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The Scottish Parliament returns from recess on 24 October 2022.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Ukraine: Super Sponsor Scheme

Foysoil Choudhury (Labour) [S6W-11340] To ask the Scottish Government what assurances it can give (a) local authorities and (b) the City of Edinburgh Council that capacity and financial pressures experienced as a result of supporting displaced people from Ukraine will be met by the Scottish Government.

Reply from Neil Gray: Continued partnership is at the core of delivering and improving the Super Sponsor Scheme. The Scottish Government is grateful to the continued work of local authorities, including City of Edinburgh Council, in their support to displaced people who have had to flee their homeland.

The Scottish Government understand that arrangements underpinning the Super Sponsor Scheme have incurred costs which could be considered out of scope of the various UK tariffs. We continue to urge the UK Government to have parity of funding no matter the route through which someone arrives.

Officials are in discussions with COSLA to finalise a framework through which local authorities will be reimbursed for costs incurred due to the super sponsor scheme as well as engaging directly with City of Edinburgh council to understand and agree costs incurred by the council since the scheme opened for applications.

The Scottish Government would like to offer reassurance that reasonable costs associated with the super sponsor scheme will be met by the Scottish Government.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-11340>

Ukraine: Refugees

Alexander Stewart (Conservative) [S6W-11370] To ask the Scottish Government what action is being taken to ensure that Ukrainian guests who are currently housed in hotel accommodation in Scotland will be appropriately housed when the current contractual arrangements that they have with the Scottish Government end, and how this will be achieved without adding to any existing housing pressures faced by the communities in which these hotels are located.

Reply from Neil Gray: The Scottish Government is working with partners to identifying suitable long term sustainable accommodation so we can continue to support displaced people whilst they are in Scotland.

On 22 September, we introduced a new fund with up to £50m to bring void council and Registered Social Landlord properties into use and to increase available housing supply. We are working closely with Local Government resettlement teams across the country to support those currently in hotel and ship accommodation transition into longer term accommodation and host offers.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-11370>

UK Parliament Debate

Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-10-19/debates/4F59263E-9CBD-4755-888B-E3B4E1986D04/StatementOfChangesInImmigrationRules>

UK Parliament, Ministerial Statement

Statement of Changes in Immigration Rule

The Minister of State, Home Department (Tom Pursglove) [HCWS328] My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary is today laying before the House a statement of changes in immigration rules.

The changes include the Afghan relocations and assistance policy (ARAP) immigration rules which clarify that the Ministry of Defence decides eligibility for an Afghan citizen, before an application for entry clearance or settlement is made to the Home Office on their, or an eligible family member's, behalf.

Additional ARAP family members, who were previously decided outside the immigration rules, have been brought under the rules, and the Afghan ex-gratia scheme, which closes on 30 November 2022, has been removed from the immigration rules from that date.

As part of the new plan for immigration, the Government have made clear for the first time

in primary legislation (the Nationality and Borders Act 2022) that confirmed victims of human trafficking or slavery are eligible for temporary permission to stay in the UK, and this is supported by the introduction of the appendix “Temporary permission to stay for victims of human trafficking or slavery”.

The introduction of temporary permission to stay into the immigration rules aligns with the Government’s needs-based approach to support victims of human trafficking or slavery. Temporary permission to stay makes clear that confirmed victims, both adults and children, with psychological and physical recovery needs stemming from their human trafficking or slavery exploitation, are entitled to temporary permission to stay where it is necessary to assist with recovery from the harm caused by their exploitation, subject to the exemptions set out in section 65 of the Nationality and Borders Act 2022. These rules also specify that temporary permission to stay may be available to victims who are helping the public authorities with active investigations or criminal proceedings in the UK to bring their exploiters to justice and clarify that those seeking compensation in respect of the relevant exploitation must have made a valid application to be considered for temporary permission to stay.

Temporary permission to stay will go live on 30 January 2023. These rules will allow for clearer decision making and are intended to make decision making a simpler and quicker process.

The seasonal worker visa route is being expanded to include roles in the poultry sector, to support a genuine seasonal labour need in the lead-up to Christmas, not evident in other sectors. Poultry workers under occupation code 5431 (butcher) or 5433 (for example, processor) must be paid at least £25,600 each year. All other poultry workers must be paid £10.10 for each hour worked and receive at least 30 hours’ paid employment each week. These requirements are in place to discourage poor conditions often seen in the sector. Changes are being made which provide for the refusal and cancellation of entry clearance where a person is subject to a travel ban imposed by the UK or the UN. This will not alter whether the person can enter the UK. It will simply make it easier to achieve the same effect administratively.

Changes are also being made in respect of the Ukraine extension scheme, which enables Ukrainian nationals who held permission to enter or stay in the UK on 18 March 2022 (or who held permission which expired on or after 1 January 2022), to continue their stay in the UK.

These changes will extend the scheme to allow Ukrainian nationals who obtain permission to enter or stay in the UK for any period between 18 March 2022 and 16 May 2023 to apply and obtain 36 months’ permission to stay in the UK. They will also introduce a new requirement to apply to the scheme by 16 November 2023.

Finally, we are also abolishing the requirement for a migrant to register with the police as the police registration scheme in its current form is outdated and no longer provides any public protection benefit to either the Home Office or the police.

Since the scheme was last amended in 1998, changes to the immigration rules and the wider immigration system now mean more individuals are screened before travel to the UK and those of concern can be identified earlier in their interaction with the Home Office. The data a migrant provides to the police on registration is already captured by the Home Office at the visa application stage, and is available to the police on request, so there is no need for it to be provided twice, or for the police to hold such vast amounts of data when they have no need to do so for the majority of law-abiding migrants.

Abolishing the requirement for a migrant to register with the police will therefore reduce the administrative burden on the police, the Home Office and migrants themselves.

These rules have also been simplified in line with the recommendations of the Law Commission report “Simplifying the Immigration Rules” to which the Government responded on 25 March 2020. The necessary changes to the immigration rules are being laid on 18 October 2022. For the changes to the seasonal worker route—inclusion of

poultry sector—these will come into effect on 18 October 2022, as there is a short time frame for workers to enter the UK to undertake work in the poultry sector. The closing date for applications for poultry work is 15 November 2022 and the workers are required to leave the UK by 31 December 2022. If the implementation date was later, the concern is workers might not apply as they could consider it not worthwhile for such a short period. This policy has already been communicated to the sector in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs food strategy, so they are prepared and working toward this change.

The changes to simplify the process for giving effect to travel bans, changes to the Ukraine extension scheme and the abolition of the police registration scheme will come into effect on 9 November 2022, the amendments to the Afghan relocations and assistance policy (ARAP) on 30 November 2022 and the introduction of the new appendix “Temporary permission to stay for victims of human trafficking or slavery” on 30 January 2023.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-10-18/debates/22101830000007/StatementOfChangesInImmigrationRule>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Rwanda Partnership: Legal Compatibility

Marion Fellows (SNP): Whether [the Minister] has had recent discussions with Cabinet colleagues on the compatibility of the migration and economic development partnership with Rwanda with (a) domestic law and (b) the 1951 convention relating to the status of refugees. (901682)

Chris Law (SNP): Whether [the Minister] has had recent discussions with Cabinet colleagues on the compatibility of the migration and economic development partnership with Rwanda with (a) domestic law and (b) the 1951 convention relating to the status of refugees. (901697)

Owen Thompson (SNP): Whether [the Minister] has had recent discussions with Cabinet colleagues on the compatibility of the migration and economic development partnership with Rwanda with (a) domestic law and (b) the 1951 convention relating to the status of refugees. (901699)

Kirsten Oswald (SNP): Whether [the Minister] has had recent discussions with Cabinet colleagues on the compatibility of the migration and economic development partnership with Rwanda with (a) domestic law and (b) the 1951 convention relating to the status of refugees. (901700)

Richard Thomson (SNP): Whether [the Minister] has had recent discussions with Cabinet colleagues on the compatibility of the migration and economic development partnership with Rwanda with (a) domestic law and (b) the 1951 convention relating to the status of refugees. (901701)

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Gareth Johnson): The Secretary of State works closely, and has regular discussions, with the Home Secretary and other members of the Cabinet on tackling illegal migration. The migration and economic development partnership is an essential part of the Government’s strategy to improve the fairness and efficacy of the United Kingdom’s immigration system. Its aim is to deter illegal entry to the UK, break the business model of people smugglers, and remove from the UK those who have no right to be here. There are ongoing legal challenges to the partnership, but the Government remain confident that it is fully compliant with national and international law.

Marion Fellows: ... The United Nations refugee convention prohibits refoulement—returning a refugee to a place, including any third country, where they would face persecution. Given that UK Government officials are warning their own Ministers about Rwanda’s appalling human rights record, how can the Minister be confident that this plan

is compatible with the convention?

Reply from Gareth Johnson: Nothing in the UN convention prevents people from being transferred to a safe country. Rwanda is a safe country. It is a signatory to the convention. It has been praised by the UN for its work on refugees, and it is a good partner to do business with.

Chris Law: Yesterday I returned from Rwanda, where I saw at first hand what some people are now calling Hopeless House, a refurbished orphanage. It is clear that there is zero transparency in respect of the £120 million payment to Rwanda.

Is the Justice Secretary not alarmed by the fact that the world's largest refugee agency, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, has said that this policy will "undermine, not promote, the Government's stated goal of improving protection for those at risk of persecution", and, as a result, will send the clearest possible message to international partners that this UK Government are stepping away yet again from their international responsibilities on human rights protections?

Reply from Gareth Johnson: What is clear is that the current situation in the channel is deathly. What we need to do is smash the business model of the people smugglers, and ensure that we have a safe and human route for those people who have been transferred to Rwanda. I am confident that we are on track to do that. We are confident of our legal position; no court has deemed our plan to be in any way unlawful.

Owen Thompson: Under the Government's plans people could be given as little as seven days' notice of deportation, which is clearly insufficient time for them to seek any legal advice about their removal to Rwanda. Does the Minister agree with the Law Society of England and Wales, which says that anyone subject to a life-changing order must be able to challenge the decision and have their case processed fairly and transparently?

Reply from Gareth Johnson: Access to legal advice is, of course, extremely important to anyone seeking asylum, which is why legal assistance is available to all asylum claimants. For example, 30 minutes of telephone legal advice and access to legal aid are available to people who claim asylum in this country.

Kirsten Oswald: Does the Minister agree with the chief executive of the group Refugee Action that stepping back from the UK's obligations under the 1951 convention would be "a blatant breach of the international refugee laws that the UK proudly helped create in the first place", and does the new Justice Secretary not feel a responsibility to uphold those international obligations?

Reply from Gareth Johnson: Everything we are doing complies with the UN convention, and with the UN convention on human rights. It also complies with national law. I have to say to Scottish National party Members that if they spent a little more time looking at the border between the UK and France and a little less time looking at the border between England and Scotland, they might come up with some viable alternatives.

Richard Thomson: Does the Minister not realise how embarrassingly abject it is to hear the Home Secretary accuse judges in Strasbourg of mission creep, when all they are doing, when it comes to the refugee convention, is interpreting and upholding laws that successive UK Governments have helped to create and have tasked them with upholding?

Reply from Gareth Johnson: The hon. Gentleman should have more faith in our judges. I repeat that everything we are doing complies with the UN convention on refugees. It complies as well with UK law and with the European convention on human rights. We are determined to stop what is going on in the channel. ...

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-10-18/debates/9301BE0F-6C57-4014-917C-5A91207C6CF9/RwandaPartnershipLegalCompatibility>

Rwanda Relocation Policy

Chris Stephens (SNP): Whether [the Minister] has had discussions with Cabinet

colleagues on the compatibility of the Government's policy to relocate people to Rwanda and other countries with (a) domestic law, (b) international law and (c) the 1951 Refugee Convention. (901765)

Reply from the Attorney General (Michael Ellis): By convention, whether the Law Officers have been asked to provide advice, and the contents of any such advice, is not disclosed outside Government.

Chris Stephens: Will the Attorney General confirm whether he shares similar views to those of his predecessor, the now former Home Secretary, who recently said that she wanted to see a front page of *The Telegraph* with a flight to Rwanda, and that that was her dream? Surely it is time to dream another dream, and scrap the cruel, inhumane Rwanda scheme in its entirety.

Reply from the Attorney General: I cannot speak to other people's dreams. ... The convention that I mentioned is important, and I intend to respect it. It protects the ability of Law Officers, as chief legal advisers to the Government, to give full and frank legal advice.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-10-20/debates/060290E2-CBF9-49BA-8E7E-3E840331E222/RwandaRelocationPolicy>

Ukrainian Refugees: Departmental Support

Ben Spencer (Conservative): What steps [is the Minister's] Department taking to support Ukrainian refugees. (901651)

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (Andrew Stephenson): The Government stand with Ukraine, and under the two visa schemes, Ukrainian refugees have full access to public services and welfare for up to three years. Over 120,000 Ukrainians have now arrived using those two schemes.

Ben Spencer: I thank the Government for the incredible support we are giving to Ukrainian refugees and my constituents, who have welcomed so many into their homes. Sadly, we are already hearing reports of breakdown between sponsor and refugee. Last week, I met the leader of Runnymede Borough Council and discussed the plans that he is putting in place to support refugees who cannot be rematched. What support is available to local authorities in that regard?

Reply from Andrew Stephenson: I am grateful to the hosts in my hon. Friend's constituency for the generosity and good will they have shown during the past six months, and I recognise the challenges that can bring. We remain steadfast in our support for Ukraine. For arrivals under the Homes for Ukraine scheme, the £10,500 per person we provide to councils helps to provide support to individuals and families, including in the minority of cases where someone is left without accommodation.

Diana Johnson (Labour): With the departure of Lord Harrington, who was a Minister in both the Home Office and this Department, will the Minister explain what discussions he has had with the Home Office about how to deal with the potential homelessness of many Ukrainians under the Homes for Ukraine scheme?

Reply from Andrew Stephenson: I have met the Home Secretary directly since my appointment and I work very closely with the Minister of State, Home Department, my hon. Friend the Member for Corby (Tom Pursglove), who is responsible for immigration. We are closely aligned on all these issues.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-10-17/debates/1686ED76-1099-4F10-B5B2-A4CBA6231469/UkrainianRefugeesDepartmentalSupport>

Information about the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-information-for-ukrainians-in-the-uk-british-nationals-and-their-family-members/immigration-information-for-ukrainians-in-the-uk-british-nationals-and-their-family-members>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Rwanda Refugee Policy

Asylum: Rwanda

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [59815] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the cost within the current financial year of attempted deportations to Rwanda; and what estimate she has made of the total cost of planned deportations under that programme in the next five years.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The costs of our broken asylum system are at a 20-year record high, currently costing the UK taxpayer over £2 billion a year. This cannot continue – and the partnership with Rwanda is a key part of our plans to reform the system and put an end to unsustainable costs which impact the taxpayer.

The UK has provided Rwanda with an initial investment of £120m as part of the Migration and Economic Development Partnership. The UK will also be funding the processing costs for each person relocated, such as caseworkers, legal advice, translators, accommodation, food, healthcare, and for those granted protection, a comprehensive integration package to help them put down roots and start a new life. The UK has also made a £20m upfront payment to the Government of Rwanda to support initial set up costs.

We do not routinely disclose commercial or operational information relating to individual charter flights.

Actual spend will be reported as part of the annual Home Office Reports and Accounts in the usual way.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-10/59815>

Asylum: Rwanda

Emma Hardy (Labour) [64283] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether pregnant women seeking asylum will be considered for removal to Rwanda under the Rwanda asylum plan.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Decisions on whether to relocate individuals to Rwanda are made on a case-by-case basis depending on the individual circumstances at the time, and in accordance with the inadmissibility guidance available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inadmissibility-third-country-cases>

Everyone considered for relocation will be screened and have access to legal advice, and nobody will be removed if it is unsafe or inappropriate for them.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-17/64283>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Afghanistan

Refugees: Afghanistan

Caroline Lucas (Green) [59602] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the online application process for a Family Visa would permit an undocumented refugee from Afghanistan who had escaped to (a) Turkey and (b) another third country to (i) submit an application and (ii) provide biometric details as proof of family connection.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: An undocumented refugee from Afghanistan, who is applying to join family who are recognised refugees in the UK, will be able to complete an online application form and attend a visa application centre to provide their biometric details without having to provide their passport details.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-10/59602>

Refugees: Afghanistan

Chris Law (SNP) [59836] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what progress the Government has made on applications under all four categories of the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Programme.

Reply James Heapey: Of the estimated 16,500 ARAP eligible individuals to which we owe debt of gratitude, we have relocated 11,437 individuals. This figure includes principals and dependants. Data fidelity does not allow for this figure to be broken down by ARAP categories or professions.

We continue to receive a high number of applications, however the majority of these are duplicates or are ineligible. We are now actively processing and issuing decisions on more applications per month than we are receiving, allowing us to make progress on clearing the backlog.

Our primary focus is on identifying and relocating the estimated remaining 5,300 eligible individuals, using HMG employment records to target our efforts. Significant progress has been made to accelerate the process in recent months, including additional Defence resource being made available and an enhanced casework system.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-11/59836>

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>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Refugees: Afghanistan

Greg Clark (Conservative) [58963] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when Pathway 3 of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme will open for the next round of applications.

Greg Clark (Conservative) [59166] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what groups will be eligible under Pathway 3 of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme when applications reopen.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) will provide up to 20,000 women, children, and others at risk with a safe and legal route to resettle in the UK over the coming years.

Under the first year of Pathway 3 of the ACRS, we will offer resettlement places to up to 1,500 people from the three identified cohorts (British Council and Gardaworld contractors and Chevening alumni). This includes the principal and their eligible family members in Afghanistan and the region.

The online referral process for this pathway closed on 15 August 2022. The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) will be in touch with those eligible to support them through the next steps.

Beyond the first year of Pathway 3, the Government will work with our international partners and NGOs to welcome wider groups of Afghans at risk. Further information on future years will be made available in due course.

Further information on ACRS Pathway 3 in the first year can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme-pathway-3-eligibility-for-british-council-and-gardaworld-contractors-and-chevening-alumni>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-10/58963>
and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-10/59166>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Refugees: Afghanistan

Charlotte Nichols (Labour) [59309] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Afghan citizens resettlement scheme applications (a) have been concluded and (b) are outstanding.

Charlotte Nichols (Labour) [60125] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications have (a) been concluded and (b) are outstanding under the Afghan citizens resettlement scheme.

Kevin Brennan (Labour) [61771] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of applications to the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme have been granted.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: We are continuing the process to grant Indefinite Leave to Remain to all eligible individuals who arrived during the evacuation: officials have already registered over 13,000 (and counting) applications for resettlement from Afghans in the UK, with biometric residence permits being issued accordingly. In the meantime, applicants remain eligible to work and access services under their continuing leave.

At 12 August 2022, we have granted Indefinite Leave to Remain to 11,303 individuals across the ARAP and ACRS, since they opened in April 2021 and Jan 2022, respectively. We are unable, at this time, to provide a breakdown of whether a grant of leave was made under the ARAP or the ACRS Pathway 1. Work is underway to assure information relating to all the individuals relocated under the ARAP and ACRS on case working systems. Once this work concludes, statistics on both schemes - including the number of people resettled under each - will be included in future editions of the Immigration Statistics.

More information on the number of grants of Indefinite Leave to Remain issued to Afghans resettling under the ARAP or ACRS can be viewed at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-resettlement-programme-operational-data/afghan-resettlement-programme-operational-data>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-10/59309>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-10/60125>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-12/61771>

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>

Asylum: Afghanistan

Hilary Benn (Labour) [59462] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many (a) refugees and (b) asylum seekers from Afghanistan are currently living in hotels.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Through Operation Warm Welcome, Afghans resettling in the UK under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) and Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) will be supported in accessing accommodation alongside the vital health, education, and support into employment they need, to fully integrate into society.

As stated in the recently published, '[Afghan Resettlement: Operational Data](#)' factsheet, at 12 August 2022, the UK:

- Has welcomed 21,450 people to the UK from Afghanistan - or a neighbouring

country - since June 2021.

- Is providing temporary accommodation for 9,667 people in hotels.

Officials are working at pace to assure information relating to the individuals resettling in the UK under our bespoke schemes for Afghans on case working systems. Once this work concludes, the Home Office will include Afghan resettlement statistics in its quarterly Immigration Statistics publications.

Until then the factsheet will be updated every quarter – with the next iteration scheduled for publication on 24 November 2022.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-10/59462>

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>

Information about Operation Warm Welcome, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/operation-warm-welcome-progress-update>

Refugees: Afghanistan

Alison McGovern (Labour) [61079] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 28 July 2022 to Question 38653 on Refugees: Afghanistan, how many of the 7,000 Afghans referenced have moved into permanent accommodation.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: We have been working as fast as possible to support Afghan families into homes of their own, so that they can settle into their local communities, feel safe and independent and rebuild their lives in the UK.

At 12 August 2022, 7,385 people have moved into a home, or have been matched to a home and are waiting to move in. This does not include families who have made their own accommodation arrangements.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-11/61079>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-18/38653>

Refugees: Afghanistan

Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat) [60998] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what steps his Department is taking to help Afghan refugees living in hotels following Operation Pitting to access the private rental sector.

Reply from Andrew Stephenson: The Find Your Own Accommodation pathway was launched in June 2022 following engagement with Afghans and local authorities, who both were generally in favour of this added housing option. This pathway enables Afghans to find their own accommodation, whilst still receiving financial and non-financial integration support from the Government. For example, a local authority may use some of the £20,520 per person spread over three years from the Government to provide the deposit, first month's rent, and furniture to help Afghans into the private rental sector. The Government is not prescriptive with the precise support provided, so this may vary from council to council.

This new process is in addition to Home Office's matching system, where Home Office engage with local authorities to source accommodation in the social and private rental sectors, and then match properties to individual households.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-11/60998>

Refugees: Afghanistan

Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat) [60999] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, if she will take steps to ensure that Afghan refugees living in UK hotels following Operation Pitting are able to maintain their current employment when moving between hotels.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: There is a huge effort underway to support the families into permanent homes as soon as we can so they can settle and rebuild their lives. The length of time that a family will remain in bridging hotels is dependent on the availability of appropriate housing. We expect that whilst the hotel estate will reduce, there will be an ongoing need to provide temporary housing in hotels for a small number of families for several months.

To deliver value for money to the taxpayer, officials are working at pace to consolidate the bridging estate, by maximising capacity in hotels with available rooms and return rooms that don't match family requirements. Part of this work means families can sometimes be moved from a hotel scheduled for closure to another hotel within the bridging estate. In such instances we consider current employment and endeavour where possible to keep families in the same areas, or within commutable distance. Families are given appropriate notice of a move and are supported by their Hotel Liaison Officer and local authority throughout.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-11/60999>

Afghanistan: Refugees

John Healey (Labour) [62690] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many Afghans relocated to the UK under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy scheme are in full-time employment.

Reply from James Heapey: Data is not held on full-time employment figures specifically for Afghans relocated to the UK under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) scheme.

For those who have arrived under the ARAP scheme, and for those still to come, we continue working with our colleagues across Government under Operation WARM WELCOME to make sure that they are properly supported as they now rebuild their lives in the UK. In order to help them fully integrate into society, Government support includes that relating to employment, accommodation and education. Defence is supporting these efforts, for those Afghans with a Defence connection, working closely with our charitable partners.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-13/62690>

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 Operation Warm Welcome, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/operation-warm-welcome-progress-update>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Ukraine

Refugees: Ukraine

Mary Kelly Foy (Labour) [62118] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government has taken to assist Ukrainian refugees without an international passport who wish to return to Ukraine.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Under the Ukraine schemes, Ukrainians can travel outside of the UK and return provided they have received a Biometric Residence Permit. UKVI cannot comment on entry requirements to other countries.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-12/62118>

Refugees: Ukraine

Ruth Jones (Labour) [62104] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the potential implications for her resettlement policies of the level of financial support provided to the hosts of Ukrainian refugees.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Homes for Ukraine is a unique scheme that has been set up specifically to support those escaping the conflict in Ukraine who are not able to rely on family support. In recognition of the exceptional support provided by members of the public who have rapidly come forward to welcome people through this scheme, the Government is providing an optional 'thank you payment' of £350 per month for sponsors who are kindly sharing their homes.

The Government is also providing funding to local councils which includes resource to enable them to carry out sponsorship-specific functions such as safeguarding checks and property checks, administering payments, as well as providing support, such as English language training to help their integration into our communities.

Our Community Sponsorship Scheme enables members of the public to provide housing and integration support to refugees resettled to the UK through the UK Resettlement Scheme or the Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme. The Community Sponsorship Scheme has had a positive impact on the lives of refugees resettled in the UK, and the communities that support them. This is only made possible by the dedication, hard work and compassion of community groups across the UK.

There are currently no plans to provide financial support to groups who support refugees through Community Sponsorship. However, the Government will continue to look for opportunities to improve the scheme and encourage more community groups to welcome refugees resettled to the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-12/62104>

Refugees: Ukraine

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [60950] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, (a) what recent steps his Department has taken to support Ukrainian refugees seeking new accommodation in the UK, (b) what recent estimate he has made of the number of Ukrainian refugees living in the UK and (c) whether his Department has taken steps to gather feedback about the standard of living for Ukrainian refugees living in the UK.

Reply from Andrew Stephenson: As of 4 October 2022, data comprised of Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme and Ukraine Family Scheme:

Total Ukraine Scheme visa applications received: 221,900

Total Ukraine Scheme visas issued to people: 189,900

Total arrivals of Ukraine Scheme visa-holders in the UK: 134,200 (as of 3 October 2022) .

We are working closely with local councils to understand where pressures may be and are actively exploring options to find suitable long-term accommodation for the Ukrainians who are likely to stay in this country beyond the households staying in the country beyond their initial sponsorship period.

We will continue to review and develop plans to support guests to improve their living standards and access economic opportunities, informed by engagement with other government departments, local councils, VCS organisations, sponsors, and guests.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-11/60950>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Homes for Ukraine Scheme: Homelessness

Sarah Owen (Labour) [64413] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing

and Communities, how many beneficiaries of the Homes for Ukraine scheme have presented to their local authorities as homeless as of 14 October 2022.

Refugees: Ukraine

Catherine West (Labour) [65913] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what estimate his Department has made of the number of Ukrainian refugees with Ukraine Family Scheme visas who have become homeless since arriving in the UK.

Reply from Andrew Stephenson: Homelessness management information pertaining to Ukrainian nationals in England is updated on gov.uk every 4 weeks. The most recent update includes data up to 23 September 2022. A total of 1,915 Ukrainian households have been owed a homelessness prevention or relief duty, based on a response rate of 71% of local authorities. Of this figure, 850 households arrived under the Ukraine Family Scheme and 955 households via the Homes for Ukraine sponsorship scheme. Further information can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/homelessness-management-information-ukrainian-nationals-england>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-14/64413>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-18/65913>

Refugees: Ukraine

Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru) [62017] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, if he will make it his policy to allow those currently on the Ukraine Family Scheme to switch to the Homes for Ukraine Scheme.

Reply from Andrew Stephenson: The Ukraine Family Scheme was set up to act as a light touch, temporary alternative to the existing family migration routes which existed before the Ukraine conflict.

The UK-based family member is expected to provide support and accommodation for those coming to join them under the Family Scheme. We are aware however that in some cases, living arrangements for those on this scheme have not been able to be maintained.

We have been engaging with stakeholders in local government, the devolved administrations, and the voluntary and community sector in order to inform the consideration of our options for the Ukraine visa schemes.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-12/62017>

Information about the Ukrainian Family Scheme and Homes for Ukraine Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-information-for-ukrainians-in-the-uk-british-nationals-and-their-family-members/immigration-information-for-ukrainians-in-the-uk-british-nationals-and-their-family-members>

Refugees: Ukraine

Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru) [62018] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what assessment he has made of the parity of funding and support available from the Government for individuals on the Ukraine Family Scheme compared to those on the Homes for Ukraine Scheme.

Reply from Andrew Stephenson: The Ukraine Family Scheme is intended as a light touch, temporary, alternative to the existing family routes which existed before the Ukraine conflict, where public services are funded out of council budgets and the same principle is applied here

The UK-based family member is expected to provide support and accommodation for those coming to join them, who in turn benefit from the wider integration

advantages in joining an existing family network.

Homes for Ukraine on the other hand is a unique scheme that has been set up specifically to support those escaping the conflict in Ukraine who are not able to rely on family support. The Government is providing additional funding to local councils which includes resource to enable them to carry out sponsorship-specific functions such as safeguarding checks and property checks, administering payments, as well as providing support such as English language training to help their integration into communities.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-12/62018>

Information about the Ukrainian Family Scheme and Homes for Ukraine Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-information-for-ukrainians-in-the-uk-british-nationals-and-their-family-members/immigration-information-for-ukrainians-in-the-uk-british-nationals-and-their-family-members>

Homes for Ukraine Scheme

Emma Hardy (Labour) [64286] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what assessment he has made of (a) the number of Ukrainian refugees who will need continued support under the Homes for Ukraine scheme beyond the first six months and (b) the number of UK households supporting refugees under the scheme; and what plans he has to extend the scheme beyond six months.

Reply from Andrew Stephenson: We are working closely with local councils and community partners to ensure that all those who have fled Putin's war via the Homes for Ukraine scheme have a safe place to live.

ONS survey results show most hosts say they want to provide support for longer than six months. The results of latest ONS survey of Homes for Ukraine can be accessed here:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/bulletins/experiencesofhomesforukrainianschemesponsorsuk/7to14july2022>

As guests start to come to the end of their initial six months sponsorship arrangements, we have set out the options and support available to sponsors and guests so they can have informed discussions about their choices.

The updated guidance for the Homes for Ukraine guests, hosts and councils setting out all the support options available to them post six months of sponsorship can be accessed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/welcome-a-guide-for-ukrainians-arriving-in-the-uk/your-living-arrangements-4-to-6-months-after-moving-to-the-uk>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-17/64286>

Homes for Ukraine Scheme

Mark Pritchard (Conservative) [59559] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, whether he has had recent discussions with local authorities on the closure of the Homes for Ukraine Scheme; and whether he will take steps to publish new proposals for housing refugees from Ukraine.

Reply from Andrew Stephenson: We are working closely with local councils to understand where pressures may be and are actively exploring options to find suitable long-term accommodation for the Ukrainians who are likely to stay in this country beyond their initial sponsorship period.

The updated guidance for the Homes for Ukraine guests, hosts and councils setting out all the support options available to them can be accessed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-guidance-for-councils#four-to-6-months-after-guests-have-moved-to-your-area>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-10/59559>

Information about the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-information-for-ukrainians-in-the-uk-british-nationals-and-their-family-members/immigration-information-for-ukrainians-in-the-uk-british-nationals-and-their-family-members>

Homes for Ukraine Scheme

Catherine West (Labour) [59169] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, whether new hosts who offer as part of the Homes for Ukraine scheme to accommodate Ukrainians who have previously stayed with another host as part of that scheme will be entitled to receive the full 12 months of thank you payments; and whether there are deductions on the amount of those payments new hosts are eligible for arising from payments made to the previous host.

Reply from Andrew Stephenson: Thank you payments to hosts are available for the first 12 months of a guest's time in the UK. If you continue to host beyond 6 months or enter into a rematch arrangement, you are eligible to receive thank you payments, for the remaining months up to the 12-month mark. We will continue to closely monitor and review the support offered to both hosts and guests under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-10/59169>

Information about the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-information-for-ukrainians-in-the-uk-british-nationals-and-their-family-members/immigration-information-for-ukrainians-in-the-uk-british-nationals-and-their-family-members>

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

Immigration: Applications

Marsha De Cordova (Labour) [62076] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of introducing an Application Checklist in order to ensure the applicant has submitted all the correct information.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The online application forms currently generate a document checklist for the applicant to download at the end of their application form. This is also displayed at the end of the form after they have answered all of the questions. This checklist uses the answers entered in the form to establish the necessary documentation that an applicant needs to provide.

The paper application forms have an application checklist with a list of the documentation an applicant needs to provide at the end of the application form.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-12/62076>

Visas: Applications

Marsha De Cordova (Labour) [62077] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to remove barriers in the visa application system.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Through the Future Borders and Immigration System (FBIS) programme, we are delivering a streamlined, simplified and modern visa system that meets the needs of the Home Office and its customers.

Increasingly, we are replacing physical and paper-based products and services with accessible, easy to use online and digital services. This provides applicants with an

easy online application process, including providing biometrics and establishing or verifying identity using their smartphones.

To make our system accessible to all, we have expanded support for those that require assistance to make an online visa application. Our UKVI Resolution Centre has been extended and is now open seven days a week for telephone and email enquiries. We also have an assisted digital service which provides UK-wide support to customers who do not have access to technology, or the digital skills or confidence, to complete the forms online.

By creating clearer guidance and content on gov.uk we have made it simpler and more intuitive for people to understand if they are eligible for a visa, what steps they need to take to apply and, if granted, the conditions of their stay in the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-12/62077>

Visas: Fees and Charges

Marsha De Cordova (Labour) [62078] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department plans to remove visa fees for applicants that have been previously denied a visa.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The Home Office has no plans to remove visa fees for applicants who have previously been denied a visa. The fee paid is for the consideration of an application and is payable regardless of the decision made.

Where a fee is payable, it must be paid in full as specified by the Immigration and Nationality Fees Regulations 2018 in order for the application to be valid.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-12/62078>

Visas: Graduates

Daniel Zeichner (Labour) [64112] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether it is her policy to continue to provide graduate visas after 2022.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Our offer to international students is extremely competitive and ensures that we continue to attract the best and brightest students from around the world. The Government's International Education Strategy set out a target of attracting 600,000 international Higher Education students to the UK by 2030, which we have achieved almost a decade early.

The public also rightly expects us to control immigration and ensure we have a system that works in the UK's best interests.

As the Growth Plan set out, the Government is looking at how immigration contributes to growth and will set out further details in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-17/64112>

Visas: Sponsorship

Marsha De Cordova (Labour) [62079] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will introduce a sponsor guarantor scheme for visa applicants.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: There are already a number of visa routes, including work, study and family routes, where formal sponsorship is required with penalties in place if a sponsor is not meeting their obligations.

In other routes, we require evidence that a visa applicant can maintain and accommodate themselves during their stay in the United Kingdom and that they will leave the United Kingdom at the end of their stay.

We believe it is right that the responsibility to demonstrate they will maintain and accommodate themselves and leave the United Kingdom lies with the applicant.

We will refuse applications where this is not the case and individuals who become overstayers in the United Kingdom may be subject to a re-entry ban.

Our website (www.gov.uk) provides information about the obligations we expect from sponsors and visa applicants and re-entry bans.

General Practitioners: Migrant Workers

Janet Daby (Labour) [59245] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to increase the number of indefinite leave to remain applications from international medical graduates who have undertaken general practitioner training.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Being granted indefinite leave to remain (ILR) allows an individual to work in the UK permanently without being subject to immigration control. International medical graduates (IMGs) who have undertaken GP training are eligible to apply for ILR after completing five years on the Health and Care visa route, in line with IMGs in other fields and work visa routes in general.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-10/59145>

Migrant Workers: Care Workers

Nadia Whittome (Labour) [61419] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the Care Quality Commission shares information on the (a) personal data and (b) immigration status of workers with Immigration Enforcement following inspections of (i) care homes and (ii) providers.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Following the inspection of care homes and/or providers, the Care Quality Commission may make a referral to Immigration Enforcement via the 'Report Immigration Crime' tool on gov.uk. This referral may include personal data which could relate to immigration offenders.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-11/61419>

The following seven questions all received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Angela Crawley (SNP) [63265] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications made since 30 June 2021 to the EU Settlement Scheme have taken longer than a month to process due to requests made by her Department for more information from the applicant.

Angela Crawley (SNP) [63266] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications made since 30 June 2021 to the EU Settlement Scheme have taken longer than a month to process due to being applications from minors not linked to an adult.

Angela Crawley (SNP) [63267] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications made since 30 June 2021 to the EU Settlement Scheme have taken longer than a month to process due to a paper based application.

Angela Crawley (SNP) [63268] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications made since 30 June 2021 to the EU Settlement Scheme have taken longer than a month to process due to the applicant having an outstanding court case.

Angela Crawley (SNP) [63269] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications made since 30 June 2021 to the EU Settlement Scheme have taken longer than a month to process due to the applicant potentially having a relevant criminal record.

Angela Crawley (SNP) [63270] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications made since 30 June 2021 to the EU Settlement Scheme have taken longer than a month to process due to an applicant's criminal record.

Angela Crawley (SNP) [63271] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications made since 30 June 2021 to the EU Settlement Scheme have taken longer than a month to process due to the applicant being a (a) non-EEA or (b) non-Swiss citizen applying based on a relationship not relied on in a previous application to the Home Office.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Our aim is to process all applications to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) as quickly as possible. Each individual application is considered on its own facts. Inevitably, some applications take longer than others to conclude, dependant on the circumstances presented and the completeness of the information provided at the time of application. For example, a case will take longer to conclude if further evidence of eligibility is required.

If the applicant is facing an impending prosecution or has a criminal record, the time taken to decide their application will be impacted as any criminal matter will need due consideration. That said, anyone awaiting the outcome of their application can evidence their rights with their Certificate of Application which is issued as soon as possible after a valid application is received.

The following link lists the expected processing times for EU Settlement Scheme applications, based upon current performance: [EU Settlement Scheme: current estimated processing times for applications](#).

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 30 June 2022, can be found in the quarterly summary data at [EU Settlement Scheme quarterly statistics, June 2022](#).

The published statistics include those applicants who are seeking to upgrade their status from pre-settled to settled status, repeat applicants, joining family members and also those who have submitted late applications.

Please note there has been a change in the frequency of the statistical information regarding the EU Settlement Scheme, moving from monthly to quarterly publication. The quarterly statistics will continue to provide updated information on the scheme, including monthly breakdowns of applications and conclusions. The latest quarterly release up to 30 June 2022 was published on 25 August 2022 and subsequently updated on 27 September 2022.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-14/63265>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-14/63266>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-14/63267>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-14/63268>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-14/63269>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-14/63270>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-14/63271>

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

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

The following two questions both received the same answer

Migrants: Cost of Living

Owen Thompson (SNP) [59900] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of revoking no recourse to public funds in light of rises in the cost of living.

Owen Thompson (SNP) [59901] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential impacts of rises in the cost of living to people with no recourse to public funds.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The Government has no plans to revoke the No

Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) policy. It is a well-established principle that migrants coming to the UK should be able to maintain and support themselves and their families without reliance on the welfare system. This protects taxpayer-funded public services from becoming overburdened. Successive governments have taken the view that access to benefits and other publicly funded services should reflect the strength of a migrant's connections to the UK and, in the main, only become available to migrants when they have become settled here with indefinite leave to remain (ILR).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-10/59900>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-10/59901>

Refugees: Resettlement

Ian Murray (Labour) [64025] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many refugees have been settled through the Community Sponsorship Scheme as of 1 October 2022.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The Home Office publishes data on asylum and resettlement in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on the number of refugees resettled broken down by established resettlement scheme 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 Q2 2022. Data covering Q3 2022 is set to be published on the 24 November 2022 and data covering Q4 2022 is set to be published on the 23 February 2023.

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-17/64025>

Asylum: Applications

Caroline Lucas (Green) [59593] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 20 September 2022 to Question 45768 on Asylum: Applications and with reference to the report by the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration entitled An inspection of asylum casework, published in November 2021, when she plans to reintroduce a service standard; and what recent steps Asylum Operations has taken to achieve this.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The UK has a proud history of providing protection to those who need it, in accordance with our international obligations under the Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).

We have already made progress in prioritising older claims, high harm cases, those cases with extreme vulnerability, children and new flow cases, following the introduction of the Nationality & Borders Act, whilst those in receipt of support are a priority for legacy cases.

Whilst we are unable to offer specific timescales to individuals at this time, we are working hard to improve the level of service we provide to those who claim asylum.

We are continually reviewing the recommendation from the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration's (ICIBI) published report; however, changes being brought about by the New Plan for Immigration will impact on the way asylum claims are handled and these will be addressed as part of the process to develop a service standard.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-10/59593>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-02/45768>

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

Migrants: Children

Stephen Timms (Labour) [61702] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 11 October 2022 to Question 53260 on Migrants: Children, what safeguards her Department has identified that ensure British children of parents with no recourse to public funds receive support when (a) facing destitution and (b) other care needs.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The Government is committed to protecting the vulnerable. Processes are in place to enable those with permission under the Family or Private Life routes, permission outside the rules on the basis of Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, or the Hong Kong British National (Overseas) route, to apply for free to have the No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) condition lifted by making a 'change of conditions' application. An individual can apply to have their NRPF condition lifted if they are destitute or at risk of imminent destitution, if there are reasons relating to the welfare of a relevant child, or where there are other exceptional financial circumstances.

This includes parents of British children where those parents are subject to a NRPF condition.

Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 imposes a general duty on local authorities to safeguard and promote the welfare of "children in need" in their area. Support provided to a child by local authorities under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 is not dependent on the immigration status of the child or their parent(s) and is therefore available to parents of British children where those parents are subject to an NRPF condition.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-12/61702>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-21/53260>

Asylum: Children

Angus Brendan MacNeil (SNP) [60996] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has taken recent steps to help ensure that application registration cards are issued quickly to unaccompanied asylum seeking children who are travelling to Scottish island authorities to allow them to travel by air rather than by road and sea.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Work is ongoing to improve the speed at which ARC are issued for children transferring to local authority care placements, where it is considered necessary to facilitate air travel. We work closely with local authorities on the most suitable method of travel for an individual child.

Where an unaccompanied asylum seeking child (UASC) is temporarily accommodated in a hotel and not in the care of a local authority, the Home Office is able to arrange transport for the UASC to the local authority care placement. It is open to receiving local authorities themselves to arrange the transport and to accompany the child on their journey from the hotel to the care placement.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-11/60996>

The following four questions all received the same answer

Asylum: Children

Kate Green (Labour) [61088] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied asylum-seeking children were housed in UK hotels in each

month from October 2021 to September 2022.

Kate Green (Labour) [61089] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied asylum-seeking children aged (a) 14 years old, (b) 15 years old, (c) 16 years old and (d) 17 years old have been accommodated in hotels in the UK since October 2021.

Kate Green (Labour) [61090] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied asylum-seeking children have been housed in hotels since October 2021; and in which local authorities hotels used for that purpose were located.

Kate Green (Labour) [61091] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average length of stay has been for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children housed in UK hotels since October 2021.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children arriving in hotels by month since October 2021 is given in the table below.

Oct-21	148
Nov-21	329
Dec-21	194
Jan-22	101
Feb-22	30
Mar-22	314
Apr-22	198
May-22	223
Jun-22	253
Jul-22	238
Aug-22	585
Sep-22	499

The breakdown by age of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children aged (a) 14 years old, (b) 15 years old, (c) 16 years old and (d) 17 years old arriving in hotels since October 2021 is given in the table below. This information is based on their age on the date the young person arrived in the hotel

Age	Number
14	260
15	639
16	1,191
17	1,051

The number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children arriving in hotels since the start of October 2021 is 3,256. This figure is based on arrivals in the hotel during that period, rather than those who were already accommodated in the hotels at the start of October 2021.

The hotels are in the local authorities of Kent; Brighton & Hove; East Sussex; and Warwickshire.

The average length of stay for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children housed in UK hotels since October 2021 is 16.34 days.

All the figures given above are taken from a live operational database. As such, numbers may change as information on that system is updated.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-11/61088>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-11/61089>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-11/61090>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-11/61091>

Undocumented Migrants: Children

Helen Hayes (Labour) [65898] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how old each the 116 unaccompanied migrant children missing from Home Office funded hotels are; and for how long each of those children (a) were housed in hotels before they went missing and (b) have been missing.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The UK is experiencing an unprecedented increase in the number of people making life-threatening journeys to cross the Channel. These boats are often carrying unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) and this has placed unprecedented pressure on the National Transfer Scheme. Out of necessity and with the children's best interests in mind, we have arranged for them to be accommodated on an emergency and temporary basis in hotels whilst placements with local authorities are being vigorously pursued.

We have safeguarding procedures in place to ensure all unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in emergency interim hotels are as safe and supported as possible, whilst we seek urgent placements with a local authority. Young people are supported by team leaders and support workers who are on site 24 hours a day. Further care is provided in hotels by teams of social workers and nurses.

The Home Office has no power to hold children in hotels or any temporary accommodation if they wish to leave. To minimise the risk of a child going missing, records of children leaving and returning to the hotel are kept and monitored. Support workers accompany children off site on activities and social excursions, or where specific vulnerabilities are identified.

Any child going missing is extremely serious, and we work with the police and local authorities to seek to urgently locate them and ensure they are safe.

Since July 2021 to 19 October this year, there have been 391 missing episodes of young people from the Home Office UASC Hotels (the term missing episodes is used as the same young person may go missing on more than one occasion).

As of 19 October, 222 young people are missing - please see table below. Please note that the data is taken from a live information database and therefore is subject to change as that system is updated. ...

To read the extremely long table see

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-18/65898>

Asylum: Housing

Paul Girvan (DUP) [62941] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what daily cost to the public purse has been incurred for (a) providing accommodation and (b) any other subsistence for those currently awaiting determination of their asylum application, over the most recent six month reporting period.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Costs are subject to change depending on numbers being accommodated within the asylum system. Accommodation costs are considered to be commercially confidential, therefore the Home Office does not publish this information. However, total expenditure on asylum is published in the Home Office Annual Report and Accounts, available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/ho-annual-reports-and-accounts>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-13/62941>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Temporary Accommodation

Stephen Farry (Alliance) [59312] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many (a) children and (b) pregnant women asylum seekers have moved (i) into and

(ii) out of contingency accommodation in the last 12 months.

Asylum: Housing

Stephen Farry (Alliance) [60189] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to asylum seekers being moved from contingency accommodation to dispersal accommodation, whether her Department automatically prioritises (a) pregnant women and (b) other vulnerable groups.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Home Office data relating to the supported asylum seeking population does not record the demographics of those moving into, or out of, contingency accommodation in a way which would provide the information requested.

The Home Office has clear policy guidance on the allocation of asylum accommodation and consideration of healthcare and pregnancy needs when moving individuals on asylum support into dispersal accommodation. Our published policies on these matters can be found at: [Allocation of accommodation policy](#) and [Healthcare and pregnancy](#).

The Home Office will consider those with healthcare needs, including mental health issues when dispersing. This may include a need to be accommodated in a particular location, or in a certain type of accommodation, or in some cases whether ongoing treatment for a medical condition might require that dispersal is deferred. For pregnancy, the whole of a woman's pregnancy, labour and her postnatal period will be taken into account when considering accommodation moves.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-10/59312>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-10/60189>

Asylum: Employment

Rebecca Long Bailey (Labour) [59133] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what recent assessment she has made of the adequacy of Government support systems that help refugees and asylum seekers into work.

Reply from Victoria Prentis: Once refugee status has been granted, individuals have immediate access to employment support and services.

We recognise that refugees often face additional barriers to labour market participation and are supporting the development of interventions that help to overcome these barriers. This includes developing an integration package which has a strong focus on supporting refugees to move more quickly to self-sufficiency. DWP employment support includes help with job search and English language skills as well as with skills training, CV writing and securing work experience. Local Jobcentre Managers have considerable flexibility to provide tailored support to meet individual needs as required.

DWP also works closely with businesses expressing an interest in employing people in response to the situations in Afghanistan and Ukraine. We support them to develop job adverts open to any applicant and then share those adverts with Jobcentres and with the Refugee Employment Network, a charity who work with over 200 Refugee Support Organisations across the UK, to ensure these opportunities are widely advertised.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-10/59133>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Rwanda Asylum Partnership

Lord Dubs (Labour): To ask His Majesty's Government whether it is still their policy to send asylum seekers to Rwanda. ...

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Sharpe of Epsom): My Lords, the Government remain committed to delivering the partnership between the UK and Rwanda, so we can break the business model of people smugglers and prevent further loss of life in the channel. Working together, the UK and Rwanda will help to make the immigration system fairer and ensure that people are safe and enjoy new opportunities to flourish.

Lord Dubs: My Lords, that is of course the standard Answer. I had hoped for a little bit of a U-turn on this issue, but it seems there will not be one. The Government say that this is fully in accordance with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, but the UNHCR disputes this. There is no basis in international law for our doing this, and we are made to look foolish and in breach of our normal traditions of human rights and a humanitarian approach to refugees. Is it not time for the Government to think again? This is not going to happen in any case, because the lawyers are going to stop it.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: I remind noble Lords that Rwanda is a state party to the 1951 UN refugee convention and the seven core UN human rights conventions. It is also worth pointing out that, in September 2019, the African Union, the Government of Rwanda and the UNHCR signed a memorandum of understanding to set up an emergency transit mechanism to evacuate refugees and asylum seekers out of Libya. The EU has provided support and donated €12.5 million to the ETM through its emergency trust fund. The UNHCR also stated, in a 2020 press notice, that “Rwanda has been welcoming refugees for over two decades ... The country offers a safe and protective environment to all asylum seekers and refugees.” There seems to be a degree of inconsistency in the UNHCR’s opinion.

Baroness D’Souza (Crossbench): My Lords, I have just returned from a parliamentary visit to Rwanda. Could the Minister clarify which authority in Rwanda would be responsible for determining refugee asylum status? What guarantees are there that the 1951 convention criteria will be faithfully followed? I say this simply because, during this visit, President Kagame said that he was looking for new skills and talents among the refugees or asylum seekers who might be arriving in Rwanda.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: As the noble Baroness is aware, the foundation for this is a memorandum of understanding that, it is strongly believed, covers the various points that she made. I cannot answer precisely who is responsible at the Rwandan end, but there are teams of Home Office personnel in place who will also monitor progress. ...

Baroness Foster of Oxtou (Conservative): My Lords, most of the Rwanda Cabinet were refugees and understand the difficulties that people face, particularly coming from war-torn countries. Rwanda has moved forward massively from the days when it suffered war and genocide. Does my noble friend agree that we need to kickstart this process for illegal immigrants as soon as possible as we cannot sustain the levels as they stand and be seen to support people traffickers, who continue to make money on the backs of human misery?

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: I thank my noble friend for that question and I agree with her. The point of this policy is to break the vile criminal enterprise that operates in the channel. I think most noble Lords would approve of that aim. As to whether Rwanda is safe, which is the essence of my noble friend’s question, I say that it is a fundamentally safe and secure country with respect for the rule of law. She is right to point out that the majority of the Cabinet were refugees, and it is also worth pointing out that Rwanda has one of only two, I think, Parliaments in the world that has a majority of women sitting in it.

The Archbishop of York: My Lords, the UK’s population, about 67 million, is five times that of Rwanda at about 13 million. Yet Rwanda, which is a country far poorer than us, as has already been pointed out, hosts one refugee for every 90 people whereas the figure here is one refugee for every 500 people. I do not think I can put my hand on my heart and

say that the UK is doing its bit in a global crisis. I wonder whether the Minister would like to say what we are going to do to play our part in taking refugees here.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: The most reverend Primate refers to refugees, so I will too. It is fairly self-evident what we have been doing for refugees, including BNO passport holders from Hong Kong—over 130,000 such visas have now been issued—Ukrainian refugees and Afghan refugees. I remind noble Lords that at the moment the taxpayer is spending about £2 billion a year on this problem. This is about asylum seekers arriving from safe countries, and about trying to put the criminal gangs out of business. ...

Lord Purvis of Tweed (Liberal Democrat): ... I visited the reception centre in Kigali in June, and I asked about the legal basis of that centre, which is on a private contract on an annual basis that will run out in April. I saw no facilities for people who will be vulnerable or at suicide risk, and I have asked repeatedly in this House about the legal underpinning of the MoU. This House's International Agreements Committee has today reported to say that it is unacceptable for measures such as this to be under an MoU rather than being under a treaty. Will the Government think again and allow Parliament to vote on, scrutinise and ratify this agreement if they believe that it is sound?

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: ... First, he mentioned the risk of suicide. It is worth pointing out that the health and welfare of those in immigration detention is of the utmost importance. We have a dedicated welfare team on site at each immigration removal centre which is responsible for identifying vulnerable individuals and providing assistance to support an individual's needs. I remind noble Lords that decisions will be taken on a case-by-case basis and nobody will be relocated if it is unsafe or inappropriate for them. With regard to the terms governing this, which was his second question, he will not be surprised to hear me answer that this is slightly above my pay grade, but I will happily take it back to the department.

Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede (Labour): My Lords, in a Written Answer on 13 October, a Home Office Minister revealed that, as well as the £120 million down payment on this policy, there was "a £20m upfront payment to the Government of Rwanda to support initial set up costs." Is the Minister able to give clarity to the House on the full cost per person of this scheme and to say whether there will be further up-front payments?

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: I am afraid I am not able to comment on the cost per person; as of yet no one has actually gone, as noble Lords know, so it would be premature to do so. As the noble Lord points out, the UK has invested an initial £120 million into the economic development and growth of Rwanda, and £20 million has been committed to the centre described in the last question. It is an up-front payment to the Government of Rwanda to support initial set-up costs. As and when those other figures are available, I will come back to him.

Baroness Davidson of Lundin Links (Conservative): My Lords, my noble friend the Minister knows that I am among a number on these Benches who are deeply uncomfortable with this policy and with some of the language used, even by those at the top of the Home Office, in discussing it. Surely the hundreds of millions of pounds already spent and earmarked for implementing this policy in future would be better spent here, speeding up the systems and processes at the Home Office so that decisions are made fairly and in good time and those in genuine need receive the security they deserve, while those with no grounds to remain are returned to their countries of origin and not a land they have no link to. I ask him to take this suggestion back to the department.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: I understand the strength of feeling, so of course I will be more than happy to take my noble friend's suggestion back to the department.

Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town (Labour): My Lords, the Minister said that this was above his pay grade. Not only, as the noble Lord, Lord Purvis, said, does the report that

my committee produced yesterday say that it is “unacceptable” that this should be by an MoU rather than a treaty—which means it does not come through this or the other House—but the Home Office declined the invitation to give evidence to us on its reason for avoiding parliamentary scrutiny by using an MoU. There is no excuse for that, and we deserve a reason why the Home Office has back-tracked and used not a treaty, as it should have, but an MoU.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: As I answered to the noble Lord, Lord Purvis, I will absolutely take that back to the Home Office and see what can be done.

Lord Paddick (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in a written submission to the High Court this year—not a previous year—said: “There should be no transfers of asylum seekers from the UK to Rwanda under the UK-Rwanda Arrangement.”

It said there was “a serious risk” of human rights abuses and a serial disregard for international law in Rwanda. The UNHCR has clearly changed its mind. Why will the Government not change theirs?

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: My Lords, I have already stated that we are of the firm opinion that Rwanda complies with international law. I go back to my earlier answer: under the scheme I described earlier, the emergency transit mechanism under the aegis of the UNHCR, Rwanda has welcomed and integrated more than 500 individuals who were evacuated from Libya. Personally, I am at a bit of a loss to understand why the UNHCR seems to take this line with us when it is doing it itself.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-10-19/debates/EBEFCBED-C7CA-444B-9C31-2F18E60CAF44/RwandaAsylumPartnership>

The UK/Rwanda Memorandum of Understanding referred to above can be read at
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/memorandum-of-understanding-mou-between-the-uk-and-rwanda/memorandum-of-understanding-between-the-government-of-the-united-kingdom-of-great-britain-and-northern-ireland-and-the-government-of-the-republic-of-r>

The written answer referred to above can be read at
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-10/60212>

The Committee report referred to above can be read at
<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld5803/ldselect/ldintagr/71/71.pdf>

Information about the UNHCR submission to the High Court, referred to above, can be read at
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-61758828>

Justice and Home Affairs Committee

Evidence session: Family migration

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/10955/html/>

New Publications

Windrush 75 website

<https://www.windrush75.org/>

Migrants detected crossing the English Channel in small boats - weekly data

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

Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme in Scotland: statistics- October 2022

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/ukraine-sponsorship-scheme-in-scotland-statistics-october-2022/>

Ukraine Family Scheme, Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme (Homes for Ukraine) and Ukraine Extension Scheme visa data

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ukraine-family-scheme-application-data/ukraine-family-scheme-and-ukraine-sponsorship-scheme-homes-for-ukraine-visa-data--2>

International Agreements Committee Report: Memorandum of Understanding between the UK and Rwanda for the provision of an asylum partnership arrangement

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld5803/ldselect/ldintagr/71/71.pdf>

An inspection of the Home Office's processing of family visas Sept 2021 – Feb 2022

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1111641/E02757666_ICIBI_Inspection_of_the_HOs_processing_of_family_visas_Accessible.pdf

Government response to the ICIBI's report 'An inspection of the Home Office's processing of family visas (October 2021 to May 2022)'

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/response-to-icibis-inspection-of-the-home-offices-processing-of-family-visas/response-to-the-icibis-report-an-inspection-of-the-home-offices-processing-of-family-visas-october-2021-to-may-2022>

An inspection of the use of hotels for housing unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) March – May 2022

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1111982/An_inspection_of_the_use_of_hotels_for_housing_unaccompanied_asylum-seeking_children_UASC_March_to_May_2022.pdf

Government response to a report on hotels for housing unaccompanied asylum seeking children, March to May 2022

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/response-to-a-report-on-hotels-for-housing-unaccompanied-asylum-seeking-children/response-to-a-report-on-hotels-for-housing-unaccompanied-asylum-seeking-children-march-to-may-2022>

News: Rwanda Refugee Policy

Britain pays Rwanda extra £20m despite no migrant deportations

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/britain-pays-rwanda-extra-20m-despite-no-migrant-deportations-8nxmfw7>

Airline hired to fly refugees to Rwanda pulls out after backlash

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/10/21/airline-hired-fly-refugees-rwanda-pulls-backlash/>

Airline hired for UK's Rwanda deportations pulls out of scheme

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/oct/21/airline-hired-uk-rwanda-deportations-pulls-out-privilege-style>

Airline hired for Rwanda deportations abandons scheme

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/airline-hired-for-rwanda-deportations-abandons-scheme-kxckwncbf>

News: Ukraine

Welcoming people from Ukraine

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/welcoming-people-from-ukraine/>

Ukrainian refugees to leave Highland hotel after Scottish Government contract cancelled 'out of the blue'

<https://www.scotsman.com/heritage-and-retro/heritage/war-in-ukraine-ukrainian-refugees-to-leave-highland-hotel-after-scottish-government-contract-cancelled-out-of-the-blue-3890191>

Ukrainian refugees and asylum-seekers in UK need to be treated with respect, not forced to wait in limbo

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/ukrainian-refugees-and-asylum-seekers-in-uk-need-to-be-treated-with-respect-not-forced-to-wait-in-limbo-christine-jardine-3880785>

Refugees from Ukraine denied roof over heads

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/refugees-from-ukraine-denied-roof-over-heads-qjb0v8nb3>

News: Other Immigration and Asylum

Migrant mothers 'throwing babies to Channel rescuers'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/10/19/migrant-mothers-throwing-babies-channel-rescuers/>

Supporting Afghans Seeking Safety in Scotland

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/supporting-afghans-seeking-safety-in-scotland/>

Home Office admits it is illegally housing unaccompanied child asylum seekers in hotels

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-child-asylum-seekers-hotels-b2206058.html>

Unvetted staff working in hotels housing child asylum seekers, report says

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/oct/19/child-asylum-seekers-hotels-adults-dbs-criminal-record-checks-home-office>

Home Office running 'unregistered children's homes in migrant hotels'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/10/20/home-office-running-unregistered-childrens-homes-migrant-hotels/>

Scottish Refugee Council Family Rights Service

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/family-rights-service/>

King Charles meets refugees settled in Aberdeen

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-63284282>

King meets refugees who have settled for new life in Scotland

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/ukraine-afghanistan-syria-scotland-charles-b2204511.html>

Driving force behind helping refugees and migrants

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/23069692.driving-force-behind-helping-refugees-migrants>

TOP

Community Relations

News

Teach ethnic minority pupils national anthem so they feel like they belong, says Katharine Birbalsingh

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/10/17/ethnic-minority-pupils-should-taught-national-anthem-says-katharine/>

Lauren Impey: I didn't know I was black – my gran said I should have been aborted

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/lauren-impey-i-didnt-know-i-was-black-my-gran-said-i-should-have-been-aborted-0wjrv2ltz>

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Ministry of Defence: Ethnic Groups

Ruth Jones (Labour) [60069] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what proportion of people employed by his Department are from Black and minority ethnic backgrounds.

Reply from Sarah Atherton: Defence is committed to attracting, retaining and developing the best talent from the broadest diversity of skills and background, to reflect the society we serve. We are making the step changes required to create a more inclusive environment for all, enabling everyone, irrespective of background, to deliver our Defence outputs, enhance our operational effectiveness and represent the nation we serve. Our Department-wide Diversity and Inclusion Strategy clearly sets out a challenging vision, goals, objectives and commitments of where we want to see change.

Defence is undergoing a rapid transformation. As part of this transformation, in 2020 the Chiefs of Staff set out their commitment to invest in a range of actions to support Defence's ambition to be a more diverse and inclusive place to work. The interventions will drive change forward, building on the great strides we have already taken to attract, retain and develop the best talent and improve opportunities for women and men, e.g., opening all roles to women, lateral entry, flexible service, Wraparound childcare, Future Workplace Strategy and Forces Families Strategy.

As at 1 April 2022, there were 16,680 female Regular Service personnel in the UK Armed Forces. This equates to a representation rate of 11.3 per cent, an increase of 0.3 percentage points compared with 1 April 2021. As at 1 October 2021, there were 16,730 female civilian personnel working in MOD (Main). This equates to a representation rate of 44.3 per cent, a rise of 2.3 percentage points compared with 1 October 2017.

Our ambition is to build Defence into an institutionally inclusive organisation for the whole force, that is fair for all, and reflective, at all levels, of the diverse society we serve. We have launched the first phase of the Race Action Plan, a programme of work to consolidate all race-related activity across the whole force. This will allow a consistent approach to delivering transformational change and ensure actions are targeted and do not undermine current activities within this space.

As at 1 April 2022, there were 14,110 ethnic minority (excluding white minority)

Regular Service personnel in the UK Armed Forces. This equates to a representation rate of 9.6 per cent, an increase of 0.4 percentage points compared with 1 April 2021. As at 1 October 2021, there were 2,100 ethnic minority (excluding white minority) civilian personnel working in MOD (Main). This equates to a representation rate of 6.4 per cent, a rise of 1.9 percentage points compared with 1 October 2017.

Defence publishes biannual statistics on diversity declarations for Armed Forces personnel and civilian staff. The latest editions can be found at the following links:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-armed-forces-biannual-diversity-statistics-index>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/mod-diversity-dashboard-index>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-10/60069>

Treasury: Ethnic Groups

Ruth Jones (Labour) [60071] To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what proportion of people in his Department are from Black and ethnic minority backgrounds.

Reply from Felicity Buchan: The Treasury is committed to building a Department that reflects those it serves, drawing on diversity of background and expertise, to enable it to offer the best possible advice to ministers, strengthen policymaking.

As at 31 March 2021, 19.4% of Core Treasury staff were from ethnic minorities.

Further information on the diversity of Treasury staff can be found on page 44 of Treasury's Annual Review and Accounts, which can be accessed at [ES983664 CCS001 CCS0620768248-001 COVER 1-1.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/attachment_data/file/983664/CCS001_CCS0620768248-001_COVER_1-1.pdf)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-10/60071>

Department for International Trade: Ethnic Groups

Ruth Jones (Labour) [60073] To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what proportion of staff employed by her Department are from Black and minority ethnic backgrounds.

Reply from James Duddridge: As of 31 March 2022, 26% civil service employees in the Department for International Trade (DIT) self-reported their ethnicity as ethnic minority (this does not include White ethnic minorities).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-10/60073>

Armed Forces: Ethnic Groups

John Healey (Labour) [63107] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what proportion of personnel in each of branch of the Armed Forces identify as BAME.

Reply from Sarah Atherton: Defence is committed to attracting, retaining and developing the best talent from the broadest diversity of skills and background, to reflect the society we serve. We are making the step changes required to create a more inclusive environment for all, enabling everyone, irrespective of background, to deliver our Defence outputs, enhance our operational effectiveness and represent the nation we serve. Our Department-wide Diversity and Inclusion Strategy clearly sets out a challenging vision, goals, objectives and commitments of where we want to see change.

Defence is undergoing a rapid transformation. As part of this transformation, in 2020 the Chiefs of Staff set out their commitment to invest in a range of actions to support Defence's ambition to be a more diverse and inclusive place to work.

The requested information is published by the Ministry of Defence in the biannual diversity statistics publication. The latest statistics, as at April 2022, are available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-biannual-diversity-statistics-april-2022>

A full index of biannual diversity statistics, from 2015 onwards, is available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-armed-forces-biannual-diversity-statistics-index>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-14/63107>

News

BBC 100: Sir Lenny Henry on Una Marson's forgotten legacy

<https://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-63215113>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Hate Speech Online

Afzal Khan (Labour): What steps [is the Minister's] Department taking to tackle hate speech online. (901737)

Reply from the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (Michelle Donelan): We will lead the world in this area, and we will bring back the Online Safety Bill imminently, ensuring that social media platforms finally prioritise protecting children, remove abhorrent illegal content quickly—including hate crimes—and keep their promises to their own users.

Afzal Khan: Online hate speech affects all and aims to sow division, yet the Government are making painfully slow progress in making online spaces less toxic. Home Office figures reveal a sharp increase in far-right activity, with Muslim and Jewish communities facing the largest number of hate crimes in the UK year after year. Along with other parliamentary colleagues, I suffer online abuse on a regular basis. What steps will the Minister take to tackle Islamophobia and antisemitism online?

Reply from Michelle Donelan: Crimes such as those that the hon. Member has mentioned, including hate crimes, are not acceptable on any platform. As I have said, we will bring back the Online Safety Bill imminently. I cannot announce House business here today, but I can assure all Members that the Bill will be coming back very shortly. I share his concerns, as I am sure do all Members. ...

Julian Knight (Conservative): ... I also welcome her assurance that she will be strengthening the Online Safety Bill's protections for children, but there has been speculation, following previous comments, that she will be reviewing the duties of care for adults relating to so-called "legal but harmful content". Can she clarify what changes she is minded to make in relation to such content?

Reply from Michelle Donelan: We will be coming back to the House with this in due course, and the Bill will be coming back imminently. This is my key priority—I cannot stress that enough. Protecting children should be the fundamental responsibility of this House, and we will strengthen the provisions for children. I have given that assurance directly to Ian Russell, and I give it again now in the House. We are, however, rebalancing elements for adults' freedom of speech, while also holding social media companies to account so that they cannot treat different races and religions differently, contrary to their own terms and conditions. Fundamentally, the Bill must be about ensuring that we are protecting children, and we will be bringing it back to the House as soon as possible.

Alex Davies-Jones (Labour): Last weekend there was yet another case of vile online racist abuse being hurled at a professional footballer, on this occasion the Brentford striker Ivan Toney. Ironically, tomorrow we will all come together to recognise Show Racism the Red Card day. If the Government are at all serious about keeping people safe online, it is vital for those at the top of these multimillion-pound social media companies to be held personally accountable. The Online Safety Bill is our opportunity to do better. Can the Minister therefore tell us exactly why the Government have failed to introduce personal criminal liability measures for senior leaders who have fallen short on their statutory duty to protect us online?

Reply from Michelle Donelan: I think it is about time the Opposition remembered that it is this Government who are introducing the Online Safety Bill. It is this Government who committed themselves to it in our manifesto. As I have already told Opposition Members, we will bring it back imminently. I am sure you agree, Mr Speaker, that it would not be proper for me to announce House business here today, but I can assure the hon. Member that this is my top priority. We will be coming back with the Bill shortly. I mean what I say, and I will do what I say. ...

John Nicolson (SNP): ... I agree with my friend the hon. Member for Solihull (Julian Knight) that there is a more constructive atmosphere on the Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee, on which I sit.

Last night, I was honoured to be present at the *PinkNews* awards, where I spoke up for trans rights with colleagues across party, including Conservatives. There has been an explosion of hate speech online. Women are targeted disproportionately and trans women are targeted especially. Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre had to lock its door after barrages of violent online threats, and these are dangerous times. An atmosphere of hate has been fanned by too many newspapers and, sadly, politicians.

Does the Secretary of State agree that the now Prime Minister was wrong to weaponise anti-trans rhetoric during the Tory leadership campaign, as she did in attacking the now Leader of the House?

Reply from Michelle Donelan: I do not think that anybody disputes the fact that hate speech and hate crime should have no place in our society, but freedom of speech, of course, is the bedrock from which all freedoms stem. I personally believe that every member of this House has a duty to protect free speech as well as protecting our citizens from illegal harms.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-10-20/debates/9B623624-C933-46FF-A423-CBA5BED9332F/HateSpeechOnline>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Religious Hatred: Hinduism

Feryal Clark (Labour) [60157] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what steps his Department is taking to tackle Hinduphobia.

Reply from Paul Scully: We are committed to protecting the right of individuals to freely practise their religion and we will not tolerate anti-Hindu hatred in any form. The Government's Places of Worship Protective Security Funding Scheme has provided physical security protection measures to places of worship across England and Wales that are particularly vulnerable to religiously motivated hate crime, including 26 Hindu temples.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-10/60157>

Information about the Funding Scheme referred to above (only available in England and Wales) can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/places-of-worship-security-funding-scheme>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Armed Forces: Racial Discrimination

John Healey (Labour) [63108] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what steps his Department is taking to (a) tackle racism in the UK Armed Forces and (b) improve the racism complaints process for serving Armed Forces personnel.

John Healey (Labour) [63109] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many complaints made by serving Armed Forces personnel made on alleged racism in the Armed Forces in each year since 2010.

Reply from Sarah Atherton: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) recognises that unacceptable behaviour, including racism, still occurs. MOD and the UK Armed Forces are committed to taking action to eradicate it and have a zero-tolerance approach. Defence, like many other organisations, does not yet represent society and it is essential that it does. We are committed to making the step changes required to create a more inclusive environment for all, enabling everyone, irrespective of background, to deliver our Defence outputs, enhance our operational effectiveness and better represent the nation we serve. Our department-wide Diversity and Inclusion strategy and Race Action Plan clearly sets out a challenging vision, goals, objectives and commitments of where we want to see change. We continue a wide programme of work to prevent and tackle unacceptable behaviour. All allegations of illegal or unacceptable behaviour are taken extremely seriously and investigated thoroughly. Service personnel have a number of routes to raise the issue, either with the police, within the Chain of Command or with Diversity and Inclusion Advisers. MOD has mandated Active Bystander training so that personnel have the skills to challenge unacceptable behaviour effectively when it does occur. Information on the number of complaints made due to alleged racism is not readily available and an answer could only be provided at disproportionate cost. Allegations of racism are captured through various mechanisms, including internal and external disciplinary proceedings, the Service Complaints system, informal complaints and the Armed Forces Continuous Attitude Survey. Defence is working to improve its data capture of all unacceptable behaviour across the department. The Service Complaints Ombudsman for the Armed Forces (SCOAF)'s annual report cites the issue of overrepresentation by ethnic minorities within the complaints system, but these complaints do not only concern racial discrimination. However, information from the single Services' annual statistical returns on Service Complaints to the SCOAF indicates that in 2019, five per cent of all bullying, harassment or discrimination Service Complaints concerned racial discrimination; this reduced to three per cent in 2020 and 2021.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-14/63108>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-14/63109>

The Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and Race Action Plan referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/907901/20180806-MOD_DI_Plan_A4_v14_Final-U.pdf

Cricket: Racial Discrimination

Navendu Mishra (Labour) [64372] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what assessment her Department has made of trends of racism in cricket in England.

Reply from Stuart Andrew: The Government is clear that racism has no place in cricket, sport, or society at large. We were extremely concerned by the reports of racism at Yorkshire County Cricket Club and in the sport generally that emerged last year. We welcome the steps taken so far by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and the chair of the Yorkshire County Cricket Club, Lord Patel, to

address these issues. This includes the publication of a sport-wide 12 point action plan, against which the ECB regularly releases progress updates, and the launch of the Independent Commission for Equity in Cricket.

The Government expects to see clear and sustained evidence of cultural change across the sport resulting from these actions. We will continue to directly hold the ECB to account on this, and reserve the right to take further measures if progress is not made.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-17/64372>

The Action Plan referred to above can be read at

<https://resources.ecb.co.uk/ecb/document/2021/11/26/fcc98918-3246-4d5c-9d8c-ccee2dc193ba/ECB-EDI-Action-Plan-2021.pdf>

The updates referred to above are listed at

<https://www.ecb.co.uk/news/ecb>

Press Release

Man convicted of stirring up racial hatred on Russian social media site

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/cps/news/man-convicted-stirring-racial-hatred-russian-social-media-site>

New Publications

Baroness Casey Review - Interim Report on Misconduct in the Metropolitan Police

<https://www.met.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/media/downloads/met/about-us/baroness-casey-review/baroness-casey-review-interim-report-on-misconduct.pdf>

Racial bias and the Bench

<https://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=64125>

News

Met Police report: Officers getting away with breaking law

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-63277161>

‘Sorry to those let down’: Black and Asian police suffer racism within force, Met chief admits

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/met-police-racism-black-asian-b2204229.html>

The Met was corrupt, racist and misogynistic when I worked there – and still is

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/oct/17/casey-report-met-police-sarah-everard>

Judiciary in England and Wales ‘institutionally racist’, says report

<https://www.theguardian.com/law/2022/oct/18/judiciary-in-england-and-wales-institutionally-racist-says-report>

Judiciary is ‘as racist as the police force’

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/judiciary-is-as-racist-as-the-police-force-ljw29hb86>

Labour councillor who said he had “worst tan for a Black man” cleared of wrongdoing
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/darren-rodwell-racism-labour-barking-b2207861.html>

White councillor to be investigated after 'worst tan' comment at Black History Month event
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/10/17/watch-labour-councillor-tells-black-history-month-event-has/>

Neo-Nazi jailed for posting extreme racist materials on Russian social media
<https://tellmamauk.org/neo-nazi-jailed-for-posting-extreme-racist-materials-on-russian-social-media/>

Race hate crimes: Victim of nightclub attacks calls for harsher punishments
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-63290149>

It is appropriate to remove the memorial to a slave owner from a listed church building
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/it-is-appropriate-to-remove-the-memorial-to-a-slave-owner-from-a-listed-church-building-08s5ghvnk>

Racism case against players and Yorkshire could collapse
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/racism-case-against-players-and-yorkshire-could-collapse-s5dzggjwz>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Releases

First Minister: Independence “essential” to Scotland’s prosperity
<https://www.gov.scot/news/first-minister-independence-essential-to-scotlands-prosperity/>

Ambitious plans for a more dynamic and fairer economy
<https://www.gov.scot/news/ambitious-plans-for-a-more-dynamic-and-fairer-economy-1/>

Winter vaccines for remaining priority groups
<https://www.gov.scot/news/winter-vaccines-for-remaining-priority-groups/>

New Publication

Building a New Scotland: A stronger economy with independence
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/building-new-scotland-stronger-economy-independence/>

News

Are we really one year away from a Scottish referendum?
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-63312363>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Blood: Donors

Andrew Gwynne (Labour) [60975] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, in the context of the increase in demand from sickle cell disease patients, whether her Department is taking steps to encourage donors of Black heritage to give blood.

Reply from Will Quince: NHS Blood and Transplant has regular planned activity to recruit more black heritage donors. It has improved access to blood donation appointments to attract more donors through providing priority appointments and opening more sessions in London where there are higher black heritage populations.

During Black Heritage Month, NHS Blood and Transplant has launched a new campaign 'Not Family, But Blood' to encourage more blood donors of black heritage by highlighting the number of donations needed to treat sickle cell patients. NHS Blood and Transplant will share statistics and donor and patient stories in print and digital channels during the campaign.

NHS Blood and Transplant is also launching the fifth Community Investment Scheme in November. The Scheme aims to increase support for donation amongst black, Asian, mixed heritage and minority ethnic communities. The Scheme funds community and faith and belief organisations to improve awareness, understanding and behaviour change.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-11/60975>

Forced Marriage

Lilian Greenwood (Labour) [61025] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to (a) monitor and (b) evaluate the impact of the Forced Marriage Unit's outreach programme in (i) raising awareness of forced marriage and (ii) delivering training to statutory agencies and voluntary and community organisations.

Reply from Mims Davies: The Government is committed to tackling forced marriage in all its forms. The Forced Marriage Unit (FMU), a joint Home Office and Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office unit, leads on the Government's forced marriage policy, outreach and casework. It operates both inside the UK (where support is provided to any individual) and overseas (where consular assistance is provided to British nationals, including dual nationals).

One of the FMU's core activities is to undertake an extensive training and awareness programme targeted at statutory agencies and voluntary and community organisations. This approach aims to ensure that people working with victims are fully informed about how to approach cases of forced marriage. The unit runs monthly workshops, alternately for police officers and social workers, and the FMU also delivers bespoke presentations to individual organisations and fora on request. Through these activities, the FMU reached 1,014 professionals in 2021. The unit has also developed a free online forced marriage e-learning course for relevant professionals, which aims to enable them to recognise the warning signs of forced marriage and ensure that appropriate action is taken to help protect and support all those at risk.

The FMU solicits feedback from the attendees of its workshops, to help to ensure that it is having the greatest possible impact; as an example, feedback from the last workshop held in September 2022 for social care staff showed that:

- 76% of those who responded found the workshop extremely useful and 24% found it very useful.

- 87% of the respondents also stated that they were extremely likely to recommend the workshop to a colleague and 10% said that they were very likely to do so.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-11/61025>

Forced Marriage

Lilian Greenwood (Labour) [61026] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how her Department is using the 2019 consultation on mandatory reporting of forced marriage to safeguard victims of forced marriage and understand the scale of forced marriage in the UK.

Reply from Mims Davies: The Government is absolutely committed to tackling forced marriage in all its forms, and to safeguarding victims. The joint Home Office/Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office Forced Marriage Unit provided support for 337 victims or potential victims of forced marriage in 2021, as well as handling 868 general enquiries, and in the same year it delivered training and outreach activity to 1,014 professionals. The Government also provides a free e-learning course about forced marriage for professionals, a victim-focused leaflet available in 12 languages, and a handbook for survivors.

The Government supported the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022, which expands the scope of the forced marriage offence to cover all instances of causing a child to marry, even when coercion is not used. The Act is planned to come into force on 27 February 2023.

To understand the scale of forced marriage in the UK, as set out in the July 2021 Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy, the Home Office is exploring options to estimate the prevalence of forced marriage (and female genital mutilation) in England and Wales, given their hidden nature and the lack of robust estimates.

In working to safeguard victims of forced marriage the Government pays attention to a range of sources of information, including responses to consultations and other engagement with stakeholders and experts.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-11/61026>

The Strategy referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tackling-violence-against-women-and-girls-strategy/tackling-violence-against-women-and-girls-strategy>

Forced Marriage

Lilian Greenwood (Labour) [61027] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how his Department is working with the Forced Marriage Unit to safeguard children from early and forced marriage in preparation for the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022 coming into force in March 2023.

Reply from Kelly Tolhurst: The department is working closely with the Ministry of Justice, as sponsor department for the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022. We are also working with the joint Home Office and Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) to ensure schools and children's social care providers are made aware of the change in the law.

Keeping children safe in education statutory guidance sets out the role all school staff play in safeguarding children, including information for staff on what forced marriage is, as well as signposting to further help from the government's FMU.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-11/61027>

Forced Marriage

Marsha De Cordova (Labour) [62075] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps his Department is taking to (a) create an offence for Predatory Marriages, (b) ensure

that no one who is showing insufficient mental capacity marries against their will or unknowingly, and (c) amend the relevant marriages laws so that it does not automatically revoke an existing Will when the marriage is registered.

Reply from Gareth Johnson: Under the current law, causing a person who lacks capacity to consent to a marriage is a criminal offence of forced marriage under the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014, for which the maximum penalty is seven years imprisonment.

In relation to wills, the principle in English and Welsh law that marriage has the effect of revoking wills is long established. The issue of whether marriage or civil partnership should invoke automatic revocation of the wills of those involved is being considered as part of a review by the Law Commission on reforming the law of wills.

The Government will review the case for reforming the current law when it has received the recommendations in the Law Commission's final report.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-12/62075>

Press Release

Prime Minister Liz Truss's resignation statement in Downing Street: 20 October 2022

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-minister-liz-truss-statement-in-downing-street-20-october-2022>

New Publications

Scottish independence referendum: legal issues

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9104/CBP-9104.pdf>

Statistics on so called 'honour-based' abuse offences, England and Wales, 2021 to 2022

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/statistics-on-so-called-honour-based-abuse-offences-england-and-wales-2021-to-2022/statistics-on-so-called-honour-based-abuse-offences-england-and-wales-2021-to-2022>

News

Liz Truss resigns: PM's exit kicks off another Tory leadership race

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-63332037>

Liz Truss resigns as Prime Minister after 44 days

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/23064616.liz-truss-resigns-prime-minister-44-days/>

Liz Truss resigns as Prime Minister after losing support of party and public

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/liz-truss-resigns-as-prime-minister-after-losing-support-of-party-and-public-3887276>

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Cost of Living

Scottish Government Website

Help during the cost of living crisis

Most households are concerned about the cost of living, with worries about issues such as rent and mortgages, food and utility bills, energy costs, and debt.

In response, the Scottish Government has launched a new website that provides information to help people access support with

- Energy and Bills
- Benefits and Income
- Children and Families
- Debt and Money
- Health and Wellbeing

Your local council might be able to help if you need urgent help with money, food or fuel – contact the council for information.

<https://costofliving.campaign.gov.scot/>

Scottish Government Press Release

Tackling the energy cost crisis

<https://www.gov.scot/news/tackling-the-energy-cost-crisis/>

Publication

Falling Faster Amidst a Cost-of-Living Crisis: Poverty, Inequality and Ethnicity in the UK

https://assets.website-files.com/61488f992b58e687f1108c7c/633d8007a3bfa49bd4cd0fa8_Runnymede%20Briefing%20Cost%20of%20Living%20FINAL.pdf

News

What Jeremy Hunt's statement means for you

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-63285246>

London, the North of England, and Scotland hit hardest by the crisis of spiralling prices

<https://www.jrf.org.uk/blog/london-north-england-and-scotland-hit-hardest-crisis-spiralling-prices>

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Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/gender-recognition-reform-scotland-bill>

UK Parliament

Asylum Seekers (Accommodation Eviction Procedures) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3257>

Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3263>

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

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3304>

Bill of Rights Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3227>

Housing Standards (Refugees and Asylum Seekers) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3264>

Human Trafficking (Child Protection) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3248>

Human Trafficking (Sentencing) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3249>

Illegal Immigration (Offences) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3282>

Online Safety Bill

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

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3164>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

Race & Inclusion in Art Education (closing date 31 October 2022)

https://assets.website-files.com/61488e50132da098d2dd729b/62c6bf3339659acfccfb61c2_Visualise-Race%20and%20Inclusion%20in%20Art%20Education.pdf

**** Initial framework for the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service Strategic Plan 2023-27** (closing date 14 November 2022)

<https://www.copfs.gov.uk/about-copfs/consultation-on-initial-framework-for-copfs-strategic-plan-2023-27/>

**** Proposed Domestic Abuse (Prevention) (Scotland) Bill** (closing date 20 November 2022)

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/proposals-for-bills/proposed-domestic-abuse-register-scotland-bill>

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Job Opportunities

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

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Black History Month

All month to 31 October 2022 (Scotland-wide)

Black History Month raises awareness of Black history and present-day racism. This includes highlighting the histories and legacies of empire, colonialism and slavery that continue to shape Scottish society. For information and a full programme of events see

<https://tinyurl.com/2h7pwceu>

**** this week!**

National Hate Crime Strategy Conference

25 October 2022 (Glasgow, 9.30–1.00)

BEMIS launch of their Hate Crime Strategy Consultation Programme, with the Minister for Older People and Equalities, Christina McKelvie MSP, and speakers from a wide range of stakeholder organisations. For information see

<https://bemis.org.uk/event/national-hate-crime-strategy-conference/>

**** this week!**

COVID-19 & support for migrant & minority ethnic communities in Scotland

25 October 2022 in Edinburgh (10.00–1.00)

University of Glasgow project presentation and discussion: Addressing the needs of Scotland's migrant and minority ethnic communities under covid-19: lessons for the future.

For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2p8amuep>

**** this week!**

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. The course will explore guiding principles behind working with religion and belief diversity, and take a closer look at the core beliefs and cultural practices of Islam, Sikhism and Judaism. For information see

<https://tinyurl.com/2p88vnps> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

**** this week!**

Refugees Welcome: Challenging Hate Crime

27 October 2022 (Online, 6.30–8.30)

Interfaith Glasgow and WSREC event to explore hate crime and prejudice as experienced by people from refugee backgrounds, with a particular focus on race and religion, including discussion of what hate crime is, how to report it, and rights and protections. For information see

<https://tinyurl.com/3ewhcn5w>

Lifecycle of a charity – the trustee journey

9 November 2022 (online, 1.00–2.00)

SCVO webinar looking at what excellence looks like for a trustee, and what key skills you

need to have, including how to develop and build those skills and what you need to know legally and practically. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/222y9myy>

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>

Scottish Interfaith Week

13–20 November 2022 (Scotland-wide)

Interfaith Scotland community-led festival to celebrate religious and cultural diversity. The theme this year is Storytelling, to tie in with Scotland's Year Of Stories. For information, and to see the full calendar of events, see <https://scottishinterfaithweek.org/>

Working with Interpreters

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>

**** Building Support for Protecting Human Rights**

6 December 2022 (online, 9.30–12.00)

Human rights Consortium Scotland workshop about threats and opportunities around human rights in Scotland and the UK, including: What do we need to do to build active support and understanding of human rights in Scotland? And How do we cement support for the Human Rights Act, and get even more support to put all our rights in law? For information see <https://tinyurl.com/mvppwpt2>

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. The course will 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

Lifecycle of a charity - when is the right time to wind up?

7 December 2022 (online, 1.00–2.00)

SCVO webinar looking at how to recognise when it's the right time to wind up and dissolve a charity. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2kvfvda7>

Supporting Refugee Integration

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>

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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 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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