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

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Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Debate

Asylum Seekers (Support)

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=14038&i=127184#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Ukrainians in Scotland (Support)

Bob Doris (SNP) [S6O-01651] To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on how it is supporting Ukrainians in Scotland, in light of the war with Russia entering the winter months.

Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, External Affairs and Culture (Angus Robertson): With more than 21,500 arrivals from Ukraine with a Scottish sponsor, Scotland continues to provide sanctuary to more displaced people from Ukraine per head of population than any other part of the United Kingdom does. We continue to support the thousands of displaced people who are already here, and those who continue to arrive. That includes taking action to provide displaced people with a range of information, as early as possible, to help to inform their employment decisions. We are also working with local authorities and partners to understand the needs of Ukrainian children and ensure that they can access appropriate education.

Bob Doris: I thank the cabinet secretary for outlining Scotland's significant contribution to international efforts to support families from Ukraine. That includes the temporary use of a cruise ship, the MS Ambition, on the Clyde, to accommodate more than 1,000 Ukrainians, many of whom are children. Although I understand that matters may be improving, I have corresponded with minister Neil Gray over concerns about access to services from the national health service and transport for children who are attending schools in Glasgow. What update can the cabinet secretary provide on that? How are such matters monitored?

Reply from Angus Robertson: For guests on board the MS Ambition, our priority is to ensure that they get the support and access to services that they need ahead of moving into appropriate longer-term accommodation. In relation to general practitioner services, we have issued guidance to health boards setting out our expectation that displaced people from Ukraine have access to GP practices. It is vital that Ukrainian children and young people access education, which is why we work closely with Glasgow City Council and the ship's management to ensure that a reliable system is in place to transport Ukrainians to a variety of schools across Glasgow.

If the member has any further questions or issues that he wishes me to raise, I will make sure that the minister responsible, Neil Gray, answers them as a priority. ...

Pam Duncan-Glancy (Labour): Several cases of scarlet fever have been reported aboard the MS Ambition in Glasgow, which, as we have heard, is currently housing up to 1,750 Ukrainian refugees. That is a serious risk to the health of the people who are now forced to remain in what was intended to be temporary accommodation. What urgent action will the Scottish Government take to address that?

Reply from Angus Robertson: My understanding is that the issue has been fully addressed and that there are no current health issues of the type that the member outlined. If the member wishes Neil Gray to reply to her with greater detail about the case, I will be happy to ask him to do so.

In this kind of context, it is important that unwarranted fears about health or any other issues are not raised. The provision of health and other support services to people in times of need and duress are very sensitive matters. My understanding is that there are no current health concerns of the type that the member outlined, but I will make sure that Neil Gray writes to her, so that she is fully assured on the matter.

Beatrice Wishart (Liberal Democrat): I share cross-party colleagues' concerns about Ukrainian refugees in cruise ships and reported cases of illness. How will the Scottish Government ensure effective infection control to protect refugees from disease? What action is it taking to secure suitable housing for refugees as soon as possible?

Reply from Angus Robertson: In a previous answer, I drew members' attention to a range of interventions in relation to health and education. If the member wishes to highlight specific issues that I did not cover, I encourage her to get in touch with my ministerial colleague; he will reply to her as a priority.

I hope that everyone appreciates that doing everything that can possibly be done to help and support Ukrainian refugees is the aim of this Government—as, I believe,

it is the aim of all members in this Parliament. Together, we will try to ensure that all the appropriate services—and safeguards; the member raised health safeguards—are put in place to help and support those people in their time of need.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=14036&i=127142#ScotParlOR>

UK Parliament Debate

UK Asylum and Refugee Policy

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-12-09/debates/BA3E8B1D-0CD6-4C0C-9F64-BE629689F39C/UKAsylumAndRefugeePolicy>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Seasonal Worker Visas: Sponsorship Certificates

George Eustice (Conservative): To ask the Home Secretary if she will make a statement on the issuing of certificates of sponsorship for seasonal workers' visas.

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Robert Jenrick): ... The Home Office recognises the importance of the UK food and drink sector, and the agricultural industry that supplies it. The seasonal agricultural workers scheme exists to support those businesses and ensure that they have the labour they need. The quota for 2022 was 38,000 workers for the edible and ornamental horticulture sector, and a further 2,000 for the poultry sector. That quota has not yet been met, and the Home Office's management data suggest that about 1,400 places remain.

An announcement on the 2023 scheme is imminent. My Department and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will be making that statement very soon. In the meantime, workers already in the United Kingdom under the seasonal agricultural workers scheme can continue to take other work placements and to stay in the UK for up to six months, even if that involves remaining here into 2023. Further workers can avail themselves of the remaining 1,400 certificates and enter the UK this year—even if, again, that means staying into 2023—for the duration of their six-month placement. My Department is committed to supporting this important sector and to working with stakeholders to improve the delivery of schemes such as the one for seasonal agricultural workers.

George Eustice: The seasonal worker visa scheme has been a tremendous success—perhaps one of the most successful Home Office policies in recent years—and this year it has provided about two thirds of the labour needs of the horticultural sector. However, there have been some serious problems with administration. In particular, scheme operators need to be issued with an allocation of certificates of sponsorship now, so that they can recruit people and secure the visas necessary for workers to start in January. Last year, the Home Office allowed certificates of sponsorship in 2021 to be used as the basis for workers arriving in January 2022. This year, for reasons that have not been properly explained, Home Office officials have taken a decision not to allow that and have made it clear to operators that they cannot use that route. Indeed, I understand that they have closed the ability to issue certificates of sponsorship from the end of November, so that no one at the moment is able to issue them.

There are two legitimate courses of action. One would be to allow the same situation to apply as last year, and enable the remaining certificates of sponsorship for this year to be used for workers arriving in January. The second course of action would be to make a provisional allocation of certificates of sponsorship on the sponsorship management system run by the Home Office. This could be done very easily and would enable operators

to recruit staff in the next few weeks.

That is of critical importance to the daffodil industry in my constituency. Daffodil growers currently have around a third of their staff from last year's scheme, a third of them being settled EU citizens. At the moment they are going to have a gap of between 30% and 40% of their staffing needs, which will be catastrophic for the industry by the end of January. So will the Minister take immediate action directing his officials to put a provisional allocation of certificates for sponsorship on to the Home Office sponsorship management system?

Reply from Robert Jenrick: ... Parts of the sector, such as the daffodil industry, require workers early in the year, meaning that we need to take steps to ensure that those businesses can make sensible recruitment decisions in good time, and not leave these decisions, as has happened too often, to the eleventh hour. I appreciate that last year the decision on the seasonal agricultural workers scheme was announced on Christmas eve, which no doubt was a cause of significant frustration for those working in the sector. I will work intensively with my officials to ensure that we get that decision out as quickly as possible.

In the interim, two options are available to the industry: first, to make use of workers already in the UK under the seasonal agricultural workers scheme who have been doing other work until now but might want to move into a sector such as daffodils as quickly as possible for the remainder of their time in the UK; secondly, new individuals could enter the UK under the scheme using the undercapacity within the 2022 placement, and stay into 2023.

My right hon. Friend raises with me this morning the issue that the Home Office has frozen certificates, making it impossible for employers to bring people in and make use of the remaining certificates in this year's quota. I have been informed by my officials this morning that nothing has changed from the way the scheme worked last year. If that is incorrect, I will change that today and ensure that the scheme is unfrozen so that important employers such as those my right hon. Friend rightly represents can make use of the remaining certificates before the end of the year. If it is correct that the Home Office has frozen these certificates, I apologise to businesses who have been inadvertently inconvenienced by that and I hope that the Environment Secretary and I can resolve this as quickly as possible.

Jess Phillips (Labour): ... The National Farmers Union says that as much as £60 million of food has been wasted on farms due to labour shortages. ... countries across the world require seasonal schemes to help support agriculture and horticulture. We need a properly delivered seasonal worker scheme, announced in advance with long-term action to tackle shortages, not panicked short-term announcements without any underlying strategy.

The average time taken to process a sponsorship application has more than trebled over recent years, meaning less certainty for business and more produce going to waste. What steps is the Minister taking to reduce that time? The Home Office has been warned about exploitation in this scheme, including from the results of a Government review last year and reports of recruitment fees charged by agents abroad. Have those warnings been listened to, and what safeguards have been introduced to ensure serious exploitation is not allowed to continue? ...

Reply from Robert Jenrick: I am grateful to the hon. Lady for those points. The scheme is broadly operating as it is designed to, which is shown by the fact that about 1,400 certificates are unused as of today's date. So the overall quota of 40,000 places a year is approximately the right number. We are, as ever, discussing with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether that quota should remain the same next year or be higher. A statement on that will be made imminently. However, the decision made by my Department—with my right hon. Friend the Member for Camborne and Redruth (George Eustice)—to choose 40,000 appears to have been about the right number.

In terms of the scheme's operation, we need to ensure that it is as smooth as possible because no business deserves to be put through unnecessary bureaucracy to gain access to the workers it needs. The hon. Lady is right to say that, although of course we want to make the best use of our domestic workforce, there will always be—as there has been—a need for some seasonal workers to come into the UK from overseas. That is exactly why the scheme exists.

On ensuring that those who come under the scheme are properly looked after and not abused, every one of the four or five operators of the scheme is licensed by the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority, and it is its responsibility, together with my Department, to ensure that those seasonal workers are looked after appropriately and do not fall inadvertently into modern slavery or other poor practices. We at the Home Office have a duty to ensure that those individuals come for the right reasons, that their employers treat them appropriately and that the scheme is not abused. There is a significant minority of people who come under the scheme and subsequently choose to apply for asylum, which is one of the many things that we have to take seriously when deciding the number of individuals who can enter under the scheme each year, but I am certainly sympathetic to the needs of our food and drink sector and will work closely with the Environment Secretary to choose the right number of places for next year. ...

Deidre Brock (SNP): ... Will the Minister now listen to calls from Scotland's External Affairs Secretary and consider a 24-month temporary visa rather than the short-term sticking plaster approach that we have seen so far? Will he also consider the proposal made by the SNP Government in 2020 through which migrants wanting to work in Scotland could choose to apply for a Scottish visa as well as the Scottish Government's call for a rural visa pilot to meet the distinct needs of Scotland's remote rural and island areas? ...

Reply from Robert Jenrick: There is no significant evidence to suggest that the UK labour market varies so greatly between the nations that we need to take different approaches in England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland. It is better that we remain within the United Kingdom and that we have one single immigration policy covering the whole Union. ...

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

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-12-08/debates/6B972845-5C48-4435-A39F-7D043FF307C4/SeasonalWorkerVisasSponsorshipCertificates>

People Traffickers: Prosecution Rates

Sally-Ann Hart (Conservative): What steps [is the Minister] taking to increase prosecution rates for (a) small boat gangs and (b) other people traffickers. (902643)

Andrew Lewer (Conservative): What steps [is the Minister] taking to increase prosecution rates for (a) small boat gangs and (b) other people traffickers. (902644)

Tom Randall (Conservative): What steps [is the Minister] taking to increase prosecution rates for (a) small boat gangs and (b) other people traffickers. (902655)

Reply from the Attorney General (Victoria Prentis): Since we enacted the Nationality and Borders Act 2022 at the end of June, prosecutions for illegal entry and facilitating illegal entry have increased by 250%. We are working across Government to ensure that we can stop the life-threatening crossings and prosecute the gangs behind them.

Sally-Ann Hart: Organised illegal immigration crime is transnational, making collaboration across Europe vital to tackling people-smuggling from source to transit to destination. What steps is my right hon. Friend taking to work with partners across Europe to share intelligence and resources, to ensure that more prosecutions are successfully brought against these reprehensible criminals?

Reply from the Attorney General: ... The Government routinely work with international partners to disrupt organised crime groups. The CPS has deployed a

criminal justice adviser in France who supports prosecutions on both sides of the channel. We also collaborate with other jurisdictions, for example through Eurojust—the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation—on sharing evidence-gathering where that is appropriate.

Andrew Lewer: To protect increasingly stretched capacity ... for genuine asylum seekers, what steps is the Attorney General taking to increase prosecution rates for those behind the exploitative people-trafficking in relation to migration from high-volume but safe countries in particular?

Reply from the Attorney General: The rate of prosecutions for people trafficking has increased enormously: in 2021-22 it rose by 48%, owing to intensive collaboration between the police and prosecutors.

Tom Randall: ... What assurance can my right hon. Friend give me that frontline operatives are collaborating on the investigation and prosecution of pilots of small boats?

Reply from the Attorney General: ... the Crown Prosecution Service is working closely with Border Force and immigration colleagues to tackle this dangerous offending. The Solicitor General, the Immigration Minister and I recently met a group of those colleagues, and were very impressed by their determination to work together.

Gregory Campbell (DUP): A few weeks ago, I received an answer to a parliamentary question which indicated that over the past seven years we had paid the French authorities £300 million to try to stop people coming from France to this country illegally. Does the Attorney General think that that was value for money?

Reply from the Attorney General: As I said earlier, it is important that we work closely with the French authorities to ensure that prosecutions can take place on both sides of the channel, and that we stamp out this illegal activity. ...

To read this question and answer session in full see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-12-07/debates/ADBF05B4-3AEF-4503-B846-376F57CCEF19/PeopleTraffickersProsecutionRates>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-21/92124>

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

Asylum: Rwanda

David Simmonds (Conservative) [97762] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers deported from the UK can be accommodated in Rwanda.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The number of individuals who can be relocated to Rwanda under the Migration and Economic Development Partnership is uncapped. Rwanda has made initial provision to receive 200 people and has plans to scale up capacity once flights begin.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-28/97762>

Asylum: Human Trafficking

Stephen Kinnock (Labour) [100996] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the Government has received (a) advice and (b) analysis from the (i) Third Country Unit and (ii) other Home Office experts, on (A) the potential impact of the Rwanda policy on tackling people smuggling and (b) the likelihood of asylum seekers who have been removed to Rwanda seeking to re-enter the UK illegally.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Secretary of State has received advice on all

aspects of the policy from operational and other experts and is committed to evaluating its impact, including evidence of reduced people smuggling and attempted re-entry.

The Home Office is committed to ending people smuggling. The Migration and Economic Development Partnership between the UK and Rwanda is part of a suite of measures aimed at dismantling the business model of organised crime gangs.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-01/100996>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer: Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Refugees

John Healey (Labour) [102765] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many ARAP-eligible (a) principals and (b) family members have arrived in the UK in each of the last six months.

Reply from James Heapey: The information requested can be found in the table below:

Month	ARAP Eligible Principals relocated to the UK	ARAP Eligible family members relocated to the UK	Total Number of ARAP Relocated Individuals
Jun-22	38	163	201
Jul-22	39	377	416
Aug-22	84	330	414
Sep-22	133	516	649
Oct-22	79	315	394
Nov-22	73	330	403

The figures for family members include family members automatically eligible for the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) scheme by virtue of their relationship to a principal applicant, and Additional Family Members (AFM) relocated to the UK under the ARAP scheme.

We estimate that a very small number of the AFM figures captured in the above statistics will have been relocated via other HM Government resettlement schemes.

Due to data constraints, we are currently unable to provide this breakdown.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-05/102765>

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>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Ukraine

Homes for Ukraine Scheme

Robert Buckland (Conservative) [79543] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, if his Department will provide guidance to local authorities on acting as guarantors for the Homes for Ukraine scheme; and if his Department will take steps to provide additional funding to local authorities for this purpose.

Reply from Felicity Buchan: We have provided funding to councils to enable them to provide support to individuals and families. This is un-ringfenced, which allows councils to use the funding as best suits the local area, including measures to support guests to access the private rental market. We are considering what further steps we can take to support guests to find accommodation after their sponsorship

ends. The Government has updated guidance for the Homes for Ukraine guests, hosts and councils setting out all the support options available to them and it can be found [here](#).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-28/97543>

The following seven questions all received the same answer

Homes for Ukraine Scheme

Mary Kelly Foy (Labour) [101062] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, whether his Department has implemented a process to allow people whose application to be a host through the Homes for Ukraine Scheme was rejected to receive details for the reasons for that rejection.

Mary Kelly Foy (Labour) [101063] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what information retention policy his Department has adopted in relation to rejected applications to host Ukrainian refugees as part of the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

Mary Kelly Foy (Labour) [101064] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what process potential hosts rejected from the Homes for Ukraine scheme must follow to challenge the decision relating to their suitability to house Ukrainian refugees.

Mary Kelly Foy (Labour) [101065] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what retention period his Department has adopted in relation to rejected applications from potential hosts under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme.

Mary Kelly Foy (Labour) [101066] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what plans are in place to house Ukrainian refugees who arrived in the UK on the Homes for Ukraine scheme but whose sponsors are no longer able to house them.

Jessica Morden (Labour) [99781] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, whether the thank you payments to sponsors under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme will be extended beyond 12 months.

Refugees: Housing

Jessica Morden (Labour) [99782] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what support his Department will provide to local authorities to assist those refugees wishing to move into their own accommodation after being housed with a sponsor.

Reply from Felicity Buchan: Further to my [answer](#) given in response to Question UIN 94794 on 01 December, guidance for Homes for Ukraine guests, hosts, and councils is available [here](#).

Sponsoring households might have been deemed unsuitable for several reasons, and full sponsor suitability guidance is available [here](#). The privacy notice for the Homes for Ukraine scheme is available [here](#).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-01/101062>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-01/101063>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-01/101064>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-01/101065>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-01/101066>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-30/99781>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-30/99782>

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

International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families

Stephen Kinnock (Labour) [100997] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what his Department's policy is on the UK's potential ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

Reply from Andrew Mitchell: We have no plans to ratify the UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. The rights of migrant workers are already protected in UK legislation, including under the Human Rights Act 1998. The Human Rights Act 1998 protects people from torture or inferior or disgraceful treatment and it also protects all people from slavery and forced labour and the right to a fair trial.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-01/100997>

Refugees: Russia

Neil Coyle (Independent) [100998] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has taken recent steps to help ensure that Russian nationals seeking to avoid conscription can enter the UK.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The UK Government still operates visa routes for Russian citizens to come to the UK for a variety of reasons, such as to work, study or join/visit family members. Details about the routes, necessary criteria to satisfy, and how to apply are available on GOV.UK at: <http://www.gov.uk/apply-uk-visa>
The Home Secretary has powers in the Nationality and Borders Act 2022 to impose visa penalties on a country where the government of that country: gives, or is likely to give, rise to a threat to international peace and security; results, or is likely to result, in armed conflict; or gives, or is likely to give, rise to a breach of international humanitarian law.

These powers have not been used against Russia to date but they are kept under constant review as part of the UK Government's approach to the war in Ukraine.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-01/100998>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Refugees: Age

Stephen Kinnock (Labour) [98813] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the Age Estimation Science Advisory Committee will publish a report on proposed scientific measures to determine the age of asylum seekers.

Stephen Kinnock (Labour) [98822] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential costs of using (a) x-rays, (b) MRI scans and (c) other medical technologies as part of her Department's proposed scientific methods to determine the age of asylum seekers.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: In December 2021, the Chief Scientific Adviser at the Home Office set up an independent Age Estimation Science Advisory Committee to provide her with independent scientific and associated ethical advice, recommendations for best practice, and advice relating to issues raised by key stakeholders on the implementation of scientific methods of age assessment. We have always been clear that any decision to implement scientific methods of age assessment would be subject to independent scientific advice. No official decisions have been made about what and how scientific methods would be implemented.

The potential costs of implementing any scientific methods will also be considered

alongside scientific advice regarding potential methods recommended by the committee before making a decision on what methods to implement.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-29/98813>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-29/98822>

Asylum: Offshoring

Paul Bristow (Conservative) [100015] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what consideration has been given to using (a) Ascension Island and (b) the Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia for the offshore processing of asylum seekers.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: While individuals are endangering lives making perilous journeys, every possible option must be considered to reduce the draw of the UK.

We are in constant dialogue with a range of partners about how we can work together. We will not get drawn into speculation on potential options for offshoring of asylum processing or other outsourcing arrangements.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-30/100015>

Asylum

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [97644] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has taken steps to construct a programme of community activities for asylum seekers whilst they are awaiting the outcome of an asylum application and unable to work.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Asylum seekers are allowed to work in the UK if 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.

We encourage asylum seekers to undertake volunteering activities, so long as it does not amount to unpaid work. Volunteering provides a valuable contribution to their local community and may help them to integrate into society if they ultimately qualify for protection.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-28/97644>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Albania

Gary Sambrook (Conservative) [97780] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of asylum applications made by people from Albania were accepted in the latest period for which data is available.

Asylum: EU Countries

Gary Sambrook (Conservative) [97781] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of asylum applications made by people from (a) Albania and (b) other European countries were accepted in the latest period for which data is available.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office publishes data on asylum in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on initial decisions made on asylum applications, by nationality, can be found in table Asy_D02 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 relate to the year ending September 2022. Data for the year ending December 2022 will be published on 23 February 2023.

Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the

[‘Research and statistics calendar’](#).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-28/97780>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-28/97781>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Finance

Yvette Cooper (Labour) [101694] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been in receipt of asylum support for more than one year in each of the last five calendar years.

Yvette Cooper (Labour) [101695] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people are projected to be in receipt of asylum support for more than one year in financial years (a) 2022-23, (b) 2023-24, and (c) 2024-25.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office publishes data on asylum seekers in receipt of support in the [‘Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release’](#). The latest publication (November 2022) can be found here [Immigration and protection data: Q3 2022](#) under the document [Asylum seekers in receipt of support](#) of the workbooks. Data are published on a quarterly basis. The latest information was published 24 November 2022.

The Home Office does not publish a breakdown of statistics which disaggregates the number of asylum seekers accommodated in specific types of accommodation, the duration of their receipt of support or the number at specific stages of the asylum process. These figures are not available in a reportable format and to provide the information could only be done at disproportionate cost.

Official statistics published by the Home Office are kept under review in line with the code of practice for statistics, taking into account a number of factors including user needs, as well as quality and availability of data.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-02/101694>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-02/101695>

Asylum: Temporary Accommodation

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [98863] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to expedite the delivery of asylum seekers data on (a) age, (b) language and (c) wider demographic information to local authorities providing (i) initial and (ii) contingency accommodation for those people.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: We are in close contact with local authorities and share data, where it is appropriate to do so, in line with data protection principles. Data, including demographics of those within hotels, is shared via the Data Sharing Portal. This assists local support services work with our users in provision of health and education needs.

Multi Agency Forum meetings are held regularly to discuss the operational arrangements of sites with Local Authority Officials and statutory partners, which also allows exchange data of this nature.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-29/98863>

Housing: Asylum

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [98875] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his Department has set a time limit for the amount of time a (a) single, (b) family and (c) children asylum seeker or refugee should spend in a hotel prior to be allocated more permanent housing; and what steps he is taking with the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, to identify other adequate forms of temporary accommodation for those groups.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Although there is no limit on the length of time adults, families and children supported under section 95 of the 1999 Act can remain in hotel accommodation we do not want to house people in temporary accommodation for any longer than is absolutely necessary.

The use of hotel accommodation is a temporary solution to meet our immediate statutory need. The plans in place for exiting hotels depend upon our providers being able to secure sufficient bedspaces in dispersal accommodation across the country. We have been working closely with our accommodation providers to urgently 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.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-01/98875>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.whitehousedc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2022/04/Minister-Announcement-letter-to-Local-Authorities.pdf>

Housing: Asylum

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [98873] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has made an assessment of the total amount of housing required by (a) refugees and (b) asylum seekers.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The latest published Immigration Statistics detail the number of asylum seekers accommodated in each local authority area. These statistics can be found at Asylum and resettlement datasets

www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/asylum-and-resettlement-datasets

Data are published on a quarterly basis, with the latest information published 24 November 2022. The next quarterly figures are due to be released in February 2023.

Once an asylum seeker has received refugee status, they are eligible to work, receive mainstream benefits and accommodation which should be provided by the local authority.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-29/98873>

Asylum: Hotels

Gavin Williamson (Conservative) [99826] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, the average length of time which individual hotels are used to temporarily house asylum seekers; and whether her department sets target dates to vacate these hotels.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Successive years of record numbers crossing the Channel has placed our immigration system under substantial pressure. The use of contingency accommodation is a temporary solution to ensure that we meet our statutory obligation to house destitute asylum seekers.

The length of stay in the contingency hotel accommodation is determined by a number of factors such as overall demand and availability of suitable dispersal accommodation. The government is committed to reducing the flow of people through deepening cooperation with France, implementing the Nationality and Borders Act, and signing returns agreements. The average length of stay in our contingency hotels is 6 to 12 months due to the current accommodation and capacity challenges. The Full Dispersal model, announced on 13 April 2022, aims to reduce, and ultimately, 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.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-30/99826>

The following nineteen questions all received the same answer

Migrants: Detainees

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [104424] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress she has made in implementing Recommendation 1 of the Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons by Stephen Shaw.

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [104425] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress she has made in implementing Recommendation 2 of the Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons by Stephen Shaw.

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [104426] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress she has made in implementing Recommendation 3 of the Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons by Stephen Shaw.

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [104427] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress she has made in implementing Recommendation 4 of the Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons by Stephen Shaw.

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [104428] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress she has made in implementing Recommendation 5 of the Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons by Stephen Shaw.

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [104429] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress she has made in implementing Recommendation 6 of the Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons by Stephen Shaw.

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [104430] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress she has made in implementing Recommendation 7 of the Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons by Stephen Shaw.

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [104431] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress she has made in implementing Recommendation 8 of the Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons by Stephen Shaw.

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [104432] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress she has made in implementing Recommendation 9 of the Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons by Stephen Shaw.

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [104433] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress she has made in implementing Recommendation 10 of the Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons by Stephen Shaw.

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [104434] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress she has made in implementing Recommendation 11 of the Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons by Stephen Shaw.

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [104435] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress she has made in implementing Recommendation 12 of the Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons by Stephen Shaw.

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [104436] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress she has made in implementing Recommendation 13 of the Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons by Stephen Shaw.

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [104437] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress she has made in implementing Recommendation 14 of the Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons by Stephen Shaw.

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [104438] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress she has made in implementing Recommendation 15 of the Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons by Stephen Shaw.

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [104439] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress she has made in implementing Recommendation 16 of the Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons by Stephen Shaw.

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [104440] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress she has made in implementing Recommendation 17 of the Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons by Stephen Shaw.

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [104441] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress she has made in implementing Recommendation 18 of the Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons by Stephen Shaw.

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [104442] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress she has made in implementing Recommendation 19 of the Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons by Stephen Shaw.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Stephen Shaw's reports (of 2016 and 2018) led to a comprehensive and systematic programme of work to improve and reform immigration detention. It informed both our strategic and tactical approach to reform and the treatment of people who are detained. This work has strengthened our decision-making and safeguards for the vulnerable, ensuring those who are detained are treated with dignity and respect in an estate that is fit for purpose. Progress has been made on all accepted recommendations and I will write to the MP for Oxford West and Abingdon with more detail. A copy of this letter will be placed in the House library for all.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-06/104424>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-06/104425>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-06/104426>

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<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-06/104427>

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<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-06/104428>

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<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-06/104429>

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<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-06/104430>

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<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-06/104431>

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<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-06/104432>

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<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-06/104433>

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<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-06/104434>

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<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-06/104436>

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<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-06/104437>

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<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-06/104438>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-06/104439>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-06/104440>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-06/104441>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-06/104442>

The reports referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/490782/52532_Shaw_Review_Accessible.pdf

and

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/728376/Shaw_report_2018_Final_web_accessible.pdf

The letter referred to above is not yet available online but will be listed in MEMO when it has been published.

Migrants: Detainees

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [102961] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress she has made in implementing Recommendation 63 of the Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons by Stephen Shaw on investigating the development of alternatives to detention.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: In response to Stephen Shaw's 2016 Review and follow-up report of 2018, and after working closely with UNHCR, the UK government announced the Community Engagement Pilot (CEP) Series.

The first Community Engagement Pilot, Action Access, provided women who would otherwise be detained with a programme of support in the community. This pilot concluded on 31 March 2021 and the independent evaluation of Action Access was published on 24 January 2022.

The second pilot, the Refugee and Migrant Advisory Service, supported both men and women in the community and remained in operation for two years until June 2022. The independent evaluation of the Refugee and Migrant Advisory Service is expected early in the new year.

We will use the UNHCR evaluations of these pilots to inform our future approach to case-management focused alternatives to detention.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-05/102961>

The reports referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/490782/52532_Shaw_Review_Accessible.pdf

and

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/728376/Shaw_report_2018_Final_web_accessible.pdf

The evaluation report referred to above can be read at

<https://atdnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Action-Access-Evaluation-Report.pdf>

The following five questions all received the same answer

Detention Centres: Death

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [101779] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many detainees died while detained at each immigration removal centre annually from 2015 to 2022.

Detention Centres: Safety

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [101780] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make a comparative assessment of the relationship between increased bed spaces in an immigration removal centre and prevalence of code red incidents.

Immigration: Staff

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [101781] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department made of the potential for expanding

alternatives to detention, including increasing local immigration casework capacities, prior to planning for the reopening of Campsfield House.

Detention Centres

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [101782] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many bed spaces were available at each immigration removal centre in each year since 2015.

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [101783] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if her Department will publish data on the distance individuals are moved across the UK from their place of residence in the community to an immigration removal centre.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The first Community Engagement Pilot, Action Access, provided women who would otherwise be detained with a programme of support in the community. This pilot concluded on 31 March 2021. The independent evaluation of Action Access was published on 24 January 2022.

The second pilot, the Refugee and Migrant Advisory Service, supported both men and women in the community and remained in operation for two years until June 2022. The independent evaluation of the Refugee and Migrant Advisory Service is expected early in the new year. We will use the UNHCR evaluations of these pilots to inform our future approach to case-management focused alternatives to detention.

Since 2018, information on deaths in immigration detention has been included in published immigration statistics on an annual basis. Data on the number of deaths of people detained under immigration powers in each year from 2017, are published in section 8 'detention and returns', table Det_05b and b of the detention summary tables, found at the following link:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1098047/detention-summary-jun-2022-tables.ods

Critical incidents in the immigration removal estate are managed, where appropriate, through a command structure. The published guidance Detention Services Order 05/2015 'Reporting and Communicating Incidents in the Immigration Removal Estate' defines the category of incidents (red, amber, green) and provides instruction and guidance for staff on reporting and communicating incidents. Red (critical) incidents relate to the management of an event outside of usual centre business that has, or potentially will have a serious impact on the operation of a facility or the safety and security of staff, detained people or the wider public.

The table below sets out the operational capacity for each immigration removal centre (if all rooms and beds are in use) from 2015 to date.

IRC	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Brook House	448	448	448	448	448	448	448	450
Colnbrook	396	391	391	339	339	330	330	330
Dungavel House	249	249	249	249	249	125	125	121
Harmondsworth	665	676	676	702	726	635	635	635
Morton Hall	392	392	392	392	391	391	352	-
Tinsley House	153	153	153	168	168	168	162	162
Yarl's Wood	410	410	410	410	410	410	410	410
Derwentside	-	-	-	-	-	-	84	84
Total	2713	2719	2719	2708	2731	2507	2546	2192

The information sought on the distance individuals are moved across the UK from their place of residence in the community to an immigration removal centre is not readily available and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-02/101779>
and
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-02/101780>
and
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-02/101781>
and
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-02/101782>
and
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-02/101783>

The evaluation report referred to above can be read at

<https://atdnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Action-Access-Evaluation-Report.pdf>

The Detention Services Order referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/974674/dso-05-2015-reporting-and-communicating-incidents.pdf

The following two questions both received the same answer

Detention Centres: Manston

Grahame Morris (Labour) [97537] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 17 November 2022 to Question 75828 on Detention Centres: Manston, how many people were transferred from Manston immigration facility to a hotel between 1 September 2022 and 1 November 2022.

Asylum: Hotels

Grahame Morris (Labour) [97539] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 16 November 2022 to Question 77330 on Detention Centres: Manston, how many hotels proposed for potential use as contingency asylum accommodation were given approval to progress between 1 August 2022 and 5 September 2022.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Due to the nature of Manston as a Processing Centre the numbers of individuals moving in and out rapidly changes. We are committed to working closely with communities and stakeholders to ensure destitute asylum seekers are housed in safe, secure and suitable accommodation, and that they are treated with dignity while their asylum claim is considered. All appropriate options are being explored to ensure that suitable accommodation is secured as quickly as is necessary.

Between 1 September 2022 and 1 November 2022, internal management information shows that 11,104 people were transferred from the Manston processing centre to private accommodation, immigration removal centres and asylum accommodation. Records are not held in a format that permits a breakdown of transfers by final destination or accommodation type and such information could only be provided at disproportionate cost by examination of individual records

Between 1 August 2022 and 5 September 2022, 42 hotels were approved to progress for potential use as contingency asylum accommodation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-28/97537>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-28/97539>

The answers referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-01/75828>

and

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

Detention Centres: Manston

Chloe Smith (Conservative) [96592] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, what level of security screening checks did the asylum seekers who were moved from Manston undertake prior to their re-location to hotels throughout the UK.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: All asylum seekers, including those who are moved from Manston and relocated to hotels throughout the UK, undergo identity and security checks.

We capture biometric data which is checked and compared against relevant Home Office systems and police criminality databases, including domestic and international data, so we can establish whether the person is a threat to public safety.

Everyone passing through Manston will have full border security checks completed before being moved. Where possible, asylum registration will also be carried out; however, asylum registration can happen after a person leaves Manston.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-25/96592>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

X-Rays: Child Refugees

Baroness Prashar (Crossbench): To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the ethical considerations of the use of X-rays to determine the age of child refugees seeking asylum in the United Kingdom.

Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Murray of Blidworth): The Home Office Chief Scientific Adviser convened an independent age estimation science advisory committee to provide the department with independent advice on the ethics and implementation of different scientific approaches to age assessment. No official decisions have been made on the use of scientific methods, and the use of X-rays specifically would need to be independently justified and approved under the Justification of Practices Involving Ionising Radiation Regulations 2004.

Baroness Prashar: ... when [will] the report ... be completed and published?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The report is still under evaluation. I am afraid there is no estimate at the moment for the production of the report.

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour): My Lords, I have twice recently through Written Questions tried to find out whether the Government will publish the report of the advisory committee. Both answers—which were almost identical—avoided answering the question. Could the Minister therefore tell us now whether the Government will publish this key report and, if not, why not?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: As I said, the report is being considered and a decision on publication will be made in due course.

Baroness Brinton (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, the British Dental Association is opposed to dental X-rays being used because of their inaccuracy. Other organisations such as the BMA agree. During the passage of what became Nationalities and Borders Act, the noble and learned Lord, Lord Stewart of Dirleton, the Minister at the time, acknowledged this lack of accuracy by saying that “assessments are not of themselves accurate”.—[[Official Report, 8/3/22; col. 1280.](#)] There was no dentist on the age estimation science advisory committee. Do the Government understand that both their own Minister and dentists disagree that this should be one of the methods used to assess age?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The answer is no. By way of background, I remind the noble Baroness that, between 2016 and September 2022, there were 7,357 asylum cases where age was disputed and subsequently resolved, in which half the individuals—3,696—were found to be adults. At least 27 other European countries use scientific or medical methods as part of their age assessment process. The most common method by far internationally is the use of one or more X-rays, usually dental, wrist, clavicle or knee, although MRI scans, CT scans and

physical or psychological examination by a doctor are also reported. The implementation of SAA across Europe varies enormously, with different methods or combinations of methods, data outputs and timing, and the use of negative interference.

Lord Bellingham (Conservative): My Lords, given that 12 EU countries do not allow any asylum applications from Albania on the grounds that Albania is a democratic and aspirational country, why do we not do the same?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: ... the response to the problem of Albanian young men crossing the channel is being considered speedily by the department, and policies will be formulated shortly.

Lord Singh of Wimbledon (Crossbench): My Lords, it is an understatement to say that the use of X-rays to assess the age of children is like using a sledgehammer to crack a very small nut: it not only exposes children to harmful radiation but damages our image in the wider world. Would the Minister agree that traumatic events such as seeing near and dear ones killed and homes destroyed can visibly age people, including children, and that a country that is not even in the top 10 of those giving asylum per head of population should eschew this demeaning practice?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: I disagree with the noble Lord. As I have already said, there is clear evidence that many people claim to be a minor when they are not. Clear safeguarding issues arise if a child is inadvertently treated as adult and, equally, if an adult is wrongly accepted as a child and placed in accommodation with younger children to whom they could present a risk.

Lord Coaker (Labour): My Lords, the Minister has just told us that the Government are assessing the evidence. Can he tell us what assessment they have made of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health? Its members are experts in this area and it has said that the use of X-rays for age assessment does not work and is unethical.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The international experience would tend to suggest that that is not the case. The position adopted by the department is that age assessment is one option on a menu of options available for the assessment of age; there is no suggestion that the assessment of age will be undertaken, at this stage and in the present state of the science, simply on a scientific assessment.

Lord Kirkhope of Harrogate (Conservative): Would my noble friend the Minister not agree with me that this has been a problem for a considerable period of time? When I was in the Home Office, we also had difficulties with this matter, but the rules are quite clear: minors are entitled to support in a way that those who are overage are not. So, although it is regarded as being rather unfair to use X-rays, and maybe even dangerous, does my noble friend not agree that at least we have to apply those rules and find ways of applying them that are as fair as possible?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: I entirely agree with my noble friend. I can assure the House that we will ensure that scientific methods are implemented in such a way as to be compliant with the existing regulatory and statutory frameworks governing safety. I entirely agree with the sentiment of my noble friend's question.

The Lord Bishop of Carlisle: My Lords, further to that answer, in determining what constitutes an appropriate scientific method of age assessment, can the Minister assure us that any future methods will be formally approved by the relevant medical body before they come into use?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: Plainly they will be formally approved by the advisory committee to the Home Secretary, and one suggests that the views of relevant professional bodies will be of great weight in making such a decision.

Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede (Labour): My Lords, as a sitting magistrate I occasionally have to do age deeming, both in youth court and in adult court. Sometimes we have reports from social workers and sometimes—although rarely—we get expert reports. In the training I received, maybe 10 or 12 years ago, the central message I got was that it was

ultimately a judicial decision and that all forms of report, be they from social workers or scientific reports, have quite large elements of doubt within them and the decision is ultimately a judicial one. Does the noble Lord agree?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: In the context of decisions made in magistrates' courts, I agree that it is a judicial decision. In the context of asylum-seeking people who say that they are minors, the question then falls to the Secretary of State to determine whether they should be treated as a minor—and sadly, as I say, experience suggests that a large number of people have suggested that they are minors in order to take advantage of the perhaps more beneficial regime. It is very important that those people, for the reasons that I have already given the House, are weeded out by such a fair system as we can determine.

Baroness Hayman (Crossbench): ... I think I heard the Minister say about a report that a decision on publication will be made in due course. Can he tell the House whether that is a decision on whether to publish or when to publish?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: At the moment, the answer is both.

Lord Lilley (Conservative): My Lords, the British Dental Association has written to all of us saying that X-rays carry a small risk of possible long-term physical harm and that the risk is cumulative and successive exposures increase the risk, which means that each exposure over a lifetime must be clinically justified. Over my lifetime I have had more than 20 X-rays from dentists and have never been warned of this cumulative risk. Can my noble friend explain why the BDA is so worried about a single X-ray of someone claiming asylum who looks 22, especially when the BDA says that it can tell the age to within four years with 95% accuracy? So it might well show that someone was younger than they looked and be to their benefit.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: I entirely agree with my noble friend that it is an unusual position for the BDA to adopt.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-12-06/debates/54C72095-69B9-46CF-93C2-5DC2EF1D8CDB/X-RaysChildRefugees>

The answers referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-07/hl3244>
and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-21/hl3607>

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health statement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/news-events/news/rcpch-responds-plans-migrant-children-undergo-x-rays-try-verify-age>

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

Migrants: Children

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL3886] To ask His Majesty's Government how many children subject to No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) conditions are in receipt of the 15 hours a week of free early education available to disadvantaged two-year old children.

Reply from Baroness Barran: Following a consultation in May 2022, the department extended eligibility for the 15 hour early education entitlement for disadvantaged two-year-olds to children in no recourse to public fund households in September 2022.

However, the department does not hold data on the number of children specifically with no recourse to public funds that are currently in receipt of the two-year-old early education entitlement.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-30/hl3886>

Napier Barracks: Accommodation Centres

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL3643] To ask His Majesty's Government when they will publish a statement of community involvement following the consultation on extending planning permission for the accommodation facility at Napier Barracks.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The United Kingdom has a statutory obligation to provide support and accommodation to asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute. The record numbers of individuals illegally crossing the Channel has meant the asylum accommodation system is under immense pressure. Ongoing use of Napier and the development of new accommodation models, are vital to our ability to continue to meet the ongoing demand to accommodate destitute asylum seekers.

To ensure that this much-needed facility continues to provide accommodation, officials prepared a planning proposal extending our use of Napier until 2025, and on 27 August 2021 we laid a Special Development Order (SDO) which came into effect on 21 September 2021. A statement of community involvement will not be produced as it is not a requirement of the Special Development Order; however, we have sought to engage with the local community through correspondence and the provision of relevant information on the gov.uk website.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-22/hl3643>

Detention Centres: Ministers of Religion

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL3642] To ask His Majesty's Government why there is a bar on chaplains and other faith leaders visiting detainees at Tug Haven and Western Jet Foil; and what plans they have, if any, to lift this ban.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: Tug Haven closed in January 2022. There is no bar on chaplains attending Western Jetfoil.

However, there is currently no provision to do so as people are only held there on a very short term basis whilst basic medical checks and searching takes place.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-22/hl3642>

Home Affairs Committee

Evidence session: Migration and asylum

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/11991/html/>

Press Release

Government increases hearing capacity to speed up immigration cases

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-increases-hearing-capacity-to-speed-up-immigration-cases>

New Publications

Joint statement of the ministers of interior and / or migration of the Kingdom of Belgium, the French Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the Kingdom of the Netherlands on migration issues

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/interior-ministers-joint-statement-on-migration/joint-statement-on-migration-issues>

Refugee Employability Programme policy statement

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/refugee-employability-programme/refugee-employability-programme-policy-statement>

House of Commons Library Briefing: Asylum Statistics

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN01403/SN01403.pdf>

House of Commons Library Briefing: Asylum seekers: the permission to work policy

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN01908/SN01908.pdf>

House of Commons Library Briefing: A timeline of UK-French co-operation

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

Report on an unannounced inspection of Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre 8–25 August 2022

<https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprisons/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2022/12/Derwentside-web-2022.pdf>

Diphtheria: cases among asylum seekers in England, health protection report (data to 25 November 2022)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/diphtheria-cases-among-asylum-seekers-in-england-2022/diphtheria-cases-among-asylum-seekers-in-england-2022>

Diphtheria: cases among asylum seekers in England, weekly data tables

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/diphtheria-cases-among-asylum-seekers-in-england-2022/diphtheria-cases-among-asylum-seekers-in-england-weekly-data-tables>

Stopping the Crossings

https://cps.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/CPS_STOPPING_THE_CROSSINGSV4.pdf

Weekly number of migrants detected in small boats - 28 November to 4 December 2022

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/migrants-detected-crossing-the-english-channel-in-small-boats-weekly-data/weekly-number-of-migrants-detected-in-small-boats-28-november-to-4-december-2022>

News: Rwanda Refugee Policy

Rwanda is the right place for boat people

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/rwanda-is-the-right-place-for-boat-people-w3jgg0m9k>

Backing Rwanda policy is not un-Christian, Archbishop of Canterbury told

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/12/07/backing-rwanda-policy-not-un-christian-archbishop-canterbury/>

News: Channel Migrants

The 'moral case' against policing migrant crossings is dishonest and dangerous

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/12/09/moral-case-against-policing-migrant-crossings-dishonest-dangerous/>

Albanian migrants 'lured across English Channel by TikTok videos'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/albanian-migrants-tiktok-victims-english-channel-039bkwdx>

News: Afghanistan

UK has failed to resettle Afghans facing torture and death despite promise

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/dec/03/revealed-uk-has-failed-to-resettle-afghans-facing-torture-and-death-despite-promise>

News: Ukraine

Homeless Ukrainian refugees up 30% in a month as host families end support

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/homeless-ukrainian-refugees-uk-host-families-czpjgcnb>

The donated building keeping Ukrainians connected to home

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-63930617>

Community hub opens offering support to displaced Ukrainians

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/23183018.community-hub-opens-offering-support-displaced-ukrainians/>

Ukrainian refugees battle cabin fever to keep everything shipshape in Leith

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/ukrainian-refugees-battle-cabin-fever-to-keep-everything-shipshape-in-leith-cbnrpxtl5>

Ukrainian refugees stage concert on cruise ship

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-63851199>

Ukrainian kids are having a ball at Leith Athletic

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/ukrainian-kids-are-having-a-ball-at-leith-athletic-nbvqkn9sj>

News: Other Immigration and Asylum

UN condemns 'legal errors' in asylum report backed by Suella Braverman

<https://www.independent.co.uk/independentpremium/uk-news/suella-braverman-asylum-ban-un-b2240019.html>

UN refugee body criticises 'errors' in asylum report backed by Braverman

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/dec/05/un-refugee-body-criticises-errors-asylum-report-backed-suella-braverman>

'Unworkable' asylum plans backed by Suella Braverman condemned as 'completely out of step with British values'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/independentpremium/uk-news/asylum-channel-suella-braverman-refugees-b2239299.html>

Suella Braverman plans asylum ban for migrants from Albania

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/suella-braverman-plans-asylum-ban-for-migrants-from-albania-kcc99l5k2>

Deportations of illegal migrants to double as Dominic Raab lifts cap on appeals
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/12/08/deportations-illegal-migrants-double-dominic-raab-lifts-cap/>

Labour pledges to fast-track Albania asylum claims
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-63908240>

Labour wants to fast-track asylum cases from 'safe' countries to clear backlog
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/dec/09/labour-would-fast-track-asylum-cases-from-safe-countries-to-clear-backlog>

Labour asylum plan: fast-track rejection of clearly bogus migrant claims
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/labour-starmer-asylum-plan-migrants-uk-2nw0bl7hg>

Labour vows fast-track crackdown on asylum claims from Albania and 'safe' countries
<https://www.independent.co.uk/independentpremium/uk-news/asylum-seekers-albania-labour-tories-b2242805.html>

Revealed: 'Appalling' reality of healthcare inside the Home Office's asylum hotels
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-asylum-hotels-manston-b2231510.html>

Archbishop condemns 'cruelty' of government handling of refugees and migrants
<https://www.independent.co.uk/independentpremium/uk-news/archbishop-canterbury-welby-migrants-asylum-b2242814.html>

Archbishop of Canterbury attacks Government's 'cruel' approach to the migrant crisis
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/12/09/archbishop-canterbury-attacks-governments-cruel-approach-migrant/>

Justin Welby criticises 'cruelty' and 'harmful rhetoric' of UK asylum policy
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/dec/09/justin-welby-archbishop-canterbury-criticises-uk-government-asylum-policy>

Justin Welby condemns 'cruelty' of UK's asylum policy
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/justin-welby-condemns-cruelty-of-uks-asylum-policy-d2zj075wz>

It is our moral duty to provide decent care to asylum seekers
<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/editorials/moral-duty-care-asylum-seekers-b2242874.html>

Black EU citizen with settled status temporarily denied entry into UK
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/dec/10/black-eu-citizen-with-settled-status-temporarily-denied-entry-into-uk>

'If I buy a bus ticket I can't eat for two days' - asylum seeker Aymen
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-63794296>

Refugee who illegally brought injured niece to UK given leave to remain
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/dec/04/refugee-who-brought-injured-niece-to-uk-illegally-given-leave-to-remain>

TOP

Community Relations

News

Who wants to be surrounded by only white people? I know I don't

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/who-wants-to-be-surrounded-by-only-white-people-i-know-i-dont-dqddkf2c7>

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Judiciary: Ethnic Groups

Afzal Khan (Labour) [102984] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what progress the Government has made on increasing the number of BAME members of the judiciary since 2017.

Reply from Mike Freer: The Government has published annual statistics on judicial diversity covering both judges and magistrates since 2020:

www.gov.uk/government/statistics/diversity-of-the-judiciary-2022-statistics

Prior to 2020, judicial diversity statistics were published by the Judiciary:

www.judiciary.uk/about-the-judiciary/diversity/judicial-diversity-statistics/

Since 2017, the proportion of judges from an ethnic minority has grown from 8% to 10%. 14% of new judges appointed in 2021/22 were from ethnic minority groups. The proportion of magistrates from an ethnic minority has also grown over the same period: from 11% to 14%. 15% of new magistrates appointed in 2021/22 were from ethnic minority groups.

The government recognises there is more to do and the Ministry of Justice, as a member of the Judicial Diversity Forum (JDF), works closely with the judiciary, the Judicial Appointments Commission and the legal professions to take actions to increase judicial diversity. MoJ's actions include funding judicial education and support programmes for lawyers from groups under-represented in the judiciary.

The Government has invested over £1 million to support the recruitment of new and diverse magistrates, the Government's top priority for the magistracy. A new digitised recruitment process alongside an inclusive marketing campaign was launched in January 2022 as part of this programme of work, targeting underrepresented groups to ensure the magistracy is reflective of the communities it serves. A new Applicant Tracking System (ATS) was also introduced, allowing the MoJ to monitor the diversity of applicants which will help inform future recruitment activity.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-05/102984>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Prisoners: Ethnic Groups

Lord Bradley (Labour) [HL3584] To ask His Majesty's Government how many individuals from each ethnic group were in prison in England and Wales in each of the last five years, broken down by religion.

Reply from Lord Bellamy: The table attached provides the information requested,

as of 30 September in each of the last five years.

[Table HL3584](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-21/hl3584>

Prisons: Pepper Spray

Lord Bradley (Labour) [HL3585] To ask His Majesty's Government on how many occasions PAVA spray incapacitant has been (1) drawn, and (2) drawn and deployed, in prisons since 1 April 2019, broken down by (a) ethnicity, and (b) religion, of each prisoner.

Reply from Lord Bellamy: We ensure all our prison officers are trained in how to use PAVA professionally, safely and lawfully and that it is only used when necessary and proportionate.

There has been a total of 470 incidents involving PAVA since 1 April 2019. Of those, PAVA was drawn and deployed in 320 incidents and 150 were drawn only. See below for a breakdown by ethnicity and religion.

The data provided for this response is collected as internal management information and reflects the data held at the date of extraction. It is not quality assured in the same way as data prepared for publication and is subject to change.

	From Apr 2019	2020	2021	To 22/11/2022	Total
Total Number of Incidents:	55	104	148	163	470
Total Number of Drawn and Deployed Incidents	42	62	103	113	320
Total Number of Drawn only Incidents	13	42	45	50	150

Ethnicity:

Ethnicity	Individuals Impacted	Drawn and Deployed	Drawn only
Asian/Asian British	64	54	10
Black/Black British	396	316	80
Mixed	118	85	33
Other ethnic group	24	19	5
White	375	255	120
Not recorded	8	3	5
Total	985	732	253

Religion:

* denotes figures less than 5 which have been suppressed to avoid disclosure of information about individuals

Religion	Individuals Impacted	Drawn and Deployed	Drawn only
Buddhist	*	*	*
Christian	431	318	113
Hindu	*	*	*
Jewish	*	*	*
Muslim	279	217	62
Sikh	*	*	*
Other	20	15	5
No religion	236	171	65
Not recorded	8	4	4
Total	985	732	253

PAVA is used in incidents such as prisoner on prisoner violence, therefore the number of incidents differs from the number of individuals impacted. Data for 2022 is to date (as of 22/11/22).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-21/hl3585>

New Publications

House of Commons Library Briefing: Unemployment by ethnic background

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN06385/SN06385.pdf>

Special Issue – The Lancet: Advancing Racial and Ethnic Equity in Health

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/issue/vol400no10368/PIIS0140-6736\(22\)X0051-2](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/issue/vol400no10368/PIIS0140-6736(22)X0051-2)

News

White privilege not ‘a fact’ and shouldn’t be taught as one, says Gillian Keegan

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/12/08/white-privilege-not-fact-shouldnt-taught-one-says-gillian-keegan/>

Babies born to Black mothers in rich countries twice as likely to die in first weeks of life

<https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/2022/babies-born-to-black-mothers-in-rich-countries-twice-as-likely-to-die-in-first-weeks-of-life>

More minorities and women get seats on boards

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/more-minorities-and-women-get-seats-on-boards-mz7pzfr6c>

We need to understand the diversity of experience across ethnic groups

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/we-need-to-understand-the-diversity-of-experience-across-ethnic-groups-l7vbgzv99>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Schools: Antisemitism

Michael Fabricant (Conservative) [97437] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, with reference to the article in the Jewish Chronicle article entitled Children chant massacre-Jews song at North London school, published 24 November, if she will make an assessment of the implications for her Department’s policies of the events reported in that article.

Reply from Nick Gibb: All registered independent schools must, as a condition of registration, meet the Independent School Standards (ISS). The ISS include, among other things, an obligation to provide teaching that does not undermine the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs, and provide personal, social, health and economic education which encourages respect for other people, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010.

The Government takes allegations seriously and, where appropriate, will investigate further. The school in question was inspected in October 2022. The Department awaits the publication of the final report of that inspection, confirming whether those standards were met. The Department will consider this report carefully before deciding what regulatory steps are appropriate, in line with the published policy.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-28/97437>

The article referred to above can be read at

<https://www.thejc.com/news/news/children-chant-massacre-jews-song-at-north-london-school-3PhICML3MzCLam4xjXz3vr>

Islamophobia: International Cooperation

Ruth Jones (Labour) [98780] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what discussions he has had with his international counterparts on tackling anti-Muslim hatred.

Reply from Andrew Mitchell: We remain deeply concerned by violations and abuses of freedom of religion or belief (FoRB) in many parts of the world, including intolerance and hate speech. The UK is committed to working with our international partners to protect the right to FoRB for all through adherence to FoRB-focussed resolutions which enjoy consensus agreement, including those led by the EU and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, as well as multilateral engagement through the UN, Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). In July this year we hosted an international Ministerial conference on FoRB, bringing together over 800 faith and belief leaders and human rights actors, and 100 government delegations to agree action to promote and protect FoRB. Ministers and officials regularly raise specific cases of concern with those we believe are not meeting their obligations, and in March this year we led development of an International Religious Freedom or Belief Alliance statement

<https://www.state.gov/irfba-statement-on-the-ahmadiyya-muslim-community/>

calling out persecution of Ahmadi Muslims.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-29/98780>

Press Release

Addressing racial inequality in the workplace

<https://www.gov.scot/news/addressing-racial-inequality-in-the-workplace/>

New Publications

A Fairer Scotland for All: An Anti-Racist Employment Strategy

<https://tinyurl.com/24wubduw>

Analysis of Labour Market Outcomes of Scotland's Minority Ethnic Population

<https://tinyurl.com/y559nsuf>

A Fairer Scotland For All: An Anti-Racist Employment Strategy Appendixes

<https://tinyurl.com/47vvh7dj>

Structural Racism in the Labour Market

https://www.enar-eu.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/EqualAtWork_ToolKit_RacismLabourMarket.pdf

Bias in Algorithms: Artificial Intelligence and Discrimination

https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2022-bias-in-algorithms_en.pdf

Antisemitic Discourse Report 2021

<https://cst.org.uk/public/data/file/5/a/Discourse%20Report%202021.pdf>

The Internet and radicalisation pathways: technological advances, relevance of mental health and role of attackers

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1121985/internet-radicalisation-report.pdf

News

Study shows radicalisation is now more likely to take place online – but internet plots are more likely to fail

<https://www.ntu.ac.uk/about-us/news/news-articles/2022/12/study-shows-radicalisation-is-now-more-likely-to-take-place-online-but-internet-plots-are-more-likely-to-fail>

Internet ‘increasingly prominent’ in radicalisation of extremists – research

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/internet-england-academics-wales-home-office-b2241371.html>

Racism poses public health threat to millions worldwide, finds report

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2022/dec/08/racism-poses-public-health-threat-to-millions-worldwide-finds-report>

Black Londoners three times more likely to be stopped than white

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-63859618>

Islamophobia from the likes of Boris Johnson must be punished – and this is how to do it

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/commentisfree/2022/dec/08/islamophobia-hate-crime-index-attacks-muslims>

Antisemitic Discourse Report 2021

<https://cst.org.uk/news/blog/2022/12/05/antisemitic-discourse-report-2021>

Why is casual anti-Semitism still so prevalent?

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/12/06/why-casual-anti-semitism-still-prevalent/>

Jewish students want change after NUS antisemitism claims

<https://www.bbc.com/news/education-63246005>

I used a phone camera to bring my racist attacker to justice. This is how we must fight back

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/dec/08/phone-camera-racist-attacker-justice>

TOP

Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer

Sikhs

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [98820] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, with reference to the data by the Office for National Statistics entitled Religion, England and Wales: Census 2021, published on 29 November 2022, what steps his Department has taken to estimate the number of people who identify as Sikh by (a) ethnicity and (b) religion.

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [98821] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, with reference to the data by the Office for National Statistics entitled Religion, England and Wales: Census 2021, published on 29 November 2022, if he will make an assessment of the accuracy of the estimate of the number of people who are of Sikh ethnicity, in the context of there not being an option to choose Sikh ethnicity on the 2021 census form.

Reply from Jeremy Quin: The information requested falls under the remit of the UK Statistics Authority. ...

The Census 2021 publication on religion to which you refer provides an estimate of the number of people who identified as Sikh in response to the voluntary question on religion¹. On the same day we also published our topic summary and data on ethnic group, which includes estimates of those identifying as Sikh through the ethnic group question². Further analysis of both datasets is scheduled for 2023, when we will also be releasing multivariate data that will allow responses to different questions to be examined together.

In 2021, the number of people in England and Wales who identified as “Sikh” through the religion question was 524,140 (0.9%). This is an increase from 2011 where 423,345 (0.8%) people identified as “Sikh”. As in 2011, “Sikh” was one of the 8 tick-box response options on the religion question for Census 2021.

People were also able to self-identify as “Sikh” in the ethnic group question through any of the write-in response options under high-level ethnic group categories. The data published on 29 November included figures for those who wrote in “Sikh” under the “Any other ethnic group, write in” and “Any other Asian background, write in” response options.

Our Ethnic Group (detailed) dataset shows that 76,535 people (0.1%) identified as “Sikh” through the “Any other ethnic group, write in” response option, and 22,814 people (0.04%) identified as “Sikh” through the “Any other Asian background, write in” response option.

There were very few people who identified as Sikh in any of the remaining three write-in response options; the counts were too small to disaggregate from other ethnic groups due to confidentiality constraints.

In advance of Census 2021, we undertook a programme of research, stakeholder engagement and a public consultation³, which demonstrated a user need for those identifying as “Sikh” under the different high-level ethnic group categories to be published where possible, in order to provide more timely initial data on this population⁴.

As set out in our *How we assured the quality of Census 2021 estimates* publication, we undertook an extensive quality assurance programme to ensure our Census 2021 statistics were of high quality and could be trusted by our users⁵.

Our estimate for the number of people who identified as “Sikh” through all of the five high-level ethnic groups will be published as part of the ‘small population’ groups release, in phase 3 of our Census 2021 data releases. Further details are available on our Release plans webpage⁶. This release will be equivalent to the 2011 census ‘small population’ tables (published in December 2015)⁷, which

showed 83,362 people identified as “Sikh” through one of the five high-level ethnic groups in the 2011 census.

We will also carry out bespoke analysis of Sikh populations, as set out in the 2018 white paper, *Help Shape Our Future: The 2021 Census of Population and Housing in England and Wales*⁸, and our publication national identity, ethnic group, language and religion question development for Census 2021.⁹ This will provide estimates into the number of people who identified as “Sikh” on the religion question alone, identified with “Sikh” as part of their ethnic group alone, and identified with both in combination.

As set out on our ethnic group, national identity, language and religion analysis plans webpage¹⁰, this will include insights on characteristics such as employment, health and language for the population that identified in these ways.

¹ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/religion/bulletins/religionenglandandwales/census2021>

² <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/ethnicity/bulletins/ethnicgroupenglandandwales/census2021>

and the accompanying dataset

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/TS022/editions/2021/versions/1>

³ <https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census/census-2021-outputs-consultation>

⁴ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/TS022/editions/2021/versions/1>

⁵ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/methodologies/howweassuredthequalityofcensus2021estimates>

⁶ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/aboutcensus/releaseplans>

⁷ https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20160202161652/https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011/small_population

⁸ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-2021-census-of-population-and-housing-in-england-and-wales>

⁹ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/censustransformationprogramme/questiondevelopment/nationalidentityethnicgrouplanguageandreligionquestiondevelopmentforcensus2021>

See Annex 1: Census commitments made on the topics of national identity, ethnic group, religion and language

¹⁰ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/aboutcensus/censusproducts/analysis/ethnicgroupnationalitylanguageandreligionanalysisplans>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-29/98820>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-29/98821>

The ONS data referred to above can be read at

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/religion/bulletins/religionenglandandwales/census2021>

New Publications

Gypsies’ and Travellers’ lived experiences, culture and identities, England and Wales: 2022

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/ethnicity/bulletins/gypsiesandtravellerslivedexperiencescultureandidentityenglandandwales/2022>

Count of Traveller caravans, July 2022: England

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/traveller-caravan-count-july-2022/count-of-traveller-caravans-july-2022-england>

News

Stephen Flynn elected as new SNP leader at Westminster

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-63876993>

Four SNP MPs in new roles in Westminster reshuffle

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-63928800>

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/>

Scottish Parliament Oral Answer

Cost of Living Crisis (United Kingdom Government Response)

Natalie Don (SNP) Recent analysis from Citizens Advice Scotland found that half of Scots are being forced to cut back on household spending. The main levers to address that crisis reside in Westminster, which is an institution that cannot be trusted to concern itself with the plight of ordinary people. What conversations has the First Minister had with the Prime Minister about the inadequacy of the United Kingdom Government's response to the crisis that it created?

Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon): When I met the Prime Minister a couple of weeks ago, I urged him, as the Scottish Government does more generally on a regular basis, to take more action to help people who are struggling with the basic necessities of life because of the cost of living crisis, which continues to affect the livelihoods, lives and, increasingly, the health and wellbeing of people across the country. The key policy levers are held by the UK Government, and we will continue to press it to use all the levers at its disposal to tackle the emergency. That includes access to borrowing, providing benefits and support to households. We will also continue to take action ourselves. We have allocated almost £3 billion in this financial year to help, and we have, of course, increased the Scottish child payment by 150 per cent in less than eight months to £25 per eligible child per week.

Scottish Government Press Release

Priorities for the Scottish Budget: Helping families and services through the cost of living crisis.

<https://www.gov.scot/news/priorities-for-the-scottish-budget/>

News

Half of Scots cutting back spending, study finds

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-63845507>

2 million estimated to have cut back on household spending due to high energy bills

<https://www.cas.org.uk/news/2-million-estimated-have-cut-back-household-spending-due-high-energy-bills>

Coldest night of 2022 as Scots struggle with energy bills

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-63917667>

Cold snap to cost households £10 a day in heating bills

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/bills-and-utilities/gas-electric/cold-snap-cost-households-10-day-heating-bills/>

Over three million low-income households said they have not been able to keep their home warm because they aren't able to afford it as dangerously cold weather sets in

<https://www.jrf.org.uk/press/over-three-million-low-income-households-said-they-have-not-been-able-keep-their-home-warm>

Human Rights Day 2022: The cost of living crisis and human rights

<https://www.scottishhumanrights.com/blog/human-rights-day-2022-the-cost-of-living-crisis-and-human-rights/>

Religious leaders in UK throw support behind our cost of living campaign

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/breadline-uk-religious-leaders-support-b2239929.html>

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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>

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

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

Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government, Shona Robison, to all Members of the Scottish Parliament

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/gender-recognition-reform-scotland-bill-letter-to-msps/>

Notices of amendments

<https://www.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/s6-bills/gender-recognition-reform-scotland-bill/stage-3/daily-list-7-december-2022.pdf>

and

<https://www.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/s6-bills/gender-recognition-reform-scotland-bill/stage-3/daily-list-8-december-2022.pdf>

and

<https://www.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/s6-bills/gender-recognition-reform-scotland-bill/stage-3/daily-list-9-december-2022.pdf>

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>

Report Stage, House of Commons

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-12-05/debates/E155684B-DEB0-43B4-BC76-BF53FEE8086A/OnlineSafetyBill>

Bill as amended on Report

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-03/0209/220209.pdf>

Notice of amendments

https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-03/0209/amend/onlinesafety_rm_pbc_1212.pdf

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

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

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

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>

**** Charities Bill** (closing date 3 February 2023)

Short survey

<https://yourviews.parliament.scot/sjssc/7b1ddd3e/>

Detailed consultation

<https://yourviews.parliament.scot/sjssc/a3212a34/>

**** Inquiry into Public Administration – Effective Scottish Government decision-making** (closing date 7 February 2023)

<https://yourviews.parliament.scot/finance/inquiry-into-public-administration/>

Access to information rights in Scotland (closing date 14 March 2023)

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/access-information-rights-scotland-consultation/>

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Job Opportunities

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

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Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

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>

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

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>

**** this week!**

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>

**** this week!**

Police Scotland Positive Action

15 December 2022 (Police Training & Recruitment Centre, Jackton, 7.00–9.00)

Police Scotland information event for minority ethnic communities to learn about the recruitment process and speak to serving BME officers. For information contact recruitmentpositiveactionteam@scotland.police.uk

A Human Rights and Equalities First Approach – The Basics

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/mpnfc DPP>

Funding and Fundraising - A Human Rights and Equalities First Approach

23 January 2023 (online, 10.00–1.00)

THRE introduction to what a human rights and equalities approach means when talking about funding and fundraising. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/5fvak64s>

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Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services

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

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

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SCoJeC
Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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



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



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

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