



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

Contents

Immigration and Asylum	Bills in Progress
Equality	Consultations
Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination	Job Opportunities
Other Scottish Parliament and Government	Funding Opportunities
Other UK Parliament and Government	Events, Conferences, and Training
Scotland's Census	Useful Links
Local Elections	Back issues
Other News	

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

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

The new session of the UK Parliament will begin on 10 May 2022 with the State Opening of Parliament, including the Queen's Speech

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Immigration Powers

Rona Mackay (SNP) [S6O-01043] To ask the Scottish Government when it last held talks with the United Kingdom Government to discuss devolving immigration powers to Scotland.

Reply from the Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine (Neil Gray): In our January 2020 white paper, we clearly set out how devolution of

migration powers would work. In February, I wrote a joint letter with my Welsh and Northern Irish counterparts to the United Kingdom Minister for Safe and Legal Migration calling for immediate changes to the immigration system and for regular engagement. On 28 April—last week—I met the UK minister to discuss a range of migration issues. Despite that, there has been no positive response from the UK Government. Therefore, it is clear that only through independence and the restoration of freedom of movement can we properly tackle Scotland's population challenges.

Roha Mackay: I thank the minister for that answer. My office manager and his husband have been asked by a Ukrainian family friend to sponsor their 16-year-old while his parents are trapped in the Donbas region. It has been 10 days since the application was submitted, and they are still waiting on an update from the Home Office. Does the minister agree with me that powers over immigration must be devolved to Scotland, so that we can waive the requirement for visas and allow refugees to get here as quickly and safely as possible?

Reply from Neil Gray: I really sympathise with Rona Mackay's constituents in that case. Sadly, people remain at the mercy of the Home Office visa processing arrangements. Rather than properly funding a humanitarian resettlement scheme, the homes for Ukraine and family schemes are characterised by significant administrative issues, complex application processes and unacceptable delays for individuals who are forced to flee their homeland. The UK is now in the unenviable position of being the only major European country without a legal route in for unaccompanied children who have no family connection. That exposes highly vulnerable children to preventable harm.

I raised those points with the UK Minister for Safe and Legal Migration last Thursday and, although Scotland stands ready to assist within the current system, we remain of the view that the UK must follow the example of the European Union and waive visas for Ukrainian refugees.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13725&i=124583#ScotParlOR>

The White Paper referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/migration-helping-scotland-prosper/pages/1/>

Ukraine (Supersponsor Scheme)

Foysoil Choudhury (Labour) [S6T-00671] To ask the Scottish Government what measures it is putting in place to ensure that Ukrainian families understand the conditions of its supersponsor scheme.

Reply from the Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine (Neil Gray): The Scottish Government is providing funding to JustRight Scotland to support its confidential legal advice line for Ukrainians seeking sanctuary in Scotland. That includes advice about our supersponsor scheme. As soon as the United Kingdom Government issues a visa to anyone naming the Scottish Government as their sponsor, our national contact centre sends that person a welcome message in Ukrainian and Russian. That includes a freephone international contact number for further advice.

Once in the country, the Scottish Refugee Council's integration service, funded by the Scottish Government, can give further advice on issues such as registering for a general practitioner or enrolling children in school.

To raise awareness of Scotland's supersponsor scheme, my officials have been working closely with international organisations and non-governmental organisations such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, as well as the Polish, Romanian and Moldovan authorities, to provide clear in-country information to explain how the scheme works and why it offers enhanced protection.

I met the Ukrainian MP Lesia Vasylenko last week and discussed Scotland's offer. I hope to visit Poland in the coming weeks. ...

Foyso Choudhury: Last week, my colleague Sarah Boyack invited scothosts, a group representing hosts of Ukrainian refugees, to meet members. Scothosts has produced a thoughtful analysis of the good and bad aspects of the supersponsor scheme. A pressing issue that it highlighted is that the welcome desks at Glasgow and Edinburgh airports, intended to welcome Ukrainians arriving into the scheme, have frequently been left unstaffed during normal working hours, which has meant that refugees, sometimes with a low level of English literacy, have been left to fend for themselves on arrival, particularly when travelling on to other parts of the country. How can the Scottish Government ensure that that important initial part of any warm Scottish welcome is available to refugees?

Reply from Neil Gray: My officials have been working closely with Gary Gray and scothosts to understand their concerns, and to respond to some of the ideas and other suggestions that have been made.

On the welcome at our airports, I have received no reports of any issues at Edinburgh airport. The one report that I received regarding Glasgow airport was acted upon swiftly by the airport, Renfrewshire Council, Glasgow City Council and volunteer workers from the Ukrainian community, so that the Scottish Refugee Council and others on the ground could ensure that the staffing of the welcome desk was carried out as efficiently as possible. My understanding is that there have been no further reports of anyone arriving and not being able to access that desk. I will continue to monitor the situation, because ensuring that people get access to clear and consistent information when they first arrive in the country is of the utmost importance to us all.

Foyso Choudhury: Another point raised by scothosts was that the hosting of refugees is not an event but a process, and that the inevitable longer-term needs, not only of refugees but of hosts, will need to be addressed. How will the Scottish Government amend its approach in response to continuing challenges with our Syrian and Afghan refugees? Refugees are the same regardless of where they are from.

Reply from Neil Gray: I absolutely concur with that point. The Scottish Government's response to situations unfolding around the world has been consistent: we want to provide people with a place of sanctuary and support in Scotland regardless of where they have come from. We have a good system in place, having a true partnership with all 32 local authorities and our third sector partners through the Syrian scheme, which we look to replicate for the Ukrainian scheme.

There have been well-documented issues with the Afghan scheme, which operated using a different approach and was not a true partnership between the UK Government, Scottish Government and Scottish local authorities. We are looking at what can be done to provide as much assistance as possible to Afghan refugees in Scotland who seek further support.

Kaukab Stewart (SNP): The harrowing scenes coming out of Ukraine have rightly prompted action on a scale not seen before, including a change in legislation in the UK to enable Ukrainian refugees to access support and to work after fleeing the horrors of the war. My sincere hope is that the outcome of the situation will be a change in the way that we treat everyone who seeks refuge, regardless of where they are from.

What representations has the Scottish Government made to the UK Government to urge it to lift the no recourse to public funds condition and any employment restrictions for all asylum seekers and refugees arriving in Scotland? Does the minister agree that, if the UK Government is not willing to implement such a change, Scotland should be given the powers to enable asylum seekers to live with dignity?

Reply from Neil Gray: Kaukab Stewart is absolutely right. I concur particularly with the sentiments in the second part of her question. I met Lord Harrington, my

ministerial equivalent at Westminster, and Kevin Foster, the minister with responsibility for immigration in the Commons, last week. At that meeting, I raised matters such as the ones that she asks about and my concern to ensure that we communicate effectively across the UK on safeguarding.

I also raised the need to ensure that people who are arriving from Ukraine know that the safest route is through Scotland, where the Scottish Government and Scottish local authorities operate a statutory matching service, and that there is no need for private matching. One of my major concerns about informal, social media matching is that it is often well intentioned but it poses significant risks. I called on the UK Government to implement a UK-wide supersponsor scheme to ensure that substantial safeguarding is put in place across the UK.

Donald Cameron (Conservative): Those of us who attended the scothosts briefing last Thursday hosted by Sarah Boyack would have been struck by the comments about a perceived lack of co-ordination among local authorities. What is the Scottish Government doing to ensure that councils across Scotland and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities co-operate, learn from each other and work with each other to ensure that people who apply to the supersponsor scheme can understand it better?

Reply from Neil Gray: Donald Cameron should be reassured, as should scothosts, that I have regular meetings with COSLA and local authorities, as he would expect. We have issued guidance to all local authorities, which is published on the Scottish Government website for everyone to see, to ensure consistency of application in what people should expect when they arrive and in the longer-term arrangements. I say to Donald Cameron, as I said to Foysoy Choudhury, that my officials have met Gary Gray and scothosts. Suggestions that have been made are being considered.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13723&i=124518#ScotParlOR>

Ukraine Family Scheme (Funding)

David Torrance (SNP) [S6O-01044] To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on the discussions that it has had with the United Kingdom Government regarding the support, including funding for local authorities, for displaced people settling in Scotland under the Ukraine family scheme.

Reply from the Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine (Neil Gray): We continue to raise the need to provide the same level of critical support to all Ukrainians and their families and, crucially, for parity of funding, no matter what sponsorship scheme that person is under. I have raised that repeatedly with the UK Government. I raised it again in a letter to the UK Government Minister for Refugees on 25 April, and followed that up when I met him last week. The Welsh Government's position is exactly the same as ours. I also encourage the UK Government to replicate our supersponsor approach, which will provide greater safeguarding protections.

Those who are uniting with their families need to access health, education and support services, too. Our local authorities want to support people, regardless of the scheme through which they have arrived, but the authorities must receive equality of funding in order to do so.

David Torrance: I thank the minister for that answer. Does he agree with me that UK Government's approach to the crisis in Ukraine has, from the start, been too slow and piecemeal to effectively address the scale of the challenge? Does he also agree that the UK Government must urgently provide the financial aid that Scottish local authorities need to fully implement support programmes for refugees and asylum seekers?

Reply from Neil Gray: Yes, I agree. The pace of the UK Government's Ukrainian visa schemes is particularly disappointing and frustrating for hosts and, most

importantly, for the displaced people who are desperately seeking somewhere to settle. The bureaucratic administrative system that the UK Government has put in place to respond to a humanitarian crisis is leaving many Ukrainians in perilous situations as they await clearance. Compatible financial support must be made available to local authorities to support people who come through the family scheme. There should be no in-built discrimination with regard to how displaced people arrive here.

In addition, given the fragility of private sponsorship, we must be prepared to rematch people into alternative accommodation if there is a breakdown in host arrangements. That will also incur additional costs, and we must ensure that appropriate funding is in place to support that. Our local authorities want and need to provide the same level of critical support, regardless of the scheme through which Ukrainians arrive. I have repeatedly urged the UK Government to provide that parity of funding across family and support sponsorship schemes, as has the Welsh Government, and I will continue to do so.

Foyso Choudhury (Labour): One problem that we repeatedly hear that refugees are facing—not just Ukrainian but Afghan and Syrian refugees, too—is a lack of translation and interpretation resources, which can be a huge roadblock to settling into the new country. What more can the Scottish Government do to ensure that those resources are available to the refugees we welcome into Scotland?

Reply from Neil Gray: I thank Foyso Choudhury for that important question. I am very grateful to the Ukrainian community in Scotland, whose members are stepping up on a voluntary basis to support translation services. I do not have responsibility for the Afghan or Syrian schemes, but I know that the Scottish Government commitment to support people, regardless of where they come from, is clear. If Foyso Choudhury requires further detail on that, I am more than happy to provide it in writing.

Stephanie Callaghan (SNP): Given that the Home Office figures show that only 20 per cent of those who hold visas under the homes for Ukraine scheme have made it to the UK, will the Scottish Government renew its calls to the UK Government to waive visa requirements for all Ukrainian refugees across Scotland and the rest of the UK? Frankly, two out of 10 is just not good enough.

Reply from Neil Gray: I absolutely agree with Stephanie Callaghan, and she is right to raise the concern, which I share, that the slow pace of visa processing has meant that there are problems with people getting here. The translation of visas into arrivals is a major concern, and I remain very frustrated at the pace of the UK Government's visa schemes. We now see the consequences of the decision, and reports of hundreds of people abandoning their efforts to come to the UK altogether; however, we know that households across the UK want to welcome displaced Ukrainians to the UK and provide them with a place of safety in our communities. Last Thursday, I raised those points with the UK Minister for Safe and Legal Migration.

Although Scotland stands ready to assist within the current system, we remain of the view that the UK Government must follow the example of the European Union and waive visas for Ukrainian refugees.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13725&i=124584#ScotParlOR>

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>

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Homes for Ukraine Scheme

Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat) [S6W08125] To ask the Scottish Government what guidance it has published for local authorities on the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

Reply from Neil Gray: We have published guidance for local authorities which outlines the role of councils in supporting Ukrainian guests who arrive under both the super sponsor scheme and who match privately into Scotland through the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. This [Super Sponsor Scheme and Homes for Ukraine guidance for local authorities](#) can be found on the Scottish Government website.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-08125>

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

Ukraine Family Scheme

Foyso Choudhury (Labour) [S6W-07895] To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with the UK Government to ensure that Ukrainian refugees seeking to come to Scotland and who apply for a visa through the Ukraine Family Scheme can access up-to-date information about the status of their visa application.

Reply from Neil Gray: We have repeatedly called for the UK Government to waive all visa requirements but, in the absence of this, what we now need is for the Home Office to give people visas quickly and efficiently.

I have held several meetings with Lord Harrington, Minister for Refugees, on the UK response and how our governments work collaboratively. I recently met with Kevin Foster, Minister for Safe and Legal Migration, and raised my many concerns about the significant administrative issues, complex application processes, and unacceptable delays for individuals who have been forced to flee their homeland. To alleviate confusion with the process, the UK Government should immediately implement automatic status updating for applications (on all routes) that have been outstanding for more than 5 days and an escalation process for applications that have been outstanding for more than one week.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-07895>

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>

Ukraine Family Scheme

Foyso Choudhury (Labour) [S6W-07896] To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with the UK Government to ensure that the application process for Ukrainian refugees seeking to come to Scotland, and who apply for a visa through the Ukraine Family Scheme, proceeds in a timely manner.

Reply from Neil Gray: We have repeatedly called for the UK Government to waive all visa requirements but, in the absence of this, what we now need is for the Home Office to grant people visas quickly and efficiently.

I have held several meetings with Lord Harrington, Minister for Refugees, on the UK response and how our governments work collaboratively. I recently met with Kevin Foster, Minister for Safe and Legal Migration, and raised my many concerns about the significant administrative issues, complex application processes, and unacceptable delays for individuals who have been forced to flee their homeland. Many of these challenges are a direct consequence of the decision to use the immigration and visa system rather than properly fund a humanitarian resettlement

scheme. The UK Government must put people, not processes, first.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-07896>

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>

New Publications

Migrants detected crossing the English Channel in small boats – daily data

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/migrants-detected-crossing-the-english-channel-in-small-boats>

Migrants detected crossing the English Channel in small boats – weekly data: 18-24 April 2022

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/migrants-detected-crossing-the-english-channel-in-small-boats-weekly-data/weekly-number-of-migrants-detected-in-small-boats-18-to-24-april-2022>

Visas issued for Homes for Ukraine sponsorship scheme by country, upper and lower tier local authority (3 May 2022)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1073586/Ukraine_sponsorship_scheme_visas_issued_3rd_May_2022.ods

Homes for Ukraine: guidance for matching organisations

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

Guidance for businesses offering work to people coming from Ukraine

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/guidance-for-businesses-offering-work-to-people-coming-from-ukraine>

News: Rwanda Refugee Policy

First flights taking Channel migrants to Rwanda could be delayed for months by legal challenges

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/05/03/first-flights-taking-channel-migrants-rwanda-could-delayed-months/>

Boris Johnson abandons hopes of sending first asylum-seekers to Rwanda within ‘weeks’

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/rwanda-refugees-deport-boris-johnson-b2070526.html>

Rwanda removals may be months away, No 10 admits

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/rwanda-removals-may-be-months-away-no-10-admits-3x6hblvww>

Prime Minister: ‘Liberal lawyers’ will make Rwanda plan difficult but ‘we will get it done’

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/boris-johnson-rwanda-priti-patel-north-yorkshire-downing-street-b2071595.html>

Priti Patel's Rwanda plan for UK asylum seekers faces its first legal challenge

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/may/07/priti-patels-rwanda-plan-for-uk-asylum-seekers-faces-its-first-legal-challenge>

Only 300 migrants face being sent to Rwanda each year

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/only-300-migrants-face-being-sent-to-rwanda-each-year-p2tqbvtff>

Archbishop of Canterbury has a right to intervene on Rwanda migrant plan, says Chief Rabbi

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/05/07/archbishop-canterbury-has-right-intervene-rwanda-migrant-plan/>

News: Channel Migrants

Too early to say if Rwanda scheme deterring migrants, says Tory MP as hundreds cross Channel

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/too-early-to-say-if-rwanda-scheme-deterring-migrants-says-tory-mp-as-hundreds-cross-channel-3677254>

Channel migrants: At least 350 intercepted in two days

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-61298895>

Channel migrants: Dover sees 293 people arrive on Monday

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-61304550>

Channel migrants: Border Force intercepts 254 on Sunday

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-61293693>

English Channel: More than 7,000 people have made deadly crossing this year, figures show

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/english-channel-crossing-migrants-b2070419.html>

Blow for Priti Patel as more than 550 migrants cross the Channel in two days

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/blow-priti-patel-550-migrants-cross-channel-latest-dwrq8r6th>

Record number of Channel migrants reaching the UK as crossings 'fuelled by Rwanda delays'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/05/02/dozens-migrants-land-dover-despite-rwanda-plan/>

Charities say Rwanda plan not deterring 'desperate' migrants crossing Channel

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/france-mod-government-charities-channel-b2069878.html>

Small boat asylum seekers undeterred by Rwanda plan, survey finds

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/may/02/small-boat-asylum-seekers-rwanda-uk-france-survey>

Babies wrapped in blankets brought to safety after Channel crossings

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/channel-france-boris-johnson-dover-kent-b2073045.html>

Three times as many lone child refugees cross Channel as last year

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/three-times-as-many-lone-child-refugees-cross-channel-as-last-year-p5thhcgx>

News: Ukraine

Priti Patel faces legal threat over Ukraine visa delays

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-61310346>

Priti Patel faces legal action from Ukrainians stuck in visa backlog

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/may/02/priti-patel-refugees-legal-action-homes-for-ukraine>

Refugees arriving under Ukraine visa schemes up 10,000 in just over a week

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/ukraine-government-refugees-refugee-council-homes-b2072947.html>

Only 700 Ukrainian refugees have been settled in homes pledged by public

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/only-700-ukrainian-refugees-have-been-settled-in-homes-pledged-by-public-b66d6b25k>

'Unacceptable that Ukrainians cannot switch between visa schemes after arrival'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/refugees-government-labour-housing-home-office-b2071390.html>

Homes for Ukraine: Housing scheme called danger to refugees

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-61311046>

Hundreds of Ukrainian refugees removed from UK's 'unsuitable' housing sponsors

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/may/08/hundreds-of-ukrainian-refugees-removed-from-uks-unsuitable-housing-sponsors>

'Thousands' of Ukrainian refugee families stuck in overcrowded living conditions

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/ukraine-families-home-office-uk-refugees-b2067805.html>

The Ukrainian children at the mercy of UK's refugee scheme

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/may/05/ukrainian-children-at-mercy-of-uk-refugee-scheme-homes-for-ukraine>

How can I offer a UK home to Ukrainian refugees?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/60735121>

What constitutes a village and why our houses are so cold: cultural confusions between Ukrainian refugees and their Scottish hosts

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/world/what-constitutes-a-village-and-why-our-houses-are-so-cold-cultural-confusions-between-ukrainian-refugees-and-their-scottish-hosts-3681763>

News: Other Immigration and Asylum

Cross Borders: open call for artists and activists

Deadline for applications: 29 May 2022

The Scottish Refugee Council is looking for fresh creative talent to join their [Cross Borders mentoring scheme](#), and have also launched an open call for [commissioned artistic and community activist projects](#).

To apply, you must be based in Scotland and come from a refugee or other migrant background. Priority will be given to people who have had little, or no, support like this before.

The ten successful applicants will be matched with an established mentor. In six sessions over the course of a year, mentors will help the successful applicants to overcome challenges and identify creative goals. Successful applicants will also receive a £1,000 grant to support their professional and creative development.

For information and to apply, see

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/cross-borders-open-call-for-artists-and-activists/>

Afghanistan: UK not delivering on Afghan pledge - ex-Army boss

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-61327882>

Protesters block Edinburgh immigration detentions

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-61342165>

Edinburgh residents gather in Nicholson Square after immigration officers seen at Beirut restaurant

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/edinburgh-residents-gather-in-nicholson-square-after-immigration-officers-seen-at-beirut-restaurant-3682568>

Migrant camp plan faces legal challenge from Tories who dub it 'Guantanamo-on-Ouse'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/05/04/migrant-camp-plan-faces-legal-challenge-tories-dub-guantanamo/>

'We're collateral damage': fury in Yorkshire village at its role in migrant detention plan

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/may/01/were-collateral-damage-fury-in-yorkshire-village-at-its-role-in-migrant-detention-plan>

'I'm a foreigner and I'm against it': the battle over 'Guantanamo-on-Ouse'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/05/05/foreigner-against-battle-guantanamo-on-ouse/>

TOP

Equality

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Roma and Traveller Communities (Site Provision)

Maggie Chapman (Green) [S6O-01036] To ask the Scottish Government what support it is giving to local authorities for expanding the provision of sites for Roma/Traveller communities and reducing time on waiting lists.

Raply from the Minister for Equalities and Older People (Christina McKelvie): The Scottish Government is providing up to £20 million to local

authorities between 2021 and 2026 through the Gypsy Traveller accommodation fund for more and better accommodation. The second round of the fund opened on 31 March, and we have asked for proposals for projects to increase accommodation across councils that have identified the need for more pitches or a new site. In addition, we are commissioning research in 2022-23 to make it easier for local authorities to identify and plan for unmet accommodation needs. Those actions will support our work in reducing waiting lists.

Maggie Chapman: The Clinterty Travellers site in Aberdeen is already at capacity. Although there are redevelopment plans, which are much needed and welcomed, the improvements will not increase capacity or tackle waiting lists. Will the Scottish Government consider implementing statutory reporting on delivery plans, site provision and waiting list actions, so that a fuller picture can be provided of the community's needs? Can the Scottish Government do more to recognise ancestral stopping sites? That might help to address some of the issues that the community faces.

Reply from Christina McKelvie: I thank Maggie Chapman for what is an incredibly important question. There are already a range of obligations on local authorities to plan and report on Gypsy Traveller provision, including requirements under the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 as well as through local housing strategies and housing need and demand assessments. There is also annual reporting to the Scottish Housing Regulator. If Maggie Chapman has other ideas on how we could do more of that, I would be very happy to meet her to discuss them.

Our joint action plan with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities includes an action to map traditional stopping places, which is still being progressed as we speak.

Aberdeen City Council anticipates that capacity at the Clinterty site will increase from 21 to 38 caravans, while complying with fire safety regulations. I am happy to discuss those points further and to mark the progress that has been made, should Maggie Chapman wish that.

Clare Adamson (SNP): ... My committee—the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee—heard evidence from COSLA that Gypsy Traveller sites had been deemed not to be suitable accommodation under the homes for Ukraine scheme. Can the minister give any indication that Gypsy Travellers here, and those coming from Ukraine, will be supported in appropriate accommodation? What can the Scottish Government do to ensure that there is no discrimination in that process?

Reply from Christina McKelvie: There were a couple of questions in there. We provided £2 million in 2021 for councils to make immediate improvements on public sites, based on what their residents said that they needed, and all 19 councils with Gypsy Traveller sites received an allocation.

I met representatives of the Gypsy Traveller community a few weeks ago, and I have community conversations with them very regularly. They raised the issue of the homes for Ukraine scheme, and I have raised it directly with the minister responsible. I will write to Clare Adamson with a response on that.

In the first funding round of our accommodation fund, just over £1 million was provided to three local authorities for specific projects. Final allocations to those projects will be agreed for 2022-23, and will be paid. The projects in—Aberdeen City, Clackmannanshire and Fife—will provide accommodation that better meets the needs of residents, including through larger pitches. Design, planning and procurement are well progressed in all those projects and the work will start on the sites this year.

I will come back to Clare Adamson on the point about homes for Ukraine.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13725&i=124575#ScotParlOR>

New Publication

Diversity in the teaching profession: annual data report – May 2022

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/diversity-teaching-profession-education-workforce-annual-data-report-2022/>

News

BME unemployment rate over twice as high as white workers – with gap widening through pandemic

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/news/bme-unemployment-rate-over-twice-high-white-workers-gap-widening-through-pandemic>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Hate Crime Strategy

Foysof Choudhury (Labour) [S6W-08126] To ask the Scottish Government what progress has been made towards the creation of a new hate crime strategy as outlined in its Tackling Prejudice and Building Connected Communities Action Plan.

Reply from Christina McKelvie: The Scottish Government has committed to developing a new hate crime strategy, for publication later this year, to help guide how we successfully tackle hatred and prejudice in Scotland.

On 28 April 2022, I chaired the inaugural meeting of the Hate Crime Strategic Partnership Group (SPG), comprising a range of third sector organisations and public bodies. The representatives on the SPG each possess specific expertise in tackling hate crime and building community cohesion, and will provide a multi-agency approach to development of a new hate crime strategy for Scotland. At the meeting, the SPG discussed draft Terms of Reference and I invited members to share their key priorities for tackling hate crime, to help shape development of the new strategy.

In the coming period we will publish relevant information relating to the SPG, including membership and an agreed Terms of Reference.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-08126>

The Action Plan referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/tackling-prejudice-building-connected-communities-scottish-government-response-report-independent/pages/5/>

News

Jim Dempster: Humza Yousaf race row councillor re-elected

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/20121628.jim-dempster-humza-yousaf-race-row-councillor-re-elected/>

Leaked NHS report warns GPs face ‘shocking levels’ of racism

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/nhs-gps-racism-health-education-england-b2068687.html>

Chief Constable defends Merseyside Police over ‘institutional racism’ claim

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/merseyside-police-stephen-lawrence-metropolitan-police-mayor-liverpool-b2072156.html>

Merseyside police commissioner sparks row with force over ‘institutional racism’

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/may/05/merseyside-police-commissioner-says-force-is-institutionally-racist>

Gypsies are one of the most vulnerable groups in society – why are we still ignored?

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/gypsy-traveller-community-racism-jimmy-carr-b2069822.html>

Inquiry ‘should specifically consider how racism increased pandemic risks’

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/government-asian-cabinet-office-disability-uk-parliament-b2073000.html?amp>

UK government accused of ‘explaining away’ Covid race issues

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/may/05/uk-government-accused-of-explaining-away-covid-race-issues>

Neo-Nazi terrorist group co-founder says he has ‘same moral compass as anyone else’

<https://www.independent.co.uk/independentpremium/uk-news/national-action-alex-davies-holocaust-morals-b2073174.html>

Bishop of Oxford: I was disturbed by growth in Labour anti-Semitism under Jeremy Corbyn

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/05/07/bishop-oxford-disturbed-growth-labour-anti-semitism-jeremy-corbyn/>

Man jailed for hitting Muslim woman in the face with bacon

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/man-muslim-woman-bacon-face-hit-enfield-alex-chivvers-waltham-cross-hertford-road-highbur-corner-magistrates-court-a7816051.html>

Former Essex chairman accuses ECB of ‘stitch up’ after club fined £50,000 for racist remark

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/cricket/2022/05/05/former-essex-chairman-accuses-ecb-stitch-club-fined-50000-racist/>

Essex fined £50,000 over historic racist comment

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/cricket/essex-more-essex-cricket-cdc-ecb-b2072354.html>

Essex fined £50,000 for racist comment made by former chair in 2017

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2022/may/05/essex-fined-50000-comment-former-chair-2017-ecb>

TOP

Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Releases

First Minister's Eid Message

<https://twitter.com/ScotGovFM/status/1521075809112444928>

Health Secretary's Eid Message

<https://twitter.com/HumzaYousaf/status/1520859952486793216>

TOP

Other UK Parliament and Government

Press Release

Prime Minister's Eid Message

<https://twitter.com/10DowningStreet/status/1521036362820038657>

TOP

Scotland's Census

** new or updated this week

**** The census deadline has been extended to 31 May 2022 ****

News

People in Scotland get support to complete the census

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/news/2022/people-in-scotland-get-support-to-complete-the-census>

Census returns reach 80% as deadline extension takes effect

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/news/2022/census-returns-reach-80-as-deadline-extension-takes-effect>

About Scotland's Census 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_scotlands_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

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

Video: Scotland's Census 2022. Am I legally required to fill it in?
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GZm1By8Al2g>

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>

[TOP](#)

Local Elections

Election Results

Political Party	Councils controlled (change since before election)	Councillors elected (change since before election)
SNP	1 (+1)	453 (+22)
Labour	1 (+1)	282 (+20)
Conservative	0 (0)	214 (-63)
Liberal Democrat	0 (0)	87 (+20)
Green	0 (0)	35 (+16)
Independent	0 (0)	152 (-15)
No overall control of Council	27 (-2)	—

Scotland Local Elections 2022 – full results
<https://www.bbc.com/news/election/2022/scotland/results>

Election 2022: What are the election results in my area?
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-60695244>

News

Scottish council elections 2022: SNP finishes as biggest party
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-61341059>

Anas Sarwar declares Scottish Labour 'back' after elections success
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/20122354.anas-sarwar-declares-scottish-labour-back-elections-success/>

Tories blame Partygate for 'disappointing' result

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-61354997>

The Lib Dem revival has begun – Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/scotland-council-elections-2022-the-lib-dem-revival-has-begun-alex-cole-hamilton-msp-3684461>

Scottish Greens 'on a roll' after picking up seats across Scotland

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/20120193.scottish-greens-on-roll-picking-seats-across-scotland/>

Scottish election results 2022: Isles first female councillors since 2012

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-61307628>

Former Glasgow Girl refugee Roza Salih becomes a councillor

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-61355719>

Former refugee elected councillor says Glasgow always welcomed her

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/glasgow-nicola-sturgeon-snp-iraq-b2073302.html>

New Scots voting in today's Scottish council elections

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/new-scots-voting-in-todays-scottish-council-elections/>

TOP

Other News

Covid: World's true pandemic death toll nearly 15 million, says WHO

<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-61327778>

Thousands delight in first Eid in the Square celebrations since 2019

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-61365654>

TOP

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>

UK Parliament

Online Safety Bill

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

TOP

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/

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>

TOP

Job Opportunities

[Click here](#) to find out about job opportunities.

[Click here](#) to find out about Graduate, Modern, and Foundation Apprenticeship opportunities.

TOP

Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

Faithful Welcome

Closing date: 27 May 2022

Faithful Welcome aims to support Scotland's faith communities to welcome refugees and asylum seekers and enable them to be an integral part of community life, wherever they are coming from and whatever the reason.

Grants of up to £500 are available to local faith groups registered as charities in Scotland for local action around the following themes:

Offering hospitality (eg costs of community meals and social events bringing people together);

Easing integration (eg costs of interpreting services; running language classes);

Enabling participation (eg skill-sharing activities such as gardening, sewing, cooking; providing costs of bus passes for travel).

For information and to apply, see

<https://www.faithincommunity.scot/faithfulwelcomesmallgrants>

TOP

Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

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

Refugees: Asylum and Resettlement

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>

**** Love Without Limits**

18 June 2022 (Glasgow, 12.00–5.00)

Faith in Community Scotland gathering to explore and develop the faithful welcome offered to asylum seekers and refugees, including to hear and better understand the diverse needs of those who have been displaced from their own communities and families, and amplify the voice of refugees and asylum seekers in an unjust world and respond to actual rather than perceived need. The gathering will be followed by a ceilidh from 5-7pm. For information about the gathering see <https://tinyurl.com/y4kyftwp> and about the ceilidh see <https://tinyurl.com/2rpv3tux>

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

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

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

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>

Supporting Refugee Integration

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>

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

Working with Unaccompanied Refugee Children

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>

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

[TOP](#)

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>

TOP

SCoJeC
Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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



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



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

The copyright of each article belongs to the publisher on whose website it appears, and it may only be copied or reproduced in accordance with the relevant terms and conditions. Full details of these, and the publisher's contact information, are available on each website.