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### Contents

[Immigration and Asylum](#)

[Community Relations](#)

[Equality](#)

[Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination](#)

[Other Scottish Parliament and Government](#)

[Other UK Parliament and Government](#)

[Cost of Living](#)

[Other News](#)

[Bills in Progress](#)

[Consultations](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

[Funding Opportunities](#)

[Events, Conferences, and Training](#)

[Useful Links](#)

[Back issues](#)

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## Immigration and Asylum

### Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

#### English as an Additional Language (Support)

**Miles Briggs (Conservative)** [S6O-01557] To ask the Scottish Government what support it provides to learners of English as an additional language.

**Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills (Shirley-Anne Somerville):** The responsibility for the provision of support for children and young people who have English as an additional language rests with education authorities. Under the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2009, education authorities are legally required to identify, provide for and review the additional support needs of their pupils. That includes pupils who have English as an additional language. The Scottish Government has provided statutory guidance

to education authorities and schools to support them in fulfilling their duties. English as an additional language has been specifically identified as a potential additional support need within the code of practice.

**Miles Briggs:** In the past decade in Edinburgh, the number of children in schools who are new to English has increased from 595 to more than 760, and children who require early acquisition of English as an additional language has increased from 800 to more than 1,800. However, we have not seen an increase in English as an additional language teachers in our schools. What assurance can the cabinet secretary provide that councils such as Edinburgh will be given the funding that is needed for English as an additional language teachers so that we can make the most of our multilingual classrooms?

**Reply from Shirley-Anne Somerville:** ... As I said in my original answer, many of the responsibilities to identify need and ensure that the correct support is available lie with local authorities. The Scottish Government and, indeed, Education Scotland work very closely with our local authorities to ensure that anything that can be done at the national level to assist with that is done.

There are a number of ways in which funding is given to local authorities, through general expenditure or for particular education aspects of policy. Many of those go through the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, and there is an agreement with it about how that money is distributed. However, I will certainly ensure that, in future years, we bear in mind the importance of the issue, as we have done in the past.

**Michael Marra (Labour):** The question is particularly important given that today is international students day, when we reflect on the contribution that our international community makes in Scotland and on the position more broadly as our students go around the world. To be frank, the cabinet secretary's answer is not good enough. The number of teachers of English as an additional language in Scotland has decreased by 82 per cent since 2008. It is clear that the system that she outlined is not working and that the Government needs to take an active role in addressing the problem. What more can she commit to do in order to put in place a Government programme to sort out the situation?

**Reply from Shirley-Anne Somerville:** The Government continues to invest in teachers and in the teaching estate. Teacher numbers are at their highest since 2008, and the most recent figures available show that more than 16,000 pupil support assistants are providing invaluable support to pupils, including those with English as an additional language.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13993&i=126806#ScotParlOR>

### **Ukraine Refugees (Housing)**

**Pauline McNeill (Labour) [S6O-01541]** To ask the Scottish Government for how long it plans to house refugees from Ukraine on the ship docked on the Clyde, MS Ambition.

**Reply from the Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine (Neil Gray):** We do not want to see anyone spend more time in temporary accommodation than is absolutely necessary.

The MS Ambition was chartered short-term, for six months, to provide much-needed temporary accommodation for displaced people arriving from Ukraine. The contract is due to end in March 2023. If required, those on board at the time when the ship's contract ends will be offered alternative temporary accommodation.

Work continues to match people on board the ships to host and longer-term accommodation, and matching teams are operating on board both ships. I thank all those in Glasgow, including people from Glasgow City Council, local representatives and third-sector organisations, for everything that they are doing to make our friends from Ukraine feel welcome.

**Pauline McNeill:** The minister will be aware that the MS Victoria, which is being used to house Ukrainian refugees in Leith, has more cabins without portholes than cabins with portholes. Can the minister tell me whether that is also the case with MS Ambition? The Government does not seem to have set a time limit for how long people will be there, other than the end of the contract—would that be the time limit?

Windowless cabins and isolated ports, I am sure the minister would agree, are not the best situation for people fleeing war to be in. I welcome the leadership that the Scottish Government has given on the question of housing Ukrainian refugees but I am looking for assurances that that can happen sooner rather than later.

**Reply from Neil Gray:** As Pauline McNeill would expect, I have been on board both the Victoria and the Ambition. There are rooms that are windowless; the ships' companies and the city councils are trying to make sure that families can utilise shared cabins across the hallway in that situation.

Other MSP colleagues have been on board—Foysoil Choudhury, for example—to see the standard of accommodation on the Ambition and the Victoria and I would be happy to extend an invite for Pauline McNeill to see that accommodation for herself.

However, I assure her that the standard of accommodation is very strong and we are working to try to make people's stays, both on the ships and in the hotels, as short as possible. Individual conversations need to be had on a human level, in terms of people's desires and needs, but we are doing all that we can, through the new digital matching tool, to try to make that process as swift as possible.

**Donald Cameron (Conservative):** Along with other MSPs, I visited the MS Victoria here in Edinburgh last week. What action has the Government taken to ensure that children who are already settled in schools can remain at those schools when their families move from temporary accommodation to more long-term accommodation, whether that temporary accommodation is on the MS Ambition, the MS Victoria or elsewhere?

**Reply from Neil Gray:** I hope that Donald Cameron found the visit to the Victoria informative. We will do all that we can when we are matching people out of temporary accommodation and host accommodation to ensure that people can have continuity, whether that is continuity of their schooling, education or employment. Sometimes, there will be disruption to that by the nature of the initial accommodation being temporary, but we are working with local authorities—in this case, with the City of Edinburgh Council—to do all that we can, when people are matched beyond the initial locus of the schools, to ensure that children can remain in those schools. It will not always be possible, but I will always do what I can to ensure that we make that as smooth a process as possible.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13991&i=126754#ScotParlOR>

### **Ukraine Longer-term Resettlement Fund**

**Gillian Mackay (Green) [S6O-01542]** To ask the Scottish Government how the £50 million allocated for the Ukraine longer-term resettlement fund is addressing any issues of insecurity faced by affected Ukrainians.

**Reply from the Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine (Neil Gray):** Since the latest Russian invasion of Ukraine began more than eight months ago, more than 21,500 people with a Scottish sponsor have arrived from Ukraine, which represents a fifth of all United Kingdom arrivals—the most, per head, of any of the four nations. The fund will help to boost the overall supply of homes that we can make available to support displaced people from Ukraine into longer-term sustainable accommodation, which should help many to find the security that they need while they live in Scotland. The fund has so far provided more than £400,000

to North Ayrshire and £6 million to Aberdeen City Council.

**Gillian Mackay:** Will the minister give details of how the £5 million fund that was allocated to North Lanarkshire Council, in my Central Scotland region, has directly impacted resettled Ukrainians?

**Reply from Neil Gray:** The £5 million that was awarded to North Lanarkshire Council, which was part of a pilot project ahead of the full fund being operational, will help to bring up to 200 homes back into temporary use in tower blocks in Coatbridge and Wishaw, which will increase the number of homes that are available to support displaced people from Ukraine.

We are already seeing the positive impact of that funding, as more than 20 families have moved into the Wishaw tower block, and I was pleased to see that for myself when I visited Wishaw last month and spoke with the families who had recently moved in. I understand that they are settling in well to their new homes and community, and I can update the member that we expect the construction works at the tower block in Coatbridge to be completed in December, which will further boost the supply of homes that are available to support Ukrainians who are rebuilding their lives in Scotland. I thank North Lanarkshire Council and the community teams around those towers for all that they are doing to be in the vanguard with the pilot project.

**Clare Adamson (SNP):** I thank the minister for visiting the Gowkthrapple flats in my constituency, where he saw the work that is being done. It is important for people to understand that Ukrainian families have a Scottish secure tenancy, with the same rights as other residents and tenants who come to live in those areas. Will the minister give comfort to people who may be reluctant to move or for whom the process has stalled while they stay on cruise ships by confirming that there is a warm welcome and that a secure family home is available for them for as long as is necessary?

**Reply from Neil Gray:** I thank Clare Adamson for highlighting the benefits of utilising the longer-term accommodation that has been made available. I was pleased to visit the flats in Gowkthrapple with her last month, and I agree that it is positive to see the impact of the support, which is helping Ukrainians to settle in Scotland. We are actively encouraging other councils and housing associations to apply for funding, and my officials continue to work closely with authorities and registered social landlords on proposed projects.

I will be writing to all MSPs and MPs in Scotland to encourage them to work with councils and consider which properties in their areas could be brought back into use. I am keen that we take a flexible approach in order to maximise the number of units that can be delivered from the funding. I encourage all colleagues to consider possible sites and buildings in their areas that could be brought back into use or repurposed for long-term accommodation.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13991&i=126755#ScotParIOR>

### **Independent Commission of Inquiry into Asylum Provision in Scotland**

**Maggie Chapman (Green) [S6T-00961]** To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to Baroness Helena Kennedy KC's final report of the Independent Commission of Inquiry into Asylum Provision in Scotland, published on Friday, which highlights avoidable failings in the provision of care to new Scots during the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, External Affairs and Culture (Angus Robertson):** I thank Baroness Kennedy and Asylum Inquiry Scotland for their work. The report is a shocking indictment of the United Kingdom's broken asylum system. It highlights the need for fundamental change, so that the United Kingdom upholds its responsibility to recognise and protect people who have been forced to flee persecution, and treats them with compassion, dignity and

human decency at all times.

The Scottish Government will respond to the inquiry report. Moreover, the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government has written to the Home Secretary seeking an urgent meeting to discuss the inquiry's findings about the asylum system.

**Maggie Chapman:** Of course, the tragic death of Badreddin Abdalla Adam and the injuries that he caused to others were preventable. He had called the Home Office and two of their contractors 72 times seeking help.

The use of institutional-style accommodation such as hotels is clearly not enabling the right support to get to people in a timely way. What more can the Scottish Government do while people are here to ensure that vulnerable adults and children, including survivors of trafficking, are not left in grossly inadequate institutional-style accommodation for indefinite periods, without the vital specialist mental health support that they need?

**Reply from Angus Robertson:** As Maggie Chapman knows, asylum is a matter reserved to the United Kingdom Parliament. The UK Home Office is responsible for the provision of asylum accommodation and support to people who are awaiting the decision on their asylum application. People seeking asylum should be accommodated within communities, with access to the support and services that they need to rebuild their lives, and the Scottish Government will continue to raise concerns and press for improvements to the UK asylum system.

**Maggie Chapman:** It is clear that, here in Scotland, we are trying to do better than appears to be the case south of the border. The hostile environment rhetoric of invasions and deportation flights to Rwanda is not replicated by our Government, but there is still more to do and there are things that we can do here.

The report of Helena Kennedy's inquiry has some clear recommendations for Scotland to act on. Will the cabinet secretary and perhaps even the First Minister agree to meet Refugees for Justice, the survivors of the Park Inn tragedy and Baroness Kennedy to discuss immediate actions and future strategies that will better secure the rights of refugees?

**Reply from Angus Robertson:** The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government met Baroness Kennedy last week and has previously met representatives of Refugees for Justice. Furthermore, the Scottish Government and our partners at the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities and the Scottish Refugee Council are preparing to undertake an engagement to inform the refresh of our new Scots refugee integration strategy, which we intend to publish next year. At the new Scots national conference last Friday, we asked people with lived experience and support services how we could enable people, communities and organisations to participate in engagement to shape that strategy. The new Scots refugee integration strategy will continue to set out our partnership-led approach to supporting refugees who are seeking asylum—and, indeed, supporting our communities—from day 1 of arrival.

**Kaukab Stewart (SNP):** I am the constituency MSP for Glasgow Kelvin, where the unfortunate tragedies, which the commission referred to as “avoidable”, took place, and I was able to attend the launch of the final report at the Merchants house. Will the Scottish Government join me in pursuing recommendation 6, which calls on asylum accommodation support and care providers to immediately ring fence a fund of £5 million per annum for “asylum seeker wellbeing and mental and emotional health support” and treatment of trauma? Does the cabinet secretary agree that there should be no profiteering from pain?

**Reply from Angus Robertson:** I commend Kaukab Stewart, the constituency member of the Scottish Parliament, for her dogged pursuit of justice on this matter. I reiterate that the Scottish Government has still to respond to the inquiry. We will do that in good time, but I will make sure that my cabinet secretary colleague with

ministerial responsibility for this area looks very closely at the points that Ms Stewart has made and that, if they are not dealt with in the response to the inquiry, she writes to the member to update her on the Scottish Government's position and the priorities that she is calling to our attention.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13988&i=126732#ScotParIOR>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/62af1289a666c80e00b17253/t/636b9190408f81778746eaa7/1667994032702/AIS+Phase+2+Report+Full.pdf>

## Scottish Parliament Written Answers

### Migration: Scoland

**Paul Sweeney (Labour)** [S6W-11960] To ask the Scottish Government what information it has on the proportion of net inward migration to the UK that settled in Scotland in each of the last 10 years, and what steps it is taking to grow this relative proportion in future years.

**Reply from Neil Gray:** Based on NRS and ONS data, the number of international migrants who have settled in Scotland in the last 10 years, and comparative UK data, is:

	Scotland	UK
mid-2012	35,900	517,754
mid-2013	28,200	503,723
mid-2014	33,200	582,621
mid-2015	37,800	636,277
mid-2016	40,400	649,550
mid-2017	32,900	571,515
mid-2018	32,900	625,927
mid-2019	39,900	609,308
mid-2020*	39,200	741,000
mid-2021*	41,000	573,000

\*Figures are provisional.

In this year's Programme for Government, in support of delivering the Population Strategy's "Attractive and Welcoming Country" pillar, the Scottish Government has committed to launching a Talent Attraction and Migration Service to attract people to come and live in Scotland, help those moving to Scotland settle into communities, and support employers to navigate the immigration system. Service design is ongoing to ensure it achieves these outcomes and the service will launch during 2023.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-11960>

### Ukraine: Super Sponsor Scheme

**Donald Cameron (Conservative)** [S6W-12040] To ask the Scottish Government what date it has set as the target for the resumption of its Super Sponsor Scheme for displaced people from Ukraine.

**Reply from Neil Gray:** The Super Sponsor Scheme continues and displaced Ukrainians are still arriving and benefiting from welcome accommodation, advice and support. The scheme is paused to new applications, and reopening to new

applications must be predicated on ensuring we are able to honour our commitment to displaced people already in Scotland and those yet to travel and meets the seven criteria as set out in our paper published on 1 November - [Super Sponsor Scheme review paper](#).

This criteria includes ensuring displaced people already here are in safe and suitable accommodation with access to advice and services; mitigating pressures on local Councils; ensuring accommodation is available for people who are yet to travel; assessing the current situation in Ukraine, including unforeseen developments leading to mass migration; and understanding costs related to re-opening the scheme with confirmation funding is in place. The Scottish Government will continue to monitor the situation closely and only re-open the scheme when it is safe and deliverable to do so.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-12040>

### **Ukraine: Refugees**

**Donald Cameron (Conservative)** [S6W-12041] To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to assist Ukrainian households out of their temporary welcome accommodation into longer-term accommodation.

**Reply from Neil Gray:** The Scottish Government doesn't want anyone to stay in a hotel or temporary accommodation for longer than necessary. We are therefore taking action to strengthen the matching process to help more displaced people access host or longer-term accommodation as quickly as possible. Through our review of the super sponsor scheme, we have identified a number of interventions to improve matching that we are already taking forward. This includes introducing a new digital matching tool to support the matching process.

This is in addition to the £11.2 million the Scottish Government has committed to Local Authorities to increase capacity of resettlement teams, support refurbishment of properties, help integration and enhance the pace of checks.

We have also introduced the £50 million Ukraine Longer Term Resettlement Fund: [Ukraine Longer Term Resettlement Fund](#). Through this Fund, the Scottish Government is working with Local Authorities and Registered Social Landlords to increase the number of homes available to support the longer term resettlement of displaced people from Ukraine, by improving and bringing void homes back into use. The Fund has so far provided over £400,000 to North Ayrshire Council and £6 million to Aberdeen City Council to increase the number of homes available to support displaced people.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-12041>

## **Scottish Parliament Motions**

**Pam Duncan-Glancy (Labour)** [S6M-06757] **Final Report of the Independent Commission of Inquiry into Asylum Provision in Scotland** – That the Parliament congratulates the Scotland asylum inquiry panel and Baroness Helena Kennedy KC on the publication of their final report of the Independent Commission of Inquiry into Asylum Provision in Scotland; understands that this report follows the tragic Park Inn incident and highlights the appalling conditions that asylum seekers found themselves in prior to the incident, which, according to the report, would have been avoidable had more appropriate systems and policies been put in place; appreciates the bravery and courage of those affected by the Park Inn incident who shared their experiences at the launch of the report, which took place on 11 November 2022, and thanks the asylum inquiry and Baroness

Helena Kennedy KC for their recommendations, which, it hopes, will be considered and taken seriously by the Scottish and UK governments to ensure that seeking asylum is understood as a human right and legal entitlement, as is embedded in the 1951 Refugee Convention.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-06757>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/62af1289a666c80e00b17253/t/636b9190408f81778746eaa7/1667994032702/AIS+Phase+2+Report+Full.pdf>

## UK Parliament, Ministerial Statement

### Irregular Migration: Small Boat Crossings

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Suella Braverman):** [HCWS365]

Today I am updating Parliament on an innovative arrangement between the UK and France to strengthen our bilateral partnership to tackle illegal migration at the shared border, with a focus on small boats crossings.

Since the bilateral arrangement reached in July 2021, the UK and France have been working to reinforce our collaboration to address illegal migration. This new arrangement builds upon the successes we have had over the last year.

In 2021, our joint efforts saw more than 23,000 dangerous and unnecessary crossings being prevented. To date in 2022, over 30,000 crossing attempts have been prevented.

Joint working between UK and French officers has secured more than 140 convictions connected to people smuggling since the start of 2020—and these criminals now face a combined 400 years behind bars.

The UK-France Joint Intelligence Cell has so far dismantled 55 organised crime groups and secured over 500 arrests since its inception in 2020.

However, the number of attempted and successful crossings continues to rise. To that end, the UK and France will intensify co-operation with a view to making the small boat route unviable, save lives, dismantle organised crime groups, and prevent and deter illegal migration in transit countries and further upstream.

The UK and France will adopt a more integrated and effective approach. Our new partnership with France is underpinned by a set of shared joint strategic objectives and a joint operational plan and builds on the shared commitments under the Sandhurst Treaty. Our joint plan signifies a step-change in our joint ambition and co-operation to prevent dangerous crossings and further risk to life. Under the plan, for the first time, UK officers will join French law enforcement teams as embedded observers, sharing real-time information.

The UK has pledged a financial investment of up to €72.2 million—around £62.2 million—in 2022-23 to France to assist in the delivery of our joint plan. The objectives of our joint plan are part of a multi-year strategy that considers other innovative steps that can be taken to address illegal migration at a bilateral and multilateral level. This new partnership recognises the importance of co-operation with other neighbouring countries and European partners on a ‘whole of route approach’. The UK and France have committed to work together to tackle the rise in illegal migration from Albania and will maintain regular dialogue to respond effectively to new and emerging migration challenges.

A copy of the joint statement which sets out further details on this partnership will be published on the [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) website and will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-11-14/debates/2211143000008/IrregularMigrationSmallBoatCrossings>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

### Migration

**Yvette Cooper (Labour):** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a statement on migration.

**Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Robert Jenrick):** The continued rise of dangerous channel crossings is completely unacceptable. This phenomenon is not only a clear abuse of our immigration laws and deeply unfair on the British people, but puts the lives of those who attempt these journeys in grave danger. This Government are determined to put the people smugglers out of business and to make this route unviable.

This week, my right hon. and learned Friend the Home Secretary met her counterpart, Minister Darmanin, to agree a new multi-year strategic and operational plan with France. That will be supported by UK investment of up to €72 million in 2022-23. It includes a 40% uplift, with UK-funded officers patrolling the French coast over the coming months, improved security at ports, cutting-edge surveillance technology, drones, detection dog teams and CCTV, to help detect and prevent those crossings. For the first time, reciprocal teams of embedded officers will be deployed on the ground in control rooms, to increase joint understanding of this issue. This renewed partnership will enable us to build on our joint partnership with France, which so far has seen good progress, with more than 30,000 illegal crossings prevented since the start of the year, hundreds of arrests made and 21 organised crime gangs dismantled.

Beyond our ever closer collaboration with France, we will also work closely with other international partners, including further upstream, to help address issues closer to their source. The UK will be joining near neighbours and other countries, to agree collective action to tackle illegal migration. My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary is today discussing those issues at the G7 Interior Ministers meeting in Germany.

These are issues of the utmost seriousness, and they have been discussed at prime ministerial level. We are taking action to deter those intent on exploiting the UK's generosity, by implementing the Nationality and Borders Act 2022, pursuing migration partnerships with safe countries such as Rwanda, cracking down on those here illegally, and expediting returns agreements. There should be no doubt whatsoever about the Government's determination to grip this problem and deliver the strong and secure borders that the British people desperately want and deserve.

**Yvette Cooper:** Twenty-seven lives were lost in the channel a year ago, and a criminal gang profited from sending people to their deaths. Will the Minister tell the House whether anyone has been prosecuted or convicted for that awful event? We have long called for a stronger agreement with France to stop these dangerous boat crossings. That is why it is important that there is scrutiny on this issue. Additional beach patrols are welcome, and intelligence sharing is vital—it is unfathomable that it was not happening already.

The level of convictions is pitiful: just four a month, on average. The Minister said that 21 gangs had been dismantled, but on Monday the Home Secretary said that it was 55. Which is it?

Journalists report 100 gang members operating in one small corner of Calais alone. The scale of response to the criminal gangs is tiny compared with the scale of the challenge, and the Government are simply not doing enough. This multimillion-pound criminal industry is putting lives at risk. The Minister referred to a joint intelligence cell. How many national crime agencies are currently involved in that, how many are deployed in Europe, and what will that number increase by? We need to know.

This agreement does not include anything on safe returns or safe family reunion. The

number of children safely reuniting with family has plummeted since the end of the Dublin agreement, and charities warn that they are trying to go by boat instead. Asylum returns have plummeted from 1,000 people returned to the EU in 2010 to a tiny handful today. Of the 16,000 referred to the third country unit, just 21 returned. Did Ministers even try to get an agreement on returns and family reunion, and if not, why not? What is the Minister's timescale for getting a grip on the total collapse in Home Office decisions on asylum, and at what point will they double so that we get a faster pace? The way the Home Office is handling local authorities has been disgraceful, with many of them not being told what is happening.

Finally, what is the £140 million from the Rwanda agreement actually being spent on? Too often, the Home Office talks about things but is not delivering—this is too important.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** I am pleased that the right hon. Lady welcomes our agreement with France. She is right to raise the anniversary of the tragic and abhorrent deaths that occurred in the channel one year ago. I am pleased that a concerted effort with partners across Europe has led to arrests and the disruption of gangs, and to the capture and destruction of boats, directly as a result of that. The good work that our intelligence services did with respect to that incident is now being rolled out with respect to other criminal gangs right across Europe. The agreement that we have reached with France will enable our world-class intelligence services to be directly in the room with their French counterparts, ensuring that the intelligence they are gathering, which is rich—I observed it myself on visiting the clandestine command in Dover—can now be passed on in real time to their French counterparts, ensuring that more crossings are stopped, more arrests are made and more criminal gangs are disrupted. That will make a positive impact in the months to come. ...

**Anne McLaughlin (SNP):** The £120 million totally wasted on the Rwanda plan could have quadrupled the number of caseworkers and cleared the backlog in asylum cases urgently. Can we have a Department focused on the nuts and bolts of getting the job done, instead of crazy, brutal and counterproductive headline-chasing policies? After all, that is the root of all our problems—that and the lack of safe and legal routes. A number of months ago, I tabled a written question asking for a list of all the safe and legal routes and it would not even have filled half a page. So can we do something about that?

The revelations in ITV's "The Crossing", a documentary about 27 channel deaths last November, were utterly heartbreaking and horrifying. Did the Home Secretary discuss with her counterparts how best to ensure that disputes about precisely where a boat is play a distant second fiddle to saving people's lives?

May I end by saying how disappointed I am? The Minister distanced himself from the Home Secretary's crass comments on migrants, but today we have heard him talk about murderers and foreign offenders. We are talking about asylum seekers, and he brings up murderers as if they are one and the same thing. It is an absolute disgrace, because he knows the impact that that has on not just asylum seekers but all migrants.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** ... we will not be naive. We are capable of making the distinction between genuine refugees and genuine asylum seekers fleeing persecution and human rights abuses, and Albanian economic migrants coming to this country for all the wrong reasons. We are also perfectly capable of making the distinction between good people who deserve our protection and support, and bad people who are foreign national offenders who need to be removed from the United Kingdom as soon as possible. I am surprised to see her joining in with the Opposition, who want to close down the very detention centres where we keep those people while we try to get them out of the country.

The hon. Lady says she is disappointed that we are pursuing Rwanda. I think Rwanda is an important part of our efforts to tackle illegal migration because deterrence has to be suffused throughout our entire approach. Everything we do to

create further pull factors to the UK ensures more people cross the channel in perilous ways and more pressure is put on our public services. It prevents us from helping the people who genuinely deserve our support, such as those who come from Ukraine, Afghanistan or Syria under our resettlement schemes. I will say again—I have said it before: if the SNP wanted to help with this issue, it would address the fact that proportionately Scotland, in particular SNP local authorities, takes fewer people on those resettlement schemes than any other part of the United Kingdom. ...

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

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-11-16/debates/F11DB47B-7EDB-45BF-BE3B-99A6654E62E3/Migration>

### **Visitor Visa Applications: Potential Barriers**

**Imran Hussain (Labour)** [902161] What steps [the Minister] is taking to reduce potential barriers for (a) family, (b) spouse and (c) visitor visa applications.

**Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Robert Jenrick):** Our immigration system allows people from across the globe to come to the United Kingdom to visit and join family here. Over 2 million entry clearance visas were issued in the year ending June 2022, but it is also right to ensure that visitors intend to leave at the end of their stay and that those coming to join their family can be supported by the family and not by the British taxpayer.

**Imran Hussain:** According to the Home Office's own figures, just under 20% of the total accepted and rejected visitor visa applications ended up being rejected, yet when it comes to those of Pakistani and Bangladeshi nationality, the figure suddenly, dramatically and inexplicably rises to 30%. Does the Minister really expect us to believe that there is no racial or religious bias at the Home Office?

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The hon. Gentleman is completely wrong, and he makes a baseless slur against my officials at the Home Office. All visa determinations are based on objective criteria, and I would add that 303,000 visas and permits were granted for family members in the year ending June 2022, which is 61% more than in 2019. The Home Office is granting record numbers of these visas, and we do so in an entirely objective fashion.

**Luke Hall (Conservative):** My constituent Mary Samuels is the legal guardian of her niece Faith, who is currently in Sierra Leone. Mary submitted a visa application for Faith as a non-British child of a parent who has permission to be in the UK, as Faith's lack of parents or guardians in Sierra Leone is putting her at serious and substantial risk. Although I am grateful for our conversations with the Home Office, those conversations have been ongoing since July 2021. I know that the Minister cannot comment on this case on the Floor of the House, but will he commit to personally reviewing the case and to meeting me to discuss how we can ensure that this intolerable situation for Mary and Faith is concluded as quickly as possible?

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** My hon. Friend has been following this exceptional case assiduously. I can say that the application is in its final stages of consideration, and the applicant will be notified of the outcome as soon as a decision has been made. I am of course happy to meet him if that would be helpful. ...

**Holly Lynch (Labour):** In contrast to family, spouse and visitor visas, golden visas were available until February 2022 to all who could afford them, including the world's super-rich, with next to no background checks. Spotlight on Corruption has found that, of all the golden visas issued, around half—that is more than 6,000—have been reviewed for possible national security risks. When he was Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee, the Minister for Security called for the 2018 review of golden visas to be published. Can the Government confirm when we will finally see that review?

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** My right hon. Friend the Minister for Security has been

clear that we will publish that report at the earliest available opportunity, but I would add that this is the Government who brought an end to golden visas and who led the world in economic sanctions in support of the people of Ukraine.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-11-14/debates/643131A8-B3FC-44E1-ADEF-8FD2E5F27E6B/VisitorVisaApplicationsPotentialBarriers>

### **Biometric Residence Permits**

**Caroline Nokes (Conservative)** [902165] What steps [the Minister] is taking to tackle delays in the processing of biometric residence permits.

**Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Robert Jenrick):** There are currently no material delays in the physical production or delivery of biometric residence permits. We aim to deliver a BRP within seven working days of the immigration decision. All BRPs are currently being produced within 48 hours of receipt of a production request at the secure printing facility. Our secure delivery partner, FedEx, is attempting to deliver 99% of BRPs within 48 hours of their production and is successfully delivering nearly 80% of them first time.

**Caroline Nokes:** I thank my right hon. Friend for those statistics, which appear to be somewhat at odds with the experience of my constituents: Oksana Vakaliuk, a refugee from Ukraine, has been waiting since 1 May for her BRP; Adnam Hameed was granted his tier 2 visa in May and was still waiting for his BRP last month; and Mohammed Poswall has been waiting since July for his wife to receive the spousal visa stamp in her passport. I really appreciate the work that my right hon. Friend is doing in this respect, but the challenge is that these individuals could be working in our economy, contributing to meeting our skills shortages and paying tax. Will he meet me to go through these and other cases to help understand what is causing the delays, which may be specific to my region?

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** I would be happy to meet my right hon. Friend. As I said in answer to her initial question, the data suggests that the vast majority of customers are receiving their BRPs within seven days and the system is working in an acceptable fashion. But if cases are falling through the cracks, it is of course right that we aim to fix that, and I would be pleased to meet her.

**Kevin Brennan (Labour):** Biometrics are obviously important, but going back to spousal visas, which have also been mentioned, the wife of my constituent is an Afghan citizen who is stuck in Iran. As we know, Afghan refugees are not being treated well in Iran, but the Home Office, in reply to me, says that it will not particularly expedite this case. Will the Minister afford me the same courtesy that he did to the right hon. Member for Romsey and Southampton North (Caroline Nokes) and look into the case that I have mentioned if I write to him after this session?

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** I would be very happy to do so.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-11-14/debates/705F505A-81ED-4E62-A7B4-E64712A36C7E/BiometricResidencePermits>

### **Families with Leave to Remain: No Recourse to Public Funds**

**Stephen Timms (Labour)** [902159] When [the Minister] plans to publish improved data on families with leave to remain but no recourse to public funds.

**Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Robert Jenrick):** The Home Office now publishes an extensive range of data in respect of NRPF change of conditions applications, including data on age, gender and nationality. We are open to other avenues to obtaining further NRPF-related data; plans for doing so have been set out in published correspondence with the UK Statistics Authority.

**Stephen Timms:** At present, the Home Office does not know how many people it gives leave to remain with no recourse to public funds attached. For months, Ministers and officials at the Department have been saying that a new IT system is about to be introduced

and will give us that information. The chair of the UK Statistics Authority, whom the Minister mentioned, told me in a letter in February that the new system would be operational some time this year, rather than last year as previously announced. When will the Department take back control and switch on its new system so that it can provide this completely basic information?

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** I understand the right hon. Gentleman's long-standing interest in this issue. We have made it clear on a number of occasions that we also want to deepen and enrich the level of data that is available. We have been speaking to our stakeholders to see what further steps we might be able to take, and I shall be happy to keep the right hon. Gentleman informed.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-11-14/debates/7730B90C-F5F1-45D3-AED1-FB56DB277EDD/FamiliesWithLeaveToRemainNoRecourseToPublicFunds>

### **Illegal Cross-channel Movements: Discussions with French Counterpart**

**Michael Fabricant (Conservative)** [902168] What recent discussions [the Minister] has had with her French counterpart on illegal cross-channel movements.

**Reply from the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Suella Braverman):** The Prime Minister and I are committed to reducing dangerous illegal migration into the UK, which is why I was in Paris today with my French counterpart, Gérald Darmanin, to agree a new joint strategy and operational plan, which will drive forward our next phase of co-operation and make this route unviable eventually.

**Michael Fabricant:** I congratulate my right hon. Friend on her agreement in Paris today but, as she herself has said, there is no silver bullet. Given that there are so many hundreds of miles of French coastline to be policed, will this agreement be a game changer?

**Reply from Suella Braverman:** As my hon. Friend says, on its own, this agreement will not fix the problem—it is important that everyone is clear about that. However, I am very proud of the co-operation that the UK and France have led in recent years. This deal represents a step change and a big step forward in our joint challenge. For the first time under this new integrated approach, UK officers will join law enforcement colleagues in France as embedded observers to share real-time information relating to small boats. The deal will include significant investment in intelligence capability and information sharing that all agencies will use, including the National Crime Agency and Europol. I believe that this is a big step forward and I encourage everyone here to get behind it. ...

**Diana Johnson (Labour):** The Home Affairs Committee's report on small boat crossings, published in the summer, made a series of recommendations, one of which was more engagement with the French, so we very much welcomed the announcement this morning. Of course, it is the fifth announcement on arrangements with the French in four years, and there is not a single one thing that will solve this problem. That is why we made a series of recommendations, including: securing an agreement with the EU on the return of failed asylum seekers; and piloting the provision of initial UK asylum applications at facilities within French reception centres. That would mean that individuals wanting to seek asylum in the UK could do so without having to get into those awful dinghies and make that treacherous journey across the channel. Will the Home Secretary look again at the whole suite of recommendations that the Select Committee made after two years of looking at this subject?

**Reply from Suella Braverman:** I read with interest the report from the Select Committee, which makes several important points about greater collaboration and deeper co-operation with our friends in France. Last year our joint efforts saw more than 23,000 dangerous and unnecessary crossings prevented, and this year to date more than 30,000 crossing attempts have been stopped by the French. Joint working has also resulted in the dismantling of 55 organised crime groups and

secured more than 500 arrests since its inception in 2020. That operational collaboration is absolutely integral to solving this common challenge.

**Natalie Elphicke (Conservative):** Regrettably, the modest French agreement falls short of what is needed to address the scale, impact and urgency of the channel crossings issue. We do not need more observation—we need action taken on the French side. Even today, as the ink dried on this new deal, small boats crept through the sea-mist and one even landed on a beach in a residential coastal village in my constituency. Will my right hon. Friend meet me and Kent leaders to discuss the dreadful impact on local services, which they described in a letter to her two weeks ago as being at breaking point?

**Reply from Suella Braverman:** I thank my hon. Friend for all her work on this issue over several years. As I said, I am not going to overplay this agreement. It is an important step forward and provides a good platform on which to secure deeper collaboration, and it represents progress. For the first time, UK officers will be on the ground in France, working hand in hand with their French counterparts. They will be working side by side in the command HQ. They will be working with intelligence and surveillance material together. They will be partners in a very material sense in the fight against this challenge. Is that going to solve the problem on its own? It will not, but I encourage everybody to support the deal we have secured. ...

**Diane Abbott (Labour):** The Home Secretary insists that the agreement announced today represents a step forward, but is she able to tell the House whether it will mean fewer small boats crossing the channel?

**Reply from Suella Braverman:** A large win from the agreement is that there will be more French gendarmes patrolling the French beaches. There is a 40% uplift to the number of personnel that the French are deploying. That must be a success, and I encourage the right hon. Lady to welcome it. ...

**Yvette Cooper (Labour):** It is astonishing that the Home Secretary has not made an oral statement on this subject, given the number of people who want to ask questions. She is preventing full scrutiny of this deal. Could that be because her written statement admits that there have been only 140 smuggling-related convictions across all of Britain and France in 35 months? Can she confirm that that means there have been on average just four convictions a month for those dangerous crimes, even though last month alone nearly 7,000 people arrived in the UK as a result of organised criminals profiting from putting lives at risk? Why is the Government's action against criminal smuggler gangs so pitifully weak?

**Reply from Suella Braverman:** Why is the Government's action so pitifully weak? We introduced legislation—an extensive Bill designed specifically to deal with the problem occurring on our shores—and on every occasion, what did Labour Members do? They voted against it. If they were really serious about solving this problem, they would be supporting our proposals, not carping from the sidelines.

**Yvette Cooper:** That is a totally nonsense answer. The Home Secretary obviously is not aware that former chief constables have warned that her Nationality and Borders Act 2022 makes it harder to prosecute people traffickers, and that in fact it is adding six-month delays to the asylum system and pushing up the costs.

Patrols and intelligence sharing are welcome but long overdue, but will the Home Secretary match Labour's funded policy for a major expansion of additional specialist officers in the National Crime Agency as part of a proper plan to work with other countries to investigate and crack down on those gangs? Or is she actually preparing for cuts in policing and security operations on Thursday because her party's disastrous management of the economy has let everyone down?

**Reply from Suella Braverman:** Of course we need to go further and faster in the fight against illegal migration. I am very disappointed and concerned by the unprecedented numbers of people arriving here illegally. We are taking steps to fix it. The reality is, as I said, that this year alone more than 30,000 attempts have been

prevented by the French. I have come back today from securing a deal that will increase the number of French patrols on the French coastline, which will reinforce our collaboration and intelligence work and strengthen our joint fight, but what do Labour Members do? They criticise. They criticise because the simple truth is that this is not about the French deal or our response, but about their abject failure to speak on behalf of the British people. They do not care about illegal migration; they want an open-doors migration policy, as they always have. ...

**Stuart C McDonald (SNP):** Of course, we all welcome closer co-operation with the French, but the Home Secretary is absolutely right to temper her expectations given that previous deals were signed in 2010, 2014, '15, '16, '18, '19, '20 and, indeed, '21. What discussions has she had with the French about safe legal routes for those with clear links to the United Kingdom, linked if necessary with an appropriate returns agreement? Surely she must see that only a deal that includes safe legal routes can make a significant and lasting impact.

**Reply from Suella Braverman:** am not going to repeat myself, but I think the deal is a good step forward and a great platform from which to build deeper co-operation. I say gently to the hon. Gentleman that his question would have much more credibility if Scotland stepped up further and took a better share of those who come here seeking refuge and asylum.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-11-14/debates/BAB08474-53B4-4F27-9299-9332D8A4D727/IllegalCross-ChannelMovementsDiscussionsWithFrenchCounterpart>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/23102/documents/169178/default/>

### **Asylum Application Backlog**

**Luke Evans (Conservative)** [902160] What steps [the Minister's] Department is taking to tackle the asylum application backlog.

**Reply from the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Suella Braverman):** We are clear about the fact that the asylum system needs to do better and cases need to be processed more quickly. The aim of the asylum transformation programme is to bring the system back into balance and modernise it. Its focus is on increasing productivity by streamlining and digitising processes to speed up decision making and increase efficiency and output.

**Luke Evans:** A hotel in Earl Shilton, in my constituency, has twice been identified as a way of trying to deal with the backlog, but has failed in that regard owing to health and safety concerns about fire in particular. I was therefore surprised when constituents wrote to me saying that they had seen asylum seekers in the hotel. I contacted the borough council, the county council and the police, but none of them knew anything about it, so I checked social media and found that the story had been corroborated and was true. When I contacted the Home Office, it took 72 hours for it to be confirmed that they had been placed there. This is completely unacceptable. What is the Home Secretary doing to ensure that it does not happen in other constituencies, and will she meet me to discuss the situation in Earl Shilton so that communication can be improved?

**Reply from Suella Braverman:** I thank my hon. Friend for raising this issue. We have experienced unprecedented pressure on the system recently, and responding to it has been challenging for our operational partners. We have a statutory duty to provide destitute asylum seekers with accommodation. We do inform local partners of our actions, but despite our ambitions to do that expeditiously, owing to the recent incredible pressure on the system we have sometimes fallen short. I understand that a direct communication has been sent to my hon. Friend, but I can say to him now that we want to improve our engagement to ensure that there is much better understanding and much better support for local communities that are affected.

**Stella Creasy (Labour Co-op):** We now know of at least four sexual assaults on children who have been left in these hotels for months because of the backlog. In a meeting with

MPs last week, the Home Secretary's officials committed themselves to providing details of the safeguarding requirements for private contractors if Ministers gave them permission. If the Home Secretary is so confident that she is doing everything she can to fulfil the duty of care for these vulnerable children, will she give that permission and will she publish those details?

**Reply from Suella Braverman:** I have been very straight in saying that our asylum system does need improvement. The Immigration Minister and I are working intensively and improving our processes, and the duties to those in our care and how they are discharged, whether those concerned are adults or children, or other vulnerable people. There has been unprecedented pressure on the system, but we are working apace to procure alternative accommodation, and have been doing so for several months. As I have said, we are working intensively, and we hope to secure everyone's support in that effort.

**Roger Gale (Conservative):** Clearing the processing backlog is clearly one of the keys to solving the whole asylum problem, and we need to get on with it and make sure that it is done as fast as possible. The other key is, of course, controlling the source of the problem. I was pleased to learn of the measure signed by my right hon. Friend in Paris this morning, which is a modest step towards solving a much greater problem. Does my right hon. Friend agree that rather than populist policies which may grab headlines, the only way to solve this problem will be through painstaking hard work of the kind that my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and Mr Macron have instigated?

**Reply from Suella Braverman:** I am grateful to my right hon. Friend for his support and input on this challenging issue, and I was pleased to visit Manston with him a few weeks ago. He is absolutely right; there is no single solution to this problem, and international co-operation is a vital part of the solution. That is why I am very grateful to French partners for their effective work to date and also for their support for the positive step forward in the new deal that I signed this morning with my opposite number in France, which will greatly deepen our co-operation and further our response to illegal migration in the channel.

**Ruth Cadbury (Labour):** In Hounslow there are more than 3,500 asylum seekers waiting for a determination on their applications in, at the last count, 12 interim or contingency hotels. They have been waiting not weeks, not months, but even years. They are existing in accommodation and eating food unfit for animals, and Clearspring Ready Homes and a network of unaccountable subcontractors are skimming off vast profits and ripping off the accommodation providers, the vulnerable asylum seekers and, of course, the taxpayer. As the Home Secretary admits, the Home Office has a challenge here, so why will she not contract with local authorities that have expertise in procuring accommodation and that will ensure the basic standards that the hon. Member for Bosworth (Dr Evans) is concerned about, and ensure safeguarding as well ...

**Reply from Suella Braverman:** There are many plans afoot to try to improve the processing of asylum claims, and one of those relates to procuring alternative accommodation for those seeking asylum. We need to reduce our reliance on hotels, improve our productivity within the asylum processing system and ensure that people stop making the journey in the first place. There are huge levels of work ongoing, and I would encourage the hon. Lady to support those plans and our work.

**Stephen Kinnock (Labour):** The Nationality and Borders Act 2022 establishes a new category of asylum seekers that the Government claim are not permitted to claim asylum in Britain and should therefore be removed, but because the Government have failed to secure a returns agreement with France, and because their Rwanda policy is completely unworkable, 16,000 people in this category have been stuck in limbo waiting an additional six months for a decision, at huge cost to the British taxpayer. Of those 16,000 waiting in limbo, only 21 have been returned since the Act came into force. Do Ministers therefore accept that their own legislation is adding further delays, cost, chaos and confusion to an

already broken system while doing next and nothing to remove failed asylum seekers who have no right to be here?

**Reply from Suella Braverman:** I find it staggering that Labour Members seem to love complaining about the system but when we introduced laws to fix it, what did they do? They opposed them every step of the way. We wanted to make it easier to deport foreign national offenders; Labour voted against it. We wanted to fix our asylum system; Labour voted against it. We secured a ground-breaking agreement with Rwanda; Labour would scrap it. Labour Members are very good at complaining, but they have absolutely no solution at all.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-11-14/debates/DB6685B7-F6E1-4228-84BE-D61574DFC9B7/AsylumApplicationBacklog>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer: Rwanda Refugee Policy

### Asylum: Rwanda

**Stephen Timms (Labour)** [82154] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the estimated cost to the public purse will be of the Migration and Economic Development Partnership with Rwanda in the (a) 2022-23 financial year and (b) next five years of the partnership.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** 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.

The timing and scale of future payments will depend on the numbers of people relocated, and the outcomes of individual cases. 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/2022-11-08/82154>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Channel Migrants

### Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

**Henry Smith (Conservative)** [902172] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to reduce the number of small boat crossings of the English Channel.

**Reply from Suella Braverman:** As we approach the first anniversary of the tragic deaths in the Channel last November, we are more determined than ever to end the vile business model of people smugglers and are working with our international partners to stop people putting their lives at risk through dangerous and illegal journeys.

Those who travel to the UK by illegal, dangerous and unnecessary methods,

including via small boat crossings across the Channel, will be considered for relocation to Rwanda, where they will have their asylum claim processed – they will not return to the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-14/902172>

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

**Grahame Morris (Labour) [82238]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people who arrived in the UK on small boats over the English Channel in 2022 (a) are in Immigration Removal Centres, (b) are in hotel accommodation, (c) are in the community under bail conditions, (d) have been removed from the country and (e) have returned to their country of origin voluntarily.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The Home Office publishes statistics on small boat arrivals to the UK in the '[Irregular Migration to the UK statistics](#)' report. Data on small boat arrivals by year are published in table Irr\_01 of the '[Irregular migration to the UK data tables](#)' with the latest data up to the end of June 2022. Future irregular migration publication release dates can be found on the [research and statistics calendar](#).

The statistics presented in the Irregular Migration release relate to the number of people recorded being detected on, or shortly after, arrival to the UK on various routes (flow). They do not provide an indication of the total number of people currently in the UK who have entered the UK via irregular routes.

The Home Office also publishes statistics on the following topics, in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)':

- People entering, in, and leaving immigration detention.

The number of people entering detention each quarter are in table Det\_D01 of the '[Detention detailed datasets](#)', where the data can be broken down by first place of detention. The number of people in detention at the end of each quarter are in table Det\_D02 of the '[Detention detailed datasets](#)', where the data can be broken down by current place of detention. The number of people leaving detention each quarter are in table Det\_D03 of the '[Detention detailed datasets](#)', where the data can be broken down by reason for leaving detention, including being bailed. The latest data relate to the end of June 2022. Data up to the end of September will be published on 24 November 2022

Please note, the data are for all people entering, in and leaving detention, not just people who arrived in the UK via small boats.

- Returns from the UK.

The latest data on returns from the UK, broken down by type of return including enforced returns and voluntary returns, are published in table Ret\_D01 of the '[Returns detailed datasets](#)', where the data can be broken down by return destination group (including Home country) and nationality (which may differ from country of origin). The latest data go up to the end of March 2022. Data up to the end of June 2022 will be published on 24 November 2022.

Please note the data are for all people returned from the UK, not just people who arrived in the UK via small boats.

Data on voluntary returns are subject to upward revision, so comparisons over time should be made with caution. In some cases, individuals who have been told to leave the UK will not notify the Home Office of their departure from the UK. In such cases, it can take some time for the Home Office to become aware of such a departure and update the system. As a result, data for more recent periods will initially undercount the total number of returns. 'Other verified returns' are particularly affected by this.

- Asylum.

Data on asylum seekers in receipt of support can be found in table Asy\_D09 of the

[‘asylum and resettlement detailed datasets’](#). Information on how to use the datasets can be found in the ‘Notes’ page of the workbooks. Please note the data show a snapshot as at the last day of each quarter, rather than the number of asylum seekers in receipt of support over the entire quarter. The latest data relates to as at 31 March 2022. Data as at 30 June 2022 will be published on 24 November 2022. Please note, ‘accommodation’ is not limited to hotel accommodation.

Please note, the data are for all asylum seekers in receipt of support, not just asylum seekers who arrived in the UK via small boats.

Information on how to use the datasets in the Immigration Statistics quarterly release can be found in the ‘Notes’ page of the dataset workbooks.

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/2022-11-08/82238>

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

### Refugees: Afghanistan

**Alan Whitehead (Labour)** [902175] What progress [the Minister] has made on implementing the Afghan citizens resettlement scheme.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** We are pleased to report all three referral pathways on the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) are now open to receive referrals, to provide a route for resettlement to the UK for at-risk individuals in Afghanistan and the region.

The ACRS was launched in January, with some of those evacuated under Op PITTING being granted a place.

We are now receiving referrals from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) of vulnerable refugees who have fled Afghanistan for resettlement to the UK, and are pleased to have welcomed the first families under this Pathway (2) of the ACRS.

The FCDO launched Pathway 3, which will see eligible British Council and GardaWorld contractors and Chevening alumni considered for resettlement to the UK. The FCDO has begun notifying eligible individuals with advice on the next steps.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-14/902175>

*Information about the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme including Pathways 2 and 3, referred to above, can be read at*

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

### Refugees: Afghanistan

**Dan Jarvis (Labour)** [80712] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what steps he has taken to reduce the processing times for the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy since August 2021.

**Reply from James Heapey:** It is recognised that processing times within ARAP can vary considerably, dependent upon a number of factors including the complexity of the case, the need to conduct checks with other Government Departments, or the length of time it takes an applicant to respond to follow-up queries.

Significant progress has been made to accelerate the process in recent months, including additional Defence resource being made available and an enhanced casework system. Whilst a high number of applications continue to be received, the majority of these are duplicates or are ineligible and the team are actively processing and issuing decisions on more applications per month than are being

received. MOD Officials also continue to work closely with partners across Government in order to ensure necessary checks are completed as soon as is practicable. I would also like to assure the hon. Member that the continued effective operation of the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP) scheme is kept under regular review within the department by senior officials and Ministers, reflecting the priority of the scheme. Having successfully relocated over 11,600 individuals under the ARAP scheme so far, the primary focus for the ARAP team is identifying and relocating the estimated remaining 4,900 eligible individuals (including dependents), using HMG employment records to target efforts.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-07/80712>

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

### **Afghanistan: Refugees**

**Dan Jarvis (Labour)** [80715] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what the maximum time is that Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy applicants should expect to wait in between updates about their application; and what steps he is taking to keep applicants informed of the progress on their applications.

**Reply from James Heapey:** All ARAP applications should be acknowledged at the point of submission. Applicant's may then be contacted to request additional information, before an eligibility decision is made. If found to be eligible, applicants will be asked for further information regarding their family members included in their application, for further required checks to be made.

Unfortunately, it is not possible to advise the consistency with which these updates may occur, as the timeframes can vary considerably. This is due to numerous factors, including the initial amount of evidence received, level of complexity of the case, the need to conduct checks with other Government Departments, or the length of time it takes an applicant to respond to follow-up queries.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-07/80715>

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

### **Afghanistan: Refugees**

**Dan Jarvis (Labour)** [82305] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Office, with reference to the Government of Canada policy Permanent residence for extended family of former Afghan interpreters, last updated in June 2022, if she will discuss with Cabinet colleagues the potential merits of creating a similar policy that provides a pathway to permanent residence for extended family members of former Afghan interpreters, including parents and siblings, in the UK.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** Certain additional family members of eligible Afghan citizens can relocate under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP). Eligibility of additional family members of those who qualify to relocate is assessed by the sponsoring UK Government Department. Those who are deemed eligible will receive settled status in the United Kingdom.

[Eligibility of additional family members under the Afghan locally employed staff relocation schemes](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-08/82305>

*Information about the Canadian scheme referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/refugees/afghanistan/permanent-residence-extended-family.html>

### Refugees: Afghanistan

**Stephen Timms (Labour)** [82153] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether Afghans who were settled under Pathway One of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme are eligible for family reunion rights.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** As those resettled through Pathway One of the ACRS do not have refugee status, they will not be eligible to apply under the refugee family reunion route. Those resettled through Pathway One of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) may be able to sponsor family members through the family visa routes under Appendix FM of the Immigration Rules, subject to meeting the eligibility requirements of the respective visa route. More information is set out in the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-08/82153>

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

### Interpreters: Afghanistan

**Dan Jarvis (Labour)** [83630] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether Afghan interpreters resettled to the UK under the Ex-Gratia Scheme (EGS) are also eligible for the support measures offered to Afghan interpreters resettled through the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy scheme including the provisions under (a) Op NEWHOPE and (b) Operation Warm Welcome Full Degree scholarships.

**Reply from Andrew Murrison:** Ex-Gratia Scheme (EGS) Afghan Nationals are not eligible for Op WARM WELCOME. There are ongoing discussions within Defence about extending Op NEWHOPE to EGS Afghan Nationals.

While compiling the answer to this question, it was noticed that an error was made in the written answer to your question 16958, answered on 16 June 2022. Please consider this reply as a correction to the record.

The Operation Warm Welcome full degree scholarships and OP NEWHOPE provisions are both provided under Operation Warm Welcome. Within Operation Warm Welcome, the categories of people eligible for the Warm Welcome Scholarship are:

- Afghanistan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) resettlement route
- Afghanistan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) resettlement route
- Those with links to Afghanistan who are already registered at a UK university and are experiencing financial hardship due to the situation in Afghanistan
- Afghan British Nationals (ABNs), described for these purposes as those that were evacuated during Operation Pitting and who entered bridging accommodation or who presented as homeless to a council, but hold British citizenship or some other status that permits them to remain and reside in the UK without the need to be granted leave to remain.

Afghan individuals who are eligible for Op WARM WELCOME, who have a Defence connection and want to maintain their connection to the Armed Forces, are eligible for Op NEWHOPE support. Those who are eligible for Op NEWHOPE support are able to continue to receive wider HMG support, which includes Warm Welcome scholarships.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-09/83630>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-13/16958>

*Information about the Afghan Relocations Assistance Policy, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy-information-and-guidance>

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

### Refugees: Afghanistan

**Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op)** [80831] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Afghan women's rights activists have been resettled in the UK under the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The UK welcomes vulnerable people in need of protection to the UK through our resettlement schemes. These schemes have provided safe and legal routes for tens of thousands of people to start new lives in the UK.

The Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) prioritises those who have stood up for values such as democracy and women's rights in Afghanistan, as well as vulnerable groups, including ethnic and religious minorities.

Whilst we cannot provide a breakdown of the reasons – and particular vulnerabilities – that people resettling under the ACRS are experiencing, the recently published, '[Afghan Resettlement: Operational Data](#)' factsheet shows that, at 12 Aug 2022:

- The UK has welcomed 21,450 people to the UK from Afghanistan - or a neighbouring country - since June 2021.
- The factsheet will be updated every quarter – with the next iteration scheduled for publication on 24 November 2022.

Work is underway to assure information relating to all the individuals resettled under the ACRS and relocated under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) on case working systems. Once this work concludes, statistics on both schemes - including the number of people resettled under each - will be included in the published Immigration Statistics.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-07/80831>

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

### Refugees: Afghanistan

**Stephen Kinnock (Labour)** [83643] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government is taking to support Afghan nationals relocated to the UK under the ex gratia redundancy and resettlement scheme; and whether such individuals are eligible for (a) university scholarships and (b) other sources of financial support on the same basis as individuals relocated under (i) the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy and (ii) the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme.

**Stephen Kinnock (Labour)** [83644] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for leave to remain by family members of Afghan nationals relocated to the UK under the (a) ex gratia redundancy and resettlement scheme; (b) Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy and (c) Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme have been (i) submitted and (ii) approved since August 2021.

**Stephen Kinnock (Labour)** [83648] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her policy is on pathways to permanent residence in the UK for extended family members of Afghan nationals relocated to the UK under the (a) ex gratia redundancy and resettlement scheme, (b) Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy and (c) Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** Through Operation Warm Welcome, Afghans who come to the UK under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) and Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) will be supported in accessing accommodation and the vital health, education, and support into employment they

need to fully integrate into society.

All individuals relocated to the UK under the Ex-Gratia Scheme are entitled to the same support package as those relocated through the ARAP - the scheme's successor - including provisions under operation Warm Welcome, such as access to education and financial support.

Our officials are working at pace to see that all eligible individuals who arrived before, during and after the evacuation are granted ILR. Having already registered over 13,000 (and counting) applications for resettlement from Afghans, with Biometric Residence Permits being issued accordingly.

Whilst data on the number on applications to the Ex-Gratia scheme is not available in a reportable format, the recently published, '[Afghan Resettlement: Operational Data](#)' factsheet shows that, at 12 Aug 2022:

- We have granted ILR to 11,303 individuals across ARAP and ACRS.
- We are unable, at this time, to provide a breakdown of whether a grant of leave was made under the ARAP or ACRS.
- The factsheet will be updated every quarter – with the next iteration scheduled for publication on 24 November 2022.

The Government provides a safe and legal route to bring families together, through its family reunion policy. This allows a partner, or spouse, and children under 18 of refugees granted protection in the UK, to join them here, if they formed part of the family unit before the sponsor fled their country. To support people in Afghanistan, that have family who have been granted protection in the UK, to understand their options, we have provided information on family reunion online, at:

[Family reunion](#)

Those who are not eligible for protection under our resettlement schemes or family reunion policy, will need to apply to come to the UK under our existing economic or family migration rules, which can be viewed at:

<https://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration>

To bolster the support we'll offer to those eligible for relocation or family reunion in the UK, we intend to establish a diplomatic presence in Afghanistan as soon as the security and political situation in the country allows.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-09/83643>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-09/83644>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-09/83648>

*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>*

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

### Homes for Ukraine Scheme

**Sarah Owen (Labour)** [79346] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what assessment his Department has made of ways to improve the Homes for Ukraine Scheme.

**Reply from Felicity Buchan:** We continue to review and develop plans to support guests to access economic opportunities, informed by engagement with other government departments, local councils, VCS organisations, sponsors, and guests.

The Homes for Ukraine scheme relies on cooperation between Government, local government, the voluntary sector, faith organisations, and Ukrainian representative organisations. We have engaged with local government and other partners through several different conversations and working groups to date. This has included Ministerial roundtables attended by local government representatives, official-led working group meetings, and ongoing bilateral engagement with local authority Chief Executives and senior representatives.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-04/79346>

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

### Migrant Workers: Scotland

**Martin Docherty-Hughes (SNP)** [902170] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential effect of the Government's immigration policies on (a) Scotland's population and (b) labour shortages in Scotland.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** Our points-based system works for the whole of the UK by welcoming people to fill skills gaps, support our public services and boost our economy.

Furthermore, the Shortage Occupation List also includes occupations which are in shortage and are specific to Scotland, such as chemical scientists and Gaelic teachers.

Immigration policy cannot, however, be a complete solution to population movements within the UK or labour shortages. The Scottish Government has levers at its disposal to address these issues more effectively.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-14/902170>

### Visas: Skilled Workers

**Christine Jardine (Liberal Democrat)** [82402] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of introducing temporary recovery visas to address industries experiencing labour and skills shortages; and if she will extend eligibility for those types of visas to bus drivers.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The Points based immigration system provides for occupations within a wide range of sectors, subject to the requirements of specific routes – including English language and salary – being met. However, roles such as bus drivers do not meet the skills threshold for the Skilled Worker route. It is not the Government's intention to launch a recovery visa.

Beyond the points based system, employers can recruit those with general work rights including the millions of people who have been granted status under the EU Settlement Scheme, those who have arrived via our settlement route for British National (Overseas) normally resident in Hong Kong and their households, those who have arrived via a family visa and those in the UK under our Youth Mobility Schemes. They have full access to the UK labour market and are free to work in the UK and can undertake any role. However, we must see long-term solutions to labour and skills shortages delivered by employers through improved training and hiring, with better pay and working conditions.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-08/82402>

### **Visas: Overseas Students**

**Mohammad Yasin (Labour)** [82394] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of increasing the number of authorised work hours for student visas.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The Student route is for international students who wish to study in the UK and is not designed as a means to live and work in the UK. Student visa holders who are studying a full-time course of study, at degree level or above, at a higher education provider with a track record of compliance are already able to work up to 20 hours per week during term-time and full-time during vacation periods.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-08/82394>

### **Migrants: Employment**

**Nadia Whittome (Labour)** [83805] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to help non-EU citizens with biometric residence permits who cannot access a share code online prove their right to work.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** 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 includes providing individuals with the ability to prove their right to work using a secure share code that employers can check online.

If an individual is unable to provide a share code due to a technical issue, they can contact the UKVI Resolution Centre. The centre is open seven days a week for telephone and email enquiries. Individuals can contact the UKVI Resolution Centre, including by phone, to request us to share status on their behalf, if they are unable to do so themselves.

Further information is available on right to work checks on GOV.UK at:

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-09/83805>

### **Health Services: Refugees**

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op)** [80780] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether additional resources are made available to (a) GPs and (b) other NHS services to support potential demand for services from refugees.

**Reply from Neil O'Brien:** It is vital that everyone can access the health, care and support they need to live a longer life in better health. Additional resources are made available for General Practices and other National Health Services to support potential demand for services from refugees. This includes the UK Resettlement Scheme, the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme and the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy and arrivals under the Homes for Ukraine and Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-07/80780>

### **Refugees: Employment**

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op)** [80778] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to help refugees in temporary accommodation engage in employment in the period between checks being completed and their claims being processed.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** Asylum seekers are not allowed to work in the UK unless their claim has been outstanding for 12 months or more through no fault of their own. Those permitted to work are restricted to jobs on the Shortage Occupation List, which is based on expert advice from the independent Migration

Advisory Committee. Our policy approach distinguishes between those coming to the UK seeking asylum who need protection and those seeking to work here who can apply for a work visa under the Immigration Rules. Our wider economic migration policy schemes could be seriously undermined if migrants were able to bypass work visa rules by lodging unfounded asylum claims in the UK, then shortly afterwards getting the right to work as a result.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-07/80778>

### **Leisure and Voluntary Work: Refugees**

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [80782]** To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps her Department is taking to help provide access for refugees in urban areas to (a) leisure and sports facilities and (b) volunteering opportunities to help assist with their integration into that community.

**Reply from Stuart Andrew:** Integrating refugees into their communities is very important. Leisure and sport, and volunteering, play a huge part in this.

Sport and physical activity are incredibly important for our physical and mental health and vital in connecting communities. Sport England is responsible for growing and advocating for grassroots sport and physical activity in England and does this through a variety of interventions. This has included a delivery pilot funded by Sport England to engage refugee and asylum seekers in sport and physical activity in Halifax. That programme has received a positive reception so far and Sport England are exploring how to sustain this work in the longer term.

Volunteering is critical to a vibrant and resilient society. It benefits both volunteers and charitable organisations, and creates transformational impacts for beneficiaries and their communities.

This Government is committed to enabling people to take part in all forms of social action, including volunteering. We know the profound benefit that volunteering has on the individual, on communities and on society.

Through the £7.4m Volunteering Futures Fund, we are creating thousands more volunteering opportunities to improve accessibility of volunteering in the arts, culture, sports, civil society, youth and heritage sectors. The fund is helping a diverse range of people to access the benefits volunteering can bring. There is a strong focus on young people, those experiencing loneliness, those with disabilities and those from ethnic minority backgrounds. We also work in partnership with the National Association for Voluntary and Community Action (NAVCA) which supports communities from migrant backgrounds.

In addition, volunteering is supported by the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector and this government supports VCSE through initiatives such as Vision for Volunteering. We recognise the specific needs of refugee communities and, for example, made sure the Homes for Ukraine scheme was well connected with VCSE organisations in this space.

Refugees are free to volunteer and asylum seekers can also volunteer whilst their claim to become refugees is considered. It is this government's policy to support asylum seekers volunteering for charities or public sector organisations.\*

\*Home Office (October 2022) [Permission to work and volunteering for asylum seekers](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-07/80782>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Asylum: Youth Services**

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [84917]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to provide youth services to children and young people living in (a) contingency and (b) initial asylum accommodation.

## Asylum

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op)** [84918] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to provide (a) adults and (b) young people awaiting the processing of their asylum application with access to (i) leisure and recreational activities, (ii) education and (iii) work opportunities whilst they are in (A) initial and (B) contingency asylum accommodation.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** Within adult and family contingency and initial asylum accommodation, our service provider has a robust delivery model in place to ensure our service users are able to occupy the site with suitable facilities to minimise the impact on the local community. However, we appreciate there may be a need for some front line services to support our users. We do have an on-site specialist team 24 hours a day 7 days a week provided by our provider who are on hand to provide support and advice as well as monitoring the service users' wellbeing, movement and escalate any safeguarding concerns. Local authorities have a duty to provide suitable full-time education for all children of compulsory school age resident in their area. The education must be appropriate to the child's age, ability, and any special educational needs they may have, regardless of their immigration status. Local authorities must offer free school places in accordance with their published admissions arrangements, and they must ensure that there is no unreasonable delay in securing school admission for any child. This includes provision for children who are temporarily living in an authority's area for long enough to attend school including the child of an asylum seeker in interim asylum support accommodation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-11/84917>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-11/84918>

## Pupils: Refugees

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op)** [80777] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether she has taken recent steps with Cabinet colleagues to help ensure that children of refugees are able to access (a) schools and (b) colleges.

**Reply from Claire Coutinho:** The department has contributed to the Home Office welcome pack for adults, who have recently been granted refugee or Humanitarian Protection status, to support them in applying for a place at school or college. The pack has been translated into several languages. The department has also contributed similar information to specific welcome packs for arrivals from Afghanistan, Hong Kong and Ukraine.

The department provides online resources for local authorities and schools which makes it clear that refugees and asylum seeker children and young adults have a right to access schools and colleges. Local authorities are required to ensure all children living in their areas receive an appropriate education.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-07/80777>

*The welcome packs referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/962463/English\\_only\\_-\\_web\\_accessible.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/962463/English_only_-_web_accessible.pdf)

and

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1095738/Afghan\\_Welcome\\_Pack.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1095738/Afghan_Welcome_Pack.pdf)

and

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1095738/Afghan\\_Welcome\\_Pack.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1095738/Afghan_Welcome_Pack.pdf)

and

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1100294/Ukraine\\_Welcome\\_Guide.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1100294/Ukraine_Welcome_Guide.pdf)

## Pupils: Refugees

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op)** [80781] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if she will take steps to help offer mental health support to child refugees in schools.

**Reply from Claire Coutinho:** The government is committed to improving mental health and wellbeing outcomes.

Schools are not specialist mental health providers, if child refugees experience symptoms of poor mental health, evidence-based treatment should be accessed via their general practitioner or local Improving Access to Psychological Therapies services. However, schools have an important role to play in identifying and responding to emerging or existing mental health issues, whether that be by providing targeted pastoral support, such as in school counselling, or ensuring referrals are made to external specialist support.

The department provides mental health and behaviour guidance to support education staff to identify children in need of extra mental health support, which includes working with external agencies. The guidance can be accessed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mental-health-and-behaviour-in-schools--2>

The department has also published guidance and signposting to external sources of mental health and wellbeing support for teachers, school staff and school leaders. This information can be accessed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/mental-health-and-wellbeing-support-in-schools-and-colleges>

To support children and young people arriving from Ukraine, the department has published a resource pack signposting schools and colleges to offers of support for Ukrainian children and young people which covered mental health and wellbeing, amongst other areas including learning English. This information is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/helping-ukrainian-students-in-schools>

To support the effective use of training and guidance on supporting and promoting mental health in schools, the department is funding all schools and colleges in England to train senior mental health leads who can put in place whole school approaches to mental health and wellbeing. This approach should encompass robust processes for identifying students, or specific groups, who need additional mental health support. Two thirds of schools and colleges will have been able to access funding by April 2023, backed by £10 million in the 2022/23 financial year. Further information is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/senior-mental-health-lead-training>

The department is also increasing the number of Mental Health Support Teams in schools and colleges, which provide early intervention for those experiencing mild to moderate mental health issues and facilitate smoother access to specialist services for those who require additional support, which may include child refugees. Further information is available here:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/mental-health/cyp/trailblazers/>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-07/80781>

## Asylum

**Chi Onwurah (Labour)** [82295] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of trends in the number of people seeking asylum in the UK in the last five years; and what proportion of people seeking asylum in the UK in the last five years have done so through safe routes.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The Home Office publishes data on asylum applications in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on the number of asylum applications received are published in table Asy\_D01 of the [asylum and resettlement detailed datasets](#). Information on how to use the dataset can be found

in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data relates to the year ending June 2022. Additionally, the Home Office publishes a high-level overview of the data in the '[summary tables](#)'. The 'contents' sheet contains an overview of all available data on asylum and resettlement.

The publication does not include information on how asylum seekers travelled to the UK. Some, but not all, asylum seekers arrive via small boats. Information on small boat arrivals who claim asylum can be found in the '[How many people do we grant asylum or protection to?](#)' chapter of the Immigration Statistics quarterly release.

Asylum is separate to the following 'safe and legal entry routes':

- Resettlement, including via the Afghan Resettlement Programme
- Family reunion visas
- BN(O) Hong Kong visas

Ukraine Family, Sponsorship and Extension Scheme visas

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-08/82295>

### **Asylum: Iran**

**Owen Thompson (SNP)** [87906] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government is taking to provide safe routes of asylum for protestors from Iran whose lives are at risk of violence perpetrated by authorities in that country.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The UK has a proud history of providing protection to those who need it and our resettlement schemes enable us to give the opportunity of a new start to those who have been forced to flee their homes.

We continue to provide and maintain well-defined safe and legal routes for refugees and vulnerable people in need of resettlement. Those fleeing Iran may be eligible for resettlement to the UK through the existing UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS), Community Sponsorship and Mandate resettlement scheme.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-15/87906>

### **Asylum: Greater London**

**Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op)** [80875] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will provide further details of the reasons behind the operational error which led to 11 asylum seekers being driven from Manston Asylum Processing Centre to central London, and left without accommodation overnight.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The welfare of those in our care is of the utmost importance and people are only released from Manston when we have assurances that they have accommodation to go to.

Once we were notified that these individuals did not have accommodation, they were transported to accommodation within a matter of hours.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-07/80875>

### **Health Services: Asylum**

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op)** [82375] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to help people staying in bridging hotels access (a) public, (b) physical and (c) mental health services.

**Reply from Neil O'Brien:** In 2021/22, £7 million was allocated to the National Health Service to support a healthcare offer for arrivals through Afghan resettlement schemes whilst in temporary bridging accommodation. This provided up to £600 per person for an enhanced health assessment and general practitioner (GP) registration. This should include an assessment of trauma and mental health needs and referral to local services as appropriate, with GP registration supporting mainstream access to local services.

Discussions are underway between the Department, HM Treasury and NHS

England regarding further funding for 2022/23.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-08/82375>

### **Health Services: Asylum**

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op)** [82372] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Office, what healthcare support is provided for refugees and asylum seekers at (a) reception centres, (b) detention centres and (c) hotels.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** a) Medical services are delivered at Manston and Western Jetfoil through two separate but complementary contracts with external suppliers. Currently, in total, there are eight paramedical/medical trained staff on site by day, in a fully equipped medical centre. In addition, there are three Emergency Department Consultant doctors providing clinical cover at the site; and a Consultant is on site during the day between 0800-2000hrs, with on-call cover provided overnight.

b) All immigration removal centres (IRC) have dedicated health facilities run by doctors and nurses which are managed by the NHS or appropriate providers. All receptions into IRCs receive an assessment within two hours by a nurse and are offered a doctor's appointment within 24 hours. In addition to published guidance, staff at all centres are also given training and support to proactively identify and act upon indicators of vulnerability at the earliest opportunity. Welfare teams are onsite at every IRC to assist detained individuals in accessing support specific to their needs.

c) Asylum seekers have full access to NHS health service upon arrival in the UK. The Home Office and its accommodation providers work closely with partners across public health. We have worked closely with NHS to ensure that service users are signposted to register with GP's as quickly as possible and that access to Health Screenings offered by individual practices are signposted to service users new to contingency hotels in boroughs.

All Home Office staff and contractors engaging with asylum seekers are trained to adopt a risk-based approach towards potential indications of vulnerability and to refer relevant cases onto the Safeguarding Hub, a dedicated resource assigned to identifying and safeguarding vulnerable asylum seekers. The Safeguarding Hub works closely with the statutory agencies to signpost vulnerable customers for support with their health and social care needs.

On 25 June we and DHSC set up a National Asylum Seeker Steering Group (NASHSG) and associated subgroups. The group brings together experts from across the health and immigration sectors to consider the specific health and wellbeing needs, barriers and solutions for people seeking asylum status in the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-08/82372>

### **Infectious Diseases: Asylum**

**Daisy Cooper (Liberal Democrat)** [78843] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to implement public health measures that prevent spread of infectious diseases to new (a) immigration centres, (b) hotels and (c) other accommodation used to accommodating asylum applicants.

**Reply from Neil O'Brien:** The UK Health Security Agency's (UKHSA) national and regional health protection teams provide advice, guidance and support to immigration centres, hotels and other asylum accommodation settings in response to alerts of infectious disease. This may include advice on infection prevention and control, contact tracing, isolation, prophylaxis, screening, vaccination and safe transfer of cases or contacts. National Health Service and Home Office services will be responsible for implementing these recommendations as applicable.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-03/78843>

### **Infectious Diseases: Detention Centres**

**Daisy Cooper (Liberal Democrat)** [85017] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 9 November to Question 78840 on Detention Centres: Infectious Diseases, whether he has held discussions with Directors of Public Health in relevant local authorities on the protocols for preventing and controlling infectious diseases in each of the (a) immigration removal centres and (b) residential short-term holding facilities, as of 9 November 2022.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** Healthcare in immigration removal centres (IRCs) and residential short-term holding facilities (RSTHFs) in England is commissioned by NHS England, and the healthcare services are provided by NHS England & NHS Improvement commissioned service providers, delivered in line with the national service specifications for healthcare services in IRCs. At Dungavel IRC in Scotland, and Larne House STHF in Northern Ireland, healthcare is commissioned by the service providers.

The Home Office follows national guidance issued by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), Public Health Scotland (PHS) and NHS, including advice on preventing and controlling infectious disease outbreaks in prisons and other prescribed places of detention. The healthcare provider and UKHSA undertake regular discussions with key stakeholders including Directors of Public Health in relevant local authorities on the protocols for preventing and controlling infection disease, with input from the Home Office where appropriate.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-11/85017>

### **Asylum: Children**

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op)** [84915] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential impact of moving children staying in contingency asylum accommodation to another area on (a) those children and (b) their education; and if she will take steps to keep children in the same area once they have been moved into contingency or initial asylum accommodation.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The use of contingency accommodation is only ever a short-term solution to ensure that we meet our statutory obligation to house destitute asylum seekers.

Successive years of record numbers crossing the channel has meant that the Home Office has had to deal with growing demand for asylum support with reduced accommodation services.

Children in contingency accommodation who are part of a family group will move with the family as and when they are relocated. Accommodation is offered on a no-choice basis across the United Kingdom. There are established mechanisms in place if individuals have a specific, acute need to be accommodated in a particular area. These mechanisms are supported by Migrant Help and asylum support casework teams.

Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children will be accommodated in dedicated hotels until they are moved into local authority care.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-11/84915>

### **Asylum: Housing**

**Navendu Mishra (Labour)** [86624] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent steps her Department has taken to help mitigate the risk of the spread of (a) diseases and (b) other health conditions in properties housing asylum seekers.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The welfare and safety of all vulnerable asylum seekers in our care is of the utmost importance to the Home Office.

We work closely with the UK Health Security Agency to ensure we adhere to the

current guidance on mitigating the risk of spread of diseases and other health conditions. Our accommodation providers are experienced in managing accommodation and implement infection prevention and control measures in line with current Government guidance. Asylum seekers accommodated in hostel-based accommodation receive translated guidance in relation to potential symptoms and hygiene requirements, assistance and guidance are provided by support staff.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-14/86624>

### **Asylum: Housing**

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op)** [83673] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to help relieve pressure on levels of asylum accommodation.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** We have been working closely with our accommodation providers to increase the amount of Dispersed Accommodation (DA) available to us. The full asylum dispersal model, announced on 13 April 2022, will gradually end the use of hotels. This will be achieved by allowing the Home Office to procure dispersal properties within the private rental sector in all Local Authority areas across England, Scotland and Wales, rather than the minority of Local Authorities which currently participate. This approach will also reduce pressures on those Local Authorities.

We explore new and alternative sites as part of our contingency planning to ensure we have enough capacity across the system to meet expected demand and meet our statutory obligations.

Regarding Local Authorities who support people through the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) or the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) will receive £20,520 per person, over 3 years, for resettlement and integration costs. They have the flexibility to use this funding to contribute towards renting accommodation, including deposit, letting fees and necessary furnishings. Local authorities and health partners who resettle families will also receive up to £4,500 per child for education, £850 for English language provision for adults requiring this support and £2,600 for healthcare. This funding is available to local authorities who resettle families under the 3 year ACRS/ARAP with effect from 1 September 2021.

For other resettlement schemes the first 12 months of a refugee's resettlement costs are funded by central government using the overseas aid budget.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-09/83673>

*The following four questions all received the same answer*

### **Asylum: Housing**

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op)** [80775] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has provided additional funding to local authorities for the support of refugees who have been moved from the Manston immigration centre.

### **Asylum: Hotels**

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op)** [80776] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to support local health services providing support for people arriving in hotels from Manston Immigration Processing Centre.

### **Refugees: Hotels**

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op)** [80779] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she is taking steps to provide resources to Civil Society to help them support refugees staying in hotels within their local communities.

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op)** [80783] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what security standards her Department has put in place at hotels where

refugees are staying; and whether her Department has provided additional funding for that security.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The welfare and safety of all vulnerable asylum seekers in our care is of the utmost importance to the Home Office. Our accommodation providers have a robust delivery model in place, maximising the use of on-site facilities for recreation, and pastoral care to minimise impact on the local community. Security and support staff are on site 24 hours a day and providers liaise closely with local police to ensure the safety of vulnerable residents and to mitigate any risks to them and the wider community. All asylum seekers undergo a security clearance at Manston.

All asylum seekers have access to NHS services from arrival in the UK. The Home Office and its contractors work closely with the NHS, local authorities and non-governmental organisations to ensure that people can access the health care and support they need. Funding is available to the Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) who are responsible for commissioning healthcare services for those in initial accommodation and this can be claimed via the NHS England contact.

The Full Dispersal model, announced on 13 April 2022 is supported by £21million of un-ringfenced grant funding to make sure eligible Local Authorities can provide wraparound support locally. Local authorities will also receive £3,500 for each new dispersal accommodation bed space in the 22/23 financial year.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-07/80775>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-07/80776>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-07/80779>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-07/80783>

### **Asylum: Temporary Accommodation**

**Mark Jenkinson (Conservative):** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers are housed in (a) hotels, (b) houses in multiple occupation and (c) other temporary accommodation in each constituency as of 14 November 2022.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The significant increase in dangerous journeys across the Channel is placing unprecedented strain on our asylum system and it has made it necessary to continue to use hotels to accommodate some asylum seekers. The use of hotels is a short-term solution and we are working hard with local authorities to find appropriate accommodation.

Statistics relating to supported asylum seekers temporarily residing in contingency accommodation are published as Immigration Statistics under the S98 population tables. The latest publication (March 2022) can be found here [Asylum and resettlement datasets](#), under the document [Asylum seekers in receipt of support](#). The data published at the end of June have been recently removed and are being investigated. An update will be provided in the next Immigration Statistics release. The Home Office does not publish a breakdown of these statistics which disaggregates the number of asylum seekers accommodated in specific accommodation. These figures are not available in a reportable format and to provide the information could only be done at disproportionate cost.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-14/86606>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Asylum: Hotels**

**Chloe Smith (Conservative) [79275]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has taken recent steps to help promote good

community relations in areas where hotels have been block booked for an indeterminate period for the sole use of asylum seekers.

**Chloe Smith (Conservative)** [79276] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department undertakes assessments of the potential impact of block booking hotels for an indeterminate period for the sole use of asylum seekers on the local and regional economy before making those bookings.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** Due to the continuing unprecedented high volume of small boats arrivals and the historical pressure from COVID-19 measures on the asylum system it has been necessary to continue to use hotels to accommodate some asylum seekers to meet our immediate statutory need.

When a new hotel has been identified, the Home Office will write to the Local Authority Chief Executive and the MP for the area to inform them of our plans to house asylum seekers within the hotel identified. This is normally done in advance of a hotel being used, but when a particularly urgent need for accommodation occurs, this may take place retrospectively. We also then offer the Local Authority a meeting to discuss the hotel, where they are able to provide feedback on the proposed site and all related matters.

Community cohesion is an important aspect of using contingency sites successfully and we actively engage and collaborate with relevant stakeholders to understand and act on any concerns appropriately as the site operates.

The Full Dispersal model, announced on 13 April 2022, aims to reduce then end the use of hotels by allowing the Home Office to procure dispersal properties within the private rental sector in all Local Authority areas across England, Scotland and Wales, rather than the minority of Local Authorities which currently participate. This more equitable approach is supported by £21million of un-ringfenced grant funding to make sure eligible Local Authorities can provide wraparound support locally. Local authorities will also receive £3,500 for each new dispersal accommodation bed space in the 22/23 financial year.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-04/79275>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-04/79276>

*The announcement referred to above can be read at*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-04-19/debates/04A9FDC8-59F6-4CA9-BEBD-3B6F5850D707/GlobalMigrationChallenge>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Asylum: Hotels**

**Chloe Smith (Conservative)** [79277] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to help ensure that asylum seekers who are unaccompanied minors are (a) supported and (b) kept safe during temporary placements in hotels.

**Chloe Smith (Conservative)** [79278] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to help ensure that asylum seekers who are (a) women and (b) unaccompanied minors are not falling victim to (i) modern slavery and (ii) human trafficking whilst residing in temporary hotel accommodation.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** 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 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 or adults in contingency hotels 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.

All asylum seekers, including children, have an interview on arrival in the UK which includes a series of questions specifically designed to understand whether there are any potential indicators of trafficking. A referral is made to the National Referral Mechanism if indicators are noted. In the case of children a safety plan is put in place by social services, whilst adults identified as potential victims of modern slavery are entitled to care and support provided by the Salvation Army.

The Home Office and its accommodation providers have robust processes in place to ensure that where someone is at risk they are referred to the appropriate statutory agencies of the police, NHS and social services, to promote appropriate safeguarding interventions. All contingency sites have security staff and providers liaise closely with local police to ensure the welfare and safety of vulnerable residents.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-04/79277>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-04/79278>

### **Asylum: Hotels**

**Chloe Smith (Conservative) [79279]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers absconded from asylum hotels (a) nationally and (b) in Norwich North constituency in the latest period for which data is available; how many and what proportion of these people were unaccompanied minors; and what steps her Department is taking to locate them.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The Home Office has no power to hold asylum seekers, including children, in hotels or any temporary accommodation if they wish to leave.

The Home Office does not publish a breakdown of statistics which disaggregates the number of adult asylum seekers leaving hotels. These figures are not available in a reportable format and to provide the information could only be done at disproportionate cost. We do record the number of unaccompanied asylum children (UASC) leaving UASC hotels on an episodic, rather than on an individual, basis as some children have left their accommodation more than once. There have been 408 episodes of unaccompanied children leaving their UASC hotel accommodation since July 2021.

There are no hotels in Norwich North being used as temporary accommodation for unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-04/79279>

### **Asylum: Housing**

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [83679]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of providing accommodation for asylum seekers, including conversions and modular builds, on public land due for disposal.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** We have been working closely with our accommodation providers to increase the amount of Dispersed Accommodation

(DA) available to us. The full asylum dispersal model, announced on 13 April 2022, will gradually end the use of hotels. This will be achieved by allowing the Home Office to procure dispersal properties within the private rental sector in all Local Authority areas across England, Scotland and Wales, rather than the minority of Local Authorities which currently participate. This approach will also reduce pressures on those Local Authorities.

We explore new and alternative sites as part of our contingency planning to ensure we have enough capacity across the system to meet expected demand and meet our statutory obligations.

Regarding Local Authorities who support people through the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) or the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) will receive £20,520 per person, over 3 years, for resettlement and integration costs. They have the flexibility to use this funding to contribute towards renting accommodation, including deposit, letting fees and necessary furnishings.

Local authorities and health partners who resettle families will also receive up to £4,500 per child for education, £850 for English language provision for adults requiring this support and £2,600 for healthcare. This funding is available to local authorities who resettle families under the 3 year ACRS/ARAP with effect from 1 September 2021.

For other resettlement schemes the first 12 months of a refugee's resettlement costs are funded by central government using the overseas aid budget.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-09/83679>

*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: Erewash**

**Darren Henry (Conservative)** [80933] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will take steps to tackle incidences of anti-social behaviour and intimidation by some of the migrants recently housed in two hotels in Erewash.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** Due to the continuing unprecedented high volume of small boats arrivals and the historical pressure from COVID-19 measures on the asylum system it has been necessary to continue to use hotels to accommodate some asylum seekers to meet our immediate statutory need.

Asylum seekers granted accommodation and support whilst their applications are being considered are not detained and are free to come and go as they please. They are clearly advised of the expectations the Home Office and our accommodation providers have for them to behave responsibly while they reside in our properties and not to engage in any form of criminal or anti-social activity. All incidents are reported to the Home Office immediately by the providers; this is a contractual requirement. We then work with the provider to put additional measures in place, if required. This includes working with other statutory bodies including police to investigate any potential criminal activities. We do not comment publicly on operational arrangements at individual sites.

Community cohesion is an important aspect of using contingency sites successfully and we will continue to engage with all relevant stakeholders in multi-agency forums to understand and address any concerns appropriately as the site operates.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-07/80933>

### **Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre**

**Chi Onwurah (Labour)** [82294] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the women detained at Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre in July and August 2022, how many women were (a) foreign national criminals released from prison, (b) asylum seekers whose claims were ongoing and (c) women who had overstayed their visa.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The Home Office publishes data on people in detention on the last day of each quarter in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)', as well as data on people entering and leaving detention during each quarter. The latest data relate to the end of June 2022.

Data on people in detention are published in table Det\_D02 of the '[Detention detailed tables](#)', where the data can be broken down by current place of detention (including Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre), and sex.

Data on people in detention broken down by asylum and non-asylum related detainees are published in table Det\_01 of the '[Detention summary tables](#)'.

Data on those in detention relate to those in detention on the last day of the quarter and are therefore subject to daily fluctuations and can depend on how many people entered detention just before the end of the period.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-08/82294>

### **Detention Centres: Manston**

**Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op)** [80876] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many children are detained at Manston Asylum Processing Centre.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** As at 4pm on 7 November there were 117 children resident with their families at Manston.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-07/80876>

### **Detention Centres**

**Rupa Huq (Independent)** [80814] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment her Department has made of the adequacy of asylum processing centres.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The processing centre at Manston provides suitable welfare provisions including hot food, fresh clothing, toilet facilities, sanitary packs and medical care. It provides for all the basic needs of people who will have arrived tired, cold, in wet clothing and who may not have eaten during their journey.

As the situation and needs at Manston have changed, the Home Office and its contractors have continued to innovate to meet those changing needs. Additional marquees have been erected, additional medical personnel have been contracted and improvements have been made to the catering provided. We will continue to innovate to provide for the basic needs of those in our care and to ensure the safety of everyone at Manston as a priority.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-07/80814>

### **Detention Centres: Manston**

**Charlotte Nichols (Labour)** [80938] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department took steps to help tackle overcrowding at Manston short term holding facility in the six months before 1 November 2022.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** Before the high number of arrivals from August 2022 onwards, Manston had proven to be a streamlined and efficient asylum processing centre, where biographic and biometric details were taken and assessed against Home Office databases, asylum claims registered and the vulnerable assessed. Since then, the department has taken every step possible to ensure that any period of detention is as brief as possible, arrivals are processed quickly and, where

appropriate, given initial asylum accommodation. We have been sourcing more bed spaces with local authorities and in contingency accommodation such as hotels, and we have erected additional marquees at Manston to increase the space available.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-07/80938>

#### **Detention Centres: Manston**

**Diana Johnson (Labour) [77330]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the statement on Western Jet Foil and Manston Asylum Processing Centres on Monday 31 October 2022 Col 644, how many new hotels were approved for use for individuals from Manston Immigration Processing Centre between 6 September 2022 and 19 October 2022, broken down by (a) county and (b) constituency.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** Given the pressing need to move people from Manston, we are considering all possible options and acting to secure suitable accommodation at pace.

Between 6 September 2022 and 19 October 2022, all 119 hotels proposed for potential use as contingency asylum accommodation were given approval to progress. Home Office officials and our accommodation providers are now progressing due diligence and engagement on each proposed site to ensure that they are suitable, affordable and in line with appropriate standards.

As part of our engagement, relevant local authorities and MPs have been informed directly of the sites under consideration in their area. In doing so, we retain our commitment to work with local partners to understand and address concerns during and after any implementation period. It would not be appropriate to publicise details of the location of the individual sites under consideration whilst due diligence remains underway.

Of the 119 sites being progressed, so far 16 of these sites have been brought into use for contingency asylum accommodation across Ashford, Brighton & Hove, Camden, Epping Forest, Erewash, Ipswich, Kingston upon Thames, Newham, Oxfordshire, Reading, South Kesteven, Stevenage, Swindon, West Northamptonshire, and Westminster.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-02/77330>

*The statement referred to above can be read at*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-10-31/debates/F189CA88-FDF3-4018-905C->

[1CC8A1B76E28/WesternJetFoilAndManstonAsylumProcessingCentres#contribution-940A0A5E-5880-4E05-87C2-00914BC44465](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-10-31/debates/F189CA88-FDF3-4018-905C-1CC8A1B76E28/WesternJetFoilAndManstonAsylumProcessingCentres#contribution-940A0A5E-5880-4E05-87C2-00914BC44465)

#### **Detention Centres: Manston**

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [82374]** To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, when he first received a report of the communicable health outbreaks at the Manston immigration centre; and what steps his Department took to respond to these reports.

**Reply from Neil O'Brien:** The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) was informed of multiple cases of diarrhoea and vomiting in Manston on 7 September 2022, which was later confirmed to be due to infection with Shigella bacteria. While there is also a cluster of diphtheria cases linked to the Manston centre, it is not classed as an outbreak as there is currently no evidence of transmission in the setting. Such cases are more likely to have been acquired prior to arrival. The UKHSA was notified of the first confirmed case on 15 October 2022.

The UKHSA undertook a risk assessment and chaired incident management team meetings of local partners to coordinate the responses. This included making recommendations regarding testing, infection prevention and control, cleaning,

isolation or cohorting of people and treatment and immunisation in line with existing guidance. The UKHSA has established a national incident response to address the cluster of diphtheria cases and wider health protection issues in asylum accommodation settings.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-08/82374>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

### Asylum Seekers: Accommodation

**Lord Howarth of Newport (Labour):** To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure the provision of appropriate accommodation for asylum seekers after their departure from the Manston immigration centre.

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Murray of Blidworth):** ... We are committed to working closely with communities and stakeholders to ensure that destitute asylum seekers are housed in safe, secure and suitable accommodation. All appropriate options are being explored to ensure that suitable accommodation is secured as quickly as is necessary, and hotels are one element.

It may assist the noble Lord to know how the system works in terms of the steps of allocating accommodation. Clearly, the Secretary of State is under a statutory obligation to provide accommodation support to destitute asylum seekers. At Manston this appears to be the large majority of those arriving in small boats. They are housed at Manston for as short a period as possible, then sent to ring-fenced hotel accommodation and on to other hotel accommodation. ...

**Lord Howarth of Newport:** ... Does he understand that when the Home Secretary uses language about an "invasion" and the Immigration Minister writes that "'Hotel Britain' must end", these are incendiary utterances that might have been calculated to inflame hard-right hatred of refugees? Is he aware that, following the exposure of the squalid and dangerous overcrowding at Manston, the Home Office has abandoned asylum seekers to sleep rough on pavements in London, with no warm clothes or money? Is it not the case that the Home Office has been dumping asylum seekers, with no forewarning and no information, on councils already struggling to house people in need, or on homelessness charities, or leaving them in limbo in hotels for apparently interminable periods? How do these realities square with his claim to noble Lords that the mission of the Home Office is "to treat all who come to our country with care and compassion"?—[[Official Report, 9/11/22; col. 643](#)]

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** As I said in my earlier Answer, we are required to provide support and accommodation to asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute while their claims are pending. Given the current pressing need to move people from Manston, we are necessarily considering all possible options and acting to secure suitable accommodation at pace. We endeavour to notify as early as possible the local authorities where the accommodation is located. The noble Lord will appreciate that this is an unprecedented situation that has required very quick action by Home Office officials.

**Lord Singh of Wimbledon (Crossbench):** My Lords, does the Minister agree that asylum seekers are not alien invaders to these shores but innocent people who are the victims of horrendous conflict in different parts of the world, such as the Middle East, Afghanistan, Ukraine and so many other places? Does he agree that it is only right that we extend hospitality to them?

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** I agree with part of what the noble Lord says. Obviously, it is important that all those who come to seek asylum in the UK have the opportunity to have their applications considered, and that all those who

are genuine asylum seekers are of course afforded all that this country can offer by way of protection. In that sense, I agree with the noble Lord.

**Lord Cormack (Conservative):** My Lords, I welcome the recent more productive talks with our French friends and allies. Has consideration been given to building, at joint expense but with a considerable amount from us, decent hostel-type accommodation in France, where the British officials who are now assessing applications can work and where people can be given a proper assessment and clean living conditions?

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** I hear what my noble friend says. Clearly, the recently concluded negotiations with the French concerned the use of Border Force officials within the French detection mechanism on the French coast, but I will certainly take back my noble friend's suggestion to the Home Office.

**Lord Dubs (Labour):** My Lords, I was at Manston last week and I have two questions. First, how many of the people currently at Manston have been there longer than 24 hours, which is the designated time? Secondly, the Minister said that the Home Office would endeavour to inform local authorities. I was in Oxford last week, where I was told that 200 people had arrived from Manston and there had not been a word of warning or consultation with the local authority.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** ... I, too, was at Manston last week and I am sure that he will share my admiration for the hard work of the staff at Manston in very difficult circumstances. I can assure the noble Lord that the current figure for those at Manston as of 8 am this morning was 1,428. I am afraid that I am unable to give the noble Lord information about the longest period of any person detained there. I will endeavour to find that information and write to the noble Lord. On the noble Lord's Oxford question, I am afraid I do not know the answer but I will find out and write to him.

**The Lord Bishop of St Albans:** My Lords, of course we are delighted at the hard work that the people at Manston are putting into this, but there is a very serious problem indeed. Just a few days ago, I had an email from one of my clergy who said that, during the week, large numbers of asylum seekers were moved in, without any warning to the local authority or local partners, and it has caused chaos. That means not only that we do not have the statutory support in place but that voluntary groups such as churches, which are trying to offer support, simply have no warning. Will he go back to his officials? We simply need to get the communication right and we will all work with the Government and other partners to try to solve this very difficult, agonising problem.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** I entirely agree with the right reverend Prelate. The issues surrounding the allocation of accommodation are certainly the subject of concentrated effort by Home Office officials, and it is the intention to improve notification. I add that we are incredibly grateful for the activities of church groups and others who help provide assistance to those accommodated in hotels.

**Baroness Brinton (Liberal Democrat):** My Lords, following on from the right reverend Prelate's question and that of the noble Lord, Lord Dubs, it appears, worryingly, that the Home Office is still not talking to the directors of public health in local areas receiving people from Manston. On 1 November, the Minister said that there were four cases of diphtheria. I am hearing that there are now nearly 40 cases, and we know that people are not being tested as they leave Manston. The Minister offered to write to me before; will he now agree to meet to discuss this urgent health issue?

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** My understanding is that there are 12 diphtheria cases, but I will certainly make further inquiries in light of that. I can assure the noble Baroness that healthcare in contingency asylum accommodation is a priority. Those contracted to the Home Office endeavour to ensure that people accommodated in hotels or other contingency accommodation are signposted to GP practices, and there is local health screening in most cases.

**Lord Forsyth of Drumlean (Conservative):** My Lords, can my noble friend explain to me

how it is possible to regard people coming from Albania, which is a stable and democratic country, as asylum seekers, and how much is it costing the taxpayer to put these people up in hotels?

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** Clearly, a large number of those crossing are from Albania. It is understood that around 12,000 of those who have crossed this year have been from there, and it is right to say that Albania is a safe country. Migrants are entitled to avail of the asylum application process and those applications are considered in accordance with the procedure as it currently stands. This matter clearly needs to be considered and is being considered.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-11-15/debates/F6F594A6-2FE7-4F58-B504-C480D00BDEA8/AsylumSeekersAccommodation>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers: Channel Migrants

### Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

**Lord Empey (UUP) [HL3092]** To ask His Majesty's Government what estimate they have made, if any, of the amount of money that has been made by people trafficking migrants across the English Channel this year.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** The Government remains committed to tackling Organised Immigration Crime (OIC) and disrupting the Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) responsible. The Government and law enforcement agencies work tirelessly to tackle the criminal networks who facilitate people smuggling from source countries to Europe and then the UK, knowingly putting people in life-threatening situations. The NCA undertakes investigations into complex and serious OIC offences, arresting offenders in the UK and overseas and bringing them to justice.

We also pursue those involved in the financial flows that support this activity. Using criminal powers in the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, an individual can be prosecuted for money laundering offences if sufficient evidence is obtainable and CPS agree to charging, or civil powers within the same act permit the action to be taken against the money concerned. Both these approaches are used to undermine the financial flows supporting small boat and wider clandestine smuggling, both in the UK and with foreign partners.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-01/hl3092>

### Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

**Lord Rosser (Labour) [HL3119]** To ask His Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of how many individuals have died attempting to cross the English Channel in small boats in each month since January 2018.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** The Home Office is aware of a total of 42 persons known to have died while attempting Channel crossings in small boats since January 2018:

August 2019 – 2 deaths reported

October 2019 – 2 death reported

August 2020 – 1 death reported

October 2020 – 5 deaths reported

February 2021 – 1 death reported

August 2021 – 1 death reported

November 2021 – 29 deaths reported

January 2022 – 1 death reported

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-01/hl3119>

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

**Lord Empey (UUP)** [HL3091] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the response by the government of France to migrants crossing the English Channel.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** The UK maintains regular contact with the Government of France on our joint cooperation to tackle illegal migration at the shared border. The UK has committed several funding packages to support this work, including a bilateral arrangement which was reached between the UK and France on 20 July 2021.

Last year's investment saw the French doubling the numbers of officers patrolling beaches. Our partnership with France has helped stop over 29,000 illegal crossings since the start of the year - almost twice the number at this stage last year.

The work of the UK-France Joint Intelligence Cell has supported more than 500 arrests and dismantled 55 organised crime groups since it was established in July 2020.

We remain committed to supporting the French through our joint response which we recognise requires long term and ambitious action. We continue to strengthen our productive and constructive relationship with the French Government to respond to new challenges.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-01/hl3091>

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

**Lord Oates (Liberal Democrat)** [HL3203] To ask His Majesty's Government how many unauthorised Cross Channel migrants have been returned to France in each year since 2012.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of returns from the UK in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release' on gov.uk. The latest data on returns from the UK by return destination country are published in table Ret\_D02 of the 'Returns Detailed Tables' on gov.uk which can be broken down by return type group. The latest data go up to the end of March 2022.

The data are for all returns from the UK. We do not publish information on method of entry for the returnee i.e. if they are migrants who crossed the channel.

[Table ret\\_D02](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-03/hl3203>

## **UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer: Ukraine**

### **Refugees: Ukraine**

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL3068] To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to prevent homelessness amongst Ukrainian refugees in the UK.

**Reply from Baroness Scott of Bybrook:** Under the Homes for Ukraine scheme, we would like as many sponsors as possible to extend their sponsorship beyond six-months and we are providing guidance for those who cannot continue sponsoring. At the 4-month mark we are writing to sponsors and guests about the options available to them, helping them to plan their next steps.

To support Ukrainians that want to stay in sponsorships for a longer period, but with a different host, we are enabling a process of rematching and will continue to develop our bank of potential sponsors. We are also helping guests to live independently by supporting them in developing necessary language skills and finding jobs.

For arrivals under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, the Government is providing funding per person to councils to enable them to provide support to individuals and families, including in the minority of cases where someone is left without accommodation. This tariff to support the delivery of services is the same across the whole of the UK.

Further to the above, we have provided councils in England with £316 million this year to help prevent and meet the costs of homelessness. Homelessness is a devolved matter.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-31/hl3068>

*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 Lords Written Answers: Other Immigration and Asylum

### Immigration: Appeals

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL3209] To ask His Majesty's Government how many applications for UK immigrant status originally refused have been overturned on appeal since 2015; and what steps they are taking to reduce the numbers that are overturned.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** Data on appeal outcomes is published on a quarterly basis by HM Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS). The latest statistics can be found on Tribunal Statistics Quarterly: April to June 2022 at Gov UK. Table FIA\_3 contains the requested information.

The Home Office seeks to defend immigration cases subject to an appeal where it is appropriate to do so, in line with the immigration legal framework and policies. In support of this aim and wider HMCTS reforms, a review function was introduced in 2019 which, through the Pre-Appeals Review team, determines the sustainability of decisions where an appeal has been lodged. Additionally, more Presenting Officers have been recruited in 2022 to ensure that those cases which do go before the courts benefit from a representative, and the number of unrepresented appeals is kept to a minimum.

Furthermore, measures under the Nationality and Borders Act, including the enhanced one-stop provisions, will help ensure that individuals are encouraged and supported to bring forward all relevant information so that it can be considered in advance of any appeal.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-03/hl3209>

*The data referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/tribunal-statistics-quarterly-april-to-june-2022/tribunal-statistics-quarterly-april-to-june-2022>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### Undocumented Migrants and Refugees

**Lord Goddard of Stockport (Liberal Democrat)** [HL3190] To ask His Majesty's Government how many (1) undocumented migrants, and (2) refugees, entering the UK in the last five years were nationals of (a) European, (b) African, and (c) Asian countries.

**Lord Goddard of Stockport (Liberal Democrat)** [HL3191] To ask His Majesty's Government what is the breakdown by (1) sex, and (2) age, of (a) undocumented migrants, and (b) refugees, who have arrived in the UK in each of the last five years.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** In your question we have interpreted 'undocumented' as meaning people who are detected entering the UK who do not carry valid documentation which entitles them to come to the UK, and therefore are termed 'irregular' arrivals.

The Home Office publishes data on irregular arrivals to the UK in the quarterly Irregular Migration to the UK release which can be found on gov.uk. Data on small boat arrivals by nationality are published on gov.uk.

If by 'undocumented' arrivals you meant undetected arrivals, we cannot provide this as by the very nature of these individuals going undetected, we hold no information on them. Please see the 'About the statistics' section of the Irregular Migration to the UK release on gov.uk for more information on what the statistics do and do not include.

Information on asylum cases is published in the Immigration statistics quarterly release on gov.uk.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-03/hl3190>  
and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-03/hl3191>

*The statistics referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>

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

**Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour)** [HL3152] To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to ensure all schools are aware of the extension of the right to free school meals to children in all families subject to the 'no recourse to public funds' rule.

**Reply from Baroness Barran:** The permanent extension of free school meal (FSM) eligibility to families with no recourse to public funds has been in place since the start of the 2021/22 summer term. The department updated its FSM guidance page at that time to reflect this change. The current guidance is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/free-school-meals-guidance-for-schools-and-local-authorities>

On 20 April 2022, an article on the expansion of FSM eligibility was included in the Education and Skills Funding Agency Update, which was emailed to academies and local authorities directly. The article can be accessed at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/esfa-update-20-april-2022>

On 26 April 2022, the department issued a notice to all schools and local authorities through its sector bulletin that this change had come into effect.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-02/hl3152>

### **Detention Centres: Manston**

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL3067] To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they (1) have taken, and (2) will take, to make conditions at the Manston Immigration Processing Centre fit for purpose.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** The facility at Manston provides suitable welfare provisions including hot food, fresh clothing, toilet facilities, sanitary packs and medical care. It provides for all the basic needs of people who will have arrived tired, cold, in wet clothing and who may not have eaten during their journey.

As the situation and needs at Manston have changed, the Home Office and its contractors have continued to innovate to meet those changing needs. Additional marquees have been erected, additional medical personnel have been contracted and improvements have been made to the catering provided. We will continue to innovate to provide for the basic needs of those in our care and to ensure the safety of everyone at Manston as a priority.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-31/hl3067>

## UK Parliament, Human Rights Committee

**Evidence sessions: Human rights of asylum seekers in the UK**

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/11569/html/>

and

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/11570/html/>

## New Publications

**Letter from Robert Jenrick MP to Diana Johnson MP regarding an allegation of poor treatment of some of the unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) accommodated temporarily at the Stade Court Hotel in Hythe**

[https://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2022-0886/RJ to HASC Chair-asylum-seeking children-Stade Court Hotel in Hythe.pdf](https://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2022-0886/RJ%20to%20HASC%20Chair-asylum-seeking%20children-Stade%20Court%20Hotel%20in%20Hythe.pdf)

**Irregular migration: A timeline of UKFrench co-operation**

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9681/CBP-9681.pdf>

**International migration, England and Wales: Census 2021**

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/bulletins/internationalmigrationenglandandwales/census2021>

**Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme in Scotland: statistics - November 2022**

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

**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>

## News

**Net migration to stay over 200,000, despite Sunak's pledge to cut numbers**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/autumn-statement-migration-brexit-sunak-b2227381.html>

**Plan to cut UK migration to tens of thousands shelved as forecasts increase**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/plan-to-cut-uk-migration-to-tens-of-thousands-shelved-as-forecasts-increase-hhkfdsjnk>

**UK strikes revised deal with France on Channel migrants**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-63615653>

**Channel migrants: Four arrests after men land on beach**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-63640882>

**Afghan refugees who fled the Taliban to Britain find salvation in education**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/afghan-refugees-who-fled-the-taliban-to-britain-find-salvation-in-education-htq5d2v5>

**Just over 100 of 2,500 potential homes for Ukrainian refugees put through vetting process in past month as families languish in hotels and cruise ships**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/world/war-in-ukraine-just-over-100-of-2500-potential-homes-for-ukrainian-refugees-put-through-vetting-process-in-past-month-as-families-languish-in-hotels-and-cruise-ships-3923429>

**Council to buy houses for Ukrainian refugees once their stay with UK hosts ends**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/11/16/council-buy-houses-ukrainian-refugees-stay-uk-hosts-ends/>

**Jeremy Hunt seeks to slash funding for Ukrainian refugees living with UK families**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/11/15/jeremy-hunt-seeks-slash-funding-ukrainian-refugees-living-uk/>

**More than 40,000 asylum seekers in UK waiting one to three years for decision**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/nov/14/more-than-40000-asylum-seekers-in-uk-waiting-one-to-three-years-for-decision>

**Asylum hotels chaos caused by ‘failure to plan’ for Channel crossings surge, minister admits**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/migrant-hotels-channel-boats-braverman-b2226405.html>

**Dozens of child asylum seekers placed in Home Office hotel for adults**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/nov/16/dozens-of-child-asylum-seekers-placed-in-home-office-hotel-for-adults>

**Tory MPs say they will continue naming asylum hotels**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-63651934>

**Commons speaker urged to stop Tory MPs naming asylum seekers’ hotels**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/nov/15/commons-speaker-urged-to-stop-tory-mps-naming-asylum-seekers-hotels>

**Asylum seekers to be sent to rural areas for fairer distribution of migrants**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/11/17/asylum-seekers-sent-rural-areas-fairer-distribution-migrants/>

**Rural areas will be asked to house more asylum seekers, minister suggests**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/nov/16/immigration-minister-fears-rural-areas-will-be-asked-to-house-more-asylum-seekers>

**Asylum seekers ‘can’t afford clothes or toiletries’ on £8 a week government support**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-seekers-support-clothes-toiletries-b2228138.html>

**Glasgow hotel stabbing report a 'shocking indictment of the UK's broken asylum system', says minister**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/world/glasgow-hotel-stabbing-report-a-shocking-indictment-of-the-uks-broken-asylum-system-says-minister-3919554>

**Migrant staying at Manston processing centre dies - Home Office**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-63691175>

**Man held at Manston asylum processing centre dies in hospital**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/manston-asylum-processing-centre-kent-death-migrant-b2228815.html>

**Migrant housed at Manston detention centre dies**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/11/19/migrant-housed-manston-detention-centre-dies/>

**Uganda: The story your parents never told you**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/newsbeat-63549826>

TOP

## Community Relations

### News

**St Margaret Declaration officially signed at Dunfermline Abbey**

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2022/articles/st-margaret-declaration-officially-signed-at-dunfermline-abbey>

TOP

## Equality

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Business: Ethnic Groups**

**Stephen Timms (Labour)** [84791] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, whether he has made an assessment of the potential barriers to minority ethnic owned businesses accessing Government contracts.

**Stephen Timms (Labour)** [84792] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, whether he plans to convene a Government taskforce to increase the number of ethnic minority-led businesses in public procurement.

**Reply from Jeremy Quin:** UK public procurement policy is to award contracts on the basis of value for money, which means the optimum combination of cost and quality over the lifetime of the project. Public sector procurers are required to assess value for money from the perspective of the contracting authority, using criteria linked to the subject matter of the contract, including compliance with the published specification.

A Social Value model launched on 1 January 2021 (PPN 06/20), which is applicable to central Government departments, requires contracts to be assessed on a range of priority outcomes, where it is relevant and proportionate to do so, including

improving accessibility to government contracts by a range of types of organisations, including minority ethnic owned businesses. This new approach will mean more opportunities for SMEs and social enterprises to win Government contracts by demonstrating the full extent of the value they would generate. As we look towards the future, we now have an opportunity to develop and implement a new procurement regime. The Procurement Bill contains proposals to further simplify the procurement process and make it easier for all companies to bid. The changes that are proposed are designed to benefit businesses of all sizes throughout the whole economy, including ethnic minority businesses; this includes measures that will reduce barriers to entry including establishing a single transparency platform so that bidders only have to submit their core credentials once, and making reforms to procurement frameworks so that suppliers are not locked out.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-11/84791>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-11/84792>

### **Business: Ethnic Groups**

**Stephen Timms (Labour)** [86388] To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what discussions he has had with venture capital industry representatives on tackling funding gaps for minority ethnic-owned businesses; and if he will make a statement.

**Reply from Kevin Hollinrake:** The Government recognises the challenges in accessing finance faced by minority-ethnic owned businesses and has reflected that in the British Business Bank's objective to identify and help to reduce imbalances in access to finance. The Bank's latest Annual Report highlights that in 2020/21, 21% of Start Up Loans were provided to founders from Black, Asian and other minority ethnic backgrounds.

Ministers regularly engage with ethnic minority business leaders and representative organisations including through the Ethnic Minority Business Group. Access to finance has been regularly raised and we will continue to discuss this with VC industry representatives and ethnic minority businesses.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-14/86388>

*The Annual Report referred to above can be read at*

[https://www.british-business-bank.co.uk/wp-](https://www.british-business-bank.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/BBB_Annual_Report_2022_TAGGED.pdf)

[content/uploads/2022/09/BBB\\_Annual\\_Report\\_2022\\_TAGGED.pdf](https://www.british-business-bank.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/BBB_Annual_Report_2022_TAGGED.pdf)

### **New Businesses: Ethnic Groups**

**Stephen Timms (Labour)** [87715] To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, with reference to the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry's report entitled Ethnic Diversity in Business: Removing barriers impeding business success, published on 12 May 2022, what assessment he has made of the report's finding that entrepreneurs from ethnic minority backgrounds are held back by stereotyping and outdated perceptions; and if he will make a statement.

**Reply from Kevin Hollinrake:** The Government is aware of the challenges faced by ethnic minority businesses and is taking action to support them. The British Business Bank's *Alone Together* report (2020) found access to finance is a major barrier for ethnic minority entrepreneurs. We are working with stakeholders to agree interventions to improve access to finance. Since its launch (2012) the Start Up Loans programme has issued around 20% of its loans to Black, Asian, and Ethnic-minority business.

The Government are also delivering actions set out in the *Inclusive Britain* report (2022), which aim to support ethnic minority entrepreneurs. Ministers regularly

engage with ethnic minority business leaders and networks to better understand the issues facing them.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-15/87715>

The London Chamber of Commerce report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.londonchamber.co.uk/LCCI/media/media/Ethnic-Diversity-in-Business-Paper.pdf>

The British Business Bank report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.british-business-bank.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Alone-together-Entrepreneurship-and-diversity-in-the-UK-FINAL.pdf>

Inclusive Britain, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inclusive-britain-action-plan-government-response-to-the-commission-on-race-and-ethnic-disparities/inclusive-britain-government-response-to-the-commission-on-race-and-ethnic-disparities>

## New Publications

### **IFS Deaton Review: Race and ethnicity**

<https://ifs.org.uk/sites/default/files/2022-11/Race-and-ethnicity-IFS-Deaton-Review-of-Inequalities.pdf>

### **IFS Deaton Review: Race/ethnic inequalities in health: moving beyond confusion to focus on fundamental causes**

<https://ifs.org.uk/inequality/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Race-ethnic-inequalities-in-health-IFS-Deaton-Review-of-Inequality.pdf>

### **IFS Deaton Review: Inequality and immigration**

<https://ifs.org.uk/inequality/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Inequality-and-immigration-IFS-Deaton-Review-of-Inequalities.pdf>

### **Minority ethnic groups - understanding diet, weight and type 2 diabetes: scoping review**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/understanding-diet-weight-type-2-diabetes-minority-ethnic-groups-scotland-access-experiences-services-support-weight-management-type-2-diabetes-recommendations-change/>

## News

### **UK ethnic minorities seeing sharp progress in education, but wages and wealth lag behind**

<https://ifs.org.uk/inequality/press-release/uk-ethnic-minorities-seeing-sharp-progress-in-education-but-wages-and-wealth-lag-behind/>

### **Minority ethnic Britons' educational success not reflected in pay, study finds**

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2022/nov/14/minority-ethnic-britons-educational-success-not-reflected-pay-study>

### **Ethnic minority workers face pay gap in 'biased' job market**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/ethnic-minority-workers-face-pay-gap-in-biased-job-market-hr0xwjgtg>

TOP

# Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

## Scottish Parliament Written Answers

### Religious Hate Crime

**Anas Sarwar (Labour)** [S6W-11942] To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the recommendations of the report of the public inquiry into Islamophobia in Scotland, what steps it is taking to consider hate crimes experienced by Sikhs, Hindus and other South Asians.

**Reply from Christina McKelvie:** The Scottish Government unequivocally condemns any form of hatred or prejudice, it is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

The Cross-Party Report on Tackling Islamophobia shines a light on the impact of anti-Muslim hatred in Scotland and we are considering its findings as we develop a new hate crime strategy for Scotland.

I established the Hate Crime Strategic Partnership Group to provide collective cross-sectoral strategic leadership in the development of a new strategy. It will set out our priorities for tackling hatred and prejudice in Scotland and support implementation of the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021. Members of the group include justice and public sector agencies, as well as Age Scotland, Black and Ethnic Minority Infrastructure in Scotland (BEMIS), Council of Ethnic Minority Voluntary Organisations (CEMVO), Equality and Human Rights Commission (Observer), Equality Network, Glasgow Disability Alliance, Interfaith Scotland, RespectMe, Scottish Human Rights Commission (Observer) and YouthLink Scotland.

Importantly, the strategy will be informed by communities with lived experience of hate crime – including religious and racially motivated hate crime – and members of our Strategic Partnership Group are actively engaging with communities, to understand their experiences.

We are absolutely committed to tackling all forms of hate crime, including those experienced by Sikhs, Hindus and other South Asians.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-11942>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

<https://13nf55.n3cdn1.secureserver.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Report-AWK.pdf>

### Religious Hate Crime

**Anas Sarwar (Labour)** [S6W-11943] To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S6W-03291 by Shona Robison on 8 October 2021, what steps it has taken to address the reported shortfall in data about Islamophobic hate crimes and hate crimes against non-Muslim groups such as Sikhs and Hindus in Scotland.

**Reply from Christina McKelvie:** We are committed to tackling hatred and prejudice in all its forms and recognise the value of having robust data and evidence on hate crime in Scotland. We want to see disaggregated data published on a regular and sustainable basis – including data about hate crimes against Muslims, Sikhs and Hindus.

The Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021 makes provision requiring disaggregated information about police recorded hate crime and convictions data to be published annually. We are working with justice partners to ensure these provisions can be implemented effectively.

In the meantime, a further Scottish Government study into the characteristics of hate crimes recorded by police in 2020-21 will be published later this winter. This

report will include the nature of hate crimes recorded by the police, including characteristics of both victims and perpetrators.

We encourage anyone who has experienced or witnessed a hate crime to report it to Police Scotland by dialling 101 in non-emergencies, or 999 in emergencies.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-11943>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-03291>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

### Hate Crimes

**Afzal Khan (Labour):** What steps [the Minister] has taken to tackle hate crimes. (902156)

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Sarah Dines):** Hate crime is a scourge on communities across the country. We expect the police to fully investigate hateful attacks and ensure that the cowards who commit them feel the full force of the law.

**Afzal Khan:** The Home Secretary said that the public want the police to tackle crime, yet the Home Office cut the number of police officers and left Islamophobia to increase over the last five years. Year after year, Home Office figures show that British Muslims are the victims of the highest number of hate crimes. This Islamophobia Awareness Month, will the Home Secretary take any steps to root out this insidious hatred, which impacts our British Muslim community?

**Reply from Sarah Dines:** There is a cheeky two-part question there. In relation to police numbers, I remind the hon. Gentleman that in his own area we have already recruited 804 new officers and there will be lots more coming in that space. On religious hate crimes against Muslims, my right hon. and learned Friend the Home Secretary is working hard in this area. I remind him that this Government have done more than any other to tackle anti-Muslim hatred. We have provided extra money—over £4 million between 2016 and 2022—to monitor and combat anti-Muslim hatred. I remind him that, in addition, the Home Office allocated £24.5 million to protect mosques and Muslim faith schools through the Places of Worship: Protective Security Funding Scheme in May 2022. A new Muslim faith schools protective security scheme will also be delivered this year. The Government are thoroughly committed to stamping out this evil crime.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-11-14/debates/1D6880A5-2105-4390-8998-4418638EF35F/HateCrimes>

Information about the Places of Worship: Protective Security Funding Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

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

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

### Islamophobia

**Sarah Owen (Labour) [79348]** To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what recent discussions he has had with Muslim faith leaders on Islamophobia in the UK.

**Reply from Lee Rowley:** This Government takes tackling Anti-Muslim hatred very seriously and working to stop it. Earlier this year the Secretary of State chaired a

roundtable with experts on Anti-Muslim hatred where we discussed the drivers of discrimination against Muslim communities.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-04/79348>

### **Criminal Proceedings: Racial Discrimination**

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [86599] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps he is taking to tackle racial disproportionality in the criminal justice system.

**Reply from Mike Freer:** Everyone has a right to be confident that the justice system is there to protect them. We are committed to identifying and addressing these disparities wherever we find them.

Our commitment to tackling race and ethnic disparity is clear, as set out in the Government's *Inclusive Britain* strategy, published in March 2022. This strategy was in response to the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities and identifies clear actions for criminal justice agencies to undertake. These actions include work to reduce the numbers of people from ethnic minority backgrounds entering the criminal justice system. For example by expanding the use of diversionary initiatives, such as Out of Court Disposals to divert towards treatment or drug education courses to address the root causes of their offending behaviour. We are also working to improve outcomes for those already in the system, by providing funding for grassroots, ethnic-minority led and specialist voluntary sector organisations to provide rehabilitative services in order to reduce reoffending rates and improve education and employment opportunities. Finally, we are improving judicial diversity through providing additional support to potentially eligible candidates, as part of the Judicial Diversity Forum action plan.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-14/86599>

*Inclusive Britain, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inclusive-britain-action-plan-government-response-to-the-commission-on-race-and-ethnic-disparities/inclusive-britain-government-response-to-the-commission-on-race-and-ethnic-disparities>

## **News**

**Gwent Police to face misogyny, corruption and racism probe**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-63616908>

**French Holocaust denier appears in Scottish court**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-63647612>

**Notorious Holocaust denier Vincent Reynouard arrested in Scots fishing village after posing as a tutor in Fife**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/notorious-holocaust-denier-vincent-reynouard-arrested-in-scots-fishing-village-after-posing-as-a-tutor-in-fife-3918502>

**French Holocaust-denier arrested in Scotland after two years on the run**

<https://www.thejc.com/news/news/french-holocaust-denier-arrested-in-scotland-after-two-years-on-the-run-5a5UYyLaPqaaAVUpfgEH1i>

**Racial injustice: missing link in the chain of poverty and mental ill-health**

<https://www.jrf.org.uk/blog/racial-injustice-missing-link-chain-poverty-and-mental-ill-health>

**David Baddiel: 'Antisemitism has become normalised'**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/david-baddiel-antisemitism-has-become-normalised-n7tkrfs5m>

**David Baddiel: ‘People have a huge blind spot when it comes to Jews’**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/tv/0/david-baddiel-people-have-huge-blind-spot-when-comes-jews/>

**Fresh investigation into England fans’ group over alleged antisemitism**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/fresh-investigation-into-england-fans-group-over-alleged-antisemitism-qt2bxxs8c>

**People of colour more likely to be fined for lockdown raves, data shows**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/nov/13/people-of-colour-more-likely-to-be-fined-for-lockdown-raves-data-shows>

**Stormzy says the ‘token black artist’ trope needs to die**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-63638704>

TOP

## Other Scottish Parliament and Government

### Scottish Parliament Motion

**Foysoil Choudhury (Labour) [S6M-06770] Edinburgh Diwali 2022** – That the Parliament congratulates the Edinburgh Diwali Committee and its President, Mr Rajnish Singh, on the successful Diwali celebrations, which took place in Edinburgh on 6 November 2022; understands that the theme for the celebration was freedom from all prejudices and ignorance with the underlying message of challenging all forms of discrimination and racism and to promote love, respect and equality for all; notes that celebrations included a parade from St Andrew Square to Castle Street; further notes that the parade included music, including the Lowland band from The Royal Regiment of Scotland, Stockbridge Pipe Band, Glencorse Pipe Band and Edinburgh Noise Society, accompanied by five dance groups including local amateurs and university students depicting different folk-dance forms from across India; understands that the parade had over 300 participants, including the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Consul General of India, MSPs, Councillors and other guests; notes that the celebration ended at the Ross Bandstand with nearly three hours of dance, music and fireworks; expresses its appreciation that this significant cultural festival is annually held free for all to attend, and wishes the Edinburgh Diwali Committee and all those who celebrate Diwali all the best for the coming year.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-06770>

### News

**Nicola Sturgeon encourages Scots to get their Covid-19 booster**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/23124859.nicola-sturgeon-encourages-scots-get-covid-19-booster/>

TOP

## Other UK Parliament and Government

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answer

#### Prime Minister's Questions

**Nicola Richards (Conservative):** Last week, many of my constituents were celebrating the Gurburab of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, who travelled the world with an important message about equality and Seva—selfless service. We see that running through many of the actions carried out by Sikhs and others in my constituency, through organisations such as the Midland Langar Seva Society and the Guru Har Rai Gurdwara. Will my right hon. Friend join me in thanking the community for their ongoing Seva and extend his best wishes for Gurburab? (902230)

**Reply from the Deputy Prime Minister:** I thank my hon. Friend. At this important time of year for the Sikh community and the Sikh faith, I join her in what she has said. The Sikh community make an outstanding contribution in her constituency, with the Midland Langar Seva Society and the Guru Har Rai Gurdwara, but they also make an amazing contribution to the whole country, and we are grateful for it.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-11-16/debates/55C24A86-57D1-49E3-ABDA-133EB22A97B0/Engagements#contribution-5BEAEA20-B030-48AF-BBDB-71888B3E8074>

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

#### Children in Care: Travellers

**Dan Carden (Labour) [83746]** To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many (a) Gypsy, (b) Roma and (c) Traveller children are under the care of local authorities.

**Reply from Claire Coutinho:** There were 550 Gypsy and Roma children, and 160 Traveller of Irish Heritage children looked after by local authorities in England on 31 March 2021. The figures on the ethnic origin of looked-after children are available in the statistical release Children Looked After in England (including Adoption) year ending 31 March 2021. This information can be accessed here:

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

The department does not collect information separately for Roma children looked after by local authorities in England.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-09/83746>

### Press Release

**Hardy Sikh prayer book revived after 100 years to help personnel practice faith in the field**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/hardy-sikh-prayer-book-revived-after-100-years-to-help-personnel-practice-faith-in-the-field>

TOP

# **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/>

## **Publications**

### **Citizens Advice Scotland: Quarterly Cost of Living Analysis**

[https://www.cas.org.uk/system/files/publications/col\\_october\\_2022\\_09.11.pdf](https://www.cas.org.uk/system/files/publications/col_october_2022_09.11.pdf)

### **“It’s hard work being poor” Women’s Experiences of the Cost-of-Living Crisis in Scotland**

[https://www.povertyalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/SWBG\\_PA\\_Cost\\_of\\_Living\\_Report\\_Final.pdf](https://www.povertyalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/SWBG_PA_Cost_of_Living_Report_Final.pdf)

## **News**

### **Autumn Statement 2022: Key points at-a-glance**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-63555313>

### **Autumn Statement: How are tax and benefits different in Scotland?**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-63635369>

### **Autumn statement: John Swinney warns of ‘severe’ Scottish impact**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/23127891.autumn-statement-john-swinney-warns-severe-scottish-impact/>

### **Autumn Statement: Jeremy Hunt warns of challenges as living standards plunge**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-63665271>

### **UK faces biggest fall in living standards on record**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-63659936>

### **UK inflation jumps to 41-year high of 11.1% due to surging energy bills**

<https://www.scotsman.com/business/consumer/cost-of-living/uk-inflation-jumps-to-41-year-high-of-111-due-to-surging-energy-bills-3919918>

**What is the Scottish child payment and can I get it?**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-63635698>

**Cost of living: Expanded energy bill discount scheme under way**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-63601302>

**Energy bills to rise to £3,000 a year from April**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-63661098>

**New figures show shocking scale of food insecurity**

<https://www.irf.org.uk/press/new-figures-show-shocking-scale-food-insecurity>

**There is a direct link between the energy crisis and food insecurity**

<https://tfn.scot/news/there-is-a-direct-link-between-the-energy-crisis-and-food-insecurity>

**New analysis reveals direct link between energy crisis and food insecurity**

<https://www.scottishhousingnews.com/articles/new-analysis-reveals-direct-link-between-energy-crisis-and-food-insecurity>

TOP

## Other News

**7 ways to speed up your application for charitable status**

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/news/7-ways-to-speed-up-your-application-for-charitable-status/>

TOP

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

### Scottish Parliament

**\*\* Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Bill**

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/charities-regulation-and-administration-scotland-bill>

Press Release: Charities Bill published

<https://www.gov.scot/news/charities-bill-published/>

Bill as introduced

<https://www.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/s6-bills/charities-regulation-and-administration-scotland-bill/introduced/bill-as-introduced.pdf>

Explanatory Notes

<https://www.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/s6-bills/charities-regulation-and-administration-scotland-bill/introduced/enaccessible.pdf>

Policy Memorandum

<https://www.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/s6-bills/charities-regulation-and-administration-scotland-bill/introduced/pmaccessible.pdf>

Financial Memorandum

<https://www.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/s6-bills/charities-regulation-and-administration-scotland-bill/introduced/fmaccessible.pdf>

Delegated Powers Memorandum

<https://www.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/s6-bills/charities-regulation-and-administration-scotland-bill/introduced/delegated-policy-memorandum.pdf>

Keeling Schedule

<https://www.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/s6-bills/charities-regulation-and-administration-scotland-bill/introduced/keeling-schedule.pdf>

Equalities impact assessment

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/charities-regulation-administration-scotland-bill-equalities-impact-assessment/>

Data protection impact assessment

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/charities-regulation-administration-scotland-bill-data-protection-impact-assessment/>

Business and regulatory impact assessment

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/charities-regulation-administration-scotland-bill-business-regulatory-impact-assessment/>

Island communities impact assessment

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/charities-regulation-administration-scotland-bill-island-communities-impact-assessment/>

## **\*\* Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill**

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

Stage 2 Consideration of Amendments, Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/official-report/search-what-was-said-in-parliament/EHRCJ-15-11-2022?meeting=13992&iob=126771>

Equality regulator briefs MSPs on gender recognition reform

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/equality-regulator-briefs-msps-gender-recognition-reform>

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Stage 2 briefing: Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/file/42096/download>

## **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>

House of Commons Library Briefing: Online Safety Bill: Commons stages

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9579/CBP-9579.pdf>

## Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

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

TOP

## Consultations

\*\* new or updated this week

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

**An inspection of Afghan resettlement schemes (closing date 27 November 2022)**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/call-for-evidence-an-inspection-of-the-home-offices-afghan-resettlement-schemes>

**\*\* Let's Talk Scottish Education** (closing date 5 December 2022)

<https://consult.gov.scot/national-discussion-scottish-education/>

**Human Rights of Asylum Seekers in the UK** (closing date 15 December 2022)

<https://committees.parliament.uk/call-for-evidence/2967/>

**Possible changes to the First-tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) Rules and the Upper Tribunal Rules arising from Nationality and Borders Act 2022** (applies in England and Wales only) (closing date 19 January 2023)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/possible-changes-to-the-first-tier-tribunal-immigration-and-asylum-chamber-rules-and-the-upper-tribunal-rules-arising-from-nationality-and-borders-a>

TOP

## Job Opportunities

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

TOP

## Funding Opportunities

\*\* new or updated this week

### **\*\* The Household Hardship Fund**

*Closing date not stated but this fund will close when enough applications have been received to fully use the money available. This is likely to happen quite quickly as demand is expected to be high.*

National Lottery Community Fund and Corra Foundation funding to provide small grants to charities and community groups across Scotland who can pass the funding on directly to families and individuals on low incomes. Groups can apply for up to £5,000 to provide families and individuals with cash or vouchers to meet pressing needs such as food, fuel, household items or clothing. For information and to apply see

<https://www.corra.scot/grants/household-hardship-fund/>

### **Reaching New Scots Fund**

*Closing date for applications: 18 December 2022*

The Reaching New Scots Fund is designed and managed by people from refugee backgrounds in partnership with The National Lottery Community Fund, and is open to groups and organisations across Scotland that are run by New Scots or offer support to refugees and people seeking asylum. The fund aims to support smaller charities and not for profit groups that are often underfunded, and will therefore only accept applications from organisations with an average annual income of less than £250,000. For information and to apply see <https://tinyurl.com/5ch4pj3d>

TOP

## Events, Conferences, and Training

\*\* new or updated this week

### **\*\* this week!**

#### **Faces of Faith exhibition**

Until 25 November 2022 (Edinburgh and Glasgow)

Interfaith Week exhibition showcasing Scotland's diverse religious and cultural communities, and exploring the joys, challenges, and complexities of living as a person of faith in Scotland. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/5fkzzebhz>

### **\*\* this week!**

#### **The Law and Tackling Racially, and Religiously Motivated Hate Crime in Scotland**

23 November 2022 (Glasgow, 9.30–11.30)

BEMIS consultation event to inform Hate Crime strategy in Scotland. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/43z89nwn>

### **\*\* this week!**

#### **A Human Rights and Equalities First Approach – The Basics**

24 November 2022 (online, 10.00–3.30)

9 December 2022 (online, 10.00–3.30)

13 January 2023 (online, 10.00–3.30)

THRE course about human rights and equalities - what are they, and why do they matter? What a human rights and equalities first approach is and why it is relevant to you and your organisation, and how we can start a conversation and talk constructively about human rights and equalities. For information about the November event see <https://tinyurl.com/ywajmvbp>, for the December event see <https://tinyurl.com/32sxxrfd>, and for the January event see <https://tinyurl.com/mpnfcddp>

**\*\* this week!**

### **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>

### **\*\* Taking an Anti-Racist Approach to Tackling Women's Workplace Inequality**

1 December 2022 (online, 10.00–11.30)

Close the Gap launch of guidance on taking an anti-racist approach to tackling gender inequality at work, including racism and sexism in the workplace, the barriers faced by racially minoritised women, and how to take an anti-racist approach to tackling gender inequality in your organisation. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/5e59y8xd>

### **\*\* Izzat, Aye?': Let's talk about "Honour**

1 December 2022 (Glasgow, 6.00–8.30)

Amina event around honour-based abuse as part of the 16 Days of Activism 2022. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/3ubeaxtm>

### **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>

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

6 and 7 December 2022 (Glasgow, 1.00–4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council course to examine why people might need to flee their own country, how they seek asylum in the UK, and what opportunities exist for rebuilding their lives here in the UK. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/rwr5cujc>

### **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](mailto: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>

### **The role of Intangible Cultural Heritage in tackling racism**

8 December 2022 (Glasgow, 9.30–11.30)

BEMIS consultation event to inform Hate Crime strategy in Scotland. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2xzj4pch>

### **Re-forming the Curriculum: Education as part of tackling hate crime**

14 December 2022 (online, 9.30–11.30)

BEMIS consultation event to inform Hate Crime strategy in Scotland. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yckjvme8>

### **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>

**TOP**

## **Useful Links**

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

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

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

**GovUK (links to UK Government Departments)** <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations>

**One Scotland** <http://onescotland.org/>

**Scottish Refugee Council** <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk>

**Refugee Survival Trust** <https://www.rst.org.uk/>

**Freedom from Torture** <https://www.freedomfromtorture.org/>

**Interfaith Scotland** <https://interfaithscotland.org/>

**Equality and Human Rights Commission** <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en>

**Equality Advisory Support Service** <http://www.equalityadvisoryservice.com/>

**Scottish Human Rights Commission** <http://www.scottishhumanrights.com/>

**ACAS** <http://www.acas.org.uk/>

**SCVO** <https://scvo.org.uk/>

**Volunteer Scotland** <https://www.volunteerscotland.net/>

**Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR)** <https://www.oscr.org.uk/>

**Scottish Fundraising Standards Panel** <https://www.goodfundraising.scot/>

**Disclosure Scotland** <https://www.mygov.scot/disclosure-types>

**Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services**

<https://www.volunteerscotland.net/for-organisations/disclosure-services/>

**BBC News** <https://www.bbc.com/news>

TOP



*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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