were, and stand against prejudice and hatred today. Join Interfaith Scotland either in person or online for a film screening of the UK-wide commemorative event, candle lighting ceremony, and, for those participating in person, light refreshments. For information about the in-person event see <https://tinyurl.com/3ftrje99> and about the online event see <https://tinyurl.com/mr3whtbf>

### **Refugees: Asylum and Resettlement**

3 and 4 February 2022 (online, 11.30–3.30 both days)

29 and 30 March 2022 (online, 11.30–3.30 both days)

16 and 17 June 2022 (online, 11.30–3.30 both days)

6 and 7 September 2022 (online, 11.30–3.30 both days)

27 and 28 October 2022 (online, 11.30–3.30 both days)

Scottish Refugee Council 2-day course drawing on the experiences of people seeking asylum and people who have been resettled in the UK, to examine why people might need to flee their own country, how they seek asylum in the UK, and what opportunities exist for rebuilding their lives here in the UK. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/jd2tey6w>

## **Supporting Refugee Integration**

15 and 16 February 2022 (online, 1.00–4.30 both days)

28 and 29 April 2022 (online, 1.00–4.30 both days)

11 and 12 October 2022 (online, 1.00–4.30 both days)

15 and 16 December 2022 (online, 1.00–4.30 both days)

Scottish Refugee Council 2-day course to enable participants to understand the principles of a refugee-led integration framework, understand how dependency is created and how to build on people's resilience, and feel confident to facilitate refugee-led integration effectively. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/ukvn5rs5>

## **Working with Interpreters**

15 and 16 March 2022 (online, 1.00–4.30 both days)

27 and 28 September 2022 (online, 1.00–4.30 both days)

24 and 25 November 2022 (online, 1.00–4.30 both days)

Scottish Refugee Council 2-day courses to enable participants to understand the legal context and qualifications governing interpreters in the EU, UK and Scotland, know the different types of interpreting, identify the differences between an interpreter and a bi-lingual support worker, and who to use when, and recognise when it is inappropriate to use a family member, a friend or a community member to interpret. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/puykxxnu>

## **Working with Unaccompanied Refugee Children**

21 and 22 April 2022 (online, 11.30–3.30 both days)

10 and 11 November 2022 (online, 11.30–3.30 both days)

Scottish Refugee Council 2-day course to enable participants to recognise the legal difference between children seeking asylum, children who have been trafficked, refugees and migrants, appreciate the journeys that children have made to be in the UK including being trafficked, understand the Age Assessment process, identify the rights and entitlements of separated children, and become familiar with the statutory responsibilities of the Scottish Guardianship Service. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/3fedr5xn>

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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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