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

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**The Scottish Parliament will be in recess from 1 to 18 April 2022,  
and UK Parliament from 31 March to 19 April 2022.**

## Immigration and Asylum

### Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

#### Refugees (Ukraine)

**Fulton MacGregor (SNP):** To ask the First Minister what work is being done to extend the “warm Scots welcome” to Ukrainians arriving in the United Kingdom. (S6F-00947)

**Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon):** We all continue to be horrified by the illegal war in Ukraine, and we are ready to extend the warmest of Scottish welcomes to those who are fleeing the war. We have been working rapidly with a range of partners to ensure that displaced Ukrainians arrive to a place of safety and

security. We have established welcome hubs at key entry points, to support people with what they need immediately on arrival and to assess their medium to longer-term needs.

We are working with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities to provide accommodation, as well as exploring all viable public and private sector housing options and, of course, offers from members of the public who have generously offered to open their own homes.

**Fulton MacGregor:** ... How will the Scottish Government ensure that the welcome hubs that she mentioned support displaced people from Ukraine to find peace and safety in Scotland after the stress and trauma of escaping from an illegal war?

**Reply from Nicola Sturgeon:** The welcome hubs are a really important initial part of what we want to offer. They will assess immediate needs, take a multi-agency approach and provide wraparound support. That will include having trained staff on call to support people who are experiencing trauma. The welcome hubs will also be able to begin the assessment of longer-term needs, including accommodation requirements.

We now have the supersponsor route in place. That is in addition to the homes for Ukraine route and, of course, the family route. We have the support ready to be provided here. The bit in the middle is getting the visa applications granted so that people can start to arrive in numbers.

I will get an update later today, but the update that I had yesterday was that more than 1,000 applications had been made through the supersponsor scheme, and there had been just under 1,000 individual matching applications, I think. Obviously, we are still improving data flows, so there will be some uncertainty around those figures. However, we need to see a significant speeding up of the granting of those applications in order that people can come here and start to access the support that we have ready for them on that multi-agency basis.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13664&i=124015#ScotParlOR>

*Information about the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>*

*Information about the Ukrainian Family Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-ukraine-family-scheme-visa>*

### **Displaced People (Support)**

**Bob Doris (SNP):** My constituent's family have, thankfully, made it safely to Glasgow from Kyiv, including a 68-year-old relative travelling on a Ukrainian passport. They have asked me whether their relative will qualify for the concessionary travel scheme—I hope that the First Minister can confirm that.

More widely, though, what steps is the Scottish Government taking to assist those arriving in Scotland from Ukraine, or indeed elsewhere, to access all the services and entitlements that they should have the right to receive at such a difficult time?

**Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon):** I am relieved and pleased to hear that Bob Doris's constituent's family have made it safely to Glasgow. I know that they will receive a warm welcome here. I would be happy to provide any detailed information on the support services that are available, given their particular circumstances. We have a proud history of welcoming displaced people and a wealth of experience from previous schemes.

We are working with a range of partners to ensure that wraparound support is in place for all displaced people who arrive here in Scotland. Those who come from Ukraine will have a right to work, and access to social security benefits and public funds. We will be working to make sure that people are aware of that and get access

to all those services.

We are standing ready to welcome—I hope—significant numbers of people fleeing the situation in Ukraine. We are pleased that the supersponsor scheme that we proposed to the UK Government went live on Friday. We have multi-agency efforts in place to provide support. We now need to see visas begin to be granted in significant numbers so that we can get more people to Scotland and give them the support that they need.

On that issue, let me take the opportunity to welcome—on behalf of all of us, I am sure—the Dnipro Kids children, who arrived in Scotland last night. I know that they would all rather be at home in Ukraine but, while they are here, all of us would want to ensure that they are surrounded by love, care and support.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13664&i=124012#ScotParIOR>

### Homes for Ukraine Scheme

**Liam McArthur (Liberal Democrat):** To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with the United Kingdom Government regarding matching Ukrainian refugees with households in Scotland that have registered under the homes for Ukraine scheme. (S6O-00922)

**Reply from the Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine (Neil Gray):** We continue to work closely with the UK Government on the design and operation of the homes for Ukraine scheme. We are focused on ensuring a smooth and early flow of data to support the operation of the Scottish Government's supersponsor programme and to meet our objectives for a warm and well-delivered welcome for all those who arrive in Scotland. Just yesterday, I met Lord Richard Harrington to emphasise that need.

**Liam McArthur:** ... Although 150,000 people—me included—have signed up to the homes for Ukraine scheme, only around 12,000 Ukrainian refugees have so far been given permission to come to the UK. As the barbaric shelling of cities such as Mariupol continues, an estimated 10 million Ukrainians have already fled their homes. When does the minister expect the matching of refugees to individual households in Scotland to begin? What further support is being provided to local councils to ensure that they can meet the needs of people arriving from Ukraine?

**Reply from Neil Gray:** Obviously, we are still reliant on the UK Government's immigration system to work at pace to get through visa applications and ensure that that data comes to the Scottish Government. We are maintaining pressure on the UK Government to ensure that that happens at pace, given everything that Liam McArthur said about the situation on the ground.

We have provided more than £13 million of support that will be distributed to local authorities to acknowledge the work that will be required of them. That is over and above the £10,500 that the UK Government has committed to provide to local authorities for each person who arrives from Ukraine.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13664&i=124003#ScotParIOR>

*Information about the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>*

## UK Parliament, Ministerial Statement

### Children with No Recourse to Public Funds

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Education (Will Quince): [HCWS714]

Today I am providing an update following a programme of work undertaken by my officials to consider access to free school meals and the early education entitlement for two-year-olds for children from families with no recourse to public funds.

As Members may be aware, some families with an irregular immigration status have a no recourse to public funds—NRPF—condition as designated by the Home Office. This condition restricts these families from drawing on welfare support and other passported Government support and previously this has meant that their children, regardless of their own immigration status, have been unable to access educational entitlements such as free school meals and the early education entitlement for disadvantaged two-year-olds. All children are entitled to access a school place and maintained schools and academies have a duty to provide free school meals to pupils of all ages that meet the eligibility criteria. These healthy, nutritious meals ensure that children up and down the country are well-nourished, develop healthy eating habits, and can concentrate, learn and achieve in the classroom.

#### *Free school meals*

In 2020, we temporarily extended free school meal eligibility to include some children of groups who have NRPF. I am pleased to confirm that, following a cross-Government review, we will permanently extend eligibility for free school meals to children from all families with NRPF, subject to the income thresholds as follows:

£22,700 per annum for families outside London with one child.

£31,200 per annum for families within London with one child.

£26,300 per annum for families outside London with two or more children.

£34,800 per annum for families within London with two or more children.

These thresholds were developed to create comparative thresholds with broad equivalence with families with recourse to public funds, and who qualify for free school meals due to being in receipt of welfare benefits.

In addition to the income thresholds outlined, we are incorporating a capital savings threshold of £16,000. This is the same maximum capital threshold for access to universal credit and therefore achieves parity with families with recourse to public funds.

This permanent extension will begin from the start of the summer term, 19 April 2022. Newly eligible free school meal pupils will be recorded in exactly the same way as other free school meal pupils. We will shortly publish guidance advising schools how to check and validate eligibility for NRPF families.

All children in receipt of free school meals will attract pupil premium funding for their school and—dependent on meeting other criteria—will also be able to receive free home-to-school transport. The department will provide funding to meet the additional costs incurred through the established processes.

#### *Two-year-old entitlement*

The early years are crucial for children's development and for establishing the foundations for future success.

Since September 2020, some NRPF households have been able to access the two-year-old early education entitlement. However, my department is going to consult as soon as possible on whether there are any additional groups of children from NRPF families who should be eligible for the two-year-old entitlement that we have not already identified.

These changes will help to ensure that every child gets the best possible start and receives the right support, in the right place, at the right time.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-03-24/debates/22032442000013/ChildrenWithNoRecourseToPublicFunds>

# UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Afghanistan

## Refugees: Afghanistan

**Caroline Lucas (Green)** [133976] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 28 February 2022 to Question 125081, on Afghanistan: Refugees, and with reference to the announcement of the opening of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme on 6 January 2022; how many Afghan nationals have been resettled from each of the three referral pathways of that scheme with figures for the number resettled in the UK from (a) within the UK, (b) third party countries and (c) within Afghanistan.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme opened on 6th January, providing up to 20,000 women, children and others at risk with a safe and legal route to resettle in the UK.

There are around 6,500 people in the UK who have been brought to safety during and after the evacuation who are eligible for the ACRS through pathway one. The first Afghan families have already been granted Indefinite Leave to Remain under the scheme, and we are planning to have granted Indefinite Leave to the remainder by the end of April.

Eligible people who were called forward during the evacuation but were not able to board flights will also be eligible for the ACRS through this pathway.

From Spring, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) will refer refugees to the scheme as part of the second pathway. Those referred by UNHCR will be assessed for resettlement by UNHCR using their established process, and in line with their resettlement submission categories, which include women and girls at risk.

The FCDO and Home Office will be jointly leading on pathway three of the ACRS scheme and working in collaboration. We will provide further information in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-03/133976>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-18/125081>

*Information about the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>

## Refugees: Afghanistan

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op)** [133223] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will expedite the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme for people from (a) the Hararas Muslim community and (b) other minoritised communities.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme commenced on 6th January, providing up to 20,000 women, children and others at risk with a safe and legal route to resettle in the UK.

The scheme will prioritise those who have assisted UK efforts in Afghanistan and stood up for UK values such as democracy, women's rights, freedom of speech and rule of law; and vulnerable people such as women and girls at risk, and members of minority groups (including ethnic / religious minorities and LGBT+).

From Spring 2022, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) will refer refugees to the scheme, based on assessments of protection need.

The UK has a proud track record of helping those who need our protection – and this will continue.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-02/133223>

*Information about the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>

### Refugees: Afghanistan

**Sarah Olney (Liberal Democrat)** [137404] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has plans to implement a scheme through which UK firms can sponsor Afghan citizens in need of relocation, in the same manner available for Ukrainian citizens.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Community Sponsorship provides the opportunity for friends and neighbours, charities and faith groups to play a direct role in supporting families resettled to the UK as they restart their lives here. Community Sponsorship has been extended so sponsor groups can support a family through the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme.

The Home Office has set up a webpage which allows members of the public and organisations to make offers of employment and housing:

[Help people who have come to the UK from Afghanistan: Work](#)

More information about Community Sponsorship and other volunteering opportunities can be found here:

[Help people who have come to the UK from Afghanistan: Helping people to settle in the UK](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-09/137404>

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

### Refugees: Afghanistan

**Stephen Timms (Labour)** [140352] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of removing the requirement for Afghan refugees to submit their biometrics before entering the UK, as has been done for those fleeing Ukraine.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** We remain committed to supporting Afghan nationals through the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy scheme and the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme to come to the UK, as set out in the Afghanistan resettlement and immigration policy statement published on 13 September 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghanistan-resettlement-and-immigration-policy-statement>

We continue to recommend people in Afghanistan do not make applications and pay application fees at this time as they will not be considered until biometrics are provided. Those Afghans who are outside of Afghanistan and able to get to a Visa Application Centre to provide their biometrics are able to make an application in the usual way.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-15/140352>

*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>*

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

### Refugees: Afghanistan

**Patrick Grady (SNP)** [142014] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has made an assessment of the potential merits of extending the Homes for Ukraine scheme to provide the same (a) support and (b) rights to people feeling violence in Afghanistan.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Since 2015, we have resettled more than 27,000 refugees through safe and legal routes directly from regions of conflict and instability – more than any other European country. Every conflict and threat

situation is unique and requires a unique and tailored response.

In response to the Afghanistan crisis, this Government helped over 15,000 people to safety in the largest and fastest emergency evacuation in recent history, We have also continued to bring people to the UK, with around 1,500 people helped to enter since the evacuation. This UK Government has two schemes to facilitate resettlement in the United Kingdom of Afghan nationals at risk: the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP) and the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS). The Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) commenced on 6 January, providing up to 20,000 women, children and others at risk with a safe and legal route to resettle in the UK. Those resettled through the ARAP and ACRS receive fee-free indefinite leave to enter or remain in the UK.

The Government maintains a constant review of all resettlement schemes to enable a flexible response.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-17/142014>

*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>*

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

### **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour) [141275]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the adequacy of support provided for refugees who have been resettled in the UK from Afghanistan.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** All those brought to the UK under the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme and Afghan Relocation Assistance Programme have the right to work, access to education and health care and are able to apply for public funds.

For Afghan evacuees who have not yet moved into settled accommodation, we are working at pace across government and with over three hundred Local Authority partners to move Afghan evacuees into permanent homes as soon as possible so they can settle and rebuild their lives. Home Office Liaison Officers (HOLOs) in bridging hotels provide face-to-face support, and remote support when not physically present. They are reactive to the needs of those accommodated in hotels and can provide signposting to other government departments and Local Authorities and ensure safeguarding concerns are appropriately acted upon. We are also providing funding of £28 per person, per day to local authorities to deliver support services in the hotel, including ensuring access to education and health services.

Once the Afghan families are settled in their longer-term accommodation they will receive a comprehensive package of integration support as they start their new lives in the UK. Local councils receive £20,520 per person, over three years, for resettlement and integration costs to support the evacuees to acclimatise to the UK, learn English, and find work.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-16/141275>

*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>*

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

### Refugees: Afghanistan

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op)** [141238] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, whether he has made an assessment of the potential merits of introducing a Homes for Afghans plan, integrated with the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

**Reply from Eddie Hughes:** Our work on the new Homes for Ukraine scheme has been informed by our experience gained from work undertaken to support those entering the country from Afghanistan and indeed from Syria.

My Department is continuously reviewing the Afghan resettlement response and will consider if there are measures from the Homes for Ukraine scheme that would be applicable to other groups.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-16/141238>

### Medical Treatments: Refugees

**Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour)** [141274] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what recent assessment his Department has made of the availability of medical treatment for Afghan refugees who have been resettled in the UK.

**Reply from Maria Caulfield:** The Government is ensuring that Afghan refugees have access to a range of support, including healthcare. In 2021, £3 million was provided to the National Health Service to support an enhanced healthcare offer for people arriving through Afghan resettlement schemes. All Afghan refugees have now registered with a general practitioner or are being helped to do so and a range of vaccinations are being offered, alongside mental health and other services.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-16/141274>

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

### Visas: Ukraine

**Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour)** [139476] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will publish daily statistics relating to applications (a) started, (b) completed, (c) awaiting processing, (d) processed and (e) approved for the (i) Ukraine visa schemes and (ii) Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Information on the number of applications under the Ukraine Family Scheme can be found in our published data on the GOV.UK webpage: [Ukraine Family Scheme: application data](#)

The Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme opened on 6th January, providing up to 20,000 women, children and others at risk with a safe and legal route to resettle in the UK. Approx. 6,500 people in the UK who have been brought to safety during and after the evacuation who are eligible for the ACRS through pathway one.

We have registered over 10k applications on our databases, and continue to enrol biometrics, with a view to having granted ILR to the remainder by the end of April.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-14/139476>

*Information about the Ukrainian Family Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-ukraine-family-scheme-visa>

*Information about the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>

### Visas: Ukraine

**Daisy Cooper (Liberal Democrat)** [129253] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will extend visitor visas to Ukrainian nationals who are in the UK, and whose visas are due to expire, so that they are not required to return to Ukraine while the conflict is ongoing.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Home Office has introduced several temporary concessions to support Ukrainian nationals currently in the UK who are now unable to return when their existing visa expires. These concessions will assist Ukrainian nationals in extending their stay in the UK without having to leave and re-apply from overseas.

If someone is in the UK on a visitor visa, and cannot return to Ukraine, they can exceptionally apply to switch to another visa route, such as the points-based route or the family visa route. They will need to meet the requirements of that visa route. Further information can be found on the GOV.UK page:

[UK visa support for Ukrainian nationals](#)

All returns activity to Ukraine has been suspended.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-24/129253>

### **Refugees: Ukraine**

**Nadia Whittome (Labour)** [139632] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to allow applications from within the UK for the Ukrainian Family Resettlement Scheme.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Ukrainian Family scheme is already open to applications from within the UK.

Guidance for those who wish to make such an application is published here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/support-for-family-members-of-british-nationals-in-ukraine-and-ukrainian-nationals-in-ukraine-and-the-uk#non-british-family-members-of-british-nationals-in-ukraine>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-14/139632>

### **Visas: Ukraine**

**Thangam Debbonaire (Labour)** [139397] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of expanding the Ukraine Family Visa Scheme to include Ukrainian nationals whose close relatives are in the UK on Skilled Worker visas.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Skilled workers who have not obtained settlement are not permitted to sponsor under the Ukraine Family Scheme. However, they may wish to consider sponsoring a relative under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. This bespoke scheme offers a route to those who want to come to the UK who have someone here willing to provide them with a home. It will enable individuals, charities, community groups and businesses to volunteer accommodation and provide a route to safety for Ukrainians, and their immediate family members, forced to escape their homeland.

Further information on the process and how to apply to sponsor under the Homes for Ukraine scheme can be found here:

<https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-14/139397>

*Information about the Ukrainian Family Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-ukraine-family-scheme-visa>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Visas: Ukraine**

**Daisy Cooper (Liberal Democrat)** [135661] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the eligibility to apply for a Ukraine Family Scheme visa published on 4 March 2022, whether the definition of extended family of a Ukrainian national living in the UK will be extended to include (a) aunts and (b) uncles.

**Daisy Cooper (Liberal Democrat)** [135662] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the eligibility requirements in the guidance published by her

Department on 4 March 2022, Apply for a Ukraine Family Scheme visa, whether the extended family of a Ukrainian national living in the UK who holds a spouse visa is accepted under the eligibility rules for a UK-based family member as someone settled in the UK in the event that the holder of that spouse visa does not currently have indefinite leave to remain.

**Reply from Kevin Foster;** As set out in the Home Secretary's statement to the House on 1 March, a fee free, bespoke Ukraine Family Scheme has been introduced. The route allows both the immediate (spouse, civil partner, durable partner, minor children) and extended (parent, grandparent, adult children, grandchildren, siblings, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, in laws and their immediate family) family members to join their relatives in the UK. The UK-based sponsoring relative must be a British citizen, a person who is present and settled in the UK (including those with settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme), a person in the UK with refugee leave or with humanitarian protection or a person in the UK with limited leave under Appendix EU (pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme). This route was launched on 4 March.

Ukraine nationals under a spouse visa route who have not obtained settlement are not permitted to sponsor under the Ukraine Family Scheme. However, if their spouse is a British or settled person, they may be able to sponsor some of their family members concerned under the in-law category.

Ukrainian spouse visa holders may also wish to consider sponsoring a relative under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. This bespoke scheme offers a route to those who want to come to the UK who have someone here willing to provide them with a home. It will enable individuals, charities, community groups and businesses to volunteer accommodation and provide a route to safety for Ukrainians, and their immediate family members, forced to escape their homeland.

Further information on the process and how to apply to sponsor under the Homes for Ukraine scheme can be found here:

<https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>

We are setting no limit on the numbers of people who can come here. We will be glad to welcome as many Ukrainians as wish to come.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-07/135661>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-07/135662>

*Information about the Ukrainian Family Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-ukraine-family-scheme-visa>

*The following four questions all received the same answer*

#### **Refugees: Ukraine**

**Olivia Blake (Labour)** [129277] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assistance she is providing for Ukrainian citizens settled in the UK who wish to reunite with their family members still residing in Ukraine.

#### **Visas: Ukraine**

**Rebecca Long Bailey (Labour)** [129827] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to facilitate urgent visas for Ukrainian (a) spouses and (b) other immediate family members of British nationals to enable them to travel to the UK following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

**Yvette Cooper (Labour)** [135424] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to her oral statement of 1 March 2022, whether someone living in the UK on a visitor visa who wants to bring an elderly aunt or uncle to the UK from Ukraine would be covered by the Ukraine Family Scheme.

**Yvette Cooper (Labour)** [135425] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to her oral statement of 1 March 2022, whether a 19 year old from Ukraine

seeking to join her aunt and uncle living in the UK would be eligible to apply to the Ukraine Family Scheme.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** As set out in the Home Secretary's statement to the House on 1 March, a fee free, bespoke Ukraine Family Scheme has been introduced. The route allows both the immediate (spouse, civil partner, durable partner, minor children) and extended (parent, grandparent, adult children, grandchildren, siblings, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, in laws and their immediate family) family members to join their relatives in the UK.

The UK-based sponsoring relative must be a British citizen, a person who is present and settled in the UK (including those with settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme), a person in the UK with refugee leave or with humanitarian protection, or a person in the UK with limited leave under Appendix EU (pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme). This route was launched on 4 March.

A niece is permitted to join her aunt and uncle in the UK under the Ukraine Family Scheme if those relatives have the appropriate status to sponsor as a UK-based relative under the scheme.

A person who is in the UK as a visitor would not qualify as a UK-based sponsor and would not be covered by the scheme to bring relatives to the UK.

We continue to keep the situation in Ukraine under constant review. Further information on the visa process for Ukrainian family members who wish to come to the UK can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/support-for-family-members-of-british-nationals-in-ukraine-and-ukrainian-nationals-in-ukraine-and-the-uk#non-british-family-members-of-british-nationals-in-ukraine>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-24/129277>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-25/129827>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-07/135424>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-07/135425>

*The statement referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/home-secretary-statement-on-humanitarian-support-for-ukrainians>

### **Visas: Ukraine**

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [138083]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if great aunts and uncles will be able to come to the UK under the family scheme from Ukraine.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** As set out in the Home Secretary's statement to the House on 1 March, a fee free, bespoke Ukraine Family Scheme has been introduced. The route allows both the immediate (spouse, civil partner, durable partner, minor children) and extended (parent, grandparent, adult children, grandchildren, siblings, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, in laws and their immediate family) to join qualifying family members in the UK. This route was launched on 4 March.

Family members such as great aunts and great uncles are not listed as qualifying extended family members for the purposes of the Ukraine Family Scheme. However, the Scheme allows decision makers to apply discretion to accept and consider applications from other family members. Each case will be judged on merit taking into account the individual circumstances of the case.

Alternatively, family members in the UK may wish to consider sponsoring a great aunt or uncle under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. This scheme offers a route to

those who want to come to the UK who have someone here willing to provide them with a home. It enables individuals to volunteer accommodation and provide a route to safety for Ukrainians, and their immediate family members, forced to escape their homeland.

Further information on the process and how to apply to sponsor under the Homes for Ukraine scheme can be found here:

<https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk>

We are setting no limit on the numbers of people who can come here. We will be glad to welcome as many Ukrainians as wish to come.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-10/138083>

*Information about the Ukrainian Family Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-ukraine-family-scheme-visa>

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

#### **Asylum: Ukraine**

**Nadia Whittome (Labour)** [131376] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether it is her policy to open safe routes to the UK for non-British and non-Ukrainian nationals fleeing war in Ukraine.

#### **Refugees: Ukraine**

**Olivia Blake (Labour)** [134117] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she plans to take to support transgender and non-binary Ukrainian refugees to find refuge in the UK safely.

**Olivia Blake (Labour)** [134119] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she (a) plans to take to support transgender and non-binary Ukrainian refugees overcome barriers preventing them from leaving Ukraine safely and (b) is taking to support transgender and non-binary Ukrainians to seek refuge in the UK.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The United Kingdom stands firmly with the people of Ukraine.

The government has brought forward a bespoke humanitarian support package for the people of Ukraine, having listened carefully to the Ukrainian Government.

We have helped hundreds of British nationals and their family members resident in Ukraine to leave the country, with Home Office staff working around the clock to assist them.

The Government has established a Ukraine Family Scheme which is fee free and allows British nationals and people settled in the UK to bring extended family members to the UK, covering immediate family members plus parents, grandparents, children over 18 and siblings, aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces, cousins and in-laws. Individuals will be granted leave for three years, giving them certainty and securing their future in the country. There is no numerical limit.

In addition, the Government has established a humanitarian sponsorship pathway, led by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, whereby Ukrainians who may not have family ties in the UK can be sponsored to come to the UK by willing and able individuals, businesses, or community organisations. There will be no numerical limit on this scheme, and we will welcome as many Ukrainians as wish to come who have matched sponsors.

The Home Office will work closely with international partners on the ground to support displaced Ukrainians in need of a home.

Further details can be found at [Home Secretary statement on humanitarian support for Ukrainians](#) and the [Factsheet: Home Office action on Ukraine - Home Office in the media](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-28/131376>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-03/134117>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-03/134119>

*Information about the Ukrainian Family Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-ukraine-family-scheme-visa>*

### **Refugees: Ukraine**

**Owen Thompson (SNP)** [137384] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking with her international counterparts to put in place extra levels of protection for minority groups fleeing Ukraine.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Home Secretary is continuing to speak to her international counterparts to ensure we are taking appropriate action to support the Ukrainian Government and people.

We have announced new measures to simplify and speed up the process for people applying to the Ukraine Family Scheme. From Tuesday 15 March, Ukrainians with valid passports who are eligible for this route can do their application online and will not need to go to a Visa Application Centre to give their biometrics before they come to the UK.

For non-passport holders we have expanded our Visa Application Capacity to 13,000 a week, deployed additional staff across the EU, with a 24/7 helpline in place to ensure those who need appointments can get them to come here. This allows us to balance security risks while welcoming those in need.

The Government has also commenced the Homes for Ukraine scheme, which allows Ukrainians with no family ties to the UK to be sponsored to come to the UK.

We will keep our support under constant review.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-09/137384>

*Information about the Ukrainian Family Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-ukraine-family-scheme-visa>*

*Information about the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>*

### **Refugees: Ukraine**

**Alan Brown (SNP)** [142467] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, whether Ukrainian refugees will be able to claim assistance with housing costs in their universal credit claim or claim housing benefit, including in circumstances where a sponsor is receiving the £350 per month support package.

**Reply from David Rutley:** Sponsors for the Homes for Ukraine scheme should not charge rent to the people they are hosting. We appreciate people's generosity and we know there will be costs associated with helping out, so we are offering an optional 'thank you' payment of £350 per month to sponsors.

Ukrainian evacuees who are supported through the Homes for Ukraine scheme will be able to apply for housing costs support in Housing Benefit or Universal Credit if they have a rental liability when they move on from the scheme.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-18/142467>

*Information about the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>*

### **Social Security Benefits: Homes for Ukraine Scheme**

**Mark Tami (Labour)** [140381] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, whether the £350 allowance payable to hosts in the Homes for Ukraine scheme will be (a) treated as earned income, (b) treated as unearned income or (c) disregarded for the purposes of (i) universal credit, (ii) employment and support allowance, (iii) jobseeker's allowance, (iv) pension credit, (v) carers allowance and (vi) housing benefit.

**Reply from David Rutley:** We are ensuring those who have stepped up to sponsor a Ukrainian individual or family do not see their household benefit entitlements affected as a result. Payment of the £350 'thank you' payment will not be counted as income for the purpose of calculating benefit entitlement.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-15/140381>

*Information about the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>*

### **Homes for Ukraine Scheme: Vetting**

**Alex Cunningham (Labour)** [1412196] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what safeguarding mechanisms his Department has put in place for the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

**Reply from Eddie Hughes:** The Home Office will conduct checks as part of the visa issue process.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-16/141196>

*Information about the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>*

### **Homes for Ukraine Scheme**

**Diana Johnson (Labour)** [143627] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what (a) mandatory and (b) discretionary advice is being given by his Department to local authorities on how to implement checks on UK households offering shelter to Ukrainian refugees.

**Reply from Eddie Hughes:** Further to the oral statement by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up on 14 March, guidance for local authorities has been published on Gov.uk at

[www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-guidance-for-councils](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-guidance-for-councils)

There are also published FAQs available online at

[www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-scheme-frequently-asked-questions](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-scheme-frequently-asked-questions)

as well as information for sponsors. Information is available on safeguarding checks at these links, as well as on eligibility for the scheme. Phase One of the Homes for Ukraine scheme opened for applications on 18 March and is accessible via links from

<https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>

Those who had recorded their interest in the scheme were also contacted on that date. Details on future phases of the scheme will be announced in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-21/143627>

*The statement referred to above can be read at*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-03-14/debates/8B28287A-F683-4F80-8A1F-AA1016D92B27/UkraineSponsorshipScheme>

### **Refugees: Ukraine**

**Desmond Swayne (Conservative)** [141111] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, whether the Government plans to make assistance with travel to UK available for refugees from Ukraine who successfully acquire a visa and match with a host under the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

**Reply from Eddie Hughes:** Ukrainian beneficiaries will be eligible for a single onward journey via national rail, light rail, bus and coach, free of charge to their final destination in Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-16/141111>

### Refugees: Ukraine

**Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op)** [135585] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many refugees who have arrived in the UK from Ukraine have no recourse to public funds.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Ukrainians accepted under the Ukraine Family Scheme and the Homes for Ukraine Scheme will be permitted to live, work, and study in the UK and access public funds for 36 months (3 years) from the time of their arrival.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-07/135585>

*Information about the Ukrainian Family Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-ukraine-family-scheme-visa>

*Information about the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>

### Refugees: Ukraine

**Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op)** [135586] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether Ukrainian refugees will have (a) recourse to public funds and (b) the right to work while waiting for biometric and security checks to be completed.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Applicants granted an Entry Clearance visa under the Ukraine Family Scheme will be able to live, work, and study in the UK and access public funds from the point of entry. Applicants switching into the route within the UK will be able to work and access public funds from the date the leave is granted. Ukrainians granted Leave Outside the Rules at the UK border will also be able to live, work, and study in the UK and access public funds.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-07/135586>

*Information about the Ukrainian Family Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-ukraine-family-scheme-visa>

### Refugees: Ukraine

**Gill Furniss (Labour)** [141255] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what steps he is taking to support the needs of elderly Ukrainian refugees.

**Reply from Eddie Hughes:** All Ukrainian beneficiaries will be granted leave to remain in the UK for 3 years. They will be able to access benefits and public services in accordance with their needs, including healthcare. The Government is working to ensure appropriate support is in place.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-16/141255>

### Refugees: Ukraine

**Sarah Olney (Liberal Democrat)** [143765] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government is taking to help Ukrainian refugees in the UK secure employment upon arrival.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Those arriving via the Ukraine Family Scheme and the Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme, have immediate and unrestricted access to the labour market. If unemployed, they can receive employment support from the Department for Work and Pensions.

Employers can offer work to people fleeing Ukraine at:

<https://www.gov.uk/offer-work-ukraine>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-21/143765>

*Information about the Ukrainian Family Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-ukraine-family-scheme-visa>

*Information about the Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

### **Refugees: Ukraine**

**Joanna Cherry (SNP)** [143714] To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what steps he is taking to help Ukrainian refugees who have fled to the UK to exchange their physical currency for sterling.

**Reply from John Glen:** The government will monitor if steps are needed to support financial services provision for Ukrainian refugees in the UK's marketplace.

Participants in industry have highlighted measures they have taken to support refugees and their access to essential financial services.

The Government recognises that access to a current account is key to enabling people to manage their money on a day-to-day basis effectively, securely, and confidently. The nine largest personal current account providers in the UK are legally required to offer basic bank accounts to customers in the UK who do not have a bank account or who are not eligible for a bank's standard current account. Customers must be lawfully resident in the UK to be eligible, and this includes Ukrainian nationals who have entered the UK under the Ukrainian Scheme and Ukrainian Family Scheme.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-21/143714>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Health Services and Social Services: Refugees**

**Mike Amesbury (Labour)** [139519] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to offer health and social care services to Ukrainian refugees.

### **Health Services: Refugees**

**Ben Everitt (Conservative)** [139618] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what healthcare (a) support and (b) facilities his Department will provide to Ukrainian refugees who arrive in the UK.

**Reply from Maria Caulfield:** The Department is working with NHS England and NHS Improvement and other Government Departments to ensure that Ukrainian nationals arriving in the United Kingdom through the various schemes are signposted to registering with general practitioner.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-14/139519>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-14/139618>

### **Mental Health Services: Refugees**

**Rosena Allin-Khan (Labour)** [141259] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what mental health support his Department plans to provide for refugees entering the UK from Ukraine.

**Reply from Maria Caulfield:** NHS England and NHS Improvement are reviewing the implications of the Ukraine crisis in order to meet the needs of Ukrainian refugees and the diaspora in England. Those who are granted asylum, temporary protection or humanitarian protection under the Immigration Rules of section 3 of the Immigration Act 1971 is recognised as a refugee and able to access all health care services, including mental health care services, and are exempt from charges.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-16/141259>

### **Mental Health Services: Refugees**

**Mike Amesbury (Labour)** [140557] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what assessment he has made of capacity in (a) child and (b) adult mental health services to treat Ukrainian refugees dealing with trauma.

**Reply from Maria Caulfield:** Ukrainian refugees will be guaranteed free access to National Health Service healthcare, including mental health services and registration with a general practitioner. Arrivals will be signposted to services including 24 hours a day, seven days a week mental health helplines and information on accessing talking therapies.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-15/140557>

#### **Students: Ukraine**

**Matt Western (Labour)** [139455] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what discussions he has had with universities on Ukrainian refugee students completing the academic courses they were taking in Ukraine.

**Reply from Michelle Donelan:** Alongside our allies, we are united in support for Ukraine. The department has been working closely with the education sector and across government more widely to ensure that Ukrainian students are supported during this difficult time. The government is considering how best to support these students to continue their education.

Last week, the department convened the Higher Education (HE) Taskforce, bringing together representatives from across the sector to discuss how we can work together to facilitate the progression of Ukrainian students within HE, both by supporting Ukrainian HE and by supporting students who come to the UK to access opportunities here.

Whilst HE providers are autonomous and independent from government, we are encouraging them to be as flexible as possible for all students impacted by the situation in Ukraine and, where they are facing challenges, ensure support is given where it is most needed.

The government will look to support Ukrainian students as they reassess their options in the UK.

The department will continue to work closely with key representatives to explore how the HE sector can collectively support Ukrainian students.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-14/139455>

#### **Students: Ukraine**

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op)** [135571] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps he will take to ensure that students from Ukraine will be able to be integrated into UK universities on their arrival in the UK.

**Reply from Michelle Donelan:** The government will continue to welcome Ukrainian students to UK universities, where we are proud of the long history we have of defending values such as freedom of speech and freedom of publication. In recent weeks, we have been extremely heartened by the solidarity shown by the education sector in its response, by supporting staff and students impacted by the situation in Ukraine. We would like to outline the action that the government has already taken, and further steps we will take, to support British nationals unable to continue their studies, Ukrainians in the UK, Ukraine, and elsewhere. This includes launching the Homes for Ukraine and Ukraine Family Scheme. We know the Homes for Ukraine scheme will be welcomed by many to support Ukrainians who wish to study in the UK.

In the future, organisations will be able to directly sponsor individuals. We will be announcing details of this shortly. Universities have been asked to register their interest for this scheme and to consider how they can contribute to this effort and support Ukrainians who will have had their hopes and ambitions disrupted.

There are also other safe and legal routes available for Ukrainians who wish to travel to the UK. The Ukraine Family Scheme allows immediate and extended family members of British nationals and people settled in the UK to come to the

country. The government is also supporting Ukrainian students in the UK. New visa options announced by the Home Office provide students with an opportunity to extend their leave, or switch to the Graduate route without having to leave the UK. Many higher education (HE) providers have hardship funds that students can apply to for assistance, should their finances be affected in the academic year 2021/22. We continue to encourage providers to accept hardship applications from international students, including those from Ukraine.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-07/135571>

*Information about the Ukrainian Family Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-ukraine-family-scheme-visa>

*Information about the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>

### **Refugees: Russia**

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op)**[135572] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to allow Russians who oppose the current regime in that country who are (a) already in the UK and (b) currently outside the UK to seek long-term sanctuary in the UK.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The UK has a proud record of providing protection for people who need it, in accordance with our obligations under the Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).

However, there is no provision within our Immigration Rules for someone to be allowed to travel to the UK to seek asylum or temporary refuge. Whilst we sympathise with people in many difficult situations around the world, including those individuals in Russia who are opposing the current regime, we are not bound to consider asylum claims from the very large numbers of people overseas who might like to come here. Those who need international protection should claim asylum in the first safe country they reach, as this is the fastest route to safety.

There are a range of safe and legal routes for individuals to come to the UK should they wish to join family members here, or to work or study. They would though need to meet the requirements of the relevant Immigration Rule under which they were applying to qualify for a visa. While we do not allow asylum claims from abroad, all asylum claims lodged from within the UK are given full and careful consideration so we do not remove anyone who faces persecution or serious harm on return to their country of origin. Protection is normally granted where a claimant has a well-founded fear of persecution under the Refugee Convention, or their circumstances engage our obligations under Article 3 ECHR.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-07/135572>

### **Asylum: Russia**

**Drew Hendry (SNP)** [143732] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment her Department has made of the adequacy of current asylum programs and policies in place for Russians.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The UK has a proud record of providing protection for people who need it, in accordance with our obligations under the Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).

All asylum claims lodged from within the UK, including those from Russian nationals, are given full and careful consideration so we do not remove anyone who faces persecution or serious harm on return to their country of origin. Protection is normally granted where a claimant has a well-founded fear of persecution under the Refugee Convention or their circumstances engage our obligations under Article 3 ECHR.

We are monitoring the situation in Russia. Every asylum claim made is carefully considered on its individual merits by assessing all the evidence provided by the claimant against a background of country information from a wide range of credible sources, including the Foreign, Development and Commonwealth Office, the media and non-governmental sources, such as the UNHCR, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-21/143732>

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

### British Nationality

**Virendra Sharma (Labour)** [142437] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of naturalisation applications were completed within her Department's target of six months in each of the last four reporting periods for which data is available.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Secretary of State's Home Department publishes data on naturalisation applications completed within six months, this data for the previous 4 quarters can be found on the Gov.uk website at.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visas-and-citizenship-data-q1-2021>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visas-and-citizenship-data-q2-2021>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visas-and-citizenship-data-q3-2021>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visas-and-citizenship-data-q4-2021>

The last set of data was published on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-18/142437>

### Immigration

**Olivia Blake (Labour)** [139631] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what impact provisions in the Nationality and Borders Bill will have on leave to stay in the UK on humanitarian protection grounds.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** In February this year during the Committee Stage of the Nationality and Borders Bill in the House of Lords, Lord Wolfson of Tredegar QC confirmed the government's intention to reform the humanitarian protection route in the UK as part of the Government's New Plan for Immigration.

Clause 29 of the Nationality and Borders Bill revokes the Refugee or Person in Need of International Protection (Qualification) Regulations 2006. Those are the regulations through which we transposed our obligations under the EU Qualification Directive 2004. This has created an opportunity for us to consider the operation of the route.

The reformed humanitarian protection route will reflect our current international obligations under the European Convention of Human Rights, in particular Article 2 and Article 3, which the Government is committed to upholding. The entitlements afforded to recipients of humanitarian protection will also be amended to reflect changes being made elsewhere in the asylum system.

The reformed humanitarian protection route will also introduce a new form of permission to stay: temporary humanitarian permission to stay. The conditions attached to this grant of permission to stay will be aligned to temporary refugee permission to stay: the form of permission to stay which will be granted to Group 2 refugees.

The relevant Immigration Rules and policy guidance will be updated to reflect the changes later this year. These changes may be effected in different stages.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-14/139631>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Visas: Applications**

**Grahame Morris (Labour)** [141175] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to reduce the case backlog of visa administrative reviews.

**Grahame Morris (Labour)** [141176] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the service standard is for completing visa administrative reviews.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Following unprecedented levels of administrative review applications since January 2021, plans to increase resource have been in place since early summer 2021. Newly recruited staff are currently being onboarded with more resource following in the coming months. Overall, the expansion programme will more than double the decision makers working on administrative review applications.

Current timescales for processing administrative review applications are set out at [Ask for a visa administrative review: If you're in the UK](#), which states: "Currently, it can take 6 months or more to receive the result of the administrative review. If you haven't had a decision on your application within 3 months, the Home Office will contact you with an update."

Applicants' rights are not affected by the delay in consideration.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-16/141175>  
and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-16/141176>

### **Visas: Army**

**Dawn Butler (Labour)** [137256] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to reduce or remove the visa charge for foreign soldiers who have fought for the UK and wish to move to the UK; and if she will make a statement.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Home Secretary and Defence Secretary announced on 23 February that the Government has decided to waive settlement fees for non-UK personnel in our Armed Forces, who have six years or more reckonable service, or who are discharged due to an illness or injury attributable to their service regardless of the length of their service.

These changes are being implemented via an update to the Immigration Fees and Regulations, with the changes coming into effect on 6 April 2022.

The Written Statement regarding this policy can be found at:

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2022-02-23/hcws624>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-09/137256>

### **Windrush Compensation Scheme**

**Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op)** [142048] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Windrush Compensation Scheme applicants died before receiving compensation, as at 16 March 2022.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** It is deeply regrettable when a claimant passes away before a compensation award can be made or an apology sent to them.

The Windrush Compensation Scheme staff are working hard to ensure where they are aware of claimants with critical or life shortening illnesses, their cases are prioritised.

In the unfortunate circumstances where a claimant has passed away after submitting a compensation claim, but before the claim is fully resolved, the team continues to work closely with the appointed representative, usually members of the family, to ensure the compensation payment is made as quickly as possible to the family member.

As at the end of January 2022 in line with the latest Windrush Compensation Scheme published data, out of the 3490 applications made to the Windrush Compensation Scheme, we are aware of 28 cases to date where the claimant had passed away after having submitted a claim but before receiving compensation. We are working closely with the families and legal representatives to determine the right person to whom the compensation can be paid as quickly as possible. It must be noted this data is manually recorded and is reliant on the person receiving the information on an applicant notifying the Windrush Compensation Scheme to record this information. The data isn't recorded in a reportable field in the casework system.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-17/142048>

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

### **Immigration: Hong Kong**

**Thangam Debbonaire (Labour)** [134033] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of introducing a path to permanent UK residency for Hong Kong citizens who have studied at and graduated from UK universities.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** International students, including those from Hong Kong, who successfully complete a degree at undergraduate level or above at a Higher Education Provider with a track record of compliance and hold valid permission in the UK as a Student (or Tier 4) may qualify for the Graduate route.

The Graduate route does not count towards settlement rights, although graduates are able to switch to the Skilled Worker route if they meet the relevant requirements, which allows them to stay in the UK to do an eligible job with an approved employer and contributes to settlement rights. Given the much wider range of professions which qualify for the current Skilled Worker Visa compared to its predecessor, there are many more opportunities to do this than in the past.

In addition, the BN(O) route which was launched on 31 January 2021 enables BN(O) status holders and their eligible family members to live, work and study in the UK on a pathway to citizenship should they decide it is the right choice for them. On 24 February 2022, the Government announced changes to the BN(O) route to allow eligible adult children of a BN(O) status holder to apply for the route independently of their parents, provided they meet all other eligibility and suitability requirements for the route. This change will be implemented from the Autumn with further detail to be published in due course. Those who are eligible and already in the UK on a student visa can switch into the BN(O) route from within the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-03/134033>

*Information about the BN(O) route, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/british-national-overseas-bno-visa>*

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

**John Lamont (Conservative)** [142070] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Hong Kong BNO visas have been issued; and what data her Department holds on where holders choose to live in the UK.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Home Office publishes data on the number of applications and grants of leave on the British National Overseas (BN(O)) route in the "How many people come to the UK each year (including visitors)?" topic and underlying datasets of the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'.

The latest data relates to 2021. These statistics include data on main applicants and dependants. Data for Q1 2022 will be published on 26 May 2022.

The Home Office does not hold information on where visa holders might choose to live in the UK as they are free to settle in any part of it.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-17/142070>

*Information about the BN(O) route, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/british-national-overseas-bno-visa>

### **Immigration: EU Countries**

**Caroline Lucas (Green)**[137292] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of applicants who met the 30 June 2021 deadline for applications to the EU Settlement Scheme have been waiting over six months for their applications to be processed and what steps are being taken to address the delays in processing applications.

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

The latest published information on EUSS applications received and concluded to 31 January 2022, can be found in the monthly summary data at:

[EU Settlement Scheme statistics, February 2022](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-09/137292>

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

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

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Caroline Lucas (Green)** [137291] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 1 March to Question 126611, with reference to the 351,300 EU Settlement Scheme applications outstanding on 31 Jan 2022 recorded in the monthly summary data link provided, how long those applicants will have to wait before their applications are processed; and if she will make a statement.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Our aim is to process all applications to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) as quickly as possible. Each individual case is considered on its own facts, which means some cases will inevitably take longer than others to conclude. Cases may take longer dependent on the circumstances of the case, for example, if the applicant is facing an impending prosecution or has a criminal record.

The following link lists the expected processing times for EU Settlement Scheme applications, based upon current performance:

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

The rights of those EU citizens and their family members who were lawfully resident at the end of the transition period and who, from 1 July 2021, have a pending application under the EUSS or an appeal against the refusal of an application submitted by then, will be protected until their application is finally determined.

Anyone awaiting the outcome of their in-time application to the EUSS can evidence their rights to work or study with their Certificate of Application which is issued as soon as possible after a valid application is received.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-09/137291>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-21/126611>

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

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

*The following four questions all received the same answer*

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

**Claire Hanna (SDLP)** [132412] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the potential merits of removing the requirement for family members to make an in-person application for EU Settlement Scheme family permits for EU/EEA nationals at UK visa centres in the context of people being unable to safely access those centres in Ukraine.

**Claire Hanna (SDLP)** [132413] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will introduce an expediated process for family members of EU/EEA Nationals awaiting decisions on applications to the EU Settlement Scheme to match the announced introduction of an expedited decision-making process for family members of UK nationals.

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Claire Hanna (SDLP)** [132414] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of extending eligibility to apply for EU Settlement Scheme Family Permits to all dependent relatives, including siblings and other family members, where dependency can be demonstrated to the extent that is safely possible.

**Stephen Farry (Alliance)** [134116] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the potential merits of introducing an expedited process for family members of EU/EEA Nationals awaiting decisions on applications to the EU Settlement Scheme to match the announced introduction of an expedited decision-making process for family members of UK nationals.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Settled status holders of any nationality, plus EEA and Swiss citizens with EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) pre-settled status based on UK residence before the end of the transition period will be able to sponsor family members under the new Ukraine Family Scheme.

There are no plans to change the arrangements for the EUSS or EUSS Family Permit.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-01/132412>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-01/132413>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-01/132414>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-03/134116>

*Information about EU Settlement Scheme Family Permits, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/family-permit>*

### **Refugees**

**Olivia Blake (Labour)** [141343] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications were (a) made and (b) approved for Humanitarian Protection Leave under the Refugee or Person in Need of International Protection (Qualification) Regulations 2006 in each year since 2016.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Home Office publishes data on asylum and resettlement in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on the number of asylum applications are published in table Asy\_D01. Data on the number of applicants that have been granted Humanitarian Protection at initial decision are published in table Asy\_D02 of the '[asylum and resettlement detailed datasets](#)'. Information on how to use the datasets can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data relates to December 2021. Additionally, the Home Office publishes a high-level overview of the data in the '[summary tables \(opens in a new tab\)](#)'. The 'contents' sheet contains an overview of all available data on asylum and resettlement.

There is no standalone application for Humanitarian Protection: instead, Humanitarian Protection is considered as part of an asylum application (as per paragraph 327 of the [Immigration Rules](#)) following consideration of an applicant's eligibility for refugee status under paragraph 334 of the Immigration Rules.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-16/141343>

### Refugees

**Virginia Crosbie (Conservative)** [140590] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of (a) increasing safe routes to the UK for refugees and (b) removing differential treatment, offshore detention, and criminalisation of refugees; and what steps she is taking to ensure that the age assessment process for unaccompanied children seeking asylum retains safeguards and is based on best practice.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Government is delivering comprehensive reform of the asylum system through the New Plan for Immigration, an essential element of which is the Nationality and Borders Bill.

The plan gives the Government the flexibility to respond at pace to conflict and humanitarian crises around the world, by establishing safe and legal routes to the UK.

Most recently, this Government has made its support for Ukrainians fleeing in fear of their lives clear, introducing two new schemes: the Ukraine Family Scheme and the Homes for Ukraine Scheme.

Further details can be found at: [Home Secretary statement on humanitarian support for Ukrainians](#)

We must, at the same time, take steps to disincentivise people from using unsafe, unnecessary and illegal journeys to the UK. The ability to differentiate entitlements between those refugees who came directly to the UK, claimed asylum without delay and where applicable, showed good cause for their illegal entry or presence, and those who did not, is a key part of this deterrence. So too, is overseas asylum processing. To be clear, this is not offshore detention and we would not transfer anyone overseas for their claim to be processed where to do so would breach the UK's obligations under the Refugee Convention or ECHR.

We must also tackle the criminal gangs who facilitate illegal migration and ensure we have a robust criminal justice response to those who break our laws. We are therefore strengthening the law, to introduce life sentences for people smugglers and stronger penalties for those who come here illegally. It should however be noted that prosecutors will always consider whether it is in the public interest to initiate a prosecution and that they may wait to see if someone is recognised as a refugee before making that decision.

The introduction of the National Age Assessment Board offers the potential for significant improvements to our processes for assessing age. It will create greater consistency in age assessment practices, improve quality and ensure that ages are correctly recorded for immigration purposes. It will help reduce the resource burden on local authorities. And it will help better protect against adults being treated as children – ensuring vulnerable children can swiftly access the support they need.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-15/140590>

### Visas: Refugees

**Nadia Whittome (Labour)** [140591] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will take steps to change the family reunion rules for all refugees to those her Department has put in place for Ukrainian refugees in response to the crisis in that country.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Due to recent events in Ukraine, the Government has

established a bespoke scheme to provide an immediate pathway for people from Ukraine to join family already in the UK. The Ukraine Family Scheme is designed to allow as many people as possible to come to the UK in these exceptional circumstances.

The Government's refugee family reunion policy is one of many generous safe and legal routes which supports refugees to have family re-join them, if they formed part of the immediate family unit before the sponsor fled the country.

Our policy makes clear that there is discretion to grant visas outside the Immigration Rules, which caters for extended family members in exceptional circumstances – including young adult sons or daughters who are dependent on family here and living in dangerous situations.

There are separate provisions in the Rules to allow extended family to sponsor children to come here where there are serious and compelling circumstances.

Refugees can also sponsor adult dependent relatives living overseas to join them where, due to age, illness or disability, that person requires long-term personal care that can only be provided by relatives in the UK.

To strengthen our existing policy, we have also committed to providing additional clarity in the Immigration Rules on the exceptional circumstances where we would grant leave to a child seeking to join a relative in the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-15/140591>

### **Refugees: Housing**

**Alex Cunningham (Labour)** [143669] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions her Department has had with local authorities that are at or nearing the cap for accommodating refugees about future placements; and if she will make a statement.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** There are no limits on the number of refugees (those who have been granted asylum or humanitarian protection) that a Local Authority can house.

In relation to supported asylum seekers, who are awaiting the outcome of their asylum claim, then the Home Office would not normally disperse people above the ratio of 1:200. We are working with the Home Office Local Government Chief Executive group to ensure a more equitable distribution of asylum seekers across the whole of the UK.

We continue to encourage all local authorities to work with us to support providing accommodation in their areas for those who are resettled or claim asylum in the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-21/143669>

### **Housing: Refugees**

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op)** [142471] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what plans he has for the provision of housing to refugees, including in areas of the country where there is a housing shortage, following the offer of accommodation to refugees for six months as part of the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

**Reply from Eddie Hughes:** The support for the people coming to the UK under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme sits alongside our commitment to deliver affordable homes.

Since 2010, we have delivered over 574,100 new affordable homes, including over 403,400 affordable homes for rent, of which over 154,600 homes are for social rent.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-18/142471>

*Information about the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>*

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Asylum: Interviews**

**Caroline Lucas (Green)** [137293] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions her officials have had with (a) organisations supporting, (b) people seeking asylum on the effect on the (i) mental and (ii) physical health of applicants of delays to asylum interviews and processing applications; if she will make it her policy to provide people seeking asylum with a timescale for (a) their substantive interview (b) the completion of their case; what steps she is taking to reduce delays; and if she will make a statement.

**Caroline Lucas (Green)** [137294] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people seeking asylum have been waiting for their (a) substantive interview or (b) decision on their application for over (i) six, (ii) 12 months; if she has a target timeframe for applicants to receive a substantive interview; and if she will make a statement.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Home Office maintains good working relationship with national and local organisations who support asylum seekers, We also have our strategic partnerships; including the Strategic Engagement Group (SEG) and National Asylum Stakeholder Forum (NASF), who we work collaboratively with to ensure asylum remains one of our top priorities to improve the service we provide. We will continue to support conversations on improving the health and wellbeing of asylum seekers via the Refugee Council chaired Mental Health Forum. This forum is informed by representatives from across the NGO sector, Home Office, Department of Health and Social Care, Public Health England and NHS England and NHS Improvement bringing those with customer informed insight together to consider approaches to mental health support.

The Home Office does not currently have a target time for processing application for asylum but we are committed to ensuring that asylum claims are considered without unnecessary delay. Asylum Operations are working to reintroduce a service standard.

Our intention to reintroduce a service standard aligns with the recommendation from the recent Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration's (ICIBI) published report - An inspection of asylum casework (November 2021).

The Asylum Transformation programme is working to improve the asylum system and continue to streamline and simplify processes to speed up decision making to increase efficiency and output. The development and delivery of changes to the asylum process across the end-to-end asylum system include the increased use of technology, improved screening and accelerated decision-making procedures to drive delivery efficiency. Additionally, we are increasing the number of asylum decision makers and currently recruiting to this role

The Home Office are unable to state how many people seeking asylum have been waiting for their substantive interview for over six or 12 months because this information can only be obtained at disproportionate costs.

However, we do publish data on Asylum applications awaiting a decision, by duration and can be found at Asy\_04 of the Asylum and Resettlement summary tables:

[List of tables](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-09/137293>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-09/137294>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1034012/An\\_inspection\\_of\\_asylum\\_casework\\_August\\_2020\\_to\\_May\\_2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1034012/An_inspection_of_asylum_casework_August_2020_to_May_2021.pdf)

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Asylum: Mental Health**

**Lyn Brown (Labour)** [141164] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 9 March 2022 to Question 132223 on Asylum: Mental Health, what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the Adults at Risk policy and other existing guidance and rules at (a) identifying asylum seekers who have experienced (i) rape and (ii) torture, and (b) ensuring their prompt release from immigration detention.

### **Asylum: Legal Opinion**

**Lyn Brown (Labour)** [141165] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the impact of difficulties in obtaining in-person legal advice on the quality of legal assistance given to asylum seekers in immigration detention who have experienced (a) rape, (b) other gender-based violence and (c) torture.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Home Office regularly reviews its policies, guidance and processes. A number of mechanisms exist to identify vulnerable people in immigration detention. All individuals receive a healthcare screening within 2 hours of a person's arrival at an Immigration Removal Centre (IRC) and, unless they decline, an appointment with a doctor within 24 hours; Induction interviews with Home Office Detention Engagement Team staff include questions which seek to identify vulnerability; and Rule 35 of the Detention Centre Rules 2001 / Rule 32 of the Short Term Holding Facility Rules 2018 require the medical practitioner to report where they have concerns a person's health may be injuriously affected by detention, a person may have suicidal intentions, or a person may have been a victim of torture. The Adults at Risk in Immigration Detention (AAR) policy strengthens the presumption against the detention of those who are particularly vulnerable to harm in detention. Under the AAR policy, vulnerable individuals will be detained only when the evidence of vulnerability in their particular case is outweighed by the immigration considerations, including expected date of removal, compliance with immigration law, and public protection. Where a decision is taken to maintain the detention of a vulnerable person, safeguards are in place including regular reviews to ensure detention remains lawful, appropriate and proportionate. All Home Office staff working in the detention system are given training and support to identify and act upon indicators of vulnerability.

Detained individuals are advised of their right to legal representation, and how they can obtain such representation, within 24 hours of their arrival at an IRC. 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. Legal visits can take place from both legal providers attending under the Legal Aid Detained Duty Advice Scheme and other legal providers visiting their clients who are in detention. In line with Government advice on social distancing, during the pandemic, face to face legal visits were facilitated in exceptional circumstances, and only if other means of contact (Skype, telephone, email) were not feasible or appropriate. In light of changes to Government guidance, face to face legal visits can now be facilitated. Safe systems of work are in place to ensure the safety of detained individuals, onsite staff and visitors during these visits.

There is a dedicated welfare team available daily within each IRC who focus on residents' needs and assist all detained individuals to obtain legal advice.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-16/141164>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-16/141165>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-01/132223>

### Asylum: Mental Health

**Lyn Brown (Labour)** [132223] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the impact of being held in immigration detention centres on the mental health of asylum seekers who have experienced (a) rape, (b) torture and (c) war.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** There is no exemption from immigration detention for any particular group. However, we fully accept that some groups of individuals can be at particular risk of harm in immigration detention. This is the basis of the Adults at Risk in immigration detention (AAR) policy, which strengthens the presumption against detention for vulnerable individuals.

The policy covers a wide range of vulnerabilities and includes people who suffer from a mental health condition. It enables Home Office staff to promptly identify whether a person is vulnerable and consequently whether they should be detained. Under the policy, vulnerable people will be detained only when the evidence of vulnerability in their particular case is outweighed by the immigration considerations, including immigration compliance, criminality factors and expected date of removal. The published Detention Services Order on [Gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) supplements the statutory AAR policy, setting out operational guidance for all Home Office, centre supplier and healthcare staff working in the immigration removal estate on the care and management of adults in detention who are identified as being at risk. Additional safeguards are also in place for those in detention displaying such vulnerabilities, including regular reviews of detention and reporting mechanisms, such as Rule 35 of the Detention Centre Rules 2001 and Rule 32 of the Short-Term Holding Facility Rules 2018, to ensure that particularly vulnerable individuals are brought to the attention of those with direct responsibility for authorising, maintaining and reviewing detention.

All immigration removal centres (IRC) have dedicated health facilities run by doctors and nurses which are managed by the NHS or appropriate providers and deliver trauma informed mental health service, where appropriate. In addition to published guidance, staff at all centres are also given training and support to proactively identify and act upon indicators of vulnerability at the earliest opportunity. Welfare teams are onsite at every IRC to assist detained individuals in accessing support specific to their needs.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-01/132223>

### Asylum: English Language

**Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op)** [143681] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her policy is on (a) provision of and (b) eligibility for English language classes for asylum seekers who are based in hotel accommodation paid for by her Department.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The provision of English classes (English as a Second Language (ESoL)) for asylum seekers within hotels is not funded by the Home Office.

ESoL courses may be provided by the voluntary sector in the local communities where hotels are being used to house asylum seekers in their area.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-21/143681>

### Asylum: Children

**Emma Lewell-Buck (Labour)** [125192] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied asylum-seeking children were accommodated by her Department without a local authority assuming responsibility for them (a) from 14 July 2021 to 22 November 2021 and (b) from 23 November 2021 to present.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children

accommodated by the Home Office without a local authority assuming responsibility for them from 14 July 2021 to 22 November 2021 was 890.

The corresponding figure for the period from 23 November 2021 to 22 February 2022 was 361.

The figures are based on local management information and are subject to change.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-18/125192>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Detention Centres: Visits**

**Kate Osborne (Labour)** [137441] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many in-person legal visits have taken place at (a) Brook House, (b) Tinsley House, (c) Yarl's Wood, (d) Dungavel, (e) Harmondsworth, (f) Colnbrook and (g) Derwentside immigration removal centres since 13 January 2022.

#### **Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre**

**Kate Osborne (Labour)** [137442] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many women have been moved or released from Derwentside immigration removal centre (IRC) since it opened; and how many of those women have (a) been moved to another IRC, (b) been deported, (c) accessed accommodation in the community and (d) had other circumstances.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** Detained individuals are advised of their right to legal representation, and how they can obtain such representation, within 24 hours of their arrival at an Immigration Removal Centre (IRC). 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.

Legal visits can take place from both legal providers attending under the Legal Aid Detained Duty Advice Scheme and other legal providers visiting their clients who are in detention. In line with Government advice on social distancing, during the pandemic, face to face legal visits were facilitated in exceptional circumstances, and only if other means of contact (Skype, telephone, email) were not feasible or appropriate. In light of changes to Government guidance, face to face legal visits can now be facilitated. Safe systems of work are in place to ensure the safety of detained individuals, onsite staff and visitors during these visits.

The number of in-person legal visits, which includes both legal providers attending under the Legal Aid Detained Duty Advice Scheme and other legal providers visiting their clients who are in detention, that took place between 13 January and 9 March 2022, is set out in the table below:

Immigration Removal Centre	Number of in-person legal advice visits between 13 January 2022 to 9 March 2022
Brook House	86
Colnbrook	31
Dungavel	0
Derwentside	1
Harmondsworth	34
Tinsley House	0
Yarl's Wood	29

This is provisional Home Office management information that has not been assured to the standard of official statistics.

The Home Office publishes statistics on immigration detention in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. This includes data on people:

- Entering detention by initial place of detention in table Det\_02a of the '[Detention summary tables](#)'.

- Leaving detention by last place of detention published in table Det\_04c of the '[Detention summary tables](#)' and by reason for leaving detention in table Det\_D03 of the [detention detailed datasets](#).
- In detention by current place of detention in table Det\_03a of the '[Detention summary tables](#)'.

Data on those entering detention, by place of detention, relate to the place of initial detention. An individual who moves from one part of the detention estate to another will not be counted as entering any subsequent place of detention. Last place of detention does not show where an individual spent their time in detention. In some cases, an individual may have spent a period of time detained elsewhere before being moved to their last place of detention

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-09/137441>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-09/137442>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

### Ukrainian Nationals: Visitor Visas

**Lord Moylan (Conservative):** To ask Her Majesty's Government what arrangements they have made for Ukrainian nationals who lawfully arrived in the United Kingdom on visitor visas before the war broke out and now cannot safely return to Ukraine.

**Reply from the Minister of State, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Home Office (Lord Harrington of Watford):** Ukrainians on visitor visas can now have them extended automatically—since the war broke out, obviously, they cannot safely return to Ukraine. They will be extended for six months. Alongside this, we have made it easier for Ukrainians on work, study or seasonal work visas to remain in the UK by extending leave or allowing individuals to switch routes fee-free. I assure my noble friend that people will be treated kindly and sympathetically by Border Force officers.

**Lord Moylan:** My Lords, can my noble friend give an assurance that the Government will consider extending the right to stay to three years, to put these people on the same footing as Ukrainian nationals arriving in the United Kingdom as refugees?

**Reply from Lord Harrington of Watford:** I can confirm to my noble friend that we are looking into this at the moment, and it would seem sensible to extend the scheme to 36 months and allow those people the same benefits of living in this country that are extended to people on the other schemes.

**Lord Watts (Labour):** My Lords, if families are taken in by British people and they are paid £350 per month, can the Government assure me that that £350 is not taxable?

**Reply from Lord Harrington of Watford:** I can assure the noble Lord absolutely that that is the case.

**Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench):** My Lords, underlining the point about the dire situation that the noble Lord, Lord Moylan, described, will the Minister respond to reports that, according to the United Nations, the number of people who have now fled their homes in Ukraine totals 10 million—a quarter of the population—that mass deportations and abductions from Mariupol into locations deep inside Russia have been instigated and that an art school sheltering some 400 people has reportedly been destroyed? Did the Minister have the chance to read the letter in *Times* on Saturday which highlighted the plight of the 100,000 orphans, half of whom are disabled, housed in 700 children's homes? Is the noble Lord, as our Refugees Minister—where he is doing a terrific job—able to instigate and co-ordinate international efforts to ensure the safe evacuation of those, clearly very vulnerable, children?

**Reply from Lord Harrington of Watford:** ... We have done quite a lot of work on

orphans in the countries around Ukraine. The problem is that the policy of the Ukrainian Government, which we have to respect, is that orphans are to be kept in countries adjacent to Ukraine. In the vast majority of cases, they do not want them brought to the UK or other countries. It is therefore our role, predominantly, to support the Ukraine Government by providing aid, hospitality and all the facilities that we can in those countries.

**Lord Cormack (Conservative):** ... What happens to those to whom permission for three years is given when the six months for which the Government are paying elapses? Are the Government prepared to continue paying those families or are they expecting those refugees to move elsewhere?

**Reply from Lord Harrington of Watford:** ... The six months to which my noble friend refers is the six months of the sponsorship scheme. That is the minimum period for which individual sponsors may be asked to provide accommodation. That, of course, is extendable. All the benefits, rights to education and all the other facilities extend for the full three years. Depending on what the sponsor wants, however, those people might have to move to another sponsored accommodation or elsewhere after six months.

**Lord Dubs (Labour):** ... Will the Minister have a look at the difficulty Ukrainians are having in getting visas to come here? There is still a very slow rate of progress, so could he do something to speed it up, please?

**Reply from Lord Harrington of Watford:** ... The visa process has been greatly expedited: now, refugees with Ukrainian passports can download the form on their phone with the passport, and will get a response very quickly, without having to go to the visa centres, which have caused such delays. ...

**To continue reading this lengthy question and answer session see**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-03-22/debates/B290F3EC-70E7-4C09-8271-27041708139A/UkrainianNationalsVisitorVisas>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Asylum: Visas**

**Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat) [HL6248]** To ask Her Majesty's Government whether a person may be granted a visa that cannot be cancelled for the purpose of coming to the UK to apply for asylum; and if so, in which paragraph of the Immigration Rules this provision is made.

### **Asylum**

**Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat) [HL6249]** To ask Her Majesty's Government whether a person who is not present in the UK may make a claim for asylum before travelling to the UK; and if so, where in the (1) Immigration Rules, or (2) immigration policy, such provision is made.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** While we sympathise with the many millions of people facing difficult situations around the world, there are no plans to introduce a provision in the Immigration Rules for someone to be allowed to travel to the UK to claim asylum.

Our current policy is clear we will not consider asylum claims made abroad and there is no provision in the Immigration Rules for someone to be allowed to travel to the UK to claim asylum.

We already welcome vulnerable people in need of protection to the UK through our resettlement schemes and are standing up specific new migration routes in response to the situation in Ukraine. These schemes have provided safe and legal routes for tens of thousands of people to start new lives in the UK.

The UK has a proud record of providing protection for people who need it, in accordance with our obligations under the Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights and will continue this record.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-21/hl6248>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-21/hl6249>

### **Migrants: Health Services**

**Lord Hylton (Crossbench)** [HL7143] To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of how many persons (1) subject to no recourse to public funds under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, and (2) who are undocumented, are being denied access to the NHS; and what guidance they have provided to healthcare providers on the provision of services for these individuals.

**Reply from Lord Kamall:** No specific estimate has been made. The duty to establish eligibility for free secondary care lies with providers of relevant services and the information is not held centrally. The Department is clear that relevant bodies must never delay or prevent treatment which is classed as immediately necessary or urgent by the treating clinician irrespective of whether or not the patient has paid or agreed to pay charges. The Department works with NHS England and NHS Improvement to provide guidance and training for the National Health Service to ensure they are correctly and consistently identifying overseas visitors who are chargeable or exempt from charge.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-21/hl7143>

### **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Conservative)** [HL6846] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many immigrants to the UK from Afghanistan are still living in hotels awaiting resettlement; and how long have they been waiting.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** There are currently 12,000 in bridging accommodation. This cohort is made up of British and Afghan nationals who may be eligible for Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) and Afghan Citizen Resettlement Scheme (ACRS). The UK Government undertook the biggest and fastest emergency evacuation in recent history, helping over 15,000 people to safety from Afghanistan. We do not want to keep people in temporary accommodation for any longer than is absolutely necessary and we have moved – or are in the process of moving - over 6,000 people into homes since June 2021. Finding suitable homes for this number of people is a significant challenge. The length of time a family will remain in bridging hotels is dependent on a number of factors including the availability of appropriate housing.

We are working at pace across government and with over three hundred Local Authority partners to move Afghan evacuees into permanent homes as soon as possible so they can settle and rebuild their lives.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-10/hl6846>

*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>*

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

### **Visa: Ukraine**

**Lord Truscott (Non-affiliated)** [HL6583] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to waive visas requirements for Ukrainians fleeing war.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Russia's assault on Ukraine is an unprovoked, premeditated attack against a sovereign, democratic state. We stand with Ukraine.

We have already made changes to the immigration system, to support British Nationals, and those settled in the UK, and their families in Ukraine

Visas are an important security tool. There is a risk that hostile actors or other individuals with links to serious and organised crime or corruption could exploit the arrangement to travel to the UK undetected if security checks are not in place. Similarly, our visa process allows safeguarding checks to be undertaken to protect vulnerable people who will be travelling to the UK.

Due to Russia's invasion, there are no direct travel routes from Ukraine to the UK. The safest route for people to leave Ukraine is via neighbouring countries to the West. From the safety of these countries, those escaping the war can benefit from the support we have already announced to reunite with UK-based family, or should they otherwise wish to travel to the UK.

The UK Government has an extensive visa application centre (VAC) network in neighbouring countries. Ukrainians safely in these countries can access these services and apply for visas, including the new family scheme. Capacity in those VACs has been extended and a fully online process for those with a valid Ukrainian passport has been implemented.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-02/hl6583>

### **Children: Ukraine**

**Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated)** [HL6949] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to support refugee children from Ukraine and accommodate them within the education system.

**Reply from Baroness Barran:** The department is working across government, and with charities and local authorities to ensure refugees from Ukraine are properly supported so they can rebuild their lives. The department is preparing to make sure school-aged children who resettle from Ukraine can get into schools and will set out more details when available.

To support schools' efforts, Oak National Academy have rolled out an auto-translate function across all 10,000 of its online lessons, meaning Ukrainian children can access education in their native language.

All Ukrainian 16 to 19 year olds given right to reside in UK are automatically eligible for 16-19 funding. Those with right to reside may also be able to access bursary support via a provider if they meet the other criteria and can be assessed by the provider as having direct participation costs they need help with.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-14/hl6949>

## **Press Releases**

**Getting to Scotland: information for displaced people from Ukraine**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/getting-to-scotland/>

**Safeguarding Ukrainian arrivals**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/safeguarding-ukrainian-arrivals/>

**Support for Ukrainians in Scotland**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/support-for-ukrainians-in-scotland/>

## **New pilot schemes to support migrants at risk of detention**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-pilot-schemes-to-support-migrants-at-risk-of-detention>

## **New Publications**

### **Independent Person report on the Windrush Compensation Scheme oversight and performance**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-person-report-on-the-windrush-compensation-scheme/independent-person-report-on-the-windrush-compensation-scheme-oversight-and-performance>

### **Windrush Compensation Scheme data: February 2022**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1062277/WCS\\_Data\\_-\\_Feb\\_2022.ods](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1062277/WCS_Data_-_Feb_2022.ods)

### **Homes for Ukraine: sponsor guidance**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-sponsor-guidance>

## **News: Ukraine**

### **Ukraine-Russia war: Warm Scots Welcome scheme will ensure Ukrainian refugees are treated with compassion, dignity and respect - Angus Robertson MSP**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/ukraine-russia-war-warm-scots-welcome-scheme-will-ensure-ukrainian-refugees-are-treated-with-compassion-dignity-and-respect-angus-robertson-msp-3620319>

### **Three welcome hubs for Ukrainian refugees set up in Scotland**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/scotland-scottish-government-glasgow-edinburgh-europe-b2043071.html>

### **Humza Yousaf: Ukrainian refugees to have immediate access to healthcare**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/humza-yousaf-scotland-child-scottish-government-b2043904.html>

### **Hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians poised to enter UK, says minister**

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2022/mar/21/hundreds-of-thousands-of-ukrainian-refugees-poised-to-enter-uk-says-sajid-javid>

### **Homes for Ukraine: 'It's sad, slow and frustrating'**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-60840808>

### **Ukrainian refugees: frustration grows over long wait times for UK visas**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/mar/25/ukrainian-refugees-frustration-grows-over-long-wait-times-for-uk-visas>

### **Homes for Ukraine sponsorship scheme beset by 'unworkable' bureaucracy**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/mar/20/homes-for-ukraine-sponsorship-scheme-beset-by-unworkable-bureaucracy>

### **UK refugee scheme 'taking so long' say couple opening up their home**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/people-poland-anne-government-homes-b2041179.html>

**Around 40,000 have applied to take in a Ukrainian refugee, says Boris Johnson**  
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/03/24/around-40000-have-applied-take-ukrainian-refugee-says-boris/>

**UK resettlement scheme for Ukrainians is a 'disgrace', says Briton in Lviv**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/mar/25/uk-resettlement-scheme-ukrainians-is-a-disgrace-says-briton-in-lviv>

**Prioritise mental health support for Ukrainians arriving in UK, experts say**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2022/mar/20/mental-health-support-ukrainians-refugees-uk>

**Ukraine war: Dnipro orphans find sanctuary in Scotland**  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-60850379>

**'I think it will be a beautiful place and people will be friendly.' Ukraine orphan 'nervous and excited' to come to Scotland**  
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/people/i-think-it-will-be-a-beautiful-place-and-people-will-be-friendly-ukraine-orphan-nervous-and-excited-to-come-to-scotland-3619090>

**From Kharkiv to Kent, life with the Ukrainian refugees who now feel like family**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/mar/20/from-kharkiv-to-kent-life-with-the-ukrainian-refugees-who-now-feel-like-family>

**Ukrainian refugees could face 'backlash' after initial support**  
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world-news/2022/03/24/ukrainian-refugees-could-face-backlash-initial-support/>

## News: Other Immigration and Asylum

**Non-Irish EU citizens face visa requirement to cross border into Northern Ireland**  
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/03/23/non-irish-eu-citizens-face-visa-requirement-cross-border-northern/>

**MPs reject plan to cut time asylum seekers wait to work**  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-60838492>

**Almost 400 migrants cross Channel on small boats**  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-60843470>

**Nearly 400 migrants cross Channel in 24 hours**  
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/03/23/nearly-400-migrants-cross-channel-24-hours/>

**Newborns and toddlers carried to safety as 394 migrants cross Channel to UK**  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/uk-channel-migrant-crossing-kent-b2042051.html>

**Channel migrants arriving at three times last year's rate**  
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/channel-migrants-arriving-at-three-times-last-year-s-rate-kr8pkqj3q>

**On Kent's migrant watch: 'I wouldn't want to find bodies on the beach'**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/on-kents-migrant-watch-i-wouldnt-want-to-find-bodies-on-the-beach-s3xwv9czh>

**UK set to criminalise illicit refugee crossings after Commons rebellion averted**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/mar/22/uk-set-to-criminalise-illicit-refugee-crossings-after-commons-rebellion-averted>

**Britain pays Belgium £10m to help stem tide of Channel migrants**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/03/25/britain-pays-belgium-10m-help-stem-tide-channel-migrants/>

**Afghan refugees 'still lingering in hotels' as UK welcomes Ukrainians**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/afghans-afghan-taliban-homes-leeds-b2039973.html>

**Plea to let asylum seekers start work after six months**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/plea-to-let-asylum-seekers-start-work-after-six-months-jhvlntkro>

**Home Office illegally seized phones of 2,000 asylum seekers, court rules**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/mar/25/home-office-illegally-seized-asylum-seekers-phones>

**UK among 'most anti-refugee countries in the world' thanks to borders bill, says Médecins Sans Frontières**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/borders-nationality-bill-refugees-msf-b2041671.html>

**My father, the child refugee, helped to change Britain. That's why we need more compassion**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/mar/23/child-refugee-karel-reisz-films>

**Refugees in Wales: 'Thank God I came here after our home was bombed'**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-60820974>

**Nationality and Borders Bill: I was stuck in the UK asylum system for four years**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/refugees-welcome-nationality-borders-bill-nigeria-b2040291.html>

TOP

## Equality

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

#### Police: Training

**Anneliese Dodds (Labour Co-op) [140545]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many police forces have undertaken cultural competency training; and what plans her Department has to ensure that that training is rolled out across all forces.

**Reply from Kit Malthouse:** Police forces that reflect and understand the communities they serve are crucial to tackling crime and maintaining public trust and confidence in a modern diverse society. More than ever, diversity is an important part of operational effectiveness. This includes provision of appropriate

training for all officers and staff and ensuring the very highest professional standards are maintained throughout their careers.

The College of Policing, who set and maintain training standards for policing, published the Code of Ethics in 2014, which includes equality and diversity among the standards of professional behaviour in the police. The Code is currently being refreshed.

The College's foundation training for all those entering the service already includes substantial coverage of police ethics and self-understanding. The initial training undertaken by all officers also covers hate crimes, ethics and equalities, and policing without bias.

In addition, we have funded the College to develop a National Police Leadership Centre to create a strong professional framework and standards across policing at all levels. As part of this, the new curriculum for Sergeants includes a module on 'Inclusive Leadership', covering organisational and procedural justice, including historical context.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-15/140545>

### **Children in Care: Ethnic Groups**

**Anneliese Dodds (Labour)** [142512] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if he will publish the latest available statistics on the proportion of looked-after 16-17 year-olds living in (a) independent or semi-independent accommodation and (b) all care settings that are from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds.

**Reply from Will Quince:** The total number of children looked after aged 16-17 from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds who lived in independent or semi-independent accommodation on 31 March 2021 was 2,970 (which represents 50% of the children looked after population aged 16-17 who lived in independent or semi-independent accommodation). The number of children from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds from this age cohort who lived in all care settings on 31 March 2021 was 6,910 (which represents 37% of the children looked after population aged 16-17).

Figures on children looked after for all ages by ethnicity and placement type were published in the Statistical Release 'Children looked after in England, including adoption: 2020 to 2021', which is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-looked-after-in-england-including-adoption-2020-to-2021>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-18/142512>

## **UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers**

### **Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities**

**[The statement made by the Minister in the House of Commons](#) was read in the House of Lords.**

**Baroness Thornton (Labour):** ... Perhaps the Minister can explain why her Government find it so hard to accept that we still have a country where there clearly is discrimination and that racial disparities are the result of historic, endemic and still existing structural racism. Unless we accept that and build from that understanding, both individually and organisationally, we will not solve the terrible racial disparities, many of which are described in the original report. ...

Unlike with gender pay gaps, there is currently no legal requirement for UK businesses to disclose their ethnicity pay data. Will the UK Government follow the recent recommendation of the Women and Equalities Committee and introduce mandatory ethnicity pay-gap reporting by 2023, including urging employers to publish a supporting

action plan? ...

For example, if the pay gap is non-existent at entry level but significantly skewed at more senior levels, that can help inform the areas of focus. Employers might decide to, for example, invest in mentoring, with a focus on supporting particularly under-represented groups to progress, or in assessing the progression path to interrogate and root out baked-in bias. ...

One issue is health inequalities, most starkly demonstrated in the pandemic in the unequal way that it affected and cost lives in our ethnic minority communities, but we know this to be the case over a whole range of health matters. How does the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities intend to change this? ... The other issue is employment, concerning the treatment and promotion of ethnic minority employees in the NHS. White applicants are 1.6 times more likely to be appointed from shortlisting, compared with BME applicants. This figure has got worse in the last year or so.

BME staff are 1.6 times more likely to enter formal disciplinary process compared with white staff. The number of BME board members in trusts has increased—we should be very pleased about that. ...

What action will the Minister take in the action plan to address a transformation in the culture of our policing which so desperately needs to address racial disparity? The report says that it wants to “bridge divides and create partnerships between the police and communities”.

Will the Minister explain how she thinks that we can possibly bridge that divide when black schoolgirls are being strip-searched? Is she aware that this is not an isolated incident? The Metropolitan Police’s own figures show that, in 2021, 25 young people under 18 were strip-searched. Most were black or from other ethnic minorities. Some 60% were black, and only two of the 25 children were white. ...

**Lord Dholakia (Liberal Democrat):** ... There is progress in some areas of disparities, while questions arise on other matters which need clarification. The first major question relates to the Covid pandemic and the Government’s disregard for the disproportional impact on ethnic minorities. ...

I had to enter a local hospital for a procedure recently, and throughout the seven days I was there I did not meet a single white person. All the services were provided by minorities from various parts of the world. How can we adequately thank them—instead of criticising their appearances as postboxes, as the Prime Minister once said? ...

The new framework for stop and search will not build trust between the police and the ethnic communities they serve, unless they end suspicionless stop and search due to its disproportionate impact on minorities. ...

It is worrying that the Government have set out an action plan to tackle inequality based on recommendations from a commission which concluded that there was no systemic racism in Britain. The *Inclusive Britain* strategy, published on Wednesday evening, was developed in response to a controversial report by the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities last year. The commitments in the action plan include revamping the history curriculum for schoolchildren, a cash injection for school pupils who have fallen behind during the pandemic, and clamping down on online racist abuse through new legislation. ...

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and Department for Work and Pensions (Baroness Stedman-Scott):** ... I cannot rule out that some organisations in the UK may be institutionally racist. Of course, that is why we are funding the Equality and Human Rights Commission to strengthen its investigative work. I also believe that the term should be applied based on evidence. Often, the causes of racial disparity are complex, and not rooted in discrimination or prejudice. As the commission said, they did not find clear evidence for it in the areas it examined. This does not mean that people do not experience racism, but institutional racism is deeper, and we need evidence to say that it is there. I

understand that there are structural reasons why some ethnic groups have better or worse outcomes than others. The new strategy aims to deal with those root causes. ...

We are publishing guidance to employers on voluntary ethnicity pay reporting by summer 2022. No one should have to worry about why they are not being given the same opportunities as their colleagues. ...

The Government are committed to reducing unacceptable disparities in health outcomes and experience of care, including by ethnicity, many of which have been further highlighted and exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Department of Health and Social Care will publish a health disparities White Paper later this year, which will set out impactful measures to address ill health and health disparities, so that a person's background does not dictate their prospects for a healthy life ahead of them. ...

Recent events have raised serious issues with the police, and it is right that the Government ask those difficult questions to drive positive change. ... Forces have worked hard to improve community engagement and we have seen major improvements in how the police deal with racist crimes, but we know that there is more to do. ...

Both the noble Baroness, Lady Thornton, and the noble Lord, Lord Dholakia, raised the issue of the outrageous case of a black 15 year-old Hackney schoolgirl who was strip-searched. I cannot comment on this case, as I am not familiar with its details, but it raises issues of serious concern ...

**Baroness Warsi (Conservative):** My Lords, for all the criticism that this report has rightly faced about its findings, many of which are flawed, I tentatively welcome parts of it, not least because it has among its stated intentions a clear acknowledgment that the Government must build trust and a sense that every individual in our society must be treated fairly. ...

In this spirit, can my noble friend explain why, despite the Government's commitment to adopt a definition of Islamophobia, they have failed to adopt the APPG cross-party, non-legally binding, agreed definition, which has been adopted by all political parties, including the Conservative Party in Scotland, local authorities, universities, the NUS, charities and numerous other organisations? It is supported by over 800 British Muslim organisations and underpinned by more than 100 academics who are experts in this area. Why is the definition accepted by large sections of the community that it seeks to protect not acceptable to government?

Why, despite promising to appoint two advisers to review the definition nearly three years ago, has only one been appointed? Even he has yet to be engaged by government or given any clarity as to his remit; he has not even been given terms or reference or any resources to support his work. ...

**Reply from Baroness Stedman-Scott:** ... I hope she will allow me to take this back to the Minister and write to confirm the position. ...

**Baroness Chakrabarti (Labour):** ... It really is time that we all, on a cross-party basis, gripped the Islamophobia definition. If we do not, we are in danger of having a hierarchy of racisms in this country, with some groups feeling less represented than others. None of us wants that. ...

**Reply from Baroness Stedman-Scott:** ... On the definition of Islamophobia, which the noble Baroness, Lady Chakrabarti, and my noble friend Lady Warsi raised, I am afraid that we cannot accept the APPG definition of Islamophobia because we do not want to adopt a definition that would conflict with the Equality Act. ...

**To continue reading this very lengthy question and answer session in full see**  
<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-03-21/debates/8D7D6F7C-DBE0-424E-89EB-B4E8FA75BFE1/CommissionOnRaceAndEthnicDisparities>

*The commission findings referred to above can be read at*

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

The Government response referred to above can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inclusive-britain-action-plan-government-response-to-the-commission-on-race-and-ethnic-disparities/inclusive-britain-government-response-to-the-commission-on-race-and-ethnic-disparities>

## News

**How much of a priority are Black and minority ethnic children in tackling poverty?**

<https://www.crer.org.uk/blog/how-much-of-a-priority-are-black-and-minority-ethnic-children-in-tackling-poverty>

**Hijab-wearing criminal barrister calls QC appointment 'surreal'**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/representation-palace-of-westminster-bar-luton-bangladeshi-b2040759.html>

TOP

## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

#### **Metropolitan Police: Strip-search of Schoolgirl**

**Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour):** To ask the Secretary of State to make a statement on the recent report concerning the Metropolitan police's handling of the strip-search of Child Q.

**Reply from the Minister for Crime and Policing (Kit Malthouse):** The City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership report into the strip-search of a 15-year-old schoolgirl while at school by police officers in 2020 is both troubling and deeply concerning. This experience will have been traumatic for the child involved; the impact on her welfare should not be underestimated.

The Government and the public rightly expect the highest standards from our police officers. The ability of the police to perform their core functions is dependent on their capacity to secure and maintain public confidence and support for their actions. While the Metropolitan police have apologised for their actions and recognised that this incident should never have happened, the force's culture has again come under scrutiny.

Members of the public must be treated fairly and without prejudice, no matter their race, age or background. Strip-search is one of the most intrusive powers available to the police. The law is very clear that the use of police powers to search must be fair, respectful and without unlawful discrimination. Any use of strip-search should be carried out in accordance with the law and with full regard to the welfare and dignity of the individual being searched, particularly if that individual is a child. If police judge it operationally necessary to strip-search a child, they must do so in the presence of the child's appropriate adult.

It is the role of the independent police watchdog, the Independent Office for Police Conduct, to investigate serious matters involving the police, and the IOPC says it has been investigating the actions of the Metropolitan police in this case. We must let the IOPC conclude its work. We will of course expect any findings to be acted on swiftly, but it is vital that we do not prejudice the IOPC's investigations or

prejudice due process, so it would be wrong of me to make any further comment on the case in question at this time.

**Bell Ribeiro-Addy:** They walked into her place of safety at the request of people who were meant to keep her safe, stripped her naked while she was on her period and forced her to remove her sanitary towel, spread her legs, part her buttock cheeks and cough, to look for drugs they never found. ... Does the Minister understand that there is no apology that could atone for the perverse racist degradation of this child? Does the Minister accept that this is not an isolated incident—that between 2016 and 2021 the Met carried out over 9,000 strip-searches on children, some younger than 12, and that over 33% of all strip-searches were carried out on black people, despite only 13% of Londoners being black? Given that this happened in a school, what discussions has his Department had with the Department for Education on this serious breach of safeguarding and the questionable presence of police officers in our schools? Will he finally accept that the Met police have an issue with institutional racism and misogyny and take steps to ensure that any new commissioner is committed to rooting it out? ...

**Reply from Kit Malthouse:** As I said earlier, we await the outcome of the investigation, and we will learn whatever lessons need to be learnt from it. ...

**Sarah Jones (Labour):** The Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review published last week, compiled by the extremely highly regarded Jim Gamble, into the case of Child Q was deeply disturbing. The details of the strip-search of a black schoolgirl by the Metropolitan police at a Hackney secondary school in 2020 have horrified us all in a society where we police by consent.

The review concluded that the search was unjustified and that racism was likely to have been a factor. ... What is so shocking is that the existing guidance and training was so insufficient—so broad, perhaps—and so vague that it did not prevent the strip-search of a child who supposedly smelled of cannabis from happening in this way. ...

**Reply from Kit Malthouse:** We obviously take this matter extremely seriously. ... We need to understand whether we have a specific problem or a systemic one. The report indicates that we may have systemic problems, and if we do then obviously we will seek to address them. ...

**Marsha De Cordova (Labour):** ... The police tell us that if we have nothing to hide, we have nothing to fear, but everybody should fear the degrading and traumatising treatment that Child Q suffered when she was strip-searched by the Metropolitan police. More than four children a day are subject to that treatment by the Met, and black people are strip-searched at six times the rate of white people. How does the Minister expect to build trust and confidence in a force that is rife with institutional racism and misogyny when it victimises black children on a daily basis? ...

**Reply from Kit Malthouse:** I refute the hon. Lady's claim that the Metropolitan police victimises young black people on a daily basis. ... Although I am often challenged about the disproportionality of things such as stop and search, in two and a bit years of doing this job, I have never been challenged in this Chamber on the disproportionality of victimhood and the sadly far too great number of young black people who die on the streets of London. ...

**Jeremy Corbyn (Independent):** It is more than two decades since the Macpherson inquiry found institutional racism in the Metropolitan police. We now look at the figures on stop and search and we hear the awful story of this young girl and the way she was treated. Does the Minister accept that something has to happen now to give any confidence to the black community in London that its sons and daughters will not be treated in that way on the streets, and that the police will not behave with a racist attitude towards them and will not point to a young black person and see a potential criminal rather than a young person walking around the streets of our city? ...

**Reply from Kit Malthouse:** In my view, the vast majority of interactions between the Metropolitan police and members of the black community go well and are of

benefit. There are, however, many—too many—that do not, and that is an area of work that requires constant attention. ...

**Chi Onwurah (Labour):** This appalling act of institutionalised degradation was committed against a black child and the report highlights the racism inherent in the adultification of black children. Does the Minister understand that seeing black children as adults is, just like seeing black men as more likely to be criminal or seeing black women as more likely to be troublesome, part of institutionalised, systemic anti-black racism and his inability to say what he is going to do about it says that he is prepared to continue to tolerate it. ...

**Reply from Kit Malthouse:** ... When that investigation is concluded we will have plenty to say, fear not. ...

**Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour):** The shocking, scandalous strip-search of child Q is so demeaning; how could those Met police officers and the school have thought that such a horrible action could be even remotely acceptable? This could have happened to any one of our children—or could it? I ask that because the statistics tell a very different story, and indeed the safeguarding review revealed that racism could well have been an influencing factor in the decisions taken. Given that, what is the Minister doing to urgently take action on this? ...

**Zarah Sultana (Labour):** In the past three years Metropolitan police officers have been jailed for posing for selfies next to the bodies of black murdered sisters, a serving officer has been found guilty of Sarah Everard's horrific murder, racist, sexist and homophobic messages between officers have been dismissed as "banter" internally only to have been described as "shocking" by the independent watchdog, and now we learn that Met officers strip-searched a 15-year-old black child at her school, inflicting trauma that will last for years to come. This is obviously not about blaming every single officer, but will the Minister accept that this is not just a few bad apples but reveals a deeper problem of institutional racism and misogyny ...

**Kim Johnson (Labour):** The Minister started by saying this incident was very troubling and concerning, but I would have to say it goes well beyond troubling and concerning: it was dehumanising a young black girl, who was strip-searched by Met police officers. What is the Minister going to do about the state sanctioning abuse of black children, who are treated like adults in our schools?

**Reply from Kit Malthouse:** I understand the hon. Lady's anger at this incident; I really do. It is a dreadful incident, and I would much rather not be standing here having to answer these kinds of questions, because I would rather these incidents did not occur in the first place. ...

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

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-03-21/debates/22032115000001/MetropolitanPoliceStrip-SearchOfSchoolgirl>

*The Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review referred to above can be read at*

<https://chscp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Child-Q-PUBLISHED-14-March-22.pdf>

### **Prime Minister's Questions**

**Andrew Percy (Conservative):** ... We have recently heard from Jewish students who are suffering record antisemitic attacks on university campuses, including allegations of their work being marked down by their own professors. This is completely outrageous, and one would expect the National Union of Students to be on their side, but instead of helping the students it has been inviting somebody who is engaged in antisemitic conspiracy theories—a rapper—to a conference. Will the Prime Minister do everything in his power to ensure that campuses are a safe place for British Jewish students?

**Reply from the Prime Minister:** Our universities have, for far too long, been tolerant of casual or indeed systematic antisemitism. I hope that everybody understands the need for change—for rapid and irreversible change—but it is also

important that we have an antisemitism taskforce devoted to rooting out antisemitism in education at all levels.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk//commons/2022-03-23/debates/8B11C5F0-031D-42D1-A0DA-B9C3362A015C/Engagements#contribution-305D2898-F932-4918-8772-E71A5617BFF2>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

### Antisemitism: Hate Crime

**Barry Sheerman (Labour Co-op) [141139]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment her Department has made of the effect of the rise of anti-Semitic hate crime on the safety of Jewish people.

**Reply from Rachel Maclean:** Antisemitism must be understood for what it is - an attack on the identity of people who live, contribute and are valued in our society. There can be no excuses for antisemitism or any other form of racism or prejudice. In 2020/21, 22% of religious hate crimes were targeted at Jewish people, or those perceived to be Jewish - 1288 reported incidents, up from 1205 the previous year. In April 2021, the Home Secretary confirmed the continuation of the Jewish Community Protective Security Grant for 2021-22. This grant of £14m continues to provide for protective security measures at all Jewish state, free and independent schools, colleges, nurseries and some other Jewish community sites, including a number of synagogues.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-16/141139>

### Schools: Antisemitism

**Barry Sheerman (Labour Co-op) [141912]** To ask the Secretary of State for Education, with reference to the Community Safety Trust's Antisemitic Incidents Report January-June 2021 which reported a 491 per cent rise in antisemitic hate incidents in schools compared to the same period the previous year, what steps his Department is taking to tackle rising levels of antisemitism in schools

**Reply from Robin Walker:** The government is clear that antisemitism, as with all forms of bullying and hatred, is abhorrent and has no place in our schools.

In response to the reported increase in such incidents during an escalation in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in May 2021, the former Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend for South Staffordshire, wrote to schools to remind them of their responsibilities to deal with antisemitic incidents with due seriousness as well as their legal duties regarding political impartiality. On 17 February 2022, the department published further guidance on political impartiality in schools that helps to ensure educational initiatives in schools are not politically biased or one-sided. This guidance is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/political-impartiality-in-schools/political-impartiality-in-schools>

The government continues to take action to support schools tackle all forms of bullying, including antisemitism. Our preventing and tackling bullying guidance sets out that schools should develop a consistent approach to monitoring bullying incidents and evaluating the effectiveness of their approaches. It also directs schools to organisations who can provide support with tackling bullying related to race, religion and nationality, as well as sexual harassment and sexual bullying. Between August 2021 and March 2022, the department provided over £1.1 million of funding to five anti-bullying organisations to support schools to tackle bullying.

The government has also supported Holocaust education for many years and is fully committed to continuing this support. In recognition of its importance, the Holocaust is the only historic event which is compulsory within the national

curriculum for history at key stage 3. Effective teaching about the Holocaust can support pupils to learn about the possible consequences of antisemitism and extremism, to understand how society can prevent the repeat of such a catastrophe. The department provides funding for several programmes to support school pupils' and teachers' understanding of the Holocaust.

The department continues to publish information, guidance and support for teachers and school leaders on how to challenge radical views, including racist and discriminatory beliefs, on Educate Against Hate.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-17/141912>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

<https://cst.org.uk/data/file/f/c/Incidents%20Report%20Jan-Jun%202021.1627901074.pdf>

*The letter referred to above can be read at*

<https://twitter.com/gavinwilliamson/status/1398374786871537664?lang=en>

*The website referred to above can be read at*

<https://educateagainsthate.com/>

### **Police: Training**

**Barry Sheerman (Labour Co-op)** [141138] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what training is provided to police officers on tackling antisemitism.

**Reply from Kit Malthouse:** This Government is clear that antisemitism has absolutely no place in our society.

The College of Policing provide police officers with training on how to respond to hate crime and incidents during initial learning and investigation training. This training targets the wider policing response to all forms of hate crime. Further training on tackling hate crime is subsequently provided for detectives, senior investigators, and supervisors. Local training is the responsibility of individual chief officers, according to policing needs and priorities.

The National Police Chiefs' Council has a strategic partnership with the Community Security Trust - a charity that protects British Jews from antisemitism and related threats - and has held many joint events to raise awareness of the needs of the Jewish community and to highlight the nature of contemporary antisemitism.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-16/141138>

## **UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers**

### **Metropolitan Police: Strip-search of Schoolgirl**

**The statement made by the Minister in the House of Commons was read in the House of Lords.**

**Lord Coaker (Labour):** My Lords, we are all, frankly, utterly appalled by the sickening details of the strip-search of Child Q, a 15-year-old black schoolgirl, a child, at a Hackney secondary school in 2020—an absolute disgrace.

How was it that existing guidance failed to prevent police officers undertaking this shocking strip-search? The Government have said there is to be a review of the incident and the guidance, but when will this be finished? How many such strip-searches have there been across the country? What is in place to protect children now?

Jim Gamble's review concluded that the search was unjustified and that racism was likely to have been a factor. What is the ethnic breakdown of strip-searches conducted in the Metropolitan Police area and across the country? How on earth are we going to change this culture of racism, and soon? ...

**Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford):**

... I understand that from December this year, we will be including more detailed

custody data in the annual police powers and procedure statistical bulletin. It will include the number of persons, including children, detained in police custody, broken down by age, gender, ethnicity and offence type. It will include the number of children detained in custody overnight, whether pre-charge or post-charge, broken down by age, gender, ethnicity and offence type. ...

**Lord Paddick (Liberal Democrat):** My Lords, the police strip search of a young black woman, legally a child, in her own school in the absence of an appropriate adult on the basis of her allegedly smelling of cannabis is clearly disproportionate and unacceptable, even if a teacher called the police. Have the officers been suspended, or at least removed from duties involving contact with the public? ...

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** ... In terms of police and the interface with vulnerable people and children, it is essential that front-line police recognise vulnerability in children and young people regardless of the circumstances around any interaction. ...

**Baroness Chakrabarti (Labour):** My Lords, I note that your Lordships are rightly concerned about data and evidence gathering ... But as my noble friend Lady Lawrence of Clarendon said just yesterday, what evidence do we need after all these years—I would add, after recent years in particular—that we have a problem with police culture? It is not just an issue of data; it is an issue of culture, leadership and, I would say, law. ...

**Baroness Benjamin (Liberal Democrat):** My Lords, childhood lasts a lifetime. The indignity that child Q had to go through is going to scar her for life. ... After the death of George Floyd, and Black Lives Matter, we all should know better. The police should know the importance of following the stringent guidelines and procedure when dealing with cases involving young people, especially those of colour ...

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** ... Safeguarding children should be at the centre of what we do as public servants. There are clear guidelines around safeguarding and the type of thing we were talking about this week in relation to child Q. Strip-searching is probably one of the most intrusive things that one could ever do to a child.

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

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-03-22/debates/D45CBA47-EFB9-4A43-8940-4654716C2081/MetropolitanPoliceStrip-SearchOfSchoolgirl>

*The Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review referred to above can be read at*

<https://chscp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Child-Q-PUBLISHED-14-March-22.pdf>

## News

**Police Scotland sets out ongoing commitment to tackling hate crime**

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/what-s-happening/news/2022/march/police-scotland-sets-out-ongoing-commitment-to-tackling-hate-crime/>

**Former SNP policy adviser Tim Rideout issues apology to Priti Patel and denies racism**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/20021834.former-snp-policy-adviser-tim-rideout-issues-apology-priti-patel-denies-racism/>

**SNP's Wullie Graham in 'disgusting' anti-Semitic comment row**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/20006669.snps-wullie-graham-disgusting-anti-semitic-comment-row/>

**UK police must do more on misogyny and racism, says head of Scottish force**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/mar/21/uk-police-must-do-more-on-misogyny-and-racism-says-head-of-scottish-force>

**Minister vows 'tougher guidelines' after schoolgirl strip-searched**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-60888317>

**Child Q: Black professionals urge education secretary to take action following strip-search**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/child-q-hackney-police-search-b2044097.html>

**Motorists paying 'ethnicity penalty' for car insurance, says Citizens Advice**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/money/motorists-paying-ethnicity-penalty-for-car-insurance-says-citizens-advice-b2040948.html>

**How can the trade union movement raise our voices for action against racial discrimination?**

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/blogs/how-can-trade-union-movement-raise-our-voices-action-against-racial-discrimination>

**CRER Perspectives: A platform for new and emerging writers**

<https://www.crer.org.uk/blog/crer-perspectives-a-platform-for-new-and-emerging-writers>

**Kick It Out chief wants action not tokenism from sport over discrimination**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/labour-party-kick-it-out-met-police-black-asian-b2040548.html>

**Government warns cricket: Eradicate racism or we'll cut your funding**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/government-warns-cricket-eradicate-racism-or-well-cut-your-funding-clhkrkfsb>

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## Other Scottish Parliament and Government

### Scottish Parliament Motion

**Foysoil Choudhury (Labour) [S6M-03666] Ramadan 2022** – That the Parliament notes the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, beginning on the evening of 2 April 2022, depending on the moon sighting; understands that Ramadan is observed by Muslims worldwide as a period of fasting, prayer and reflection; notes the Muslim focus on charity and charitable giving during this period; further notes, with regret, reports that the observance of the Ramadan fast was banned by the Chinese Communist Party in the Xinjiang region in 2012; understands that it remains banned for the Muslim population there; calls for the tolerance and free practice of peaceful religious observance around the world, and wishes the Muslim community in Scotland, and across the world, a blessed month of Ramadan.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-03666>

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## Other UK Parliament and Government

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Point of Order

**Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour):** On a point of order, Mr Speaker. I seek your advice,

on behalf of the Sikh community, to ascertain how, after months of waiting, they can elicit a response from the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary.

In a speech in November, the Home Secretary made inflammatory and incendiary remarks about the Sikh community. So incensed was the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, the mini Sikh Parliament based in Amritsar in the Punjab in India, that it wrote seeking an immediate apology from the Home Secretary. Subsequently, well over 200 British Sikh organisations wrote to the Prime Minister demanding that the Home Secretary be sacked for those incendiary remarks. However, they have not heard a dickie bird from either the Prime Minister or the Home Secretary. Mr Speaker, given your august and esteemed office, what power can you bring to bear to ensure that the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary issue a statement forthwith?

**Reply from Mr Speaker:** The first and easiest answer would be to say that it is not a matter for the Chair. What I would say is that I am very conscious about language that is used, and I always say that I want tolerant language, not inflammatory language. I would also say that replies need to be chased. The hon. Member has certainly put the point on the record, and I would like to believe that it has been heard and that somebody should be knocking out a reply as we speak. If not, I know the hon. Member will not leave it at this, and there are other avenues for him to pursue.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-03-21/debates/92DFEF1C-F82A-419C-AB66-7030C75BAFBE/PointsOfOrder>

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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 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 Parliament Motion

**John Mason (SNP) [S6M-03697] National Day of Reflection** – That the Parliament notes that 23 March 2022 is the National Day of Reflection, which marks the anniversary of the first COVID-19 lockdown; recognises that it is a day to support the millions of people in the UK who have been bereaved during the coronavirus pandemic and to reflect on the lives of the people who have been lost, as individuals from all walks of life have had to say goodbye to loved ones; considers that the National Day of Reflection is a way for people to come together and acknowledge this lasting pain and that, with compassion and love, can show those who are grieving that they are not alone; welcomes that, whatever people's background, beliefs, and whatever they have been through, the National Day of Reflection will provide a time to stop and show support for each other, now and in the years to come; sympathises with all those who have suffered loss during the COVID-19 pandemic, and remembers all those who have been lost.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-03697>

## Scottish Government Publications

### Coronavirus (COVID-19): daily data for Scotland

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

### Coronavirus (COVID-19): trends in daily data

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

## UK Government Publication

### The R value and growth rate

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

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## Scotland's Census

\*\* new or updated this week

**\*\* All census forms must be submitted by 1 May 2022 \*\***

## Scotland's Census 2022

<https://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/taking-part-in-the-2022-census/scotland-s-census-2022/>

## Complete Scotland's Census now

<https://www.census.gov.scot/>

## MEMO+ Scotland's Census 2022

[https://www.scojec.org/memo+/2022/22iii\\_scotland\\_s\\_census\\_2022.pdf](https://www.scojec.org/memo+/2022/22iii_scotland_s_census_2022.pdf)

## Video: Scotland's Census 2022. Getting the right things out, starts with filling it in

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tC2plmy827c>

## Video: Scotland's Census 2022. What am I filling in and why does it matter?

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w8AjE\\_2z2Kg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w8AjE_2z2Kg)

## Video: Scotland's Census 2022. What exactly is Census Day?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ypmk4F3rLhs>

## Video: Scotland's Census 2022. What do I need to know about filling it in?

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z8e\\_Kza2XpM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z8e_Kza2XpM)

## Video: Scotland's Census 2022. Am I legally required to fill it in?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GZm1By8AI2g>

## Video: Scotland's Census 2022. Can I get help filling it in?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RsF1UZBeXgY>

## Video: How to complete your census online

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4TQA9yKSpfA>

## Scottish Parliament Written Answers

### Scotland's Census 2022

**Foysoil Choudhury (Labour)** [S6W-07216] To ask the Scottish Government what it is doing to ensure that the process for requesting a paper copy of Scotland's Census 2022 is easy for people who (a) do not have, or are not confident using, online technology and (b) are uncomfortable with using, or unable to use, an interactive voice system.

**Reply from Angus Robertson:** Everyone living in Scotland is included in the census and we understand that not everyone will be able to, or wish to, complete their census online. That is why paper copies are available upon request by anyone who needs them either by calling our Freephone helpline on 0800 030 8308, by visiting our website [www.census.gov.scot](http://www.census.gov.scot). Or, by writing to:

Scotland's Census 2022

National Records of Scotland, New Register House, 3 West Register Street  
Edinburgh, EH1 3YT

Copies of the paper questionnaire can be ordered via the automated service over the phone, or by asking to speak to an adviser. Paper questionnaires can also be requested on behalf of someone else with their permission.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-07216>

## Scotland's Census 2022

**Beatrice Wishart (Liberal Democrat)** [S6W-07180] To ask the Scottish Government what steps it will take to resolve the reported issues with completing Scotland's Census 2022 online as a result of codes not being recognised by the system, in order to ensure that people who choose to complete the census online can do so by Census Day on 20 March 2022.

**Reply from Angus Robertson:** We apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused any individual. We are aware of a very small number of instances of this occurring in the first few days of operation, out of the 2.7M Internet Access codes (IAC) issued. This issue was resolved. If required, a replacement IAC can be requested via the census website: [www.census.gov.scot/request](http://www.census.gov.scot/request) or by contacting our free helpline on 0800 030 8308.

Whilst Census Day is Sunday 20th March, there is still plenty of time to complete the census, as in previous exercises returns are accepted after this date.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-07180>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

## Scotland's Census 2022

**Sharon Dowey (Conservative)** [S6W-07172] To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to reports that waiting times for the Scotland's Census 2022 helpline have been over an hour in some cases.

**Annie Wells (Conservative)** [S6W-07215] To ask the Scottish Government whether it is aware of reports of people facing long waiting times when contacting the Scotland's Census 2022 helpline, and, if so, what action it is taking to address this.

**Reply from Angus Robertson:** The Scotland's Census 2022 contact centre experienced high volumes of calls in its first few days of operation and we are aware that some callers have experienced longer than average wait times at peak points during the day. National Records of Scotland apologise for any frustration this may have caused. Callers to the Freephone helpline (0800 030 8308) are advised at the start of the call of current wait times and therefore have the option to phone back at a less busy time. An automated option (option 1) is also provided for those wishing to order a paper form. This involves no wait time.

Additional resources have been placed into the contact centre to deal with periods of peak activity. Contact can also be made with the census team via web chat, e-mail or physical correspondence. Contact details can be found here: [Contact us | Scotland's Census 2022](#). Help and advice on a range of topics is also provided at [www.census.gov.scot](http://www.census.gov.scot).

These updates continue to have a positive impact, with general reductions in the average wait times in week 2 and beyond. There is ongoing active monitoring and management of the position to ensure that those that need help are able to speak to an agent.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-07172>

and

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-07215>

## Scotland's Census 2022

**Beatrice Wishart (Liberal Democrat)** [S6W-07179] To ask the Scottish Government what assurances it has sought from National Records of Scotland in relation to people with poor or intermittent internet connectivity still being able to complete Scotland's Census 2022.

**Reply from Angus Robertson:** We want everyone living in Scotland to be included in the Census and we recognise that digital exclusion (and other barriers to participation) may prevent people from being able to complete online.

We understand that not everyone will be able to, or wish to, complete their census online, and paper copies are available upon request by anyone who needs them by calling our free helpline on 0800 030 8308 and speaking to an agent. Copies of the paper questionnaire can also be ordered via the free helpline automated service, without needing to wait to speak to an agent (option one). Paper questionnaires can also be ordered online at: [www.census.gov.scot/paper](http://www.census.gov.scot/paper).

Additional requests, including help and support, can also be made via web chat, e-mail or physical correspondence. Contact details can be found here: [Contact us | Scotland's Census 2022](#).

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-07179>

### Scotland's Census 2022

**Beatrice Wishart (Liberal Democrat) [S6W-07178]** To ask the Scottish Government how it will ensure that its commitment to making public services “digital first”, such as Scotland's Census 2022, does not disadvantage households in rural and island communities that do not have a fast and reliable broadband connection.

**Reply from Angus Robertson:** In the specific context of Scotland's island communities and Scotland's Census 2022, we are aware that the most significant barrier is likely to be digital connectivity. The Scottish Government Digital infrastructure strategy aims to: deliver 100% superfast broadband access across Scotland; improve the availability of mobile connectivity across the region, by using linkages to broadband availability; and, ensure the underlying infrastructure is in place to support the future growth of high-bandwidth connectivity.

We want everyone living in Scotland to be included in the Census, including those in harder to reach rural and island communities. Whilst the 2022 census will be predominantly online, paper questionnaires and support materials will also be available for those who are unable, or do not wish to, complete online. In addition, we have also: appointed a Regional Manager, based in Na h-Eileanan Siar, who will help bring local knowledge to our operational plans and support stakeholder engagement and partnerships throughout the highlands and islands; and, appointed Area Managers based in Argyll & Bute, Highlands, Dumfriesshire, Borders, Na h-Eileanan Siar, Orkney and Shetland Islands to support rural and island communities at local authority level. We are also on-boarding field force enumerators who will be allocated all across Scotland (where possible from those communities) to provide national help and support coverage on the ground, and will provide non response follow-up to ensure we are maximising response.

We are monitoring census submissions, nationally, regionally and locally and by Local Authority Area. This will allow us to identify any areas where we need to invest more effort in encouraging and maximising response.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-07178>

### Scotland's Census 2022

**Beatrice Wishart (Liberal Democrat) [S6W-07340]** To ask the Scottish Government what steps it is taking, alongside National Records of Scotland (NRS), to ensure the accuracy of the data collected by Scotland's Census 2022.

**Reply from Angus Robertson:** National Records of Scotland consulted a range of groups and organisations across Scotland to help decide what topics to cover and what questions to ask in Scotland's Census 2022.

In order to be considered for inclusion topics must meet a significant and clearly-demonstrated user need. More information about the question development process can be found [here](#). The question set was agreed as appropriate by the Scottish Parliament.

Scotland's Census 2022 has also benefitted from an extensive programme of internal and independent assurance activity, including independent assessment of Statistical standards, through the UK Office of Statistics Regulation. This is to ensure that Census statistics will meet the high quality bar of being "official statistics." Information on the Statistical Quality Assurance process can be found [here](#).

The aim for the census is to deliver a set of questions and associated guidance that enables all of Scotland's people to access, understand and complete the census. Whilst every household in Scotland has a legal obligation to complete a census return either online or by paper, we have ensured that people are supported to do so.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-07340>

### Scotland's Census 2022

**Beatrice Wishart (Liberal Democrat) [S6W-07341]** To ask the Scottish Government what assurances it can provide regarding the accuracy of the data collected from Scotland's Census 2022, in light of reports that there is an inability to view or amend answers for those who choose to complete the census early.

**Reply from Angus Robertson:** Questions included in the census are intended to provide a snapshot of the population on census day, 20 March 2022.

The online census questionnaire allows you to change your previous answers right up until you submit your questionnaire. Further changes cannot be made after a person submits a response.

Paper questionnaires can be amended by blocking out incorrect answers using black ink. A correct answer can then be written in the rest of the boxes. Once a paper questionnaire has been sent, changes cannot be made.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-07341>

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## New Publications

**Respond, Recover, Reset: Two Years On**

[https://www.ntu.ac.uk/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0029/1673741/Respond-Recover-Reset-Two-Years-On-2022.pdf](https://www.ntu.ac.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0029/1673741/Respond-Recover-Reset-Two-Years-On-2022.pdf)

**Vibrant Scottish Mosques: Hear My Voice**

[https://www.vibrantscottishmosques.com/uploads/2/6/8/5/26859197/hear\\_my\\_voice\\_-\\_full\\_report.pdf](https://www.vibrantscottishmosques.com/uploads/2/6/8/5/26859197/hear_my_voice_-_full_report.pdf)

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## Other News

**NHS Scotland: Right care right place**

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/right-care>

**Gypsy Traveller community deserves apology from Scottish Government, says activist**  
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/gypsy-traveller-community-deserves-apology-from-scottish-government-says-activist-3622133>

**Respond, Recover, Reset: 18 months of real-time research reveals how the charity sector changed through the pandemic**  
<https://www.ncvo.org.uk/about-us/media-centre/press-releases/2862-respond-recover-reset-18-months-of-real-time-research-reveals-how-the-charity-sector-survived-the-pandemic>

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## **Bills in Progress**    \*\* new or updated this week

### **Scottish Parliament**

**\*\* Scottish Local Government Elections (Candidacy Rights of Foreign Nationals) Bill**

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/scottish-local-government-elections-candidacy-rights-of-foreign-nationals-bill>

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee: Stage 1 Report  
<https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdneq.azureedge.net/published/SPPAC/2022/3/21/ff1d8c3b-c07c-4920-afeb-46adf32e6337/SPPAS062022R03.pdf>

### **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>

House of Commons consideration of House of Lords amendments

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-03-22/debates/FA4FBF36-5168-4B9B-8C7E-09D2AAC33C39/NationalityAndBordersBill>

Notice of amendments

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/45957/documents/1680>

## **\*\* Online Safety Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3137>

The Draft Online Safety Bill and the legal but harmful debate: Government Response to the Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee's Eighth Report

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/9408/documents/161169/default/>

## **\*\* Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill**

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

Bill as brought to the House of Commons from the House of Lords

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-02/0286/210286.pdf>

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## **Consultations**

\*\* new or updated this week

**\*\* Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill** (closing date 16 May 2022)

[https://yourviews.parliament.scot/ehrcj/gender-recognition-reform-bill/consult\\_view/](https://yourviews.parliament.scot/ehrcj/gender-recognition-reform-bill/consult_view/)

**\*\* Free early education for disadvantaged 2-year-olds: eligibility for NRPF**

(closing date 20 May 2022)

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/2-year-old-early-education-entitlement-team/free-early-education-for-disadvantaged-2-year-olds/>

**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.

## Funding Opportunities

\*\* new or updated this week

### **Workplace Equality Fund**

*Closing date for applications: 11 April 2022*

Scottish Government funding to support employers in identifying, addressing, and diminishing longstanding barriers facing particular priority groups in entering and progressing within the labour market. The central goal of the fund is to incentivise and support collaborative projects that aspire to reduce employment inequalities and cultivate positive, fair, and inclusive workplace practices, with the intention of improving employment opportunities and progression policies within Scottish workplaces; particularly for the identified priority groups, improving knowledge, skills, and practices with respect to addressing employment inequalities; thereby engendering significant improvement for priority groups, and create and maintain an inclusive working environment through employees and employers working in partnership. For information and to apply see

<https://equalityadvice.scot/>

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## Events, Conferences, and Training

\*\* new or updated this week

**\*\* this week!**

### **Ukraine Family Scheme: Your Rights**

Tuesday 29 March 2022 (online, 10.00)

Thursday 7 April 2022 (online, 3.00)

Thursday 14 April 2022 (online, 10.00)

Tuesday 19 April 2022 (online, 2.00)

Thursday 28 April 2022 (online, 10.00)

Scottish Refugee Council session to provide essential information on rights, how to access essential services and meet people's immediate needs, including information about immigration status and documentation, housing, benefits, accessing urgent health care, schools, and English language classes. For information see

<https://forms.office.com/r/tAvaazU0k7>

**\*\* this week!**

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

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>

**\*\* Windrush Compensation Scheme**

5 April 2022 (online, 11.00–1.00)

UK Government event to provide information on who may be eligible for the Windrush

Compensation Scheme, what kinds of losses and impacts it covers and how to apply. For information see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/windrush-engagement-events>

### **Three mottos to guide our approach to equality, diversity & inclusion**

7 April 2022 (online, 1.00–4.30)

Interfaith Scotland course considering diversity in its widest sense, considering three models which provide insight on our experience of difference. We consider: the role of the dominant identity and the idea of ‘human neutral’, why some people ignore or deny the disadvantages that others experience; and how to respond to misunderstandings or offence. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/3u7pba3b> or contact Jamie Spurway [jamie@interfaithscotland.org](mailto:jamie@interfaithscotland.org)

### **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>

### **Supporting Refugee Integration**

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>

### **Debiasing our systems, debiasing ourselves – an introduction to tackling unconscious bias**

3 May 2022 (online, 10.00–1.00)

Interfaith Scotland course exploring the evidence of unconscious bias and methods for reducing its impact on our decisions, behaviour and processes. The session will also describe the steps that we can take to become more aware of potential bias and how to reduce its impact on our interactions with colleagues, service users and others. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y67cy5x8> or contact Jamie Spurway [jamie@interfaithscotland.org](mailto:jamie@interfaithscotland.org)

### **Working with People from Diverse Religious Backgrounds**

9 June 2022 (online, 1.00–4.30)

Interfaith Scotland course on improving our confidence in discussing and responding to the religion and belief of those we work with. We learn about the core beliefs and cultural practices of the main faiths, and the individual needs that may arise from a person’s faith or belief identity. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/ye2ntnpv> or contact Jamie Spurway [jamie@interfaithscotland.org](mailto:jamie@interfaithscotland.org)

### **Advantage is invisible – understanding unintentional discrimination**

6 July 2022 (online, 1.30–3.30)

Interfaith Scotland course exploring why discrimination is common even when our intentions are to work fairly with all staff and service users. The role of the dominant identity

in shaping our working culture and practices will be discussed, and we will consider the persistent pattern that advantage tends to be hidden from those that have it. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2d5zwje9> or contact Jamie Spurway [jamie@interfaithscotland.org](mailto:jamie@interfaithscotland.org)

### **Interpreting culture – improving cross-cultural communication**

11 August 2022 (online, 11.00–1.00)

Interfaith Scotland course on cultural diversity. Our cultural background has a profound influence on each of us. It shapes our behaviour, values and beliefs. It even affects our thought processes and how we perceive the world. In this course we explore how culture forms a lens through which we interpret each other's behaviour and learn how to improve our inter-cultural communication. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yckbt9hs> or contact Jamie Spurway [jamie@interfaithscotland.org](mailto:jamie@interfaithscotland.org)

### **Our lives are ruled by the stories we tell ourselves – how interpretation shapes interaction**

13 September 2022 (online, 10.00–12.00)

Interfaith Scotland course exploring the impact of our inner narratives - our meaning-making - on our interactions and relationships. We will consider ways we can become more aware of our readings as they form, and more cautious about their accuracy. We will also discuss tools for more authentic conversations. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/m63kxvrm> or contact Jamie Spurway [jamie@interfaithscotland.org](mailto:jamie@interfaithscotland.org)

### **Working with Interpreters**

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>

### **Introduction to Working with Religious Diversity**

26 October 2022 (online, 10.30–12.30)

Interfaith Scotland short course where delegates will improve their confidence in discussing and responding to the religion and belief of those they work with. We explore guiding principles behind working with religion and belief diversity. Then we take a closer look at the core beliefs and cultural practices of Islam, Sikhism and Judaism. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2p88vnps> or contact Jamie Spurway [jamie@interfaithscotland.org](mailto:jamie@interfaithscotland.org)

### **Intention versus impact – exploring challenges around group labels and unintended offence**

6 December 2022 (online, 1.30–3.30)

Interfaith Scotland short course exploring the language used to describe groups of people, particularly in relation to Protected Characteristics like race, disability, religion and belief. We also consider how we can respond to unintended interpretations, confusion or offence by exploring the difference between the speaker's intention and the impact on the listener. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/k9hz52pk> or contact Jamie Spurway [jamie@interfaithscotland.org](mailto:jamie@interfaithscotland.org)

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## Useful Links

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

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

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

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

**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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**SCoJeC**  
Scottish Council of  
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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

**BEMIS**  
Empowering Scotland's Ethnic and  
Cultural Minority Communities

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



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

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